



CALLIGRAPHY MASTERPIECES AT ART MUSEUM

An exhibition featuring seals, calligraphy and paintings by two late Qing seal carving masters opens today

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TRAINING CRUCIAL TO LOCAL JOB MARKET

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA-USA Federal authorities early yesterday arrested Jason Shiao, a 65-year-old Southern California man they say posed as an attorney, and his 43-year-old daughter, Lynn Leung, on charges of conspiring to commit visa fraud by arranging phony marriages between Chinese citizens seeking legal residency and American spouses. Shiao and Leung's Pasadena-based business filed more than 70 fraudulent immigration petitions since October 2006, authorities said.

JAPAN launched suicide prevention week, part of a global World Health Organization effort marking yesterday as World Suicide Prevention Day. Though the number of Japanese taking their lives has dipped in the past few years, Japan still has one of the highest suicide rates in the world.

INDIA A shortage of brides is an increasingly common problem facing men in northern India, where years of sex-selective abortions have resulted in a skewed male-female ratio. *More on p12*

AUSTRALIA A medical group apologizes to surgeons and trainees in Australia and New Zealand after a report found that almost half had suffered discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment from senior surgeons.

SPAIN For a fourth consecutive year, hundreds of thousands of pro-independence Catalans are gearing up to rally today to break away from Spain, kicking off a fresh secession bid. The massive rally for the Catalan National Day holiday marks the kickoff of campaigning for secessionists who say Catalonia is culturally different from Spain, doesn't get back what it pays in taxes — and that independence is the only way forward.

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AP PHOTO



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INSIDE

editorial

Paulo Coutinho



BON JOVI, TWO SYSTEMS

The Bon Jovi China tour was trimmed to Macau following the abrupt cancellation of their concerts in Shanghai and Beijing.

The international press – from the Financial Times, to The Guardian and The Washington Post – speculates that past political references to Tibet by the band, five years ago, are the probable reason why the promoters decided to call off the two shows on the mainland.

Although last minute, the cancellation comes as no surprise. The regime in Beijing doesn't tolerate criticism, especially when it comes to Tibet or anything related to what it considers the country's borders. Especially, when it comes at a time when the Xi Jinping leadership is trying to demonstrate their might – economically, territorially, militarily, historically even.

I, myself, am not altogether fond of artists using the stage beyond their art to proclaim political opinion – they are hired to sing their songs and play their music and that is how they fill rooms, arenas or stadiums. The message, whatever the message, is already bottled in their creations.

Let's be clear: Jon BJ et al should be free to speak their minds whenever and wherever they want – at the risk of being redundant, I cherish the freedom of expression. But that's not the point.

The point is people go to concerts mostly because they empathize with their pop-rock idols.

Fans want to see their favorite stars performing live because it's a rare opportunity to interface with them and because they like their tunes, their lyrics, their voices, their musicians. Looks, fashion, hairstyle or lifestyle, whatever, also play a part in the construction of a fan's empathy. And a pop star's stance on politics may also help build a bond, yes.

But that is not what a ticket to a Bon Jovi concert promotes and anticipates. It promotes and anticipates 'the' participation in a unique Bon Jovi live gig – the audience then becomes part of that particular performance. Therefore part of the artist's, their idol's history. That's the magic right there.

Having said that, it is good to know the concerts in Macau are about to happen – as scheduled on Sept 25 and 26. Not only because I may want to see Jon BJ, but because it proves that we, in this town, live in a different system to the one on the other side of the northern border.

A system so different that Jon Bon Jovi can sing here (and not on the mainland) despite his political ideas.

ART

Chinese calligraphy masterpieces at MAM

AN exhibition featuring seals, calligraphy and paintings of two late Qing seal carving luminaries opens today at the Macau Museum of Art (MAM), called The Tension of Talent – Calligraphy, Painting and Seal Exhibition by Wu Rangzhi and Zhao Zhiqian.

MAM's annual special exhibition of Chinese calligraphy, paintings and artifacts showcases over 200 sets of works, including representative calligraphy, paintings and seals by Wu Rangzhi and Zhao Zhiqian, and also masterpieces by the two artists' teachers, friends, mentors and followers. Wu and Zhao were both late Qing seal carving masters, who also excelled in calligraphy and painting. Their artistic achievements were profoundly influential, particularly on the development of modern seal carving.

The event is the 12th edition of MAM's Ming and Qing calligraphy and painting exhibition series launched in 2004, and also one of MAM's highlights of the year.

Wu Rangzhi (1799-1870) was a master seal carver, also adept at the four major styles of calligraphy and freehand flower



painting. In 1853, in order to escape the Taiping Rebellion, he fled to Taizhou, where he made a living from seal carving, calligraphy and painting until his death. The calligrapher studied seal and clerical script under Master Deng Shiru, while emulating Bao Shichen's running and regular script style. He produced thousands of seal carvings in his lifetime, mostly without side inscriptions. His works include Wu Rangzhi's Self-Criticism and Seal Impressions.

Zhao Zhiqian (1829-

1884) started by emulating the Zhe School of seal carving, but later switched to the Wan School. While maintaining a distinct style, he studied traditional scripts but also explored other potential ones that could be used in carving, thus becoming a pioneer in the field. In calligraphy, Zhao emulated the style of Yan Zhenqing in his early years, later adopting the style of steel inscriptions from the Six Dynasties to form his own signature style, which proved very popular. He was an expert in flower painting,

Wu and Zhao were both late Qing seal carving masters

portraits and landscapes, greatly inspiring and influencing later artists like Ren Yi and Wu Changshuo, and has been hailed the trailblazer of the Shanghai School of Painting (Haipai).

To facilitate a profound discussion of the two late Qing virtuosos' works, MAM will organize a 3-day symposium for experts and scholars, held from October 27 to 29 at the Auditorium of the Macau Polytechnic Institute.

MAM will also host the 2015 calligraphy and painting exchange program for Tertiary Schools. Arts students from a total of 12 tertiary schools from China, Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan will deliver their presentations on the afternoons of October 28 and 29.

MAM will also set up themed outdoor installations at Tap Seac Square and in front of St. Dominic's Church. The exhibition will run until November 15.

Cotai footbridge opens tomorrow

A footbridge built over the Isthmus Roundabout on the Cotai Strip is set to open tomorrow, according to the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI).

With the new infrastructure, GDI is hoping to improve pedestrian safety, and therefore current crosswalks placed near the roundabout will be removed. GDI added that the footbridge features a "landscape corridor" enabling users to enjoy the view out onto Taipa.

The footbridge, comprising 391 meters, features five access points including both escalators and lifts.

GDI said that existing crosswalks will be removed once users are accustomed with the new pedestrian system.

The footbridge is part of the government's plan to separate pedestrians and vehicles, increasing safety for walkers. The vertical system also features vehicle lanes beneath the bridge as well as an underground road

tunnel. It is part of the Taipa's pedestrian system, providing a connection to old Taipa and Cotai.

The landscape corridor has been designed to enable users to see the Cotai Strip from a different perspective, featuring stairs, escalators and glass-sealed lifts.

Construction works began in the third quarter of 2013. 14 sections were combined to form a ring deck measuring 391 meters long, with a radius of 62 meters. **CP**

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Employee training and development crucial to local job market

Catarina Pinto

THE implementation of employee training and development programs is particularly crucial for the local job market as the city's unemployment rate remains low, according to Mark Cosgrove, Director of Training at Dale Carnegie Hong Kong.

Mr Cosgrove conducted a seminar yesterday on "How to turn challenging employees into productive contributors" in an event organized by the France Macau Business Association (FMBA), attended by dozens of hotel managers and employees in other local industries.

"Training is critical here in particular because of the numbers you're dealing with. You still have almost full employment, and that means you're competing for frontline staff," he told the Times on the sidelines of the seminar.

He suggested managers in Macau companies "train employees, and grow them inside the organization. That's how you keep people. One major way to do that is through training and development."

Mr Cosgrove recalled that in specifically large organizations, CEOs rely on their line managers to ensure employee enga-



Mark Cosgrove

gement. But companies need to guarantee that supervisors and line managers get the support and tools needed to manage people.

"Do they have the tools and understand how to motivate and inspire people? You can be

You have nearly full employment, so you're competing for frontline staff

MARK COSGROVE

the world's best baccarat dealer, but do you know how to manage dealers?" he questioned.

The training expert acknowledged that Macau's economic downturn puts added pressure on both managers and employees. There is added pressure to find alternative revenues and explore different ways of doing business too, he said.

Yesterday's seminar urged participants to reflect upon what makes employees become difficult and disengaged with the organization they work for. Mr Cosgrove then discussed with his audience how to increase understanding and improve relationships between employees and employers.

Some participants argued that employees' salaries can drive

them to engage or disengage with the company, but money alone is not what contributes most to employee disengagement. Career goals, corporate culture, the organization's mission, and employees' passion for their work also affect commitment levels.

Mr Cosgrove acknowledged that recognition and culture matter more than money to most employees, and suggested that managers care for their employees and treat them as valuable people with skills. He also recommended that employees start viewing employers as employers with difficulties, rather than difficult employers.

Mr Cosgrove assured that the fundamentals used to improve employer-employee relationships are similar in Asian and Western countries. "I think what we always have to look for is culturally appropriate ways to approach [employees]. So the fundamentals are the same, we must take an interest in our employees, we must make our employees feel valued and important," he said.

The training expert suggested nine ways for participants to change their employees' behavior, namely by praising the slightest improvements, giving the other person a fine reputation to live up to, using encouragement, helping them to feel that mistakes are easy to correct, or making the other person feel happy to do what you've suggested.

When problems with employees arise, Mr Cosgrove recommended that managers ask questions instead of making assumptions, while focusing on the problem and not the person. Giving employees clear directions and implementing accountability measures is also a key feature of good management.

AACM creates official WeChat account

The Civil Aviation Authority of Macao SAR (AACM) launched its official WeChat account yesterday, stating in a press release that the application was created "in view of the increased popularity of new media applications." "The number of people in mainland China or elsewhere who are now using WeChat to obtain information and for social needs is increasing tremendously. According to a study on new media usage among Macau residents, 90 percent of the Macau population is using WeChat. In addition, more and more government entities have adopted WeChat to publish their news," the statement reads. In addition to publishing updates from the office, AACM will use WeChat to educate readers on issues that concern passengers; for example, explaining Macau's aviation laws and regulations. Interested subscribers to AACM's official WeChat can search the Wechat ID "MacaoCAA".

Industrial revenue up

The revenue of industrial establishments in Macau increased by 15.2 percent year-on-year to MOP10.91 billion in 2014, according to an industrial survey released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). A total of 864 establishments were operating in industrial production in 2014, a decrease of 52 year-on-year. Statistics indicate that the total number of employees in the sector dropped by 461 to 12,526.

Three Firework Displays on Sept 19



The Portuguese fireworks team, which could not perform on September 5 due to technical reasons, is now scheduled to present their fireworks display on September 19 (Saturday). With the fireworks teams from Korea and Italy scheduled for performances as well, there will be three firework displays on the same night. The 27th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest is held in front of the Macau Tower on September 5, 12, 19 and 27 as well as October 1.

REPORT

Authorities allegedly shelve land reserve for developers' profit

AT least four stretches of land long idle in the hands of the government could have been developed much earlier, according to a report by online newspaper All About Macau. The media outlet concludes that this is another case of collusion between the authorities and property developers.

According to the report, the available land reserve is located in the district between the Nam Van Lake and the Sai Van Lake, which connects the controversial reclaimed Zone B. The regulation introduced in 1991 by the Portuguese administration significantly confines buildings to be erected in that area in terms of permitted coverage, height and purpose of use, which AAM suspects was for future cultural and recreational development.

Nevertheless, All About Macau says that in 2006 the city's former leader Edmund Ho issued an order that overthrew the regulation. Despite justifying the law's repeal "for local social and economical development," Ho's



move sparked speculation over his underlying intention to pave the way for construction of lucrative high-rises in that area.

C15 and C16, as indicated in the illustration, cover a combined area of 9,300 square meters. The former land plot was allegedly intended for a museum together with a gallery. Another approximately 39,000-square-me-

ter area made up of plots C16 and D4, which was earmarked for construction of two office blocks for public services, ended up undeveloped for at least 25 years. As a consequence the government currently has to spend hundreds of millions in rent for its offices stretching across the territory.

Macau might have seen its second massive theater long ago on plot D3, complementing the Macao Cultural Centre, All About Macau reports.

Instead, a large proportion of the plot is set to become a profit-making zone for property developers. The report suggests that a total of MOP130 billion might flow into the pockets of those land concessionaires.

Besides, it also claims that the authorities had previously been colluding with property developers to withhold 14 of their already expired land concessions from the public while relaxing their planning conditions in the meantime. **AU**

Exhibition offers glimpse into Manuel Vicente's work

Catarina Pinto

THE non-profit organization Docomomo Macau and the Macau Design Center have joined forces to launch an exhibition featuring the work of architect Manuel Vicente. The exhibition was inaugurated yesterday at the Macau Design Center Gallery and will remain on display until October 10.

"Architects and former collaborators of Manuel Vicente wanted to introduce a wider overview of the [late] architect's work: why was he so important for Macau? So our idea was to invite as many people who worked with him as possible, so that we could discover his thoughts about the city and his projects," said Rui Leão, architect and chair of Docomomo.

The "Discovering Manuel Vicente" exhibition is intended to further debate about his contribution to the way we now see the city's urban planning strategies.

"There's an educational side of it. We want people to learn about how his projects were designed,



A kindergarten designed by Manuel Vicente, located at Praia Grande

how he and his collaborators discussed ideas. So we launched the exhibition with a collection of objects. We are also trying to show how he designed his projects, and his thoughts on the city's planning," Mr Leão explained.

The exhibition will also feature eight mockups of Manuel Vicente's projects, providing different insights into his work. A film by Rosa Coutinho Cabral on Manuel Vicente and architect Manuel Graça Dias will also be aired. The exhibition also features a photo collection of Vicente's buildings by architect Nuno Assis.

As Macau faces new architectural and urban planning challenges

with the development of five new reclamation zones, Rui Leão said that the work of the late Manuel Vicente is a testament to what Macau has achieved, and how the city is able to make things possible.

"It's becoming harder to preserve the city's memory. It seems that in the past things were possible in Macau, and that's why Manuel Vicente liked the city so much, because things were made possible here," he recalled.

Mr Leão concluded by saying that instead of turning to Hong Kong and Singapore for urban planning solutions, we should look to Macau and find solutions within the city.

For many, Portuguese architect Manuel Vicente – who passed away in 2013 – has greatly influenced the city's architecture. Some of his most famous projects and designs include an architectural intervention program on the St Paul's Ruins, the creation of the Sai Van and Nam Van Lakes, as well as several residential and government buildings across the city.

TEACHERS' DAY

CE: More resources for education

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On said yesterday that the government will continue to invest more resources in education to sustain the city's new phase of development. Mr Chui praised teachers' dedication and contributions toward improving the quality of education in his speech at a banquet marking Teachers' Day 2015. The Chief Executive said teachers were the core of education and that the government would enhance their career development by setting more favorable regulations and policies in place, and by providing more professional training.

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) launched a series of activities to commemorate Teachers' Day

yesterday.

DSEJ's head, Leong Lai, thanked local teachers for their input in shaping student morale and for mentoring them throughout the years. According to a statement, DSEJ and the Macau Post have issued a series of stamps and other philatelic products to mark Teachers' Day.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, presented the stamps to representatives of the education sector, while congratulating them on their efforts to educate Macau's youth.

DSEJ has launched a DSEJ website for teachers and the general public to provide their opinions on education in Macau.



Chui Sai On attends the banquet celebrating Teachers Day 2015 hosted by the Chinese Educators' Association of Macau

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VENETIAN MACAO OPEN

Taiwanese golfer Pan Cheng-tsung to test his limits in town

Aries Un

RISING Taiwanese golfer Pan Cheng-tsung wants to extend his winning streak in next month's Venetian Macao Open.

The 23-year-old player scored a two-shot win over Sweden's Robert Karlsson with 11-under-par at the PGA Tour Canada's Players Cup, one month after turning professional in June. The victory propelled him into the world's top 600 for the first time.

Pan told journalists during a phone interview that he looks forward to the 17th edition of the tournament, to be held on October 15 to 18. "Winning a golf tournament as a pro definitely helps [build] my confidence and makes me know that I can compete with all the guys, I can win tournaments and I know what to do under pressure," he said.

Defending champion Indian Anirban Lahiri, 2013 winner Scott Hend from Australia, and four-time winner Ernie Els from South Africa, who have confirmed their presence on the fairway of the championship earlier, will be formidable opponents to Pan as a new professional player.

Encouraged by his golf-loving father, who took young Pan and his brother to a golf club where his mother worked – starting as early as the age of five – the

GETTY IMAGES



Pan Cheng-tsung

ever-top amateur said his penchant for golfing began in those early days.

"When I was younger, I didn't know if I was really interested in it, but I thought it was really a fun sport and I loved playing it and I enjoyed every moment on the golf course," he said.

However, his confidence on the fairway during his time at the University of Washington was not as high as it is nowa-

days.

"I didn't feel I could compete against a load of college kids. I was young [...] I just didn't feel confident about my game, and I didn't know the language very well," he said in fluent English. Yet Pan holds the record for the most career victories among university-aged men's golfers.

His main goal at the moment is to scale the rankings as fast and far as possible, in order to

gain eligibility for the Rio 2016 Olympics as it seems a little late for him, after just turning pro three months ago.

His eye-opening experience in the United States also stoked his ambition to shine as he tested his mettle against top golfers.

"I could see in the eyes of those top golfers their perseverance and passion for this sport, which I sometimes couldn't see

■ Pan has made steady progress since turning professional earlier this year

among Asian players," he said.

Born and raised in Taiwan, the now-American national exhorted teenage golf-lovers there to look overseas to broaden their horizons and develop their passion into a real career. Nonetheless, the communications graduate, who insisted on finishing his studies while pursuing his dream career, likewise advised that university education was vital to one's growth.

When asked which golfer he was most eager to team up with, Pan picked top names such as Gary Player, Luke Donald and Rory McIlroy.

Traveling for different competitions as a professional player exposes Pan to different cultures and novelties, but it keeps him away from his family and friends, whom he misses badly.

"Pursuing golfing is not easy. You don't always play the way you want it to be," he said.

Macau Daily Times is the tournament's official media partner.

PAN Cheng-tsung and Guan Tian-lang, two of Greater China's most talented young golfers, are hoping to shine at this year's Venetian Macao Open as they take to the fairways of the Macau Golf & Country Club for the first time.

China's Guan made headlines in 2013 when he became the youngest ever player to make the cut at a Major, finishing 58th at The Masters at 14 years of age, having qualified for the tournament through a dramatic victory at the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in 2012. Despite a wealth of experience, Guan is in no hurry to turn professional and has instead continued to develop his game on the junior and amateur scene.

"I will never forget August 2013 and I can't

Young golfers show promising future

GETTY IMAGES



Guan Tianlang

tell you how surreal the whole Masters experience was for me. It turned a childhood dream into a reality and I am hungry for more. I am very pleased to be able to play at the Venetian Macao Open this year as it offers the precious opportuni-

ty to keep learning. I will continue to work hard to achieve my life long ambition," the Guangzhou native said.

The tournament, which will be held from October 15 to 18, is once again organized by the Sport Development Board (ID,

from the Portuguese acronym) and the Golf Association of Macau. Sanctioned by the latter and the Asian Tour, The Venetian Macao is supporting the iconic event as title sponsor for the fourth consecutive year.

In a press release issued by the organizers, ID's president José Tavares welcomed Pan Cheng-tsung and Guan Tianlang.

"Pan and Guan are two of the biggest emerging talents from the Greater China region right now so it is very exciting to see both of them joining us for the first time in their careers. The Venetian Macao Open is one of our most iconic annual spor-

ting events that attracts some of the best golfers in the world and it will provide a great platform for the two youngsters to gauge where they are with their game," he said.

Dave Horton, global chief marketing officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Sands China Ltd., commented: "We are very pleased to welcome both Pan and Guan as first-time participants in the Venetian Macao Open. There is no doubt they will wow golf fans with their on-course magic and make this year's event the best to date."

The 17th edition of the tournament will see the prize fund increase for a third consecutive year,

taking it to the all-important USD1 million mark. Defending champion Anirban Lahiri of India, among others, has already confirmed his participation.

Since its inauguration in 1998, many world-class golfers have graced the fairways of the Macau Golf & Country Club, including 2013 champion Australian Scott Hend and four-time Major winner Ernie Els of South Africa, Lee Westwood (1999 winner), Colin Montgomerie (2003 winner), Nick Faldo, Padraig Harrington, Fred Couples, Ian Woosnam, Mark O'Meara, and Chinese stars Zhang Lian-wei and Liang Wen-chong.

corporate bits

CEM AND MSO HOLD "CEM BRIGHTENING STARS" INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



CEM and Macau Special Olympics (MSO) have been jointly organizing the "CEM Brightening Stars" internship program since 2010. The program is aimed to improve the work abilities of mentally handicapped persons, explore their employment opportunities and promote a positive attitude and support towards their work abilities among the public, thus encouraging more employers to hire them. A total of 33 trainees have completed the program so far. Moreover, two trainees have been hired at CEM after the internship program.

BIGBANG 2015 WORLD TOUR [MADE] IN MACAO SOLD OUT



Tickets for the third show and side view tickets for all 3 shows of BigBang 2015 World Tour [Made] in Macao sold out within 3 hours of going on sale.

The tickets of the third show and side view tickets of all 3 shows went on sale at 10am yesterday and were snapped up by music fans in 3 hours.

BigBang will become the first ever foreign artist group to hold three consecutive shows at The Venetian Macao, attracting over 28,000 fans in the process.

"BigBang 2015 World Tour [Made] in Macao" will be held on October 23 - 25 (Friday to Sunday) at the Venetian's Cotai Arena.

Moody's challenges Hong Kong regulator over China report

Kelvin Chan
Business Writer, Hong Kong

MOODY'S Investors Service is challenging a USD3 million fine by Hong Kong's securities regulator, which accuses the credit rating agency of misconduct over a 2011 report that flagged potential problems at Chinese companies.

Lawyers for Moody's Hong Kong unit and the Securities and Futures Commission outlined their arguments at a two-day appeals tribunal hearing that began yesterday.

The case is the first of its kind and, together with a separate case against Citron Research, has raised fears about a chilling effect on critical financial research in the semiautonomous Chinese city.

As a former British colony, Hong Kong retains civil liberties such as free speech not seen on the



Traders work on the trading floor of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in Hong Kong

mainland as well as a separate legal and financial system.

The regulator's complaint last year accused Moody's of breaching its code of conduct when it issued its report "Red Flags for Emerging-Market Companies: A Focus on China," which found "red flags" at 49 of 61 companies it screened.

The case hangs on whether the report is considered part of Moody's primary business of pre-

paring and issuing credit ratings, an activity it is licensed to carry out in Hong Kong by the regulator.

Rating agencies came under the regulator's supervision in June 2011, a month before the Moody's report was issued.

Government lawyer Benjamin Yu said the agency's report was "part and parcel of credit rating services."

However, Moody's argued it was supplemental to its main business

because it used the unconventional "red flags" methodology to rate companies.

"Our argument is we are not providing credit ratings" with the report, which was aimed at preparing for a possible review of existing ratings, said Adrian Huggins, a lawyer representing Moody's.

In its 25-page report, Moody's screened Chinese companies, many of them listed on Hong Kong's stock exchange, for 20 "red flags" to sniff out weak corporate governance, opaque business models, too-fast growth and poor quality earnings or financial statements.

Some of the companies have since run into trouble, notably Kaisa Group Holdings, a fast-growing property developer that defaulted on its U.S. dollar debt earlier this year as China's hot property market slowed. **AP**

AD

仁德

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China auto sales shrink again in August

Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

CHINA'S auto sales declined in August for a third month but some brands reported gains following a market downturn that shook the global industry.

Sales of sedans, SUVs and minivans fell 3.4 percent from a year earlier to 1.4 million vehicles, according to an industry group, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. That dragged down the growth rate for the first eight months of the year to 2.6 percent following declines of 6.6 percent in July and 3.4 percent in June.

China's auto market has been cooling since growth peaked at 45 percent in 2009 but this year's plunge prompted analysts to cut growth forecasts and General Motors Co. and Volkswagen AG to reduce prices.

The deceleration is especially wrenching for global brands that are looking to China, the biggest global auto market by number of vehicles sold, to drive



With new car sales falling in August it seems likely that oversupply will haunt China's auto market for the foreseeable future

ve future revenue.

With the Chinese economy cooling, buyers are putting off purchases, said analyst Xu Qian of AlixPartners, a research firm. He said automakers will be lucky if the market achieves single-digit growth this year.

"If the overall economy keeps struggling, we might not even see growth but a decline," said Xu.

Sales also have been dented by measures imposed by Beijing, Shanghai and other major cities to curb smog and congestion by limiting new vehicle registrations.

Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, declined 3 percent from a year earlier to 1.7 million, according to CAAM.

Sales of SUVs, a bright spot for the industry, soared 45.6

percent to 453,000, the group said. Meanwhile, sales of more traditional sedans slumped 16.4 percent to 762,000 vehicles.

Despite the slowdown, automakers are pushing ahead with multibillion-dollar plans to expand production and create models to suit Chinese tastes, adding to competition in a crowded market.

In July, GM announced a USD5 billion plan to create vehicles with its main Chinese partner to be sold in China, Brazil, India and Mexico. That came after Ford Motor Co. and a local partner in April committed to spend \$1.1 billion on an additional factory in China.

Companies were preparing for slower growth, but the squeeze hit faster than many expected.

In a report last week, research firm Bernstein said China's downturn is so severe that German automakers, heavily reliant on this market, are likely to issue profit warnings in coming weeks.

Analysts had expected growth of 7 to 8 percent this year in Chinese auto sales but after June's contraction, some cut

their outlook to as little as 1.7 percent.

Global automakers also face competition from newer Chinese brands that struggled in recent years but have rebounded this year with a wave of new models priced below foreign rivals.

Defying the downturn, total sales by Chinese brands rose 2.5 percent in August over a year earlier, according to CAAM. It said their overall market share expanded by 0.5 percentage points to 39.4 percent.

"I think it's going to be a fierce war between the Chinese local brands and the foreign brands," said Xu. AP

1.7m

Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, declined 3 pct from last year

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS
All you wanted to know about property investment
 – Property purchase step by step (part 4 of 8)

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 installment of an eight part series identifying the key factors in choosing the right investment property and putting your money to work.

Purchasing property in Macau is not a difficult process. However, before embarking on a property venture, it helps to gain a clear understanding of the steps involved.

The following information can clarify the process and assist your planning. Once you have identified a target property, the next steps are:

1. Obtain the government registration document known as the "Busca"

You can obtain this Certificate at the Macau Land and Real Estate Registry Office (Conservatoria do Registo Predial de Macau).

This document is not only invaluable when sourcing a bank valuation, but it also provides property specifications (the actual useable area etc) as well as owner's name, registered address and whether or not the property has an outstanding debt against it.

The information may also help you to identify any illegal structures.

2. Obtain a bank valuation on the property

Be careful here and note that the loan amount is based on either the bank valuation or the negotiated purchase price, whichever is the lower of the two.

Therefore we recommend that you should only make an offer on a property after you have obtained a bank valuation.

3. Obtain Finance

Interest rates vary from bank to bank,

some banks will not loan to non-residents, so shop around.

Rates are still competitive, but the banks have a lot of requirements that must be met if they are to loan money. In general banks in Macau will loan you 50-70% of their valuation.

4. Check for outstanding tax and utility bills

You may have to go back several years because bills can mount up and accrue. Be aware that outstanding bills are accrued against the property, not the individual.

5. Do a comparative market analysis

Your agent will help you by providing the average price per square foot for apartments in that complex or for a similar property.

This will allow you to establish what price you want to offer the vendor.

6. Negotiate the price.

Prices are of course negotiable. How much a seller will negotiate depends on many different factors such as the urgency with which they must sell, the terms and conditions and what they paid for the property.

7. Sign a provisional contract and pay a deposit

Having found the property that meets your criteria and completing the negotiation process - remembering to only make an offer on a property after you have obtained your bank valuation - a deposit must be paid.

In Macau the initial deposit amount is usually 10% - 20% and the timing for final payment, whilst negotiable, is normally 30 - 60 days from deposit payment.

The provisional contract is the initial

contract signed by both parties to get the transaction underway.

Bear in mind that after paying the deposit, if you withdraw from the contract the deposit is forfeited. Likewise, if the seller withdraws from the contract, they must pay back double the deposit amount.

8. Complete a promissory contract

This is a contract drawn up by your lawyer.

It will include; full details of the vendor, your own details as the buyer, the agreed price, any special terms and conditions of the contract and the completion date.

You will have to make a down payment at this stage, usually 10%-20% of the purchase price, but this figure can vary according to mutual agreement.

9. Sign the sales and purchase deed

To complete the purchase of your property you must sign the Sales and Purchase Deed as well as the Mortgage Deed in person and in front of a Macau Notary Officer.

The official documents will be prepared in Chinese or Portuguese and a further copy will be made in English at your request. Your lawyer will be responsible to attend all post completion, stamping registration etc.

There are also fees and taxes to be paid which we covered in previous articles "Who is buying macau? And what are the costs of buying?".

Next week do join us for Part 5 of All you wanted to know about property investment - Two mistakes to avoid when buying an investment property.

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TAIWAN

Taipei simulates attacks by political rival Beijing

TAIWAN'S military blasted shells into the ocean yesterday, one in a series of exercises this week to simulate attacks by political rival China after Beijing staged what appeared to be a mock strike against the presidential office in Taipei.

The exercises, larger this year than in the past, follow televised images from China on July 22 depicting a staged ground troop attack on a red tower and attached low-rises that resembled Taiwan's presidential compound.

China is Taiwan's only major potential military threat, though the two sides have shelved political differences since 2008. They are separated by an ocean strait that is 160 km across at its narrowest point.

"Our most crucial goal is to simulate safeguarding against a possible attack from mainland China, whether on Taiwan itself, an outlying island post, our marine military space or our airspace," deputy Defense Ministry spokesman Chen Chung-chi said.

China's military, meanwhile, yesterday announced three days of its own live-firing exercises in the Taiwan Strait, part of a program of more realistic training scenarios involving integrated units from the navy, air force and ground troops.

It was not clear if the exercises starting today were related to Taiwan's drills and China's Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to faxed questions seeking comment. Ministry spokesman consistently respond to such queries by saying that exercises are part of scheduled routine training and not directed at any third parties.

From a hillside in northern Taiwan about 1 kilometer into

AP PHOTO



Taiwan's military fire artillery from self-propelled Howitzers during the annual Han Kuang exercises in Hsinchu, northeastern Taiwan

the ocean strait facing China, Taiwanese army troops fired howitzer shells, leaving a haze of smoke on land. President Ma Ying-jeou wore a helmet and flak jacket to the staging area.

The Taiwanese drills, running Monday through today and known as the Han Kuang Exercise, involve 69 more aircraft than last year, Taiwan's government-funded Central News Agency reported. Many of the

63 drills will emphasize land-sea-air coordination.

Some drills are testing homegrown military hardware, including a drone system and Taiwan's first indigenous stealth missile corvette warship, Chen said.

Taiwan has shifted to designing its own hardware since 2010 as China mounted pressure on the United States, the island's chief overseas supplier,

to stop arms sales.

Taiwan's proposed 2016 budget includes USD92.5 million for developing diesel-electric submarines over four years, as well.

China has claimed sovereignty over Taiwan since the 1940s, when the Communists routed the Nationalists in a civil war. The Nationalists rebased in Taiwan, which China says must eventually be unified with the

mainland, although it has not openly threatened Taiwan since 2005.

The two sides have set aside their political dispute since 2008 to open a dialogue that has led to more than 20 agreements on trade, transit and investment. But the deals have failed to help Beijing's hopes of endearing Taiwan's public to the idea of unification.

In early 2014, tens of thousands protested after they felt one of the agreements, a service trade liberalization agreement, was moving too quickly through parliament. About 70 percent of Taiwanese prefer today's degree of autonomy from China, a government-conducted public opinion survey found late last year.

China's military is the third most powerful in the world and Taiwan's is No. 15, according to statistical database GlobalFirepower.com.

"The president reiterates that although Taiwan-mainland China relations are at their most stable in 66 years, we absolutely will not let national defense slack one single bit," Ma's office said in a statement yesterday.

Relations with China could go into a freeze after a new president takes office in Taipei in May. The Jan. 16 election frontrunner has proposed no mechanism for dialogue that China would accept. Current President Ma Ying-jeou must step down next year due to term limits. **AP**

Li says gov't to open currency market to central banks

CHINA plans to allow foreign central banks into its interbank currency market, the country's No. 2 leader said yesterday, in a new move to expand use of the tightly controlled Chinese yuan.

Speaking at a business conference, Premier Li Keqiang gave no time frame for the change or details of what foreign institutions would be allowed to do. The move follows Beijing's decision in March to allow some foreign investors into the market in which its state-owned banks trade bonds.

"In our next step, we will open the interbank foreign exchange market to non-mainland central bank-type institutions," said Li at the World Economic Forum in the eastern city of Dalian.

Beijing controls the yuan's exchange rate and limits movement of money into and out of China but has been encouraging use of its yuan abroad, mostly for trade. The central bank said its surprise Aug. 11 devaluation of the yuan, which rattled global financial markets, was part of efforts to make the ex-

change rate more market-oriented.

Wider use of the yuan would reduce costs for China's traders and encourage sales of Chinese goods abroad, economists say.

The interbank foreign exchange market is used for setting the exchange rate of the yuan, but buying and selling takes place in a separate market, according to Tan Yaling, director of the China Forex Investment Research Institute.

Until now, participants were mostly Chinese

banks and a handful of foreign entities, said Tan, a former Chinese central bank analyst. She said expanding the pool of institutions that submit information will more accurately reflect supply and demand.

"Including the central bank-type institutions will improve the rationality of the exchange rate," said Tan.

Financial analysts say moves to making the yuan more market-oriented also are part of Chinese efforts to win acceptance for the yuan as part of

BLOOMBERG



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang

the basket of currencies used by the International Monetary Fund to set the value of its internal currency, known as Special Drawing Rights.

The IMF staff recommended last month week

that China wait until at least October 2016 to be added to the basket that includes the dollar, yen, euro and pound. The Fund's board is due to consider that recommendation in October. **AP**

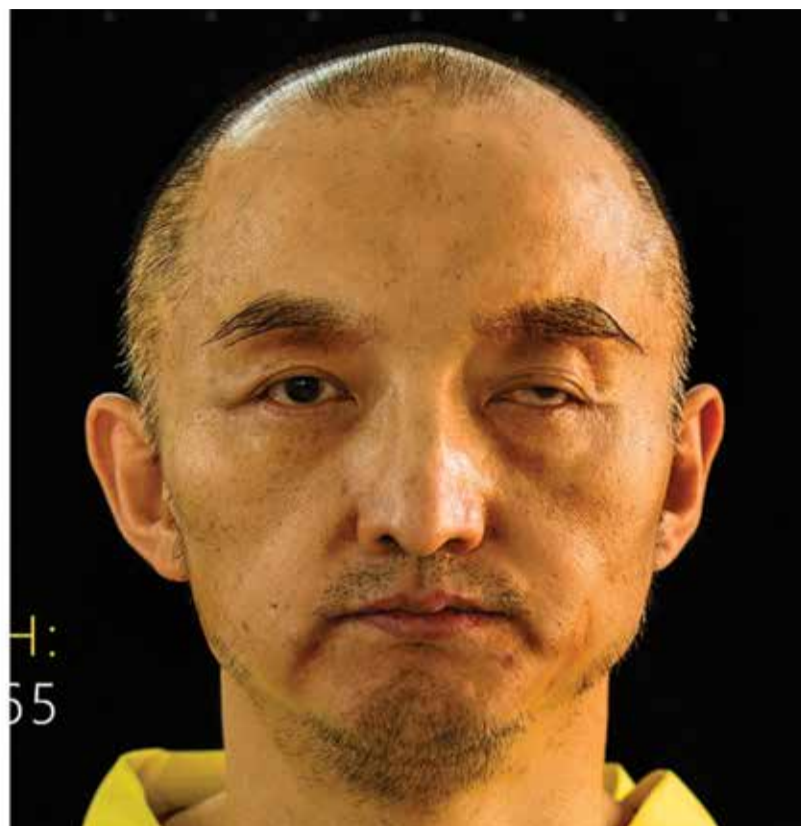
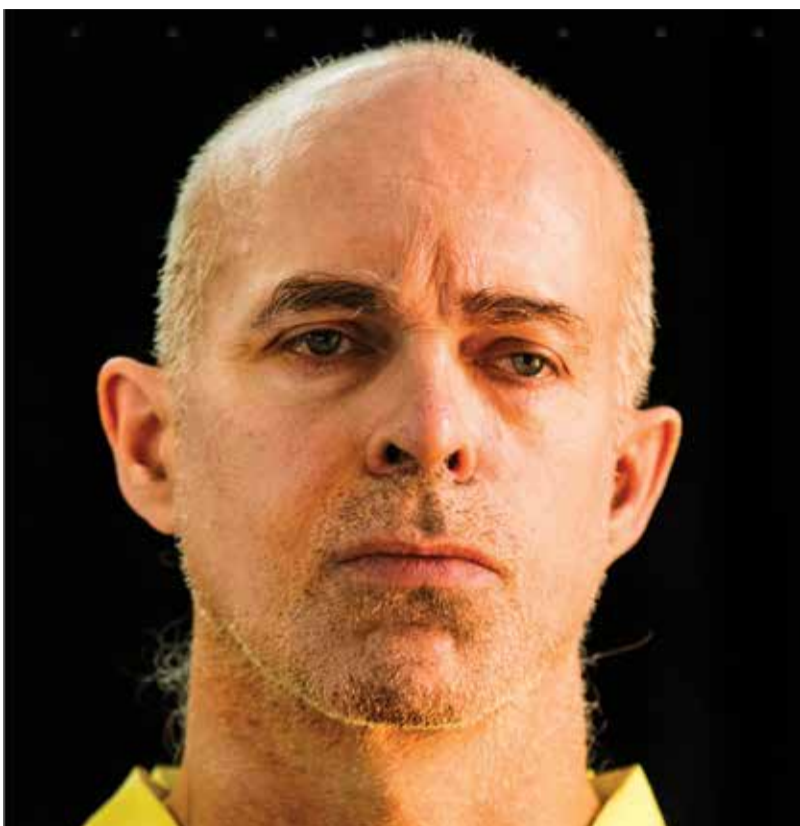
No charge for journalist held for online posts in 2013

Beijing prosecutors have decided not to indict a Chinese journalist detained more than two years ago during an aggressive government campaign to crack down on online rumors and rein in China's social media. Liu Hu was detained in August 2013 for his whistleblowing posts on senior government officials. He said yesterday he was formally notified by the prosecuting office that he will not face any charge. The decision was somewhat expected since Liu was released on bail in August 2014. Unnerved by the rapid growth of social media and the new media's potential to usurp the state's power over public discourse, Beijing in 2013 launched a crackdown to hush outspoken, independent voices online. Liu apparently was implicated in the campaign. He said his life had been turned upside down.

Inflation rises on higher pork, vegetable costs

High prices for pork and fresh vegetables pushed up China's inflation in August but to a relatively low 2 percent that leaves Beijing room to stimulate the slowing economy if needed. The rate reported yesterday was an increase over July's 1.4 percent. That was due largely to a 3.7 percent increase in food costs, which included a 15.9 percent rise for fresh vegetables and 9.3 percent for pork. Producer prices, measured as goods leave the factory, declined 5.4 percent from a year earlier. Lower inflation leaves room for Beijing to boost the economy if needed with interest rate cuts or other measures with less concern about igniting politically dangerous price rises. Analysts expect Chinese inflation to rise in coming months but to still-modest levels. "The benign inflation outlook in China keeps the door open for Beijing to further ease monetary policy to support growth," said Commonwealth Bank of Australia economist Wei Li in a report.

AP PHOTO



This combination of undated photos taken from the Islamic State group's online magazine Dabiq purports to show Ole Johan Grimsgaard-Ofstad, 48, from Oslo, Norway, left, and Fan Jinghui, 50, from Beijing

Mainlander reportedly held by Islamic State

A Chinese man reportedly held hostage by the Islamic State group worked in advertising and TV production and describes himself as a free spirit and reader of Greek philosophy.

The radical group released a poster on Wednesday with an image of the man, identified as Fan Jinghui, and the address of an advertising company registered by him in Beijing. The group also announced the capture of a Norwegian, identified as Ole Johan Grimsgaard-Ofstad, and demanded a ransom for both.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said yesterday that authorities are still

verifying the identity of the Chinese hostage. But the Sohu news portal reported that Fan was interviewed in 2001 by China National Radio as part of a feature about people without fixed careers.

Another man who appeared on the program, Pang Fei, told The Associated Press that he remembered being interviewed alongside Fan, and that he recognized him from the photo released by the Islamic State group.

"I love reading about the history of science," Fan said in the interview at the time. "And the ancient Greek great philosophers' pure spiritual pursuit of

freedom really gave me a jolt. That great spirit can be seen as the powerful motive for me to go after freedom."

A transcript of the interview is available on the Sina online portal.

The Islamic State group announced the capture of the two men in posters in its magazine, Dabiq, but did not say when or where the two were captured. The group controls large parts of Iraq and Syria, and has killed several captives in gruesome videos released online.

Fan said in the radio interview that he was born in 1965 and worked as a high school teacher for six years after gra-

duating from college. He said he joined an advertising firm in 1994 but left after about a year and later worked odd jobs, including as an off-the-books assistant producer at state TV broadcaster CCTV.

In 2002 he registered his own advertising company, Beijing Jingcai Yinsu Advertising Co. Ltd., according to a corporate database run by the Beijing government. However, the license was revoked from September 2003 until at least 2009, and it's unclear if it was later renewed. That business, whose address was given on the Islamic State poster, specialized in design and organizing exposition and cultural activities.

Reporters gathered yesterday at the address of the advertising company, which was also believed to be Fan's residence. An outdated CCTV parking pass could be seen through the window of an old red Jeep parked there. AP

Social media celebrity Guo Meimei jailed for running gambling ring

A woman who marred the reputation of China's Red Cross with social media posts on her extravagant lifestyle was sentenced yesterday to five years in jail for running gambling activities.

Dongcheng District Court in Beijing said Guo Meimei ran casino operations out of private apartments in the capital with bets totaling nearly 3 million yuan (USD500,000).

Guo became notorious when she claimed in 2011 to have connections to the Red Cross Society of China and posted photos on social media flaunting her extravagant lifestyle, including a Maserati and a Lamborghini.

Her posts quickly fueled public anger and raised concerns whether the chari-

XINHUA



A screenshot of Guo Meimei's microblog page in December 2011. The Red Cross denied any connection to the young woman but has failed to win back public trust

ty had misused the donations. Although Guo later retracted her claims of Red Cross connections, the damage was done and donations to the organization by

members of the public dropped.

Red Cross officials have tried to distance the charity from the woman, yet her name has become a byword for lack of credibility on the part of Red Cross, whose operations remain opaque.

Guo was detained by police in July 2014. Because of the high public attention Guo commands, the court streamed updates on yesterday's proceedings, including photos from the courtroom, in China's social media. Comments left on the court's updates praised the woman for exposing China's Red Cross, even incidentally.

The court photos showed Guo in a plain, white blouse and wearing no makeup, in contrast to the more flirtatious selfies she had posted in the past. AP

JAPAN

Helicopters pluck residents to safety as rains lash country

Mari Yamaguchi and Ken Moritsugu, Joso

RAGING floodwaters broke through a flood berm yesterday and swamped a city north of Tokyo, washing away houses, forcing dozens of people to rooftops to await helicopter rescues and leaving one man clinging for his life to a utility pole.

There were no immediate reports of casualties, but rescue officials said they were overwhelmed by pleas for help.

As heavy rain pummeled Japan for a second straight day, the Kinugawa River broke through a flood berm at 12:50 p.m., sending water gushing into the eastern half of Joso, a city of 60,000 people about 50 kilometers northeast of Tokyo.

Aerial footage showed a wide swath of cityscape underwater, more than one-story deep in some places. The rains came on the heels of Tropical Storm Etou, which caused flooding and landslides elsewhere Wednesday as it crossed central Japan.

Japanese broadcasters showed live aerial footage of rescuers being lowered from helicopters and clambering onto second-floor balconies to reach stranded residents.

In one dramatic scene, the rescuer descended four times from a military helicopter over 20 minutes to lift up four people one by one, as a deluge of water swept around their home.

Nearby a man clung to a utility pole as the waters rose before being taken up by a rescue worker who had to be first lowered into the rushing water so he could make his way over to the man.

Others waved cloths from their decks or roofs to get attention as torrents of water washed away cars and knocked



A resident is rescued from a flooded residential area in Joso, Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo

over buildings. Photos from Japan's Kyodo News service showed people waiting for help on top of cars and a 7-Eleven delivery truck, surrounded by water that nearly submerged the cars.

Kyodo reported that 60 people had been rescued by helicopter, and rescue work was continuing as the sun began to set five hours later.

Akira Motokawa, a city evacuation official, told national broadcaster NHK that rescuers have been unable to keep up with the volume of calls for help.

The Transport Ministry estimated that up to 6,900 households in a 37 square-kilometer area could be affected by the flooding, Kyodo said.

Only about 2,500 of the city's residents had reached shelters by 2 p.m., the news service said.

Tokyo was drenched with rain, but the hardest-hit area was to the north in Ibaraki and Tochigi prefectures. One woman was missing hours after a landslide hit houses at the foot of a steep, wooded incline. Bullet train service was partially suspended. **AP**

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Traditions from the last 60 years of BRIC'S history seamlessly combine with innovation to create quality Italian leather goods and travel luggage. The brand's stylish pieces exhibit attention to detail and a blend of fine form with functionality amidst classic Italian style. Luggage, handbags, wallets and more are now available at Shoppes at Venetian. **Shop 514, Bridge Street, Level 3, Shoppes at Venetian**

GINZA KAITEN SUSHI
To celebrate Ginza Kaiten Sushi's two years of bringing high quality and creative sushi, sashimi and other Japanese culinary delights to Shoppes at Cotai Central, the restaurant is offering *Macau Daily Times* readers 25% off all items between 5pm and 11pm until 30 September 2015. Simply present this column prior to ordering. **Shop 2001, Level 2, Shoppes at Cotai Central**

ZARA

Bringing the coolest catwalk trends to the high street, much-loved fashion brand Zara at Shoppes at Venetian has a fresh new look. The renovated and extended store now features a first floor entirely dedicated to its stylish women's collection, while upstairs shoppers will find contemporary men's fashion as well as an extensive range of cute kids apparel and accessories. **Shop 103, Gondola Street, Level 3, Shoppes at Venetian**



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GENDER IMBALANCE

Bride shortage in north India drives men to look far afield

Nirmala George, Sorkhi

WHEN Sadhuram Berwal wanted to get married, his family went about it in the traditional Indian way, asking relatives, neighbors and local temple priests to suggest a young woman. But after an extensive search among women of his caste in his area, no suitable bride could be found.

A larger factor had narrowed the field sharply: a skewed male-female ratio that is particularly pronounced in his home state of Haryana, in India's north, due to sex-selective abortions in a society where many families prize boys over girls, mostly for economic reasons.

Through a friend, Berwal eventually found a woman 2,700 kilometers to the south, in the state of Kerala, who was willing to marry him. But with a different language and profoundly different customs, she was overwhelmed by her new life.

That dramatic decision more than 10 years ago shocked his village of Sorkhi at the time but has become increasingly common these days in northern India, where the dearth of eligible women is starkest.

In Sorkhi, buffaloes roam the dirt roads, winding their way to a massive pond, the main feature of the sleepy village. Women go by driving slow-moving oxcarts, loaded with grass and other fodder for cattle. It's as if life has not changed over the decades in Sorkhi's bucolic routine, although the village of 7,000 is just 150 kilometers west of New Delhi, India's capital.

What has changed, however, is the glaring shortage of young women, says Om Prakash, a retired schoolteacher and influential village elder.

"In Sorkhi alone, there are around 200 to 250 young men who wish to get married, but their weddings are not taking place since they can't find girls to marry," said Prakash, as several elderly men sitting on rope-strung cots nearby nodded their heads in agreement.

India banned prenatal sex determination tests in 1994 after it became evident that families were aborting female fetuses. It is also illegal for medical doctors or technicians conducting sonograms to reveal the sex of a child before birth, but the practice



Sreeja Berwal, who is from the Indian southern state of Kerala, stands outside a rural bank in Sorkhi, 150 kilometers west of New Delhi, in the northern state of Haryana

still flourishes underground. Mobile medical vans made sex-determination tests accessible even in the remotest villages. Female infanticide is also a contributing factor.

In Haryana, the state with the most imbalanced sex ratio, there are 834 girls per 1,000 boys age 6 and under, according to census figures. Across India, the ratio has fallen to 919 girls for every 1,000 boys for the same age group, the most uneven level since modern India was founded in 1947.

Boy babies are preferred among many Indian families because of the heavy economic burden girls bring with their dowries, which often include refrigerators or motorcycles in addition to large sums of money and gold. While Indian law prohibits giving or receiving dowries, the tradition persists. Daughters are also considered less desirable because they will most likely move away from home after marriage and be unable to care for parents in their old age.

Given the imbalance, families of young women in Berwal's area have gotten pickier.

"Earlier, families with girls of a marriageable age would seek out boys and entice them with rich dowries. Now, it's the other way round. The girl's family checks out the boy. They want to know how much land the boy has, whether he has a government job and whether their daughter will live in rea-

sonable comfort," said Virender Berwal, another villager as he took slow drags on his hookah pipe. The caste surname is common in the village.

The arrival of Berwal's wife started a trend in the village as more men sought wives from Kerala, usually through personal connections and word of mouth. There are also women from Bihar and West Bengal states to the east.

■ In Haryana, the state with the most imbalanced sex ratio, there are 834 girls per 1,000 boys age 6 and under

Several Kerala women who agreed to marry men in Haryana told The Associated Press they did it partly to avoid the oppressive dowry demands. The grooms' families agreed to pay all wedding expenses and did not take any dowry.

Activists say another consequence of the shortage of women in northern Indian states such as Punjab and Haryana is that human trafficking has become a lucrative trade. Agents procure girls and young women from different states

in India, promising them jobs or a husband, and sell them to brokers in Haryana.

"This is happening on a large scale," said Jagmati Sangwan, general secretary of the All India Democratic Women's Association.

India's National Crime Records Bureau statistics reveal that nearly 25,000 girls and women ages 15 to 30 were kidnapped and sold into marriage across the country in 2013. Last month, New Delhi police busted a human trafficking ring that was selling girls to men in Haryana.

Women who move to Haryana to get married — especially those from the better-off south — face enormous adjustments.

When Sadhuram Berwal's wife, Anita, arrived in Sorkhi at age 28, she spoke her native Malayalam language, just a smattering of Hindi and not a word of the local Haryanvi language. Her 35-year-old truck driver husband was regularly away for half the month, making the first few months lonely and nearly unbearable, she said.

Her female neighbors were kind, though, and taught her words for everyday objects like broom and stove, she said.

"When I first came here, I didn't much care for the place. I couldn't go out, I couldn't contact anyone," said Anita, dressed in a long tunic and loose pants, a long scarf covering part of her face.

"Now I speak very good Haryanvi, almost as well as anyone else in the village. No one believes that I'm from Kerala. I speak like a native," she said as she served lunch to her two school-age children and her aged father-in-law, who lives with them.

Anita's neighbor Sreeja Berwal, who shares the same last name but is unrelated, agreed to marry a Haryana man because of her family's dire financial straits. Sreeja says her father lost his eyesight following an illness and then lost his job.

"We were four sisters. What could my poor mother do? The stigma of having four unmarried daughters was too much for her. When this offer came from Birbal's family, my mother said I was lucky," she said, referring to her husband.

The wedding was fixed after both Sreeja and her future husband had seen each other's photographs. Such arranged marriages are very common in India, but not usually over such great distances.

"His uncles spoke to my mother over the telephone. Then they came to Kerala and met me and my family," she said. "Within a couple of days, I was married and I came here."

With its high female literacy rates, Kerala affords women a greater degree of freedom when it comes to work or speaking out. But discrimination against women is more severe in Haryana and elsewhere in the north, which is generally less developed and where people are less educated. Girls are more likely to be deprived of food, education and health care, and women are expected to always defer to the menfolk.

Being an educated woman, a rarity in Sorkhi, Sreeja has found employment at the local farmers' bank, helping people fill out forms and complete other banking business. But she's had to get used to other customs, such as keeping her head covered with a stole in public.

"Back home in Kerala, only Muslim women covered their faces, while here, I was told married women had to cover their faces," said Sreeja. At her workplace, however, she is very much the bank official, brisk and businesslike, with her head uncovered most of the time.

And compared to the mild climate in the south, the extreme weather in Haryana — torrid summers and cold winters — was also hard to get used to. Sorkhi in the rainy season is hot and humid. Mosquitoes create a constant buzz and the still air reeks of buffalo dung and steamy vegetation.

"This is when I miss my home the most," Anita said wistfully. "But that was another life." **AP**



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SEPTEMBER ISSUE



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Hamza Hendawi, Molivos

EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS

For savvy Syrians, social media helps ease trip to the West

THE 26-year-old Syrian economics graduate knew exactly what to do and where to go.

Amr Zaidah, with the aid of GPS, helped pilot the inflatable boat that brought him and about 30 more migrants to the closest spot to the village of Molivos on Lesbos, one of several Greek islands that have this summer served the tens of thousands of migrants as a first stop on the journey to western Europe.

Molivos, he knew, was where buses were taking migrants to the capital of Lesbos, Mytilene, some 50 kilometers to the south. The alternative would be a punishing trek on narrow dirt tracks hugging the coast and lined by olive trees, a stretch of highway and a narrow road that cuts through rolling hills.

At Mytilene, Zaidah also knew, he and the eight friends he came with could seek the official document that allows them to continue their journey.

"I have researched our journey for more than two months," said Zaidah, a native of the Syrian city of Aleppo who has worked the past two years as an accountant in Istanbul. "I used social media networks to look into where to go, who is the best smuggler to hire and what stuff we needed for the trip," he said as he had chocolate cake and coffee at a posh seafront cafe, his sneakers still wet from the landing.

"I familiarized myself with weather forecasts, wind patterns and how to avoid being conned out of our money by smugglers."

Zaidah is one of the thousands of mostly young Syrians and Iraqis who have been taking advantage of social media networks and smartphone apps to guide their journey across the sea from Turkey and onward to Western Europe.

On one Facebook group, for example, Syrians and others who already made the trip across the Aegean Sea share the names and telephone numbers of good smugglers in Turkey, warn of pitfalls and give other advice.

Called "al-Mushantateen," a play on the Arabic words for "suitcase" and "diaspora," the group includes posts by volunteers who offer services like calling the coastguard if a pas-



Syrians land with others refugees on the island of Lesbos, as they arrive aboard a dinghy after crossing from Turkey to Greece

senger on a dinghy sends a distress call. The advice covers the journey beyond Greece to Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary and Western Europe. Zaidah and his group already know which border points they will cross, hotels they can stay in and stores where they can get clothes more suitable for the fall weather as they head north.

The advantages of such groups are evident.

While Zaidah and his friends headed straight to Molivos for the free bus rides, many others set off on the journey to Mytilene on foot under the merciless summer heat and humidity. For families with elderly and children, it can take up to three days to reach the town, unless along the way they happen upon a kind-hearted Greek or NGO worker, who sometimes give families a lift.

Halfway through the walk, the migrants look dazed, dragging their feet up and down

one hill after another, taking occasional breaks in the shade on the side of the road. Jouan, a 29-year-old English teacher from Syria, arrived in Mytilene after a 16-hour walk, chafed and exhausted. "No one stopped for me, though they did pick up old people or families," he said Wednesday, speaking on condition he be identified only by his first name to protect family back in Syria.

The social media-savvy among the migrants are constantly on their phones. They line up outside the offices of mobile providers at Mytilene and buy Greek numbers that allow data and roaming elsewhere in Europe so they can connect to the Facebook and WhatsApp apps they use to communicate with others.

During the sea journey, which can take up to two hours in good weather, they keep their phones in plastic bags to keep them dry. Landing in Lesbos, chanting, "Thanks be to God," the first thing they do is fish their phones out, joyously hug and take group selfies on the shore. Then with the Turkish signal still strong here, they call loved ones back in Turkey, Syria or Iraq, shouting, "We arrived in Greece!"

But the exhaustive research done by Zaidah and his friends didn't spare them serious hiccups during the early stages of their journey in Turkey.

They and nearly 50 others, including 15 children, got lost in

the woods looking for the designated departure point for their boat north of the Turkish coastal city of Izmir. Their Syrian guide couldn't speak Turkish or figure out how to work his GPS. After nearly 12 hours, they stumbled on a departure area — only to discover it was run by a rival smuggler. The Turkish smugglers divide up the coast into territories that they fiercely defend.

The rival smuggler was furious and pulled a gun on one of Zaidah's friends, Mohammed Seraj. "He pointed it at my head and said, 'I can kill you now and no one will know, or I can call my coast guards friends who will alert the police to your group and come and arrest you.'"

Seraj, a 25-year-old Syrian,

said he profusely apologized to the smuggler before he and his group walked away.

The group finally connected with their own smuggler. They had to spend another night outdoors, sleeping in the rocks on the edge of a farm. Then at dawn, the smuggler made them carry the heavy boxes containing the dinghy and a new engine for it down to the beach, where they had to assemble it as well. The smuggler then left them to pilot the craft themselves.

All along the route, impromptu businesses crop up. In Izmir, shoe shops sell lifejackets, and street hawkers sell plastic bags for wallets and mobile phones, Zaidah and Seraj said. Even floaties are sold for children.

In Lesbos, signs in Arabic have gone up on storefronts. Prices for basic goods like bottled water have gone up. For a while, some Syrians and Iraqis sold forged versions of the documents that all the migrants need to get, for up to 50 euros. But they were put out of business when Greek authorities sped up the process for issuing the real documents, which are free.

Lesbos residents have found another way to profit. Some wait on the coast with binoculars, and as soon as a boat lands, they swoop down in a pickup truck, grab the boat's engine and the dinghy itself or scour through the abandoned lifejackets for the good brands for sale. AP

HUNGARIAN ARMY GETS READY TO PATROL BORDER

HUNGARY'S ARMED forces are taking part in exercises near the country's border with Serbia to prepare soldiers to assist police with controlling the huge flow of migrants reaching the country. Defense Minister Istvan Simicsko said Thursday that around 2,000 soldiers are being trained near the southern cities of Baja and Hodmezovasarhely to help police. The

Hungarian Parliament is expected to approve legislation on Sept. 22 authorizing the army to help police at the border, where 2,000 soldiers are already working on the construction of a 4-meter high fence to stop migrants from walking in from Serbia. Police say more than 176,000 migrants have entered Hungary so far this year, over four times as many as in 2014.

I used social media networks to look into where to go, who is the best smuggler to hire and what stuff we needed for the trip

AMR ZAIDAH, 26

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 RTPi Live
- 18:20 Trail of Lies (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 Trail of Lies
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Portuguese Film
- 01:20 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

- 10:45 Boonie Bears
- 11:40 Young Adult
- 12:00 Cooking
- 12:30 Cooking
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Soap Opera
- 18:05 News
- 18:30 Contest
- 19:20 Miscellaneous
- 19:50 Macau 360° (Repeated)
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Drama
- 21:50 Drama
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Shorts
- 00:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

- 10:30 Young Children
- 11:00 Sunday Mass
- 12:00 Miscellaneous
- 12:30 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Zig Zag
- 16:30 Miscellaneous
- 17:20 Documentary Series
- 17:40 Miscellaneous
- 18:20 Miscellaneous
- 18:45 Miscellaneous
- 19:40 Comedy
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Contraponto
- 22:00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 23:45 UEFA Europa League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme
- 00:40 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

offbeat

CANADIAN COUPLE WATCHES BEACH HOME BURGLARY VIA WEB CAM

A Canadian couple watched via web cam as a man broke into their Florida vacation home on Fort Myers Beach before turning the video over to authorities.

The surveillance tape helped Lee County sheriff's deputies arrest 45-year-old Thomas Hinton on Sunday, the day after the burglary. He's charged with burglary and grand theft and was jailed on USD160,000 bond.

The News-Press of Fort Myers (newspr.es/1OykK90) reports the couple reported the crime from their home in Ontario, Canada, on Saturday night after seeing the man on a web cam. Deputies later learned the man might also be connected to other area burglaries.

A deputy spotted the suspect Sunday and arrested him. A hearing is scheduled for Oct. 5. It's not clear whether Hinton has a lawyer.

cinema



CINETEATRO

10 SEP- 16 SEP



MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS

ROOM 1
2.30, 4.45, 7.315, 9.30 pm
Director: Wes Ball
Starring: IDylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 131min

NO ESCAPE

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: John Erick Dowdle
Starring: Lake Bell, Pierce Brosnan, Owen Wilson
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 103min



ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

ROOM 3
2.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Richie Jen
Starring: Richie Jen, Shu Qi, Ti Lung
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 104min



LOVE DETECTIVE

ROOM 1
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Wong Pak-Kei
Starring: Ivana Wong, Pakho Chau, Ram Chiang
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 105min

MACAU TOWER

10 SEP - 30 SEPT

MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Wes Ball
Starring: IDylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 131min

this day in history



2001 US ROCKED BY DAY OF TERROR

The United States is in a state of shock after a day of attacks which have left thousands dead and New York's World Trade Center destroyed.

The Pentagon was also severely damaged by one of the three civilian airliners which hijackers turned into flying bombs. A fourth plane crashed in a field near Pittsburgh.

A state of emergency has been declared in Washington D.C. and the US has closed its airspace and its borders with Mexico and Canada. American forces are on one of their highest states of alert and the Pentagon has deployed a naval battle group off the country's east coast to bolster air defenses.

American Airlines Flight 11 was hijacked at 0825 Eastern Daylight Time (1225 GMT) and 18 minutes later crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center. United Airlines Flight 175 - which had been hijacked within minutes of the first plane - was flown into the south tower at 0903 EDT (1303 GMT) causing another devastating explosion.

The second crash was captured live on news cameras trained on the burning north tower. At 0940 EDT (1340 GMT) a third hijacked airliner - American Airlines Flight 77 - was flown into the side of the Pentagon in Washington.

An hour after the Boeing 767 slammed into the south tower of the World Trade Center the 110-storey building collapsed.

The north tower followed minutes later, compounding the destruction and loss of life. Witnesses reported seeing people jumping from the towers just before they collapsed.

President Bush was reading to pupils at a Florida school when his chief of staff whispered news of the attacks to him.

He was flown to the US Strategic Command Centre at Nebraska - where the country's nuclear weapons are controlled - but is now on his way back to Washington. He is expected to address the nation later this evening.

New York mayor Rudy Giuliani said the final number of dead may be "more than any of us can bear".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final number of people killed in the suicide attacks on 11 September was about 3,000.

It took almost nine months to clear the millions of tons of rubble at "Ground Zero" where the World Trade Center had stood.

The biggest criminal investigation in history quickly identified the hijackers, and linked them to al-Qaeda - the Islamic militant group set up by Osama Bin Laden.

President Bush declared a worldwide war on terror, and on 8 October the United States and Britain hit targets in Afghanistan, where Bin Laden was believed to be hiding.

The regime in Afghanistan fell quickly in the face of American military might, but Osama Bin Laden remained at large for years. President Bush extended his global campaign against terror to Iraq in March 2003, when a coalition dominated by US and UK forces invaded.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You have plenty of restless energy. Cooking and cleaning may sound old fashioned, but they're the perfect ways to spend it. Consider them as important as bringing home the bacon.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Don't let a lack of funds put a crimp in your style. You can still entertain or socialize over dinner. And if you're on a low budget, get creative and no one will be the wiser.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Someone less adaptable than you would have fallen apart long ago, or so you like to tell yourself. Hey, whatever works. You have plenty of strengths and weathering this financial storm is only one of them.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Stop looking at the numbers. The only thing doubling is your energy, and nervous energy at that. Do something about it before it affects your emotions, even if it's as simple as taking a trip to the gym.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're feeling too sensitive to be out and about. Let yourself stay in. There are plenty of cheap ways to keep yourself amused that don't involve licking your wounds, financial or otherwise.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your financial assets might be dwindling but your emotional ones are growing exponentially. You and your friends need each other more than ever, so rely on each other for support.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The basement or workshop are the perfect place to putter around if you suddenly find yourself with extra time and anxiety on your hands. Come up with a project for yourself and stick with it.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Most things are beyond your control. You've come to accept that. But the things you can do something about are screaming for your attention. Start by balancing your checkbook.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're being forced to change a lot of things in your life and not as a result of questioning your own choices. But just because it didn't begin that way doesn't mean you shouldn't take it as far as you can. In fact, go in deep.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Extremes in energy make it difficult to schedule your social calendar. Remember that slow and steady wins the race, and not just in financial matters. Take a deep breath and pick up your pen.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You may think you have health issues, but they're just a smoke screen for emotional ones. Yes, money is affecting you in more ways than one. Stop thinking about it and watch your life improve.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Don't let a lack of funds ruin your day. You can still go out and socialize with friends. If you're on a low budget, tell your friends you want to hang without spending a fortune. They will totally understand.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

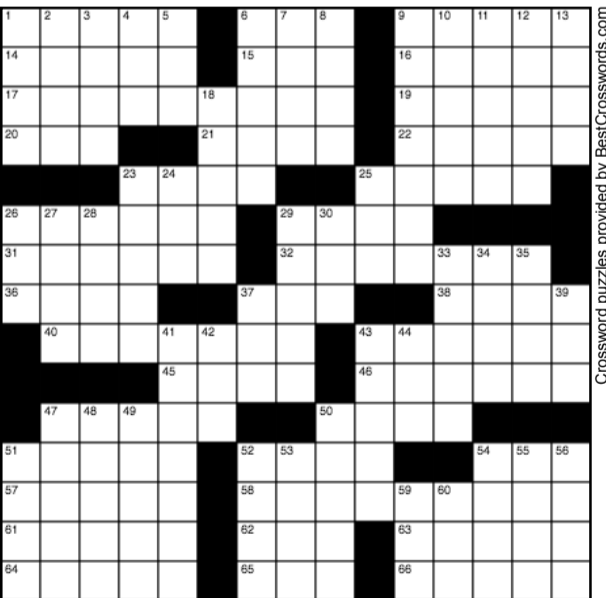
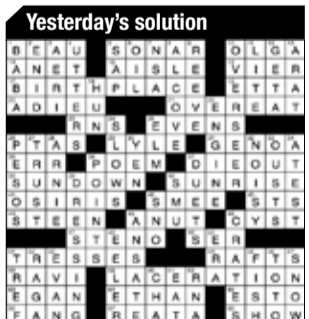
WORLD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Carefree adventure; 5- Broadway opener; 9- Roofing items; 14- Inter ...; 15- Rip; 16- Beethoven dedicatee; 17- ...-Tass (Russian news agency); 18- Heedless; 20- Widen; 22- Canonized Mlle.; 23- Shades; 24- Highland hats; 26- Biblical twin; 28- Bid lower than another; 32- Fermented soybean cake; 36- Peeples or Long; 37- Attentive, warning of danger; 39- Like tubers; 40- Not fearful; 42- Early computer; 44- Actress Hayworth; 45- Skip ...; 47- Aquarium buildup; 49- Parked oneself; 50- Oppose; 52- Most fortunate; 54- Optimistic; 56- Noah's eldest; 57- Brit's exclamation; 60- Hung neighbor; 62- Observation; 66- Camp for children; 69- Bit; 70- Living in a city; 71- Later; 72- In order (to); 73- Hurts; 74- Passage into a mine; 75- Clue;

DOWN: 1- Put down; 2- Prefix with meter; 3- Iranian coin; 4- Self-defense method; 5- In a trembling state; 6- Bee follower; 7- License plates; 8- Steamed; 9- A Kennedy; 10- Surly mood; 11- In ... of (replacing); 12- ... quam videri (North Carolina's motto); 13- Cong. meeting; 19- Take five; 21- Skater Lipinski; 25- City in Tuscany; 27- ... Lingus; 28- Open, as a gate; 29- Mythical weeper; 30- Valleys; 31- Hand tool; 33- Composure; 34- Kett and James; 35- Hilton competitor; 38- Spanish river; 41- Keeper of the Holsteins; 43- Ornamental container; 46- General on Chinese menus; 48- Just manages, with "out"; 51- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 53- Mischievous; 55- New Mexico's state flower; 57- The jig ...; 58- Chapter of the Koran; 59- Prefix with dextrous; 61- Stated; 63- Arabian Nights; 64- ... all-time high; 65- Endure; 67- Nav. officer; 68- ... tai



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FOOTBALL | EPL PREVIEW

Chelsea missing Terry with captain's place under scrutiny

Steve Douglas
Sports Writer

Saturday, 7:45pm
Chelsea v Everton
H 2.05, D 3.62, A 4.2

JOHN Terry ended last season as still the best center back in the English Premier League.

Three games into the new campaign, the Chelsea captain's stock has fallen to such an extent that critics are questioning how much longer he can cut it at this level.

The 34-year-old Terry has endured a miserable start to Chelsea's title defense: Substituted at half-time against Manchester City. Sent off against West Bromwich Albion. Now suspended for the visit of Crystal Palace tomorrow.

It will be the first time in 17 months that Terry has missed a meaningful Premier League game — he played every minute last season — and leaves Chelsea without any of the so-called "old guard" that has been the backbone of the club's success for the past decade.

Central midfielder Frank Lampard left at the end of the 2012-13 season, center forward Didier Drogba's second spell at Chelsea ended in May, and Petr Cech was sold to Arsenal in the off-season. Terry is the last re-



John Terry (center) will miss the match tomorrow

maining link to the past in a new-look Chelsea team under Jose Mourinho, but his days could be numbered.

It's not just Terry's form that is putting his place under scrutiny. He is 35 in December so age is not on his side, and Chelsea's pursuit of Everton center back John Stones signals that Mourinho is looking to the future. Chelsea has reportedly had three offers for Stones rejected, and is weighing up a fourth potentially worth 40 million pounds (USD62 million).

Terry still has much to offer Chelsea and could have two or three more years at Stamford Bridge. But his role could be changing, and good performances by Gary Cahill and Kurt Zouma — the likely center-back pairing against Palace — will give Mourinho some thinking to do over the international break.

By then, Stones may be a Chelsea player, too. He has already put in a transfer request, which was rejected by Everton on Thursday.

Chelsea has had as uncomfortable a start to the season as Terry, with four points from a possible nine leaving the team already five behind Man City. Palace has won two of its opening three games and is a dangerous team away from home with its pace on the counterattack.

ROONEY REVIVAL. Wayne Rooney's 10-game scoring drought for Manchester United ended with a hat trick against Bruges in a Champions League qualifying match on Wednesday, but he'll need to start netting in the Premier League to get the critics completely off his back.

Rooney has been part of an underperforming United attack that has strug-

gled to create chances, let alone score goals in the league this season. The team has scored two goals in three games, one of them being an own goal.

United visits Swansea on Sunday for a match between two unbeaten teams. Swansea took six points off United last season.

RECORD IN SIGHT. Manchester City will break its century-long record for successive top-flight wins if it beats Watford at Etihad Stadium.

City is the only team with a 100 percent start to the season after beating Everton 2-0 on Sunday. That was City's ninth straight win, matching the club record that has lasted since 1912.

BALOTELLI GONE. Mario Balotelli completed his season-long loan move to AC Milan from Liverpool on Thursday. It's unlikely he'll be missed at Anfield.

In summer signing Christian Benteke, Liverpool has a much more physical and threatening striker than it had last season when Balotelli and Rickie Lambert failed to shine and Daniel Sturridge was mostly injured.

Liverpool, which hosts West Ham tomorrow, has started the season with two wins and an impressive display in a 0-0 draw at Arsenal on Monday. **AP / Oddschecker.com**

Villas-Boas to quit as Zenit coach at end of season

ANDRE Villas-Boas said yesterday he will quit as Zenit St. Petersburg coach at the end of the season after he was blocked from leaving in the summer.

The Portuguese coach won the Russian Premier League with Zenit last season in his first full campaign, but his time in St. Petersburg has swiftly turned sour and he is currently serving a six-game ban for assaulting a match official.

European media linked Villas-Boas with major clubs in various countries, including Real Madrid, but he said Zenit management refused to let him resign. Villas-Boas said he has refused a contract extension and now plans to leave.

"The club made me an offer at the end of last season. I answered with a refusal and at the end of the season I will leave the club," he said in comments on Zenit's website. "But in any case we are continuing our work. We must try to get points, catch the ones who are above us and try to do well in the Champions League."

The St. Petersburg club has had a rocky start to the season and sits third in the Russian table after seven league games, six points behind leader CSKA Moscow. Zenit visits CSKA on Saturday in a crucial clash that will take place without Villas-Boas on the touchline after he was banned by the Russian Football Union for striking fourth official Ivan Saraev during a defeat to Krylya Sovetov Samara last month. **AP**



Coach Andre Villas-Boas

AD



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opinion

Kapok
 Eric Sautédé



THE ART OF THE MEANINGFUL

I am no economist, and yet I have enough interest in political economy to figure out when something is right or not. Such is the case with the dramatically loaded use of the word “austerity” by the government. Is it right - in both its rational and moral senses - to use the word “austerity”? And if it's not, why use the word despite its dreadful adverse effects?

One can always blame translation. Should we translate 緊縮 (jinsuo) as “tightening” rather than “austerity”, which is better rendered by 擱節 (zunjie), that better conveys the notion of frugality? But then, jinsuo is also clearly used to express a “drastic” reduction, such as “credit crunch”, so it does not seem to be an overstretch to translate 緊縮計劃 as “austerity plan”, and Macau Daily News indeed refers to 緊縮政策 when it describes “austerity policies” put in place in debt-ridden European countries.

When did we start talking about “austerity” for Macao? Back in June 2014 at the very start of the dwindling of the gaming industry? In December 2014 when the Budget Law for 2015 was passed? Nope.

Only in April 2015, precisely when the budget of the government was being re-examined and revised. At the time, a vaguely worried Chan Chak Mo, the president of the second permanent committee of the Legislative Assembly in charge of supervising public accounts, raised a pale orange flag to say that if monthly gross gaming revenues (GGR) fell below MOP17 billion then Macao could face a budget deficit by year-end. By his sophisticated calculation, MOP20 billion in GGR per month would total MOP240 billion for the year, and given the tax on gambling of 35%, that would in turn translate into MOP84 billion in government's revenues... almost exactly the amount envisioned by the revision of the Budget Law in May!

Why the MOP17 billion threshold? Because then, we might really have a deficit - a “crisis” in Chan's vocabulary - but no explanation (other revenues? actual execution of the budget?) was given regarding the MOP3 billion discrepancy. In the new Budget Law, prospective revenues were revised downward, from MOP154.7 to about MOP120 billion, but then expenses went up slightly (!), from MOP83.72 to MOP83.76 billion...

Ultimately, if need be, Chan revealed that expenditures could “easily” be cut across the board by 5%, without affecting social welfare-related spending or heavy investments. This is, albeit slightly pumped up regarding minor investments (-10%), what was announced on September 1st and Chief Executive Chui Sai On has confirmed that these cost-cutting measures were here to stay.

By any account, the seemingly resolute acts taken in the wake of the bad results of the first eight months of 2015 - we are now below the not-so-thin red line of MOP20 billion per month - do not equate to austerity, which is defined as a set of policies aiming at, by way of spending cuts or tax increases or a mix of both, the reduction of government budget deficits. In the case of Macao, this is an (inflated) “anticipated” deficit: we ran a surplus in 2014 and then we have more than MOP350 billion accumulated in fiscal reserve - not even impacted, so we are told, by the ongoing financial turmoil now affecting Shanghai and Shenzhen. Moreover, the government expects these cuts to save MOP1.4 billion, a mere 1.7% of the budgeted expenditures - so much for the rigor of the measures!

Finally, the Execution of the Budget is only 60% - if we rely on the 2013 figures as the most recent ones have yet to be examined by the Assembly - meaning the government spends, in any case, less than 2/3 of the money it said it would!

Taking a stand and publicly explaining what these spending cuts actually mean - the shy first steps in eliminating waste within public administration and restoring trust of the citizenry in its public service - can only benefit Lionel Leong. Resolutely and personally taking the lead in pushing through the ongoing revision of the new Budget Law, thus positioning himself as a manifest proponent of greater transparency and efficiency regarding public finances, might not hurt either.

THE BUZZ USD115.9M AWARDED TO FAMILIES OF 9/11 VICTIMS

A private scholarship fund for family members of 9/11 victims says it has awarded USD115.9 million to 2,825 students.

The Families of Freedom Scholarship fund distributed \$12.5 million to 760 students in the 2014-15 school year.

The fund is a program of Scholarship America, a nonprofit scholarship and education-

nal support organization.

It provides scholarships for children, spouses and domestic partners of people who were killed or permanently disabled in the 2001 terror attacks. Scholarship America will operate the fund until 2030, when the last of the Sept. 11 children will have completed college.

UN-backed documentary ‘Human’ aims to capture the world

Jill Lawless, Venice

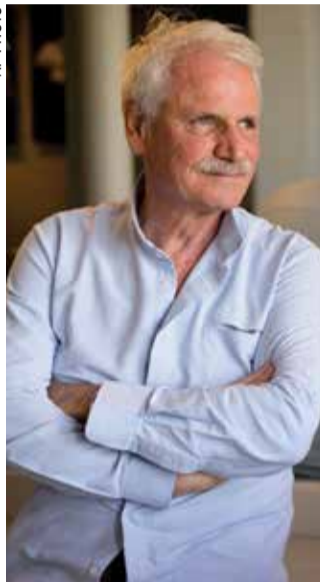
WITH wars, atrocities and the desperation of refugees dominating the daily news, it's easy to feel despair about human nature.

French filmmaker Yann Arthus-Bertrand hopes to restore movie-watchers' faith - or at least awaken their compassion - with “Human,” a documentary that compiles the extraordinary stories of ordinary people from around the world.

Arthus-Bertrand, the aerial photographer behind best-selling coffee-table book “Earth From Above,” interviewed hundreds of people from more than 60 countries, including Rwandan genocide survivors, American army veterans, Syrian refugees, Afghan farmers and the president of Uruguay. Victims and perpetrators tell stories of killing and vengeance, while other subjects speak of love, forgiveness and pride.

The subjects are presented in close-up and without context - we never even learn their names. The aim is to make viewers look these disparate strangers in the eye and listen to their words.

“I think the only way to make people think is through emotions. Not through the brain - through the



Director Yann Arthus Bertrand

heart,” the director said during an interview at the Venice Film Festival, where “Human” plays for the public on Saturday.

The documentary - endorsed by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon - screens inside the U.N. General Assembly hall in New York the same day.

The onscreen interviews are interspersed with aerial shots of cities and deserts, oceans, forests and crowds, whose almost abstract beauty gives viewers a chance to pause and digest what they have heard.

Arthus-Bertrand shot more than 2,500 hours of footage over two years, speaking to more than 2,000 people. He

says the interviews reinforced his view that “everybody has something to say. Everybody.”

The first cut of the movie was 12 hours long. With some regret, the director has trimmed it to just over three hours.

“Human” is a passion project for the 69-year-old director, who says he has found that with age “you like to go to essential things, to go to what is important.”

The film wants viewers to reflect on fundamental questions: Why is there war and hatred? Why do some have too much and some too little? Why is humanity despoiling the Earth?

“I know it is not going to change with a movie,” Arthus-Bertrand said. “But I am doing my job.”

Funded by French charity the Bettencourt-Schueller Foundation, “Human” will have a wide cinema release and TV broadcast later this month in France, and will be distributed free to charities, community groups and local authorities willing to arrange screenings.

It's backed by the global heft of Google - which will devote a Google Doodle and a mini-site to it on Saturday - and accompanied by an array of online clips, resources and background information. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	60-80 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



RUSSIA-SYRIA Iran has granted permission for Russian planes to fly over its territory en route to Syria, Russian news agencies report, a bypass needed after Bulgaria refused overflights amid signs of a Russian military buildup in Syria that has concerned the U.S. and NATO.



USA Apple stakes a new claim to the living room, as the maker of iPhones and other hand-held gadgets unveils an Internet TV system that's designed as a beachhead for the tech giant's broader ambitions to deliver a wide range of information, games, music and video to the home.



USA After a five-day stint in jail for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis will return to work as soon as today to face another day of reckoning.

SINGAPORE Air pollution in Singapore reached its highest level in a year yesterday as smog from Indonesian forest fires shrouded the island nation in a veil of gray, irking tourists and alarming authorities with hours left before general elections.

times square by rodrigo

