



### FIEDLER LETTER ON JUNKETS

Jeff Fiedler, the promoter of Macau Gaming Watch, writes to the Times on junkets' transparency

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### VISITOR GROWTH DATA ACCURACY QUESTIONED

The Association of Macau Tourist Agents doubts that the number of visitors during the "golden week" increased

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### TIGHTER SECURITY FOLLOWING MAIL BOMBINGS

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## WORLD BRIEFS



**PORTUGAL** Polls on Portugal's general election put the ruling Portugal à Frente coalition (PAF) ahead with 38 per cent of the vote, compared to 32 per cent for the opposition Socialist Party. PAF policies imply a lower risk of fiscal slippage and thus a victory for them is likely to be viewed positively by markets, even if, as is expected, they lose their absolute majority in the 230-seat parliament. More on p14

**US-CHINA** A Chinese-American researcher has pleaded guilty to stealing trade secrets from his U.S. employers, but his attorneys are hoping to limit the time he serves in prison. Xiwen Huang pleaded guilty to one count of stealing trade secrets. Federal prosecutors say the 55-year-old chemical engineer stole proprietary technology and hundreds of pages of documents over the past decade as an employee for both government and civilian companies. According to court documents, his goal was to help the Chinese government and a company he had opened in North Carolina to do business with China.

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RENATO MARQUES



## Typhoon floods the city, roars into South China . P2

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FINANCIAL TIMES

China stats: why the numbers add up F1

VENETIAN MACAU OPEN 2015

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days to go

# Mujigae blasts city with strong winds and heavy rain

**T**ROPICAL storm "Mujigae" has lashed the region with torrential rain and strong winds over the past two days, causing the postponement of large-scale outdoor functions, scores of collapsed trees, flight delays, and one injury at the University of Macau.

The observatory raised a typhoon signal number three on Saturday evening, keeping it in force throughout Sunday night as Mujigae hit the southern Chinese city of Zhanjiang yesterday afternoon, resulting in the evacuation of 200,000 people after causing the disappearances of over a dozen fishermen in the Philippines.

One 29-year-old mainland female was said to have been sent to the public hospital yesterday at midday after she received multiple cuts on her arms and legs from the shattered glass of a door that she opened in a dormitory. She is in a stable condition after receiving medical



treatment, according to the Fire Service Bureau.

The department received a total of 59 reports in relation to damage from the typhoon from Saturday at 6 pm to Sunday at 9 pm, 27 of which involved collapsed trees while another 26 were calls asking the department to handle dangerously unstable objects.

At least six outdoor events scheduled for the past two days have been called off due to wild weather. The thunderstorm also delayed more than 15 flights in total over the two-day period.

The suspension of ferries

to Shenzhen has also left some tourists stranded at the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal, causing them to travel to Zhuhai before taking ferries back home.

The typhoon also brought heavy downpours to other cities in Guangdong province as it edged closer into the mainland. It was reported that the rain flooded the streets of Zhanjiang and vehicles were overturned by gale-force winds during the peak of the typhoon yesterday at around 9 am. However, the official news agency, Xinhua, has so far reported no casualties. **AU**

# Typhoon roars into South China; tens of thousands evacuated

**A** strong typhoon roared into southern China yesterday, bringing powerful winds and heavy rain to the region after leaving more than a dozen fishermen missing in the Philippines.

Nearly 200,000 people in southern China were evacuated before Typhoon Mujigae made landfall near the city of Zhanjiang in Guangdong province just after 2 p.m., according to the National Meteorological Center.

By 7:00 p.m. its center was located about 460 kilometers west of Hong Kong and moving steadily inland. The center had already issued a red alert — China's highest level of weather preparedness — warning that as much as 280 millimeters of rain could fall in some places from yesterday morning to today morning.

As of yesterday evening, there were no reports of injuries or damage from the storm. Packing winds of 180 kilometers per hour at its center, Mujigae — "rainbow" in Korean — was moving northwest at about 20 kph, the meteorological center said.

The typhoon lashed both Guangdong and the resort island province of Hainan, where thousands of Chinese have flocked during the weeklong National Day holiday that runs through Wednesday. It is

expected to weaken as it heads further inland over the next two days.

Scores of flights in and out of Hainan's main airport in the provincial capital of Haikou have been canceled, and high-speed rail service between Haikou and the tourist center of Sanya was suspended Saturday and Sunday.

More than 60,000 fishing boats returned to port in the two provinces and more than 40,000 fishermen working on fish farms moved to shelters, according to the provincial government websites.

Meanwhile, upwards of 500 tourists were sheltering in hotels in Guangdong's Fangji island after attempts to evacuate them were disrupted by high winds, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Mujigae, the 22nd typhoon of the year, blew out of the northern Philippines early Saturday, causing floods and a few landslides and leaving more than a dozen fishermen missing, said regional Office of Civil Defense spokesman Mike Sabado.

More than 150 fishermen had been reported missing at the height of the storm, mostly from the provinces of Pangasinan and La Union, but most sailed back home after taking shelter or were rescued at sea. Thirty fishermen remained unaccounted for yesterday, Sabado said. **AP**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Achieving transparency and accountability for the junket system

In June of this year my organization, the International Union of Operating Engineers, sent a letter to Wang Qishan of China's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection that highlighted what we believe are flaws in the Macau government's regulation of the VIP junket system.

We emphasized that Macau's gaming regulator, the DICJ, did not adequately monitor and investigate many influential participants in the junket industry, such as the third-party financiers, credit guarantors and profit participants of gaming promoters, who manage to keep their names off of official paperwork. Further, the casinos have had no legal responsibility to track how their junket partners raise capital and collect on gambling debts.

Through these under-regulated channels individuals who might otherwise be denied a gaming license are positioned to exert control over a junket operation. They are also best positioned to facilitate international money movement, which

has been a major concern of the PRC government.

We are heartened to see that the Macau government now appears intent on investigating these key hidden powerbrokers and forcing junkets and their casino partners to start disclosing them.

But, it should not have taken multiple large-scale junket thefts for the government to wake up to these regulatory deficiencies. Indeed, why has it taken so long for the government to come around on this issue? Simply put, we believe it has been all about deniability.

The existing system allows for casinos to conduct due diligence on a junket's "on-record" straw man shareholder who has a clean record, while turning a blind eye to the true beneficial owner. The casinos can then profess that they are in compliance with Macau law, even if the controlling interest behind the junket has organized crime ties.

This carefully constructed apparent, but

not real, regulatory structure has allowed the casinos and the government to look the other way and keep counting their money. These substandard policies we believe also infect outside jurisdictions, such as U.S. regulators in Nevada (the alleged premier gaming regulator) and Massachusetts, who accept this absurd logic and distort their standards in order to approve Macau casino operators in their locales.

But Macau, it appears, is finally confronting this problem. What are the next steps?

The DICJ should require junkets to disclose all financiers capitalizing their operations. In addition, all individuals who acquire a profit participation stake in the junket must also be disclosed. The DICJ should then subject substantial financiers and profit participants to a "suitability" review to ensure that these individuals do not have organized crime ties.

The DICJ should also reassess the standards for its existing suitability reviews.

The regulator should not look solely at whether the applicant has a documented criminal record but should take a more holistic approach including reviewing associations and reliable law enforcement intelligence.

Lastly, and most importantly, the DICJ should provide more junket information to the public, including the identity of the casinos that junkets contract with, the chip volume that junkets roll, and the substantial owners, financiers and profit participants of junkets. Sunshine has a cleansing effect.

We have high hopes for the government's new junkets initiatives, and we will work to continue bringing greater transparency to this industry, because it affects the United States as much as it does Macau.

**Jeff Fiedler**  
Director, Special Projects & Initiatives  
International Union of  
Operating Engineers

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**T**HE Central Government plans to implement various measures to revitalize the region's continuously sluggish economy starting this year, indicated Li Gang, the head of the Central Government Liaison Office in Macau.

Speaking last Thursday on the sidelines of a reception celebrating the National Day, Li Gang reminded the media that the first policy to have a positive effect on local economic development will be the possible allocation of clearer jurisdiction over the region's surrounding waters, which would come into force by the end of the year, he said.

The official believes that the move, which would allegedly allow the local government to manage an area several times larger than its current jurisdiction, could pave the way for further developments in tourism and transportation.

Aside from the water sovereignty issue, Li said that mainland authorities are considering many other policies, especially those targeting the region's gaming industry, the mainstay of the economy.

He also attributed the enduring economic woes in casinos to the general economic slowdown, downplaying the impacts of the anti-graft crackdown and the strengthened supervision of UnionPay activities.

Other measures, as the offi-

# Li Gang pledges assistance to local economy



Li Gang (3rd from right) poses for a photo with Chui Sai On and other dignitaries

cial revealed, would be akin to looser visa regulations for mainland tourists in order to encourage investment into tourism and hospitality.

Asked if Beijing would open

up other mainland cities for individual visits to the region, Li stressed that an influx of tourists would not cause a major increase in gaming earnings, as he acknowledged that

too many arrivals could take a toll on the livelihoods of local citizens.

Comparing the local annual numbers of tourists to Hong Kong's, the official said the city

has already received a considerable number of visitors.

Li's words echoed in the HK stock exchange on Friday, with the big-six casino chips rising 7 percent overall, contributing to a rise of over 3 percent of the benchmark Heng Seng Index.

The spike reverberated from Europe to New York bourses. Wynn Resorts Ltd. increased the most in more than six years, leading casino stocks in rising after Li's speech.

Wynn, which generated 70 percent of its revenue in the region last year, jumped 23 percent to USD63.52 at the close of market in New York, the biggest one-day gain since April 2009. Las Vegas Sands Corp. rose 11 percent to \$40.87, while MGM Resorts International advanced 6 percent to \$19.79.

"Any potential measures to help Macau's visitation could be a great boon for the industry, as casual gamblers are now becoming the key pillar of the industry profits in the midst of VIP weakness," DS Kim, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co., wrote in a note. **AU**

## CE says 'pressures and challenges' may result in economic slowdown

**T**HE Chinese economy is facing pressures and challenges that could cause a slowdown in growth, the Chief Executive Chui Sai On reported during the ceremony to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Thursday. According to Chui Sai On, the Central Government has already



Chui Sai On

taken measures to implement policies which promote strong economic and social development.

Stating that the local economy is currently going through an adjustment period, Chui Sai On recognized that the gaming industry has been suffering as a result of these adjustments. Consequently, budgetary restraints have been introduced and investment has been redirected to other industries in order to diversify the economy.

Mr Chui also stressed that there have been some new dynamics in the economy over the past year, and that the encourage-

ment of regional cooperation has brought about new policies regarding free trade areas and awareness of innovation and business creation. These new policies have in turn contributed to the desired economic diversification into non-gaming related businesses.

Regarding the gaming industry, Chui said that the MSAR government would continue to support the healthy and sustainable development of this business, taking the opportunity to also announce his reinforcement of the inspection and supervision policies regarding gaming operations, and his determination to boost the growth of non-gaming activities.

Chui stressed also that the improvement of people's livelihoods was the centerpiece of the administration's policy changes, saying that expenditure on social welfare and in the Investment and Development Expenditu-

re Scheme would not be affected by the austerity measures that took effect in September.

The CE mentioned that the government would use all of its power to boost economic advancement, to support local SMEs and disadvantaged groups, to secure the employment of local people, and to build long-term systems to address the issues of housing, transport, social security and health care.

The ceremony was held at Macau Tower in the presence of more than a thousand guests, and formed one of a series of celebratory events to mark the National Day, including the traditional flag-raising ceremony at Golden Lotus Square, as well as a sporting event called "Macau People Celebrate the National Day - World Walking Day Fun Run," comprising a variety show and motorcycle parade.

The Chinese acrobatic show "Nutcracker" and a final pyrotechnic display by Australian and Chinese teams who competed in the 27th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest marked the end of the wide range of events.

## Gaming revenue down 33 pct in Sept

**M**ACAU'S gross gaming revenue in September fell 33 percent year-on-year to MOP17.13 billion (2.2 billion U.S. dollars), according to the latest figures released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

The industry suffered its 16th consecutive decrease of monthly income, but the drop narrowed by 2.5 percent from August, as indicated by the figures from the gaming industry regulator.

Macau has generated MOP176 billion (22 billion U.S. dollars) from casinos over the past eight months, a decline of 36.2 percent compared with the same period a year before.

The region has seen a noticeable drop in gaming revenue since last June, with gross domestic product shrinking by about a quarter in the first half of the year.

The government implemented an austerity plan in early September as the monthly gaming revenue dipped below the "red line" of MOP20 billion (2.48 billion U.S. dollars) which was established in 2015 Budget Amendment Law.

**Macau will become an even better home for residents, despite economic volatility in the gaming industry.**

CHUI SAI ON



BLOOMBERG

## Twenty-ninth MIMF to 'nourish souls'



**T**HE 29th Macau International Music Festival (MIMF) kicked-off at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday evening. The opening ceremony was held at the CCM lobby, and was attended by the President of Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Mr Ung Vai Meng, who highlighted the goal of the festival of "bringing out aesthetic appreciation and nourishing the soul" in his opening speech.

This year's festival has gathered a number of internationally renowned names in its team of solo artists, choirs, orchestras and ensembles. For the first time in the history of the festival, however, it included two concerts of local

musicians in order to encourage local talent and to provide a performance platform for local young artists. The two concerts, titled "Bravo Macau", were held on 25 and 26 September at the Dom Pedro V Theatre and featured performances from local young musicians: the violinist Sophia Feinga Su, the saxophonist Hugo Loi, the pianist Ray Long and the violist Katy Ho.

This year's festival – consisting of the theme "Soundmazing" – is intended, according to the IC president, to use voice and vocal music to "nourish souls."

The festival opened with a performance of Gustav Mahler – "Symphony No. 3", conduc-

ted by Macau Orchestra's Music Director Lu Jia and featuring the renowned mezzo soprano Charlotte Hellekant, as well as the Macau Orchestra, the China NCPA Orchestra and Chorus, and the Macau Youth Choir.

The Festival programme continues until the end of October and includes more than twenty musical performances, as well as an Outreach program comprising of master classes, workshops and much more, promising to inject life into many venues across the region. As for the highlights, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsako's one-act opera "Mozart and Salieri" will take the stage of the Dom Pedro V Theatre, with artists from Moscow's Novaya Opera Theatre at the helm of this performance. In a different field, Portuguese singer Pedro Moutinho, one of today's most renowned fado voices, is cooperating with the Portuguese accordion quartet Danças Ocultas to perform in concert as "Danças Ocultas and Pedro Moutinho". This will allow Moutinho and Ocultas to take these Portuguese sounds to Mount Fortress, and to allow the audience to experience fado in the Macau autumn breeze.

These are just a few of the performances that IC expects to delight those "who are passionate about music and life". **RM**

## THE AUDITION

### Scorsese ad-film premieres in Busan

**M**ARTIN Scorsese's latest film, "The Audition", premiered Saturday at the Busan International Film Festival in South Korea. The film has been criticized for its seemingly unsubtle commercial features, featuring lengthy scenes of the soon-to-be-opened attractions and features of a resort.

The film is intended to promote Melco Crown Entertainment's new resort, Studio City – a USD3.2 billion project on the Macau enclave – as well as a similar property called City of Dreams in Manila, Philippines. The film was partially shot at some of the gaming operator's Macau properties.

BIFF programmer Pak Dossin defended their decision to screen the film, saying that it had been selected based on its merits and that he "liked it very much."

"The Audition" was originally planned to premiere at the Venice Film Festival, but was pulled from the program after it was criticized for its "openly commercial references."



Venice Film Festival director, Alberto Barbera, also defended their original decision to screen the film, saying that "[i]t's a Scorsese film, not a commercial" and that "the casino paid for the film, but it's not in the film at all."

The 16-minute film features a cast of A-list stars portraying exaggerated forms of themselves, including Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Robert De Niro. Martin Scorsese directed the film.

"The Audition" first drew considerable attention after a trailer was leaked on YouTube, which showed De Niro and DiCaprio competing for the same role in a hypothetical Scorsese production. The trailer was removed from the website shortly after its release.

The Busan International Film Festival continues until October 10. **Staff reporter**

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# Tourism sector doubts accuracy of authorities' visitor growth data

Aries Un

**T**HE visitor arrival data for the first three days of the golden week holiday presented by local authorities shows an unexpected increase in figures from last year, defying expectations of the public, as well as the pessimistic outlooks of the tourism and hospitality sectors.

The official figures, which include incoming foreign laborers and students, state that the region has been visited a total of 501,078 times, 427,325 times by mainlanders, between October 1 and 3. Both numbers are said to have climbed from 9.9 percent and 16.4 percent respectively.

However, the data has been treated with suspicion by the President of the Association of Macau Tourist Agents, Wu Keng Kuong, who last month forecasted a 10 to 20 per-



Both these pictures, captured during the "golden week," show two iconic sites of Macau with fewer visitors than usual

cent drop in the number of Mainland Chinese visitors travelling on package tours, as well as another possible fall in the number of individual tourists.

Wu told the Times that the proportion of imported workers and students might have led to a reduction in the accuracy of the actual data concerning the influx of tourists, as both numbers have increased from last year. In addition, he also noted that among the visitors, there could be some non-local workers resi-

ding in Zhuhai who have to make the cross-border commute.

In addition, the association's president claimed that mainland holidaymakers in general choose overseas destinations, because of the length of the seven-day vacation. The partial relaxation of visa regulations, along with favorable exchange rates have further diminished the appeal of the two special administrative regions, and as a result, mainland tours to Japan and Korea

surged this year, he said.

Sociology scholar at the Macau Polytechnic Institute, Larry So, agreed with Wu's remarks, saying that more affluent mainland tourists tend to be prone to reaching out further abroad in their choice of destinations, which were comparatively more attractive.

"People who have been to Macau for once or twice might consider travelling beyond Hong Kong and Macau to Japan and Korea," he told the Times. "Those countries are also trying to snatch tourists from other countries."

He added: "Tourists willing to spend more might be lured away to those countries, while those with less money to spend come to Macau."

Still according to Mr So, the region's endeavors to encourage inbound tourists to stay overnight could be dampened by economic hotels across

the border. The scholar noted that Zhuhai's more affordable hotels could form alternate accommodation options for mainland tourists, who could wake up early to enter into the territory and return to their accommodation across the border at night.

The scholar urged the society to concentrate more on overnight visitor data, which was more pertinent when gauging the benefits of inbound visitors to the economy.

"Looking at visit numbers alone – the pursuit of such numbers is meaningless, as they are not linked to revenue increase," he said. "Conversely, at least the hotel and catering industries would see their earnings increase if visitors stayed longer, or even overnight."

A total of 147,376 visitors arrived through the territory's seven checkpoints on the first day of the week-long vacation, followed by 179,810 and 173,892 during the following two days, according to the Tourist Office, citing data from police authorities.

## Man dies after falling into lake

A 52-year-old man from Hong Kong died yesterday after he fell into the artificial lake situated outside the Venetian hotel resort at around 11 a.m. on Saturday morning. The rescue team reported that the man was not breathing and his heart had stopped beating at one point, but the team was able to revive the man and he was moved to the public hospital, where it was initially believed that his life was not in danger.

## MGP trains local rescue team

The Macau Grand Prix Committee conducted local rescue team training jointly with the FIA on October 3 and 4. The program, which included a wide variety of training both theoretical and practical, was designed to ensure that all rescue team members are trained to the highest internationally-recognized standards. Since 2004, the Macau Grand Prix has been promoting the localization of its rescue teams and, since 2007, all team personnel have been Macau residents. Since then, each year the Committee and the FIA have together organized courses to provide professional training for each local rescue team member.

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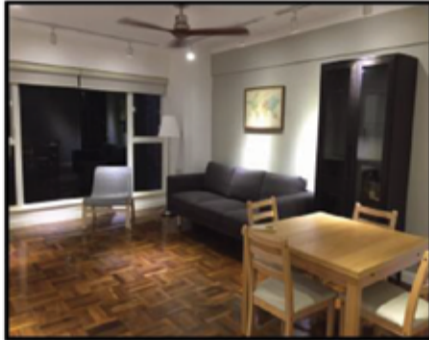
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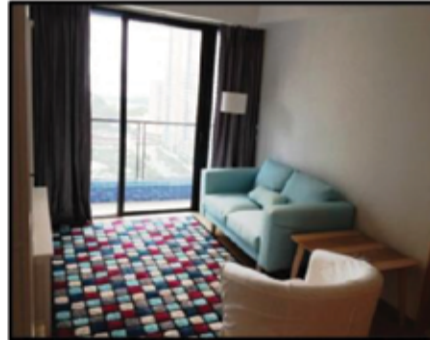
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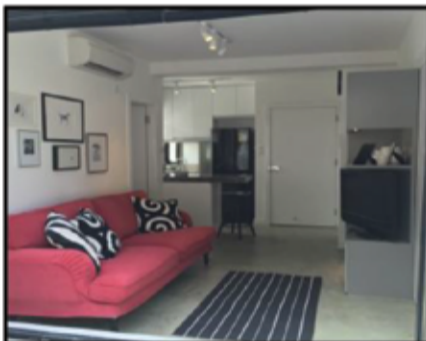
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Semi furnished. Fitted kitchen with white goods. Open plan dining / living area.

Balcony. Facilities inc. kids play area, pool, gym & gardens.



#### Soi Cheung, Taipa Village

(Ref: 15090530)  
700sq. ft. HKD 16,500

Cute one bedroom apartment situated in the centre of Taipa village only 15 minute from Cotai. Wonderful private terrace furnished with modern outdoor furniture, built in store and outdoor washing machine. Lovely living area with a largebespoke TV cabinet and 2 metre sofa. Open plan kitchen with sleek white cabinets incorporating a built in cooktop and small oven,



#### Houston Court, Coloane Village - Coloane

(Ref: 15090532)  
800sq. ft. HKD 13,300

Stunning One Bedroom Apartment. Well appointment property in Coloane village. Views across the water to China. One king size bedroom with built in storage. Good size en suite toilet & shower room. Furnished & upgraded last month (painted throughout. Air con gased & serviced, new bathroom fittings). Modern open plan kitchen & living area. Small private outdoor area.



#### Tai Nin - Macau

(Ref: 15090536)  
850sq. ft. HKD 11,800

Lovely furnished one bedroom apartment near Senado Square. Bright open planned living room, dining room and kitchen.

Great size double bedrooms built in wardrobe in bedroom. Fourth floor of a walk up building very close to cafes, shops, banks, bus stop, a unique chance to live in Central Macau.



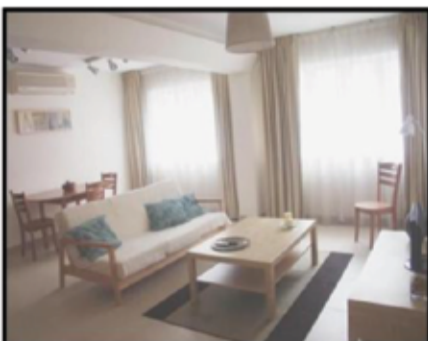
#### Lakeview - Macau

(Ref: 15080524)  
3,430sq. ft. HKD 29,000

Bright and spacious 3 bedrooms, with a large dressing room, fully fitted air conditioned kitchen and separate utility room.

Fully Furnished with a large front balcony over looking the Macau tower to Taipa. Convenient location, close to Grand Lisboa and Senado square. Viewings by appointment only.

### For Sale



#### Va Fu, Old Taipa Village Ref

(Ref: 15085449)  
580sq. ft. HKD 4.580M  
Rate: HKD 5,725ft.

Spacious and bright furnished apartment. Double glazing This apartment has one bedroom with free standing storage, one modern bathroom and one small closed balcony for laundry. Open plan living/dining area. Very centrally located, within minutes of cafes, shops, banks, restaurants and supermarkets. Bus stop across the road. Fifteen minute walk from Cotai area.

Office: (853) 2835 2699

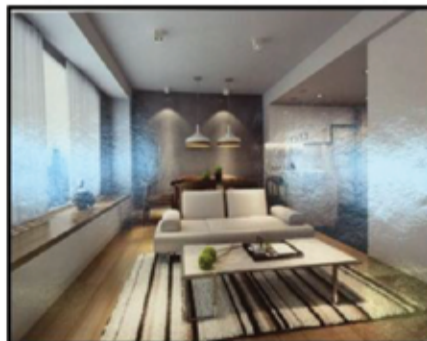


#### Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau

(Ref: 15075447)  
627 sq. ft. HKD 4.198M  
Rate: HKD 6,695sq ft

One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with built in wardrobes. Modern shower room with built in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. S shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.

Email: [Info@JMLProperty.com](mailto:Info@JMLProperty.com)



#### THE STUDIO, MACAU

(Ref: 15085451)  
399sq. ft. HKD 2.98M  
Rate: HKD7,468sq ft

New development apartments, 6 apartments available. Completion scheduled for early 2016.

Prices range from 2.98m to 4.55m. 10% deposit required to reserve property (from HKD \$298,000).

Price includes furniture / fully furnished apartment.



#### The Manhattan, Penthouse Taipa

(Ref: 15045436)  
2,305sq. ft. HKD 25.8M  
Rate: HKD11,193sq ft

Luxury residence with high quality finishes. Spacious dining/living room, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms (one en suite). The complex of Manhattan is a 5 star facility, unique in central Taipa. Car Park For Sale Asking HKD1.9 Million

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Christopher Palmeri

GAMING

# MGM's solution to trouble in Macau: treat masses like VIPs

**F**ACED with a slump that's shaved almost USD14 billion in revenue from the world's largest gambling market, MGM Resorts International is making its second casino in Macau a lot friendlier to the average tourist and casual gambler.

The \$3 billion MGM Cotai, scheduled to open in the fourth quarter of 2016, will feature smaller rooms for VIPs, the high-rollers whose absence from Macau's casinos has led to the plunge in gambling, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jim Murren said in an interview. The property, being built by MGM China Holdings Ltd., will devote more space than the existing MGM Macau to mass-market gamblers, Murren said in an interview last week.

MGM and other resort owners in Macau are coming to grips with a changing market and more challenging economic climate, even as they prepare to open posh new properties on the area's Cotai Strip. For years, the casinos relied on junket operators who brought in big-spending clients from mainland China and lent them money to play baccarat in private VIP areas. While junkets played a critical role in Macau's gambling boom, their importance has waned as high-rollers cut back. The company is looking to bring in more big-money gamblers on its own, Murren said.

"The junkets held such tremendous influence, those older junket rooms were very large and you'd go in and see a bunch of empty tables because they demanded them," said Murren, who is co-chairman of the 51 percent-owned MGM China unit. "The junket rooms will be



Customers sit at a restaurant at the Grande Parca of the MGM Macau casino resort

smaller. It allows you to use tables more productively."

While the VIP rooms in MGM Cotai may be smaller, the property is 1 million square feet larger than the MGM Macau. Taking cues from Chinese government officials looking to diversify Macau's tourism revenue, MGM Cotai will have a theater that can be converted quickly into a nightclub, concert or ballroom space, and a mall lined with restaurants, landscaping and video effects, Murren said.

"It'll be an indoor space that will feel very outdoor," he said.

Casino betting in Macau has fallen for 16 months, amid a government crackdown on corruption and a

slowing Chinese economy. Results released Thursday showed casino revenue declined 33 percent to 17.1 billion patacas (\$2.2 billion) in September. Investors, who have driven down shares of U.S. casino companies operating in Macau, were relieved it wasn't worse.

The Macau numbers, and a report China may move to support the city's economy further, boosted casino stocks. MGM Resorts advanced 6 percent to \$19.79 at the close Friday in New York. Las Vegas Sands rose 11 percent to \$40.87, while Wynn Resorts Ltd. surged 23 percent to \$63.47.

Their Hong Kong-listed units jumped as well. MGM China was up 6.1 percent

to HK\$9.52 on Friday. Sands China Ltd. climbed 6.2 percent to HK\$24.75, and Wynn Macau Ltd. gained 7.4 percent to HK\$9.43.

Meanwhile, a \$27 billion surge in property openings has begun. Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. unveiled the first of the new hotel-casinos in May, including an area modeled after New York's Broadway theater district. Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. plans to open its next resort later this month, complete with Asia's tallest Ferris wheel. In addition to MGM, Sands China Ltd. follows next year with a property featuring a half-size replica of the Eiffel Tower.

Gambling still is the big money maker, and Murren said he isn't sure how many betting tables MGM Cotai or rivals building new projects such as Wynn Resorts Ltd. will be allocated by the government. The MGM project was originally slated to feature 500 tables. Galaxy received permission for 150 at its Galaxy Macau Phase 2 property that opened in May.

Murren said he remained confident in the future of the business there.

"Is there any reason why the central government would desire Macau not to grow longer term?" he asked. "I can come up with none."

**Bloomberg**



## Taiwan wins fireworks contest

**T**HE 27th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest concluded in the evening of October 1 with the last presentations of the Australian and Chinese teams. After the final voting round, Taiwan's Yung-feng Firecrackers & Fireworks Co. Ltd was awarded champion award, followed by the China and France in second and third place respectively.

At the awards ceremony, held at the Macau Tower, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam presented the award to the winning team.

During a speech at the ceremony, the acting director of the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) Cecilia Tse, remarked that the Macau International Fireworks Display Contest has taken place for the past 27 years in a row, and the office hopes to continue to use this contest to show visitors from around the world the glamour of Macau as a city of culture and events.

Many local citizens and visitors flocked to see the fireworks shows on the National Day holiday, causing bustling crowds in different vantage points on the Macau Peninsula and Taipa at the time of the final presentations.

Since its inception in 1989, the Macau International Fireworks Display Contest has developed into one of the region's signature events, being held during every Saturday evening in September, culminating in its grand finale on the National Day.

### corporate bits

#### SHERATON MACAO EXTENDS KUNG FU PANDA ACADEMY



The Kung Fu Panda Academy at the Sheraton Macao Hotel proved to be a "tremendous success" throughout the summer holidays. According to a press release, the hotel has decided to extend the program until January 3, 2016.

The Kung Fu Panda Academy is a five-zone interactive obstacle course that challenges children's physical abilities and problem solving skills, as well as encouraging them to be creative. Guests are also welcome to book the Sheraton Macao Kung Fu Panda Package, which includes ferry tickets and accommodation, as well as special dining or spa offers.

#### TAP DOGS COMES TO THE VENETIAN MACAO



Australia's theatrical export, Tap Dogs, is coming to the Venetian Theatre at the Venetian Macao from October 30 to November 8, 2015. Tap Dogs features high-energy dance numbers, theatrical performances and live music, performed by an all-male cast along with live musicians in a fast-paced show for all ages.

Winner of 11 international awards including the prestigious Olivier Award and the Obie Award, Tap Dogs is an 80-minute show combining the strength and power of workmen with the precision and talent of tap dancing. Whether they are in water, upside-down or jumping through scaffolding, the Tap Dogs have been performing to the beat of their own drum since their world premiere at the Sydney Theatre Festival in January 1995.

Matthew Craft, AP Business Writer

# Stock market shakes off an early stumble, ends higher

NEWS of slower hiring last month jolted markets early Friday, driving government bonds up and the dollar down. The US stock market, after slumping in early trading, finished the day with a solid gain.

A jump in crude oil helped turn things around, as Chevron, Exxon Mobil and other oil giants charged higher. But the swing was also a result of traders speculating that the weak jobs report will prevent the Federal Reserve from raising its benchmark interest rate anytime soon. The Fed has only two meetings left to make a move this year: one later this month and another in December.

"It looks like October is clearly off the table," said Michael Arone, chief investment strategist at State Street Global Advisors. "I think it puts into question December, too."

The government reported that employers added 142,000 workers last month, much lower than the 200,000 anticipated on Wall Street, and hired fewer people in July and August than previously thought. The unemployment rate stayed at 5.1 percent, but only because many Americans have stopped looking for work and are no



Trader Michael Capolino works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange

longer counted as unemployed.

"There's just no positive spin you can put on it," said Russ Koesterich, BlackRock's global chief investment strategist. "Combined with other reports, it really raises questions about the strength of the recovery."

Major indexes fell hard at the opening of trading, with the Dow Jones industrial average losing as much as 258 points, then reversed course and charged higher throughout the afternoon.

The Dow gained 200.36 points, or 1.2 percent, to close at 16,472.37.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index surged 27.54 points, or 1.4 percent, to 1,951.36. The Nasdaq composite rose 80.69 points, or 1.7 percent, to 4,707.78.

Sometimes, bad news looks like good news for investors. It's been a confusing theme ever since the Fed cut its benchmark rate to near zero during the financial crisis

in 2008, helping to set off a stock-market rally.

In the upside-down logic of Wall Street, discouraging economic reports have often been treated as encouraging because it meant the Fed would keep lending rates at record lows. Low rates help drive money into stocks, partly by making the returns on bonds, CDs and other income-producing investments seem paltry by comparison.

In Europe, major indexes finished slightly higher. Germany's DAX rose 0.5 percent, France's CAC-40 rose 0.7 percent, and Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.9 percent.

Markets in Asia drifted, with Japan's Nikkei 225 rising less than 0.1 percent. South Korea's KOSPI slipped 0.5 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rebounded after a holiday, jumping 3.2 percent. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 1.2 percent to 5,052.00. Markets on mainland China remain closed for holidays until Oct. 8. AP

AD

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# Exchange agreement with China could allow Angola to overcome lack of dollars



**T**HE fall in oil revenues has led the Angolan authorities to restrict the availability of US dollars, and, according to Portuguese bank BPI, part of the solution may be an exchange agreement with China.

In its latest report on the Angolan economy, BPI said that for China, an agreement like this would secure oil purchases from Angola and cement its role as a supplier of Angolan imports.

"In Angola, this agreement could partly make up for a lack of dollars that are needed to pay for imports, but in terms of foreign exchange flows would have potentially zero effect," said the BPI analysts.

Despite the difficulties related to the decline in oil revenues, international reserve levels are considered by BPI to be "relatively strong" in view of official data published by the National Bank of Angola.

However, it added, a big divergence between the official exchange rate and the black market rate is a sign that liquidity problems in the forex market "have not been resolved," with the value of the kwanza falling back almost a third against the dollar in the last 12 months.

Figures for 2014 from the World Trade Organization (WTO) showed that China rose to first place on the list of largest suppliers to Angola, and is already the largest Angolan trading partner, with total trade of about US\$30.5 billion in 2014.

In the last decade, China has become the main destination market for Angolan oil exports, overtaking the United States, and Angola reached second place among suppliers

of oil to China, according to Energy Intelligence Agency.

"Angola is one of the countries that benefited most from strengthening trade relations with China," said BPI.

According to the Angolan investment agency (ANIP) report, in the first quarter of 2015, China accounted for about 46 percent of the total invested by foreigners in Angola, 10 percentage points more than in the same period of 2014.

A recent study by the Brookings Institution, based on figures from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, puts Angola in third place among sub-Saharan African countries attracting most Chinese investment.

According to BPI, the slowdown in Chinese investment "could punish Angola, but the official cooperative effort between the two countries suggests that the authorities are committed to dealing with the situation."

"The Angolan authorities seem to be working in diplomatic terms to continue to deepen relations with China and secure continued Chinese funding for infrastructure construction projects, or at least that's the suggestion from the recent official visit by the President of Angola to China," BPI said.

At the same time, Angola has agreed to loans with preferential terms, through a credit line set up for Angola that is paid back in oil exports.

According to BPI, China's investment strategy in Angola and other African countries "has had a long-term view and, as such, investments have been directed to structural projects, mainly in the form of foreign direct investment." **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

## MGM CHINA

Helping to Create a Better Tomorrow Today



At MGM, caring for the elderly is one of the central tenets of our community program. We value the significant contributions seniors make to our communities and recognize the diversity of issues that affect their lives.

As a proud member of the Macau community, we hope to better the lives of those we touch and build long-lasting friendships between our volunteers and the community. We develop our community initiatives with the aim to address specific needs, avoiding at all times a "hello and goodbye" approach, but rather being present wholeheartedly, and regularly, to grow strong connections with members of the community.



### Supporting the health of the elderly

On September 21, for the 6th year running, we teamed up with the Chinese Medicine Association of Macau to hold a special "Health Day for the Elderly" for over 200 members of our local community from four associations from Caritas Macau.

We invited 16 medical practitioners from the Association to provide one-on-one health consultations, after which each person received a package of prescribed herbal soup. We also provided a group health talk discussing the merits of effective acupuncture massage.

Fun and enjoyment were also important during the day with live entertainment being provided by our own talented MGM team members, as well as intermittent quiz games and lucky draws. Our MGM chefs also whipped up a healthy menu of snacks that were provided throughout.

### Brightening up life with a new look

Everyone enjoys a new look. This year, for the second year running, our Golden Lion Volunteer Team transformed into professional hairdressers to provide a haircutting service to the elderly in the Caritas Association, Centro de Dia "Brilho da Vida". Three months prior, our budding hairstylists were provided with professional training and ample practice. Over the last two months, more than 120 elderly were treated to a new hairdo, with smiling faces throughout.



In spirit of the Chinese tradition to spring clean the home before Chinese New Year as a symbol of a new start, MGM has teamed up with Centro de Dia "Brilho da Vida" to help in the festive activity for the last 3 years. In 2015, 130 of our volunteer team members rolled up their sleeves to help 160 households at the Fai Chi Kei housing unit to get their homes ready for the coming New Year.



### Celebrating long-lasting love

As the well-known saying goes "There is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved". To celebrate enduring love, our signature community program, "Love Moments @ Grande Praça", has given elderly couples from Centro de Dia "Brilho da Vida", that have been married for over 50 years the chance to celebrate their love and devotion to each other. In 2015, for the second year, we held a day of celebration for these couples by providing them with a special photo and video shoot recapturing the magic of their wedding day.

MGM China will continue to take an active role in various activities that benefit the local society, fulfilling social responsibility with the ultimate aim of creating a better tomorrow today.



# Postal service orders tighter mail security following mail bombings

CHINA'S postal service is ordering tighter checks on packages following a series of mail bombings that killed 10 people and injured 51.

Mail carriers and overnight delivery services must conduct additional checks for explosives, dangerous chemicals, weapons, gunpowder and poisons, the State Post Bureau said on its website over the weekend. Closer cooperation with police will also be required.

The order follows a series of 18 explosions in the southern region of Guangxi on Wednesday and Thursday blamed on a 33-year-old man, Wei Yinyong, who had long-standing disputes with neighbors and companies involved in stone quarrying.

The explosions hit a hospital, markets, a shopping mall, a bus station and several government buildings.

China's state news agency reported Friday that the Wei died in the blasts. A DNA analysis determined that he was among those killed, Xinhua said.

AP PHOTO



Wei made timed explosive devices and either planted them or hired people to deliver them, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing police in Liuzhou city, which administers Liucheng county.

The blasts came on the eve of a seven-day national holiday in the country, a time when tens of millions of Chinese travel.

There have been a series of cases in China in which people with grievances or who were involved in feuds have used homemade bombs to blow up themselves and others, although the number of bombs used in the small county of Liucheng appears unprecedented.

Bombs are often the weapon of choice because firearms are tightly controlled and difficult to obtain.

The number of bombs used in the Guangxi attacks appeared unprecedented, however, especially considering that they all were delivered within the single small county of Liucheng. **MDT/AP**

## China sending senior official for North Korean anniversary

AP PHOTO



North Koreans gather to prepare for events to be held during the 70th anniversary of the founding of their country's ruling party in October

CHINA will send a leading member of the Communist Party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee to Pyongyang this month for commemorations of the founding of North Korea's ruling party.

Yesterday's announcement comes amid a long dry spell in exchanges

between the sides, whose traditional close relations have been strained by North Korean missile launches and nuclear tests.

A party announcement said that Liu Yunshan, ranked fifth in the party hierarchy, would travel to the North on Friday. The announcement said

that along with attending events marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Worker's Party of Korea, Liu would pay a "friendly visit" to the North.

Liu's visit will be closely scrutinized for any interactions with North Korea's reclusive young leader Kim Jong Un, who has snubbed Chinese visitors to Pyongyang in recent years.

China remains North Korea's most important ally and trading partner, but ties have cooled decidedly since Kim took power in December 2011 following his father's death. Kim has yet to visit China and declined an invitation to attend a military parade in Beijing last month.

Beijing has signed on to United Nations sanctions on North Korea and reacted angrily to the North's last nuclear test, in 2013, calling in the North's ambassador to complain. **AP**

TIBET

## Dalai Lama assures followers of health upon return to India

THE Dalai Lama has assured his followers that he is in excellent health upon his return over the weekend to the Tibetan government-in-exile's headquarters in northern India.

Hundreds of Tibetans, holding incense sticks and scarves, lined the streets of Dharamsala town to celebrate the return of the Tibetan spiritual leader. Prayer flags fluttered and colorful banners with Tibetan symbols were strung across the streets of the mountain town in the Himalayan foothills.

The 80-year-old Dalai Lama said he had had a thorough medical checkup at the renowned Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, U.S.A., and was in "excellent condition."

"But they advised me. I should take precaution," he told reporters. He did not give any other details.

The Tibetan leader's assurances came days after doctors at the Mayo Clinic instructed him to rest. He later canceled his October appearances in the United States.

The Tibetan Buddhist leader is a matter of concern for his followers across the world, and especially for the hundreds of thousands of Tibe-

AP PHOTO



Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama

tans who live in India.

The Dalai Lama fled across the Himalayas into India after a failed uprising in Tibet in 1959. He settled in Dharamsala and set up a Tibetan government-in-exile there. Beijing accuses him of seeking to separate Tibet from China.

But Tibetans and the Dalai Lama say they simply want a high degree of autonomy under Chinese rule. **AP**

Jocelyn Gecker, Bangkok

THAILAND

# School hazing gets stern penalty in military-ruled country

**A**T a military facility outside Bangkok, a drill sergeant barks orders at a group of film students learning the hard way that creative license has its limits in Thailand.

"You are here to learn discipline," the officer shouted. "Do you understand?"

"Yes, sir!" shouted back the group of 53 aspiring artists — boys with shaggy hair, girls with tattoos and yoga pants.

"Discipline means respecting the rules and regulations," he told them. "If you misbehave, you must be punished."

In military-ruled Thailand, this is how university hazing is handled. The offense: a video posted online that showed a half-dozen fully clothed freshman doing an erotic couples dance as upperclassmen cheered. Social media dubbed it a "love-making dance." The punishment: three days of boot camp for a new type of disciplinary punishment known as "attitude adjustment."

The military junta that seized power over a year ago pioneered the idea of "attitude adjustment" as a technique to silence critics. The junta summons politicians and others who voice dissent to military bases where they are typically incarcerated several days, interrogated and made to "confess" to their transgressions and sign a contract to not repeat them — a practice that has been widely criticized by human rights groups.

Now there are signs that the mentality of military rule is being applied to civilian issues — like college discipline.

For the students from the film school of Bangkok's Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, a three-day boot camp included reprimands, public humiliation and a grueling endurance test.

"We're not telling our film students don't make creative films, but in Thailand there are social limits. They need to be creative within the limits," said Chin Tangtarntana, a lecturer in cinematography and one of several professors who chaperoned the 3-day session last month that included silent meals and group lodging on a barrack floor lined with mattresses. "We have to reset their clocks. That's why we're here, to rewind. We're saying, 'Go back. Start over. OK,



Students from Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University crawl on their stomachs through muddy jungle paths as part of an exercise designed to "break down their ego (and) humiliate them" at a military boot camp ordered as punishment for a hazing incident in Nakhon Nayok province, Thailand

now be creative."

After a 2-hour bus drive northeast of the capital to the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, a 33-square-kilometer facility surrounded by mountains, the students' cellphones were confiscated to ensure no outside communication and primarily to prevent more videos, Chin said.

"The activities that will take place here will be good for you, and help you to become civilized people. Do you understand?" the drill sergeant, Sgt. Maj. Kongsak Klaiklang, asked rhetorically. He led what he called an "ice-breaking" session that bore close resemblance to hazing: An overweight female student was singled out as a "hippopotamus" as others were told to "dance like hippos." Team games ended with the losers ordered to "walk like elephants," bent over in a human chain, clutching each other's hands between legs.

Then they were driven to a steamy, mosquito-infested jungle. Under a steady rainfall, the

students were put through a different type of hazing.

Loud bangs exploded in the distance, and the students were ordered to run.

"Faster! Just keep breathing, you won't die," shouted Kongsak, after one student nearly fainted and was allowed to sit on the sidelines. He then ordered them to "DROP!" and crawl on their stomachs through muddy puddles and at one point to hurdle a barricade of fire.

"The idea is to break them down. Break down their ego. Humiliate them. And then we build them back up," Kongsak said, as soldiers led small groups on an arduous 5-kilometer jungle trek that included scaling rope ladders and balancing on swinging logs to cross a river.

The boot camp incident sparked little public uproar in a country where the education system has always had a militaristic streak — public schools have mandatory uniforms, hair must be kept short and some teachers still wield bamboo canes to enforce discipline through secondary school. Problem teens in violent high-school gangs have been sent to boot camps in the past.

But using the military to punish university hazing is a new approach, which commentators say sends a chilling message that the military is needed to solve society's problems even at institutions of higher learning.

"This order to the students to report to a military base is at least as inappropriate as the hazing incident," the Bangkok Post said in a recent editorial

on the subject. The university "lost a little public respect with the hazing violation. It continues to lose even more respect with its reaction."

The very same university was also home to last year's infamous hazing ritual, which involved upperclassmen dripping hot candle wax on incoming freshman and burning the arms of several students. But in that case where bodily harm was actually caused nobody was punished, the editorial noted.

Critics say the hazing case highlights a trend toward militarization of Thai society under the junta, where those in charge don't believe that "attitude adjustment" will actually brainwash people — but the aim is to intimidate and discourage the outspoken from speaking out.

The former army chief who led the coup, Prayuth Chan-ocha, and is now serving as interim leader has launched a cra-

ckdown on dissent and has blocked public discussions about democracy. He regularly lashes out at those who question his authority and warns the public to stop asking for elections, which he says won't be held until 2017.

Hundreds of politicians, journalists, professors and other critics have been hauled in for "attitude adjustment" in the name of maintaining peace and order.

"People who say bad things and cause harm with their words, should they say those things?" Prayuth said to reporters last month, defending the latest round of political detentions that included a three-day incarceration of a prominent journalist, Pravit Rojanaphruk, and two politicians. "You cannot oppose me. No one will let you to do that."

Social commentator Sanitsuda Ekachai called it a sign of the times that the rector of a university chose to resort to military-style "attitude adjustment."

"When someone in his position believes that militarism is the answer ... it explains why the military still retains a strong grip on society," Sanitsuda wrote in a column for The Bangkok Post. In a separate column, she wrote that educators who rely on military discipline are sending a stifling message: "Those who resist will be punished. The country is heading full force toward being a military state."

Whether or not attitude adjustment works on students appears to depend on the individual.

An exhausted freshman, Natanai Kedsanga, 20, ended the first day of boot camp with a realization.

"We were having too much fun, that was the problem," said about the video in which he was one of the dancers. "Now that I think about it, maybe it wasn't appropriate."

Pongpat Puchiandang, a university senior, said the attitude adjustment had taught him a lesson — if you want to do something socially unacceptable just don't share it on social media.

"Stuff like this happens everywhere at all schools, and sometimes it's even worse. They just don't post it online," said Pongpat, a 22-year-old aspiring cameraman. "I don't think making that video was wrong. It's a good memory. We just shouldn't have publicized it." AP



Students from Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University run through a jungle trail laid with a barricade of fire

**This order to students to report to a military base is as inappropriate as the hazing incident.**

EDITORIAL  
THE BANGKOK POST

## BUSAN FILM FESTIVAL

## 'Lust, Caution' star Tang looks for chemistry on the set



Chinese actress Tang Wei

## Youkyung Lee, Busan

CHINESE actress Tang Wei is not obsessed about finding the right role for her future film project.

For the "Lust, Caution" star, it is the people she works with on a film set and the chemistry with them that counts.

Tang shot to international fame with her role in Ang Lee's 2007 spy thriller set in the World War II era, which won the Venice Film Festival's best film award. She played a Chinese student recruited to seduce a Japanese-allied Chinese official as part of an assassination plot. The film is still Tang's best known work outside Asia.

Asked about the roles she would like to play in the future, Tang said that her job is not about the role, but about the people and the conversations with them.

"For me in this job, in this work, it's more about who you are working with. It's nothing about what you're working on," she said. "It's the people, and the conversations, and also the chemistry that's more important for me."

It should be no surprise that those conversations and the chemistry on a film set helped her find her love. Tang met her husband, South Korean director Kim Tae-yong, on the set of Kim's romance drama "Late Autumn" in 2010. Last year, they wed in a small ceremony at the late legendary director Ingmar Bergman's island home in Sweden.

This year's Busan International Film Festival is screening three

movies featuring Tang, including Johnnie To's musical "Office," where she plays a bespectacled, hard-working office lady. She also played a female lead in "A Tale of Three Cities" directed by Mabel Cheung and appears in epic fantasy movie "Monster Hunt," which has been setting box office records in China since hitting theaters in July.

Tang had a three-year hiatus after filming "Lust, Caution," attributed to the political sensitivity of the traitor role she played in the movie, reportedly landing her on Chinese film officials' blacklist for three years. But in the past five years, she has been frequently spotted on screens in Asia from theaters to TV ads.

Her latest movie, "Office," is the first musical by the Hong Kong action master To about love and conspiracies at a Hong Kong company set against the backdrop of the 2008 financial crisis.

Tang said it was the right direction for her, with great chemistry.

"This is the dream crew for me. The whole crew, everybody is a master," she said.

Filming with veteran Asian screen stars Sylvia Chang and Chow Yun-fat made her feel like "a little vegetable bird," Tang said with giggles, a literal translation for a Chinese word meaning rookie.

One thing she misses from the set is the smell of cigars, she said, bursting out laughing. To is a habitual cigar smoker.

"When you smell, oh cigar smell is coming," she said, "oh then (you know) the director is coming." AP

## BANGLADESH

## Gunmen kill Japanese man, IS claims responsibility

Julhas Alam, Dhaka

JAPANESE officials said yesterday that they were investigating the fatal shooting of a Japanese citizen in Bangladesh as a possible terrorist attack after the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the killing.

Masked assailants riding a motorbike shot and killed Kunio Hoshi in northern Bangladesh on Saturday, police said. He was the second foreigner in a week to be gunned down in the South Asian country.

The Islamic State group issued a statement claiming responsibility for the attack, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi postings online. The report could not be independently confirmed. The extremist group also claimed responsibility for the killing of an Italian aid worker last Monday.

Saturday's incident took place at Mahiganj village in Rangpur district, said Rezaul Karim, a police official. He said Hoshi had started a grass farm in Rangpur, about 300 kilometers north of Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital.

Local residents reported that two bike-riding assailants shot three times at



Bangladeshi security officers stand by the site where a Japanese Kunio Hoshi was killed at Mahiganj village in Rangpur district, north of Dhaka

Hoshi on Saturday morning, Karim said. Police have detained four people for questioning in the case, he said.

Mohammad Kibria, an assistant sub-inspector of police in Rangpur, said Hoshi was taken to the emergency unit of the state-run hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

"The dead body has been kept in the morgue. It can be clear after further investigation how and why he was killed," Kibria said.

Japanese officials declined to give Hoshi's age, but local media reported that he was 66.

Ayub Ali, a witness, said three men were standing near a road and fired at Hoshi as he passed by on a rickshaw. "They fired at him while he was on the rickshaw and left the scene," Ali said.

An official from the Japanese foreign ministry's anti-terrorism department said that in light of the Islamic State group's claim of responsibility, officials were investigating the incident as a possible terrorist attack. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing ministry rules.

The ministry issued a statement urging Ja-

panese to use caution overseas, particularly in Bangladesh and other Muslim nations, "in order not to be embroiled in kidnappings, threats, terrorist attacks and other unanticipated events."

Saturday's killing took place five days after an Italian aid worker was killed by motorbike-riding assailants in Dhaka.

The Islamic State group also claimed responsibility for that attack. Bangladesh's government, however, dismissed the claim, saying there was no evidence. It described that killing as an "isolated incident." AP

## SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

## Bomb kills 4, hits vice mayor convoy

A powerful bomb hidden in a parked motorcycle taxi exploded and hit the passing convoy of a vice mayor in the southern Philippines last week, killing four people and wounding at least six others, the police and military said. The blast happened about an hour after a bomb blew up on a crowded passenger bus some 300 kilometers to the west, injuring at least 18 people in the town of Polomolok, officials said.

No group claimed responsibility for either attack. Col. Rolando Joselito Bautista, the military commander in Basilan province, where the second blast occurred, said Abu Sayyaf militants were among the initial suspects in that



A vehicle damaged by a powerful bomb explosion lies along a road in Basilan, southern Philippines

attack because of their history of deadly bombings in the area, where the al-Qaida-linked group first surfaced in the 1990s.

The roadside bomb struck the two-vehicle convoy of Isabela city Vice Mayor Abdulbaki Ajibon,

killing her driver and another passenger, and two pedestrians, said Bautista. Ajibon was uninjured, although her SUV was badly damaged.

"The vice mayor was shocked but she's safe. Two of her people died in this attack," Isabela police chief Supt. Albert Larubis told The Associated Press by telephone.

The bomb was packed with shrapnel and shattered the glass of nearby buildings, he said. It occurred in front of the house of Mayor Cherrylyn Santos-Akbar, who was not home, he said. Three years ago, a roadside bomb exploded as Ajibon's convoy was passing in the same area that was hit by Thursday's bombing, although no one was killed or wounded in that past attack, police said.

Ajibon was reportedly aspiring for a higher office in next year's elections and investigators were also trying to determine if the attack had something to do with the often-violent political rivalries in the south. AP

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## PORTUGAL

# Mainstream moderates expected to prevail in vote

Barry Hatton, Associated Press

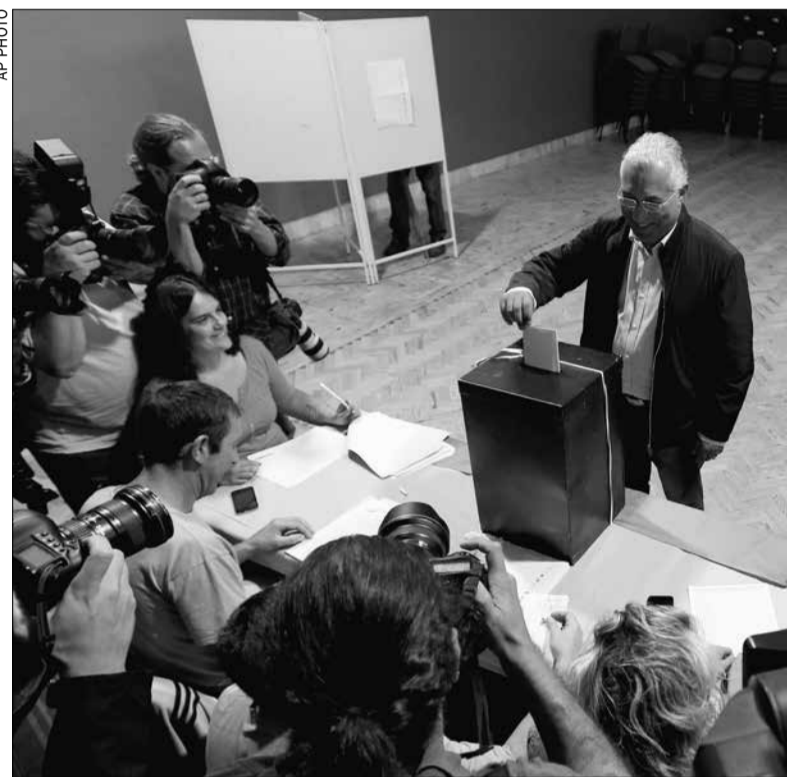
**M**ODERATE mainstream parties were expected to triumph in Portugal's general election yesterday, after more radical alternatives failed to exploit public discontent over austerity measures.

The center-right coalition government was close to re-election, opinion polls indicated, despite enacting tax increases and cutting pay, pensions and public services over the past four years.

Those policies were part of a eurozone plan to restore the 19-nation bloc's financial health following its debt crisis. The government has warned the country can't afford to go back to the borrow-and-spend programs of the past and must remain frugal till its debt load is lower.

The government's closest rival was the center-left Socialist Party, the main opposition force, which also accepts eurozone financial rules but promises to start easing the tax burden and speed up growth through domestic consumption.

Unlike in some other eurozone countries, no prominent radical parties fighting austerity have emerged during the tough times. Protest votes tradition-



AP PHOTO  
Socialist Party leader, Antonio Costa, casts his ballot in Portugal's general elections in Fontanelas, Sintra, outside Lisbon

nally go to the Communist Party, which is expected to achieve its usual support of around 10 percent of votes, and the newer Left Bloc, forecast to poll around 5 percent.

The Communist Party wants Portugal out of the eurozone. The Left Bloc wants to renegotiate the national debt, demanding better repayment terms from creditors, and end austerity measures while increasing

corporate tax.

A handful of grassroots anti-austerity parties have barely registered in opinion polls.

By noon yesterday (7pm, Macau time), the turnout figure had reached 20.7 percent of those eligible to vote, the government said.

Portugal was close to bankruptcy during the eurozone financial crisis and needed a 78 billion-euro (USD87 billion)

bailout in 2011. The Socialists were in power for six years before that pivotal event, leaving them vulnerable to accusations of poor economic management.

The subsequent center-right government's spending cuts and tax hikes helped propel Portugal into a three-year recession.

But this year the economy is improving, and incumbent Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho says austerity is paying off. The economy grew 1.5 percent in the first half of this year compared with the same period in 2014. The unemployment rate has fallen from a record 17.7 percent in 2013 to 12.3 percent last July.

Teresa Godinho, a middle-aged psychologist voting at a polling station in Lisbon's suburbs, said she didn't entirely agree with the government, but voted for it because there were no other viable options.

"I lost my trust in the Socialist Party when they left us nearly bankrupt," she said.

But Tiago Amaral, a salesman unemployed for the past 18 months, said he opted for the Socialists because he was frustrated.

"All I know is something's got to change," he said.

Portugal still faces big problems. Government debt remains high at almost 130 per-

cent of gross domestic product — the third-highest in the European Union. Portugal is Western Europe's poorest country in financial terms and recorded average growth of less than 1 percent in first decade of the century. Its economy is still frail, and any political instability could quickly derail the recovery.

Portuguese President Anibal Cavaco Silva, who has no executive powers, said the elections "take place at a crucial time for the country."

"We face some very complex challenges," he said in a televised address to the nation Saturday night.

Austerity-minded governments in other eurozone countries have felt a backlash at the ballot box, but the Portuguese don't appear to have any appetite for political upheaval after the recent turbulent times.

Analysts have noted that by committing itself to eurozone financial rules the Socialists have little room for maneuvering in their economic policy proposals.

Socialist leader Antonio Costa says it's time to "turn the page on austerity." Among other measures, he wants to lower the restaurant sales tax from 23 to 13 percent, bring back four public holidays that were abolished to improve productivity, and restore slashed government workers' pay.

A worry for investors is that the result could bring in a minority government that has no guarantee of passing its policies. The quest for the main parties is to collect an outright majority of 116 seats in the 230-seat Parliament. Results weren't available at press time. **AP**

## AFGHANISTAN

# Doctors Without Borders: 19 dead in clinic airstrike

**C**ONFUSION reigned in the wake of the deadly bombing of a hospital compound in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz that killed at least 19 people and wounded dozens more. It remains unclear exactly who bombed the hospital run by Doctors Without Borders and the international medical charity has demanded an investigation into the incident.

Doctors Without Borders said that "all indications" pointed to the international military coalition as responsible for the bombing and called for an independent investigation. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said an inquiry was underway into whether the



The Doctors Without Borders hospital is seen in flames, after explosions in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz

carnage at the clinic was caused by an airstrike from an American fighter jet, while Afghan officials said helicopter gunships had returned fire from Taliban fighters hiding in the compound.

Afghan forces backed by U.S. airstrikes have been battling the Taliban

street-by-street in Kunduz since Thursday to dislodge insurgents who seized the strategic city three days earlier in their biggest foray into a major urban area since the U.S.-led invasion of 2001. The insurgents have had the city encircled for months, and overran it in a surprise as-

sault that embarrassed the U.S.-backed Afghan government and called into question the competence of the U.S.-funded Afghan armed forces.

Army Col. Brian Tribus, a spokesman for American forces in Afghanistan, said a U.S. airstrike on Kunduz at 2:15 a.m. "may have resulted in collateral damage to a nearby medical facility" and that the incident was under investigation. He said it was the 12th U.S. airstrike "in the Kunduz vicinity" since Tuesday.

Doctors Without Borders, also known by the French acronym MSF, said its trauma center "was hit several times during sustained bombing and was very badly

damaged." At the time, the hospital had 105 patients and their caretakers, and more than 80 international and Afghan staff, it said.

The medical group did not say whether insurgents were present inside the compound as the Afghan Ministry of Defense claimed, and it was not immediately clear whether the staffers were killed by the Taliban or Afghan or U.S. forces. Doctors Without Borders said another 30 people were still missing after the incident.

The dead included 12 staffers and seven patients from the intensive care unit, among them three children, it said. A total of 37 people were injured, including 19 staff mem-

bers, and 18 patients and caretakers. Five of the injured staff members were in critical condition.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani expressed his sorrow and said he and the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, U.S. Army Gen. John Campbell, had "agreed to launch a joint and thorough investigation."

President Barack Obama said that he expected a full accounting of the circumstances surrounding the bombing, and that he would wait for those results before making a judgment. He said the U.S. would continue working with Afghanistan's government and its overseas partners to promote security in Afghanistan. **AP**



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## what's ON

**MID-AUTUMN FESTIVALS**  
**– MOON CHASING PARTY**  
**TIME:** 8:30pm-10pm  
**VENUE:** Taipa Houses - Museum Lacerda Macau  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8988 4000

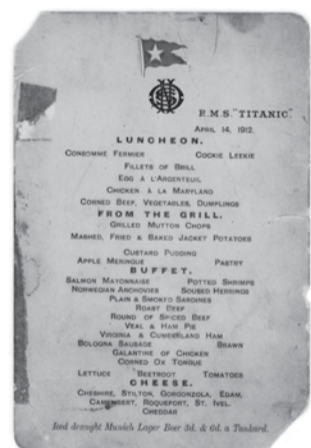
**WORLD TOURISM DAY**  
**– MACAU X LEGO® EXHIBITION**  
**TIME:** 9am-6pm  
**UNTIL:** December 28, 2015  
**VENUE:** MGTO Tourist Information counter  
 in Senado Square  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2833 3000

**OX WAREHOUSE CHILDREN'S ARTLAND 2015**  
**– JOLLY JOINT EXHIBITION**  
**TIME:** 12pm-7pm  
 (Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** November 1, 2015  
**VENUE:** No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel  
 Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2853 0026

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**ADMISSION:** Exhibition Centre: MOP25  
 Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50  
 Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2888 0822

## Offbeat

## TITANIC'S LAST LUNCH MENU, FROM MONEY BOAT, GOES FOR USD88,000



The Titanic's last lunch menu, saved by a first-class passenger who climbed aboard a lifeboat whose crew was said to have been bribed to row away instead of rescue more people, sold at auction for USD88,000 last week.

The online New York auctioneer Lion Heart Autographs offered the menu and two other previously unknown artifacts from Lifeboat 1.

Abraham Lincoln Salomon was among a handful of first-class passengers who boarded the lifeboat, dubbed the Money Boat or Millionaire's

Boat by the press because of unfounded rumors one of them bribed seven crew members to quickly row the boat away from the sinking ocean liner.

The menu, which lists corned beef, dumplings and other savory items, is signed on the back in pencil by another first-class passenger, Isaac Gerald Frauenthal, who escaped on another lifeboat. It's believed the two men lunched together that fateful day in 1912.

Salomon also took away a printed ticket from the Titanic's opulent Turkish baths, which recorded a person's weight when seated in a specially designed upholstered lounge chair. The ticket bears the names of three of the five other first-class passengers with him on Lifeboat 1. One of four weighing chair tickets known to exist, it sold for \$11,000.

A letter written by Mabel Francatelli to Salomon on New York's Plaza Hotel stationery six months after the disaster fetched \$7,500. Francatelli had climbed into Lifeboat 1 with her employer, aristocratic fashion designer Lucy Duff-Gordon and her Scottish husband, Lord Cosmo Duff-Gordon, who was rumored to have bribed the crew to row them to safety in the boat, which had a capacity of 40.

The Duff-Gordons, the only passengers to testify about the disaster, were cleared by the British Wreck Commissioner's inquiry, which determined that they did not deter the crew from attempting to rescue other people but that others might have been saved if the boat had turned around.

"We do hope you have now quite recovered from the terrible experience," Francatelli wrote to Salomon. "I am afraid our nerves are still bad, as we had such trouble & anxiety added to our already awful experience by the very unjust inquiry when we arrived in London."

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:20	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeat)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	UEFA Champions League: Porto - Chelsea (Repeat)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

01 Oct - 07 Oct



## THE MARTIAN

ROOM 1  
 (3D) 2.15, 7.15 pm  
 (2D) 4.45, 9.45 pm

**Director:** Ridley Scott**Starring:** Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Kate Mara**Language:** English (Cantonese)**Duration:** 141min

## DARK PLACES

ROOM 2  
 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

**Director:** Gilles Paquet-Brenner**Starring:** Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult, Chloe Grace Moretz**Language:** English (Cantonese)**Duration:** 113min

## OFFICE

ROOM 2

7.15 pm

**Director:** Johnnie To**Starring:** Chow Yun-Fat, Sylvia Chang, Eason Chan, Tang Wei**Language:** Cantonese (Cantonese/English)**Duration:** 117min

## HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2

ROOM 3

(2D) 2.30, 4.15, 7.45 pm

(3D) 6.00 pm

**Director:** Genndy tartakovsky**Language:** Cantonese (Chinese/English)**Duration:** 89min

## THE INTERN

ROOM 3

9.30 pm

**Director:** Nancy Meyers**Starring:** Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway**Language:** English (Cantonese)**Duration:** 121min

## MACAU TOWER

01 Oct - 14 Oct

## THE MARTIAN

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

**Director:** Ridley Scott**Starring:** Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Kate Mara**Language:** English (Cantonese)**Duration:** 141min

## this day in history



## 1968 LONDONDERRY MARCH ENDS IN VIOLENCE

Police have used batons and water cannon to break up a civil rights march in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

At least 30 people, including MP Gerard Fitt and some children, have been injured.

Reports say police tried to disperse the protesters by using their batons indiscriminately and spraying water from hoses on armoured trucks.

The demonstrators retaliated with petrol bombs. A number of bonfires were lit in the Bogside area and when a fire engine arrived, the crowd turned on it and threatened to set it alight.

The march, organised with the support of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA), was held in protest at alleged discrimination against the majority Nationalist (and mainly catholic) population in Londonderry by the mainly Protestant Unionist-controlled local authority.

The trouble began when the march headed for Duke Street, a road declared out of bounds by the Northern Ireland Minister of Home Affairs, William Craig.

When the protesters turned into the street they were confronted by a barricade of police officers, in rows three deep, all armed with batons.

Loudspeakers urged the crowds to disperse but the calls went unheeded.

Violent skirmishes broke out and very quickly the street was filled with police wielding batons against men, women and children

In the chaos the Stormont and Westminster Republican Labour MP for Belfast west, Gerry Fitt, was struck down by a baton. He was hurried to a police car with blood pouring from his head and taken to hospital, where he later received stitches.

Mr Fitt told reporters: "I was a marked man before the march started. These were stormtrooper tactics at their worst. They hit me once, but that wasn't enough - they had to have another go, and this was the cause of the wound which had to be stitched."

Mr Craig has said he is satisfied there was no unnecessary brutality. He rejected suggestions that police had used their batons improperly.

NICRA formed in February 1967 to call for a number of reforms, including an end to the perceived discrimination against Catholics in the allocation of council housing and public sector jobs.

It wants the introduction of one man-one vote, rather than one vote per household, which was also seen as discriminatory against Catholic homes with multiple occupancy and an end to gerrymandering electoral boundaries which in Nationalist areas like Londonderry has led to the return of Unionist-led authorities.

And it wants the repeal of the Special Powers Act, which was aimed at suppressing the IRA and gave police the power to search any property, and was therefore seen as discriminatory against Catholics.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The march of 5 October 1968 is regarded by many as the official start of The Troubles.

It was followed by two more days of serious violence in Londonderry. Reports of the rioting and the brutal way in which it was suppressed by police were broadcast around the world, provoking widespread condemnation and outraging Nationalists.

The Stormont government tried to prevent the situation getting out of control by announcing a series of reforms in November 1968.

The Minister of Home Affairs, William Craig, who publicly branded the civil rights movement a front for Republican activity, was dismissed in December 1968.

But the reforms did not go far enough for civil rights campaigners and divisions began to appear within the movement.

The moderate Derry Citizens Action Committee, of which John Hume was one of the leaders, mounted a series of non-violent protests.

But the extremist People's Democracy, which developed out of student protests in Belfast, organised a march to Londonderry and Newry in January 1969. Both were accompanied by rioting and violence.

As the violence continued, the British Government sent in troops in August 1969 and later supported the introduction of internment. The Bloody Sunday march of January 1972 - against the policy of internment - was the last big civil rights protest in Northern Ireland.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've got to take your time today - there's no point in rushing!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your diplomatic nature is making life easier and sweeter for you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You can't quite get your family to understand your feelings today - which can be really hard on you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your eye for detail is strengthened today, so see if you can make the most of it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You aren't feeling very extravagant today - maybe because of your recent binges.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your systems for keeping organized are paying off today - so make the most of them!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Can you keep still and avoid action today? If so, you should be just fine - but otherwise, things might start to get really weird for you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 New information comes your way that shakes things up - most likely for the better!

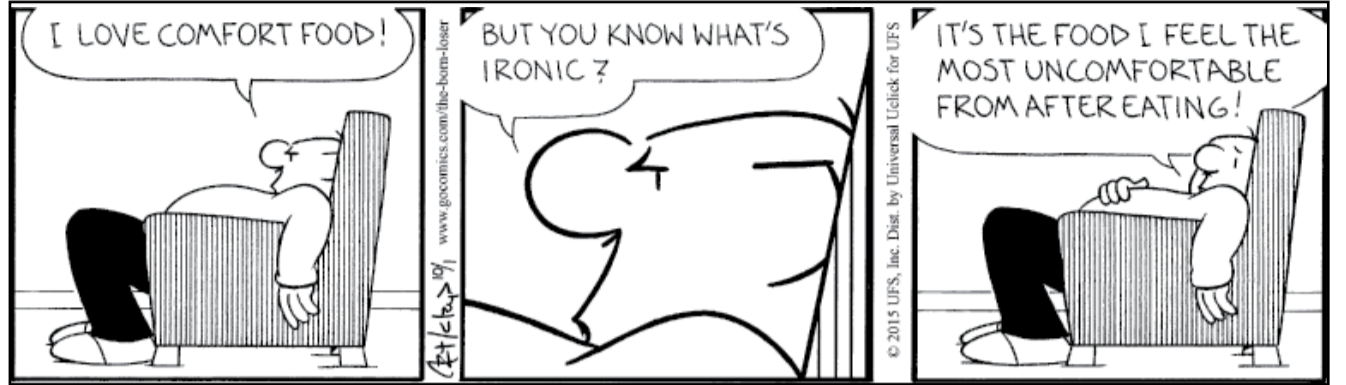
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People are getting on your nerves today - so much so that you may want to run away screaming!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Someone needs to hear your voice - most likely someone you haven't spoken with in months!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Details are all-important, and you need to work through them today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You can get more out of your relationships than you may expect - thanks to at least one important person who gives you the key to understanding.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Doozy; 5- Historic Scott; 9- Stadium used for sports or musical events; 14- Crime boss; 15- River in central Switzerland; 16- Not once; 17- Chicago paper, for short; 18- Bearing; 19- Fencing blades; 20- Achievement; 23- yellow ribbon...; 24- Texas tea; 25- Court fig.; 28- Roof item; 31- Health haven; 34- Introduction; 36- Help; 37- Dentist's request; 38- In spite of; 42- Writer Wiesel; 43- Mineral suffix; 44- Utopias; 45- Malt beverage; 46- Permanently attached, to a zoologist; 49- Three sheets to the wind; 50- Become firm; 51- Unclothed; 53- Amateurish; 60- Fold; 61- Smell; 62- Trigonometric function; 63- Big name in insurance; 64- Bar; 65- Desktop picture; 66- Mexican money; 67- Attendee; 68- Immediately following; DOWN: 1- Twice tetra-; 2- DEA agent; 3- Monumental; 4- Automaton; 5- Moist; 6- Inveigh against; 7- saw Elba; 8- Bears' lairs; 9- Hemoglobin deficiency; 10- Drive away; 11- Level; 12- Depilatory brand; 13- Start of MGM's motto; 21- Orange Bowl site; 22- Accord maker; 25- Sleep disorder; 26- Cave-dwelling dwarf; 27- Comedienne Fields; 29- Moves with care; 30- It may be picked; 31- Sales pitch; 32- Old finnish money; 33- Emo anxiety; 35- Farm female; 37- Eccentric; 39- Connect with; 40- Elevs.; 41- say more?; 46- Some mattresses; 47- Certifiable; 48- Gloss; 50- Joe of "Hill Street Blues"; 52- Red fluorescent dye; 53- Peter Fonda role; 54- Takes home; 55- Tooth; 56- Switch ending; 57- Pleasing; 58- Strong as; 59- Fast time; 60- Baby food;



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VENETIAN MACAU OPEN

# Thai stars Thongchai, Kiradech eye victory in Macau



Thongchai

**T**HAI stars Thongchai Jaidee and Kiradech Aphibarnrat, both in-form former Asian Tour number ones, are hoping to add the Venetian Macao Open to their growing list of victories after signing up for the USD1

million tournament, held from October 15 to 18.

Veteran Thongchai, known as the only man to win three Order of Merit titles in Asia, will arrive at the Macau Golf and Country Club in top form following his latest win at the Porsche Euro-

pean Open last week, which was his third title on European soil.

The 45-year-old will participate in his first President's Cup for the International Team against the United States in South Korea next week before heading to Macau in a bid to land his 14th

GOLF

## Jin Cheng wins weather-shortened Asia-Pacific Amateur

**T**HIRD-ROUND leader Jin Cheng of China won the Asia-Pacific Amateur championship without hitting a ball yesterday after the fourth round was abandoned due to heavy rain and high winds at Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club.

Jin, who led by two strokes after each of the first two rounds, had a 54-hole total of 11-under 199 to edge Australian amateur champion Cameron Davis and his countryman Ryan Ruffels by one stroke.

His win, which assures him a spot in next year's Masters, was set up by a tournament record 8-under 62 on Thursday. A clutch final-hole birdie on Saturday secured victory for the 17-year-old.

Jin, who plans to play in the Macau Open later this month, was thrilled with the result and the prospect of playing at Augusta.

"This win just came so fast and so sudden," Jin said. "I was ready for the round today and unfortunately the weather didn't work out. Going there (the Masters) next year is just amazing for me. I'm so excited and looking forward to it. This win should give me a lot of confidence."

The final round got under way as scheduled yesterday but was suspended soon after with only nine groups on the course. Organizers abandoned play just after 11 a.m., with the inclement weather caused by nearby Typhoon Mujigae showing no sign of relenting.

If the final round had proceeded, Ruffels, Davis and defending champion Antonio Mardaca of Australia, who shot a 64 on Saturday to surge into contention, looked set to challenge Jin for the title.



Jin Cheng of China

Although they knew on Saturday that Sunday's play may not go ahead, with a Masters berth on the line, it was still tough to take for the runners-up.

"I guess it's not hard to tell that we are both pretty gutted," Ruffels said. "Obviously there's nothing you can do about the situation. The tournament did great in just trying to get us out there. Credit to Cheng, he played amazing this week to back up 8-under with those two rounds in some tough conditions."

It was Jin's fourth start in the tournament, with his previous best finish a tie for 12th at Royal Melbourne last year. He is the second Chinese player to win the event after Guan Tianlang's triumph in 2012.

To go with his Masters berth, Jin, along with Ruffels and Davis, earned a place in the final round of qualifying for the 2016 British Open at Royal Troon.

Taiwan's Yu Chun-an and Kim Tae-ho of South Korea finished in a tie for fourth, three shots off the pace. **AP**

career title on the Asian Tour.

"I'm looking forward to returning to the Venetian Macao Open, which is always a great tournament in which to compete on the Asian Tour," said Thongchai. "We get to play on a challenging course and stay in a nice resort at The Venetian Macao. My record at the Macau Golf and Country Club has been pretty good over the past three years, with two top-10s and one top-20, but hopefully this time, I will be able to challenge for the title."

Prior to his latest triumph in Germany, Thongchai, a former paratrooper, finished as the runner-up twice earlier this year and has since risen to the 32nd spot on the Official World Golf Ranking, matching his previous career's highest ranking.

"My 2015 season has been pretty solid and qualifying for the Presidents Cup team is also a highlight for me. Although I've won tournaments in Europe over the past few years, it's actually been five years since I last won [a tournament] on the Asian Tour and I hope to break that drought. Winning the Venetian Macao Open will be a very nice addition to all my victories in Asia," said Thongchai.

The immensely popular Kiradech, who is well-known for his big-hitting and aggressive game, is looking forward to a third visit to the Venetian Macao Open.

"This will only be my third visit to the Venetian Macao Open but it's certainly one of the events in which I look forward to competing. The players are looked after so well by the title sponsor and Macao is also a great city to visit as there are so many things to do away from golf," said the 26-year-old.

"It has been a great season so far for me, with two wins, and if I can continue to play my best golf in Macau, I know I will be able to contend when I get there. It is also important for me to finish the year strongly on the Asian Tour as I want to break into the world's top-50 by the end of the season and get myself into the Majors and World Golf Championships events," added Kiradech, who is currently ranked 63rd in the world.

Other stars who have committed to competing in the local tournament include the title holder and current Asian Tour Order of Merit leader, Anirban Lahiri of India, the former champion, Scott Hend of Australia, and Major winner Ernie Els of South Africa.

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

RUGBY

## Australia's scrum surprises and out-muscles England



Ben Morgan, England

Foster Niumata, London

**O**LD demons would be reawakened come scrum time, England No. 8 Ben Morgan goaded Australia before their Rugby World Cup showdown yesterday.

Morgan wasn't out of line. He was banking on England prolonging a long history of traumatizing Australia's pack.

For example, in 2005 Australia was reduced to uncontested scrums. In 2007, Andrew Sheridan destroyed the Wallabies scrum in the World Cup quarterfinals in Marseille. Not quite a year ago, the England pack forced 13 penalties, and carried Morgan over the line twice for tries in another victory for English muscle.

But that history was consigned to, well, history, as England was mauled up front by Australia 33-13 at Twickenham, and eliminated in the pool stage for the first time.

Wallabies coach Michael Cheika accepted the English had a right to keep on believing their scrum was superior until it was disproved. That day finally arrived, credited to former Argentina scrum master Mario Ledesma, who was one of Cheika's assistants at the Waratahs, and brought into the Wallabies camp.

"We have been working hard on (scrums)," Cheika said. "Mario taught me scrums are very humbling. You can dominate one but the next one you can get your pants pulled down. You have got to be consistent."

Australia became consistent the longer the match went.

The demons now live in England minds. **AP**

Yi Jianlian combined with youngsters Guo Ailun and Zhou Qi to lead China to a 78-67 win over the Philippines in the FIBA Asia basketball final, helping the host nation secure an Olympic slot and finish the continental tournament unbeaten.

Guo led the scoring with 19 points, 19-year-old center Zhou had 16 points and 14 rebounds and former NBA player Yi had 15 rebounds, two blocks and 11 points in a performance that confirmed his Most Valuable Player award for the tournament.

opinion

Insight  
Paulo Barbosa



THE STALLING OF A DECISION ON HOTEL ESTORIL

The government's proposal to demolish the Hotel Estoril in order to create a youth center for arts education has not been well-received by all sectors of society. It was foreseeable that not all residents would agree on such a project, but the local administration seems to have a problem reaching a decision when there is no general consensus. That means that many decisions have been stalled, at least until more-or-less fabricated public consultations have been conducted to support the official decision (these are usually made prior to the consultations).

I had the opportunity to see the interior of the decrepit Hotel Estoril and its adjacent swimming pool last month, during a media visit organized by the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture. Here is my reflection on what I saw at the section closest to the Tap Seac Multi-sports Pavilion, which was most recently constructed: "The dance floor and bar of a club that operated there until the 90s are still visible. Adjacent to the former club, but accessible through an exterior door, is the former sauna, consisting of a maze-like set of corridors and many small rooms, all of them equipped with bathtubs. In its heyday, this was one the biggest saunas in Macau, perhaps in Asia. Now it is no more than a ruin." (MDT, Sept 16)

The core of the building, where the hotel's operations and main entrance were located, is in no better condition: "With a wall covered with mirrors in the lobby, and plaques with numbers providing directions to the guest rooms, one can clearly see that the place was once a hotel, although its interiors are reminiscent of a war zone."

Last week, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, called a TDM forum to state that "a minority" of people are obstructing the development of the proposed center for arts education. "Some citizens and a minority of associations argue that the building should be completely preserved," he said. Expressing his conviction that the majority of the population agrees with the government's plan, Mr Tam said that authorities are willing to change their position and preserve the building if that is "the will of the residents."

That safeguard has postponed the visit of Siza Vieira, which was initially scheduled for this month. Alexis Tam visited the renowned architect to discuss the Hotel Estoril project while he was in Portugal. Apparently, Mr Vieira was then invited to submit a proposal for the architectural project of designing the building to replace the hotel.

No one doubts the quality of Siza Vieira's work, and it's also clear that the hotel's structure is close to ruins. Structural engineer Costa Antunes, who led the above-mentioned visit, has been clear about the remaining options: "I have no doubt that it would be more expensive to revamp the building. Its structure would need to be strengthened and some parts replaced. It would take much more time to complete and I don't know if the investment will be worth it. Secondly, if we want to build appropriate places in which to host musical events, the heights of the ceilings in this building are very limiting" he said. Meanwhile, an assessment of the building's structural integrity has been requested from the Civil Engineering Laboratory.

As the new TDM commentator Fernando Gomes rightly pointed out, the Hotel Estoril project is not very relevant and should not be a main priority for the government. There are far more pressing issues, such as housing, health, transportation and the consequences of the gaming revenue decline. And there are many other significant buildings to revamp in downtown Macau.

It is implied that the MSAR government will lack authority if it allocates too much time and too many resources to the Estoril project. In a matter like this, an informed political and technical decision should be reached with the help of experts. The illusion of consensus is contributing to the government's lack of authority.

ORGANIZED CRIME

Colombian military kills warlord of rural cocaine fiefdom



Victor Navarro, aka "Megateo"

A years-long manhunt for a ruthless cocaine warlord who ruled a remote rural fiefdom with an armed band and generous bribes has ended with a military raid that killed the man considered Colombia's second most-wanted criminal.

Victor Navarro, a 39-year-old better known as alias "Megateo," long dominated the historically lawless Catatumbo region that hugs Venezuela. It is where he was killed Thursday night in a ground and air attack, authorities said.

Law officials had been fixated on him because of what he represented: the possible future of organized crime in Colombia if nearly three-year-old peace talks between the government and the country's largest rebel group succeed. In another sense, he was a throwback to an earlier age of brazen, high-profile narcotics who reveled in public notoriety.

Six previous attempts to capture Navarro had failed when he slipped away

at the last minute.

With a USD5 million U.S. bounty on his head and a 2011 drug-trafficking indictment pending in Florida, Navarro had faced 45 arrest warrants and Colombian prosecutors said he was suspected in dozens of killings.

He was especially hunted for a 2006 ambush in which his men killed 17 soldiers and intelligence agents who had set out from Bogota to capture him but were betrayed by a double agent, a secret police detective who abandoned the operation at the last minute and is now serving a 40-year sentence for murder.

Navarro claimed to lead the last remaining faction of the Popular Liberation Army, a rebel movement that disbanded in 1991. But to authorities, he was nothing more than a major cocaine trafficker, a criminal heavyweight whose muscle and ability to evade capture derived from the fear he instilled and alliances he made with gangs of former far-right militiamen and with

the country's two largest rebel groups.

Colombia's most-wanted criminal, Dario Antonio Usuga, is a veteran of far-right militias who heads a much larger but low-profile organization known as the Urabenos, with an estimated 2,000 gunmen.

A thickly built man of medium height, Navarro was notorious for his garish jewelry. He wore a big gold ring on each hand — one encrusted with diamonds, the other emeralds. In one photo police obtained in a raid, a golden pistol hangs from a necklace.

His brazenness drew comparisons, although in miniature, to Pablo Escobar, the cocaine kingpin who terrorized Colombia for two decades until he was tracked down and killed by police in 1993.

Jay Bergman, then-Andean region chief for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, told The Associated Press in 2013 that Navarro was believed to have only about 60 men under arms but that many more from his allies would come to his aid if he were under siege.

"He's king of the hill in a very prolific and remote drug trafficking area and corridor," Bergman said.

It was not immediately clear how Navarro and the four others who died with him were killed, though police said last week's raid included an air attack and ground infiltration.

Defense Minister Luis Carlos Villegas did not provide details of what he called "one of the most ingenious undercover operations in Colombia in recent years."

Born into a peasant family, Navarro took to crime in the late 1990s after paramilitaries killed his mother and a sister, according to Colombian investigators. He projected a Robin Hood image, sharing some wealth with local people while putting numerous police, soldiers and local politicians on his payroll. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

**SENEGAL** A suspected Islamic extremist in southeastern Niger detonated his explosives when confronted by a policeman yesterday, killing the officer and wounding civilians in a town targeted numerous times by jihadists this year. There was no immediate claim of responsibility though suspicion immediately fell upon Boko Haram, the Nigeria-based extremist group that has pledged allegiance to IS.



AP PHOTO

**BAHAMAS** Hurricane Joaquin destroys houses, uproots trees and unleashes heavy flooding as it hurled torrents of rain across the Bahamas, and the U.S. Coast Guard says it is trying to reach a disabled cargo ship with 33 people aboard that lost contact during the storm.



AP PHOTO

**FRANCE** Violent storms and flooding have hit south-eastern France, killing at least 16 people with three more missing, officials say. Three elderly people drowned when their retirement home near the city of Antibes was inundated with floodwater. Others died trapped in their cars in tunnels and underground car parks as the waters rose. President Hollande announced a state of "natural disaster" in the affected region.



AP PHOTO

**AFRICA** A vehicle carrying a rhino sculpture led anti-poaching marchers in Johannesburg yesterday. Kenya's environment minister joined conservationists at a similar rally in Nairobi, the capital. In London, activists in elephant costumes demanded an end to the ivory trade. The demonstrations were part of what organizers called a "global march" for rhinos and elephants