



ECHO CHAN LEAVES FORUM MACAU

For the second time this year the coordinator of the Forum has changed. Echo Chan will be replaced by Cristina Morais

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CATHAY PACIFIC AVOIDS FLYING OVER IRAN

Cathay Pacific has stopped flying over Iran following a warning about Russian missiles fired at Syria

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UNREST A NEW BLOW TO NEPAL'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

P12 REPORT

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A former vice minister of public security goes on trial in northern China for alleged bribery, the latest senior figure linked to the country's former security czar to be prosecuted in an anti-corruption campaign.

More on p11

CHINA Inflation eased in September, giving Beijing more room to stimulate slowing economic growth if needed. Consumer prices rose 1.6 percent over a year earlier, driven by a 2.7 percent rise in food costs, data showed.

More on p11

AP PHOTO



VIETNAM slams China over its construction of two lighthouses in the disputed South China Sea, saying the move violates Vietnam's sovereignty and escalates tensions.

AFGHANISTAN Within hours of seizing the northern Afghan city of Kunduz last month, Taliban fighters went door-to-door, hunting down not only those accused of working with security forces, but women's rights advocates and journalists. The Taliban's brief foray into the city offered a chilling reminder of its violent Islamic rule in the late 1990s, and of what could await the country if it returns to power.

PAKISTAN A bomb targeting the office of a ruling party lawmaker kills seven people and wounds nine others in central Pakistan.

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NEW LEGAL YEAR

Courts face record high workload, more pressure

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LIGHTHOUSE CLUB MACAU ANNIVERSARY

10 years assisting families of fatal construction accident victims

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OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LEGAL YEAR

Courts face record high workload and emerging pressure

Aries Un

CCOURT of Final Instance President Sam Hou Fai urged for changes to regulations in light of a growing number of litigious cases, which has left the basic court's collegiate bench and sole-judge penal arm faced with an unbalanced workload.

During the official ceremony to mark the commencement of the 2015/2016 Legal Year, the court's head revealed in his speech that the previous judiciary year saw a record surge in the number of cases handled by all the local courts, signaling a 13.64 percent spike to 22,199 from 19,535 the year before.

The two-digit increment, which emerged two legal years ago, deserved "attention," the judge said.

Hou stressed that the cases the Court of First Instance's two sub-courts have settled during that time have hit a record high. The escalating workload has created an unbalanced quantity of cases for the basic-level court's collegiate bench and sole-judges.

The call for an amendment to the law has been around since several ceremonies ago, said Hou. Nonetheless, the plight has yet to be addressed, which he believed was the reason behind the piling cases awaiting settlement.



Sam Hou Fai

While the president commended the existing regulations that systematically ensure indicial independence in the region, he highlighted another predicament with which the judges and judicial department officials were faced: the pressure from the media and press.

"We should recognize the concerns, comments from the general public and media on the judicial department's operations and decisions, or even criticism that takes an active role in helping enhance judicial transparency, efficiency and quality," he said. "Some of them are pertinent, yet we can't rule them out as some are made groundlessly."

He further stressed that the court only abides by laws, regardless of any attempted inference from its surroundings. Hou also exhorted his fellow legal practitioners to remain resistant against lures and meddling in the ever-changing socio-economic

landscape and adhere to principles of integrity and impartiality.

"To keep a distance from society, as though there's a glass wall between them and the judges. We're able to see the society and understand its situation while being removed from it," he said.

The court president's remarks drew comments from Macau Lawyers Association President Jorge Neto Valente who urged for profound discussion in the judicial sector to address long-term issues making inroads into department's operation.

He expressed the belief that without exposure to social reality, judges will end up "being isolated from the rest of society," which could further result in inaccurate verdicts.

"I hope to not repeat the same critiques made over the past few years, meanwhile I hope I will no longer be disappointed with the existing circumstances already identified long ago," he said in



Neto Valente

the beginning of his speech.

An acute shortage of relevant facilities and skilled personnel, was said to be among the most imminent issues faced by the court and other relevant organs.

"Given the Macau government's economic resources, it's hard to not put it down to the failure to plan for the future or erroneous prioritizing," he remarked, referring to the stalled building projects of the prosecution office and the courthouse, both of which were promised by the government several years ago.

Neto Valente highlighted in his speech the waning presence of the Portuguese language in the court, also pointing to the dwindling number of Portuguese-speaking judges and legal officials, most of whom he deemed lack the required competence to master the language.

As most judges work under unprecedented pressure, which seems palpable according to the

figures provided, the Portuguese lawyer continued to advocate regulation reform. He believed a shake-up could help ratchet up case handling.

The association's head also criticized the legal courses currently available at different institutions as poor quality. "Some of the courses don't guarantee employment prospects. It's not only a matter of a waste of resources, but there's more of a focus on student quantity than teaching quality," he explained. "That's why we won't have local talented staff when there's no quality."

Without proactive efforts to turn the situation around, Neto Valente believed that the territory's legal bodies would remain bogged down with the dilemma.

"With the growing number of cases and their pressures, cases will be assigned under a scenario of insufficient judges. Our judicial progression will continue to slow down and its quality might go even lower as a result," he concluded.

LONG COURT DELAYS

SPEAKING TO reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony, the AAM president called for a "profound analysis that has never been done before to assess the situation in courts." Contradicting the official information given at the session, according to which the maximum waiting time for a trial is 57 working days, Neto Valente said that there are extensive court delays and gave as an example of a trial where he will advocate, with the first audience scheduled for May next year.

MP

Harsher punishment is not sole remedy to curb rising crime rate

THarsher punishment alone might not be the sole measure that can be used to rein in rising crime despite the number of cases that inundated the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) last judicial year, the office's Prosecutor General Ip Son Sang claimed.

His remarks came yesterday during a ceremony welcoming a fresh legal

year, in which the top prosecutor admitted that the number of criminal cases they have handled soared by 5.38 percent to 14,435, while cases pending settlement stands at 14,317 in 2015.

"In fact, the annual cases on our record has been picking up since 2010," said Ip. Of the 5,530 prosecuted between September 2014 and August this

year, half of them have been locals. According to the official statistics provided, the offences chiefly revolve around money-related crimes, illegal migration and assault.

The prosecutor praised the authorities' efforts early this year to optimize their internal regime, yet noted that anti-crime policies or related penalties ought to be formulated in

a "people-oriented" way, instead of blindly pursuing heavier punishment.

Ip also noted a dramatic hike in industrial accidents last year, a total of 527 cases compared to the 338 cases recorded in 2013. "We think that employers and their employees, or even the regulator should hold this issue in high regard to avoid reoccurrence," he said. **AU**

Chui reaffirms efforts to ensure judicial independence

JUDICIAL independence will continue to remain under the government's watch, Chief Executive Chui Sai On pledged in his address to legal practitioners yesterday.

He firstly extolled how the principle of "one country two systems" and "Macau people governing Macau" could be realized through the Basic Law and reiterated the government's stance to keep judicial independence intact.

The CE invited citizens and related organizations to join the government in safeguarding what he described as "the core values of the Macau society." Additionally, Chui promised to continue strengthening occupational training for the officials serving in legal departments.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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LIGHTHOUSE CLUB MACAU ANNIVERSARY

THE Lighthouse Club Macau, a locally registered construction charity that provides financial assistance to the families of workers involved in fatal construction-related accidents, is celebrating its tenth anniversary this week. Tomorrow, a golf tournament will be played by twenty teams in Hengqin to celebrate the club's anniversary. Following the tournament, which also doubles as a fundraising event, the golfers will return to Macau for a dinner on the Sheraton pool deck at Sands Cotai Central.

Since its inception, the club has supported 44 cases of either construction-related fatalities or serious injuries, eight of which have occurred in Macau this year, the club's chairman Keith Buckley, 67, told the Times. The deaths which had occurred in local construction sites have typically been a result of "a high level of construction activity and a relatively unskilled workforce," he adds.

The charity raises funds either through sponsorship deals or by holding regular functions. Unlike in Hong Kong, where there are some major donors, in Macau the donors are either sponsors of the club's events, club members, or contractors. The club has two types of membership - individual and corporate - and around 230 members.

The Lighthouse Club channels the money raised at functions to a "benevolent fund" administered by a committee. Whenever there is an accident, the group meets to analyze the details of the accident and the affected worker's personal circumstances. For example, the worker's marital status and whether or not they have children are areas of consideration. After this assessment is done, a donation is made.

"Sometimes the insurance company takes a long time to pay. We do a quick payment to the family," Mr Buckley explains. The donation amount ranges between MOP30,000 to MOP40,000. But there are also cases in which the support is used to pay the school fees of minors directly affected by the tragedy. In those cases, regular payments are made over a number of years.

The club is also planning to introduce other types of support, like offering beneficiaries the opportunity to enroll in construction related degrees. "We haven't started it yet, but we have some ideas, because the money in our fund is quite good," the club's chairman says.

Another plan currently being considered is the establishment of a system to recognize local companies as proactive supporters of safety in the industry. In other branches of

10 years assisting families of fatal construction accident victims



Keith Buckley

the club, a "Golden Helmet Award" is awarded to companies, an idea that could be replicated in Macau.

A British citizen, Keith Buckley has vast international experience. He has been the chairman of the local club for the past four years and is also the chairman for the Asia-Pacific region in 2015. As the executive project director of Hsin Chong Engineering (Macau) Limited, he has been involved in the construction of Sands China's projects in Macau and took part on the raising of the Cotai strip, an area which was previously flooded with water.

Mr Buckley recognizes the major construction projects currently undertaken in Macau are "very large, technically challenging and built on a fast-track basis," all posing challenging safety issues, although the

situation has since improved.

"This year, for example, I expected to hear of more fatalities, because the place is booming. But when I first came to Macau, which was in 2003, the standards of safety were low. On the original Sands, we tried to develop quite a strong safety scheme and then I heard that some of the workers didn't want to work on our site because the safety rules were so strong. Now that's not a problem. If you go in the [construction] sites, I think nearly 100 percent of the workers

Workers are not educated in safety

KEITH BUCKLEY

wear safety helmets," the chairman explained.

Nevertheless, safety problems persist. In the early years of construction in Cotai, many workers came from Hong Kong, where the construction sector was suffering due to the SARS epidemic. Since the neighboring region had higher safety standards than Macau, the construction works were less problematic. The situation changed and now most of the workers come from Macau and mainland China.

According to Keith Buckley, the Chinese workers are "not very old, lack construction experience, and so are not very well educated in safety. We see some very bad things on site. When a worker joins one of our sites, he has to have a safety induction; he is told what to do and what not to do. But still

you must have some desire to protect your life. It is not good enough for me to say 'don't do this, don't do that', you must understand what is dangerous." He further stated that accidents happen "because to join the construction industry is quite easy" and consequently "workers are not educated in safety and their basic safety knowledge is inadequate. Many of the accidents are caused by the individual, not because there is inadequate lighting, or safety railings, it's usually because the worker commits an error. It can be something like running down the stairs to get the bus and falling because the stairs on a construction site are not like the stairs in a finished building, they are rough," Buckley observed, adding that one of the areas with lower safety standards is probably the most dangerous, which is putting the façade on the buildings.

The fact that the major projects in Macau tend to be built at a faster pace also hinders safety, because "contractors are under pressure to finish in time, and when you put people under pressure, they may take risks. Of course we don't tell them to take risks and cut corners, but sometimes they do," often as a means of saving time.

Regarding the assistance usually issued to those directly affected by accidents in Macau, Mr Buckley noted that in order to obtain a construction license from DSSOPT, employment compensation insurance is needed. The insurance policy has limits, but the fact that all workers are insured makes the framework here better than those in other Asian jurisdictions, where the workers are not necessarily insured.

Branches all over the Asia-Pacific region

THE Lighthouse Club charity was created in England in 1956 by Eddie Ward in order to unite the construction industry in achieving a humanitarian goal. Mr Ward was the secretary-general of the for thirty years.

In 1986 the club opened its first Asian branch in Hong Kong. "Hong Kong is quite a strong [club], it is well supported and sponsored," Keith Buckley noted. After HK, the club gradually expanded to other countries. In the Asia-Pacific region, the Lighthouse Club has branches in HK, Macau, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh and Australia.

"In every country the situation is different. For instance, Macau is easy be-



RENATO MARQUES

cause it is so small, so if someone gets killed in Macau, we know the next day, and because the newspaper reported the incident," Mr Buckley said, adding that operating in larger Asian countries can be challenging, due to the difficulties associated with gathering in-

formation and reaching remote places. Another relevant factor, he continued, is the cost of living. "In the Philippines, a small amount of money goes a long way. (...) In Macau or in Hong Kong that's not the case" he exemplifies.

The Macau club works only with volunteers, but not all of the branches work on a volunteer basis only. In Hong Kong, probably the richest Lighthouse Club, there is one full time staff member.

The club also publishes a magazine four times a year covering the entire Asia-Pacific region, with reports focusing on topics such as the volunteer cases and construction market surveys, as well as fundraising and social events organized by the branches.



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Echo Chan leaves Forum Macau, replaced by Cristina Morais



Echo Chan (left) was appointed coordinator of Forum Macau in March

AFTER half a year as coordinator of Forum Macau's Support Office, Echo Chan is leaving the post, to be replaced by Cristina Morais, who currently heads the external department at the Macau Economic Services (DSE).

According to TDM, Echo Chan said that she asked to be replaced due to personal motives and she will leave Macau for a while. However, she will still be linked to the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institu-

te (IPIM), where she was a member of the administrative council before taking office at Forum Macau.

It's the second time this year that the coordinator of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries (the forum's official name) has changed. In March 4 this year, Echo Chan replaced Rita Santos as coordinator.

Forum Macau was established to further multilateral relations.

RETAIL

Sa Sa's sales plummet 10.4pct in Macau, HK



SA Sa International Holdings Ltd saw its retail sales plummet by 10.4 percent year-on-year in Hong Kong and Macau during the National Day golden week holiday season.

Simon Kwok, chairman and chief executive officer of the group, said that "according to data from the Hong Kong Immigration Department, the number of mainland Chinese tourists to Hong Kong recorded a slight year-on-year increase of 2.3 percent during the National Day golden

Substantial part of the growth was driven by transit tourists and those who visited on student visas

SIMON KWOK

week holiday."

Despite this, he continued, "the local retail market failed to benefit as a substantial part of the growth as it was driven by transit tourists and those who visited on student visas." The CEO further suggested that there were indications that "mainland tourists were attracted by destinations other than Hong Kong" as the number of outbound visitors from China had grown substantially more than the 2.3 percent recorded in Hong Kong.

Mr Kwok cited China's leading online travel agency, Ctrip.com, who measured Hong Kong's ranking on the list of the season's most popular tourist destinations amongst Chinese tourists, stating that the city slipped from first place (2014) to fourth place (2015). "The group expects that tourism and retail industries in Hong Kong will no longer be driven by long holidays in China unless there are substantial measures taken to improve the competitiveness of tourism in Hong Kong."

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DEBATE ON LOCAL HERITAGE

City transformed to the point of being unrecognizable

IT is impossible to compare the Macau of the 1960s with the city of today, according to Yves Etienne Sonolet, visual artist and scholar at the University of Macau. He noted that unlike his home city of Paris where municipal authorities prevent the style of the city from changing, it is common in Macau to demolish older buildings and rebuild new ones in their place.

The Rui Cunha Foundation held a debate yesterday on the quality of architecture in Macau, particularly public buildings in and around Senado Square, and how styles have changed over time. The professor was joined at the discussion, which was themed "Municipal Buildings to Squares: The 'Leal Senado' as a Model of Management and Local Government"



and featured the architect Maria José Freitas.

Ms Freitas is the author of multiple renovation projects, and winner of the AR-CASIA award in the architectural renovation category. She analyzed the various architectural styles of Portuguese municipal buildings during the 200-year-period between 1584 and 1784. This, she explained, is the estimated period for the conception and construction of the Leal Senado Building (currently IACM's headquarters) according to

historical sources.

Although the building was erected in 1784, it encapsulates the "Plain style", which was popular in 14th and 15th Century Portugal, as opposed to the architectural styles similar to those in the period of its completion. The building and square have continued to evolve from this period, after several extensive renovations, and by adapting to the evolution of the city and its people.

Mr Sonolet then explained how he had observed many changes in the city and its design since his arrival in Macau in 2008. In 2011 the visual artist held an exhibition at the Macau Art Museum, entitled "Nostalgia Refreshed", which showcased a collection of superimposed images of contemporary Macau on older photos, mainly from

the 1950s and 1960s. The results demonstrated the profound changes that the city has undergone.

Yves Sonolet did not praise or condemn the changes that have occurred across Macau, clarifying that despite one's nostalgia, neither the older, quieter Macau, nor the new, bustling city is "better than the other." Trying to compare the two in a meaningful way is not possible, as it would entail "actually comparing two different cities."

His presentation featured 'historic' and contemporary photographs and recordings from well-known locations in Macau, including Senado Square, the A-Ma Temple, and the roof of the Sintra Hotel. Sonolet revealed that the "identity of the city [Macau]" had made an impression on him. **Staff Reporter**

STATISTICS

First tourist price index decline since 2002

THE Tourist Price Index (TPI) has declined by 2.72 percent for the third quarter of 2015, signaling the first decline since the third quarter of 2002. The information was released in a report from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), which suggested that lower charges for hotel accommodation and a reduction in the price of clothing had caused the decline.

A notable change was observed in the price index of accommodation (-10.88 percent), and clothing & footwear (-6.96 percent). Meanwhile, the price indexes for the categories of food, alcoholic beverages & tobacco, transport & communications, and entertainment & cultural activities increased by 5.87 percent, 3.94 percent and 3.14 percent respectively.

Although the TPI for the third quarter of 2015 fell by 2.34 percent quarter-to-quarter, the average TPI for the last four quarters remains positive - up by 0.55 percent from the previous period. For the first three quarters of 2015, the TPI decreased by 0.1 percent year-on-year, compared with the first three quarters of 2014.

The TPI is used to indicate the changes in price of goods and services purchased by visitors. Sections of TPI goods and services are selected and measured according to the consumption patterns of tourists.

AD

Venetian Macao Open

Anirban Lahiri
2014 Venetian Macao Open Winner

Liang Wen-chong
2009 Asian Tour Order of Merit Winner

Scott Hend
2013 Venetian Macao Open Winner

Ernie Els
2002 & 2012 The Open Championship Winner
1994 & 1997 U.S. Open Winner

Zhang Lian-wei
2008 Asian Tour Order of Merit Winner

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For more details of the activities and how to register for a golf clinic and wine tasting, please visit www.thevenetianmacaopen.com or www.facebook.com/venetianmacaopen

Melco Crown advances in New York on signs Macau slump may ease

Taylor Hall

MELCO Crown Entertainment Ltd., Macau's fourth-largest casino operator, rallied in U.S. trading on signs that a slowdown in the gambling hub may not be as severe as expected.

American depository receipts of Melco Crown rose 3.4 percent to USD18.07 in New York on Tuesday, pushing their advance from a Sept. 29 low to 33 percent. Macau casino shares rose in Hong Kong trading earlier after analysts said gaming revenue was stronger than expected this month.

While Macau's gaming revenue has fallen for 16 straight months, better-than-estimated casino receipts after the golden week holiday may lead to the smallest decline since January, Credit Suisse Group AG analysts said Monday. The casino hub has suffered the worst downturn in its history as an anti-corruption crackdown in China and slowing economic growth have kept high rollers at bay.

"The golden week domestic consumption numbers look very, very strong," Brendan Ahern, managing director at Krane Fund Advisors LLC in New York, said by phone on Tuesday.



"The sentiment going in for the broader casino and gaming was low, so they had a very low hurdle to overcome."

Macau's estimated average daily revenue was 827 million patacas (\$104 million) during the first 11 days of October, higher than Credit Suisse's forecast of 750 million to 800 million patacas, analysts led by Kenneth Fong wrote in a note Monday. Casino receipts so far this month may lead to a drop of 25 percent to 28 percent in October, Fong said.

Hong Kong-based Melco Crown has rallied this month amid investor optimism that the company will benefit from targeted government stimulus

measures. Macau's gaming industry revenue is estimated to rebound 8 percent in 2016, with Melco Crown's jumping 24 percent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Intelligence.

Melco Crown may have clinched the approval of 210 new gaming tables for its Studio City casino-resort, which is scheduled to open on Oct. 27, and another 40 by the end of the year, Fong wrote, citing Asia Gaming Brief. The analyst raised the shares to the equivalent of buy from neutral. The addition would equip its Studio City resort opening in October with the city's most extensive mass-market attractions.

The company will be the first Macau operator with major operations abroad, opening a Manila resort earlier this year. It has doubled quarterly sales and tripled EBITDA since late 2009, even with the impact of China's slowing growth and anti-extravagance push.

"There are industries that, regardless of what's going on in the macroeconomic front, will continue to do well, and I think gaming is one of them," Wayne Lin, a money manager at QS Investors LLC, which invests in Chinese stocks, said by phone on Tuesday. "You could be seeing the emergence of a true Chinese middle class supportive of the gaming industry." AP

Forget Beijing: Mall owner Taubman likes second cities

Frederik Balfour

U.S. mall-owner Taubman Centers Inc. is bypassing Beijing and Shanghai, instead building its first two Chinese shopping malls in the second-tier cities of Xian and Zhengzhou because the potential returns are higher, Asia President Rene Tremblay said.

Taubman is investing in cities where land costs are less than half those of the most prosperous tier-one cities, which have had an explosion in mall growth in the past decade, Tremblay said. There is more potential in smaller cities where a growing middle class is fueling sales of affordable luxury and fashion brands, he said.

"We knew that for tier one, prices were higher, competition was more fierce and we thought there were more opportunities in tier two," Tremblay said in an interview in Hong Kong Tuesday.

Taubman looked at more than 100 cities across China, he said, before deciding on Zhengzhou, a city with a population of 9 million in the central province of Henan, and Xian with 8.5 million people and located in Shaanxi, a northwestern province.

In China, Taubman has jointly invested with both local developers as well as a local retailer, Beijing Wangfujing Department Store (Group) Co., rather than go it alone as it does in the U.S., where it is one of the largest owners and operators of shopping malls. Xian is to open in the first half of next year and Zhengzhou in the fall. Both will cost about USD385 million each, he said.

"When you are a foreigner, you have to team up with a local partner and local talent, they bring us things we didn't have, and intimate knowledge of the consumer," Tremblay said.

Tremblay said that Taubman is also managing a mall within Macau Studio City, a project developed by Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. that will open on Oct. 27 with tenants including Yves Saint Laurent and Prada.

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan-based Taubman Centers was founded in 1950 by the late A. Alfred Taubman, who pioneered the development of regional malls in the U.S. AP

corporate bits

MGM MACAU CELEBRATES OKTOBERFEST WITH GERMAN-THEMED DINING OFFERS



Beer, bratwurst and Bavarian beats from Munich are coming to Macau during the 7th annual Oktoberfest between October 15 and 25 at The Vista II of MGM Macau, and MGM has launched several German-themed dining offers this month.

Highlighting German cuisine, Rossio presents a German theme dinner buffet including German pork knuckle, Roasted sausages, Bavarian roasted pork, Mustard Spaetzle,

Wiener Schnitzel and German dumplings in beef broth.

Prepared by Executive Pastry Chef Holger Deh and served at the Pastry Bar and Grande Praça Café, the Bavarian Afternoon Tea Set includes traditional items like Bavarian cream with dark beer jelly, Hamburg-style berry compote, Black forest cake, plus German sausage salad with pretzels and other miniature savory dishes.

Another German favorite, Berliner doughnuts are on sale at the Grande Praça in a wide range of flavors including vanilla, strawberry, chocolate, apricot and kalamansi.

Finally, Imperial Court and Grand Imperial Court restaurants are recommending an array of German Rieslings to pair with signature Chinese dishes.

SANDS CHINA HONORS TOP SIX SANDS CHINA CARE AMBASSADORS



Sands China Ltd. honored six Sands China Care Ambassadors last Thursday at a ceremony at The Venetian Macao for their dedication to community volunteer work.

"Our company established the Sands China Care Ambassador program in 2009 to encourage community outreach,"

said Grant Chum, chief of staff for Sands China Ltd. "Being a firm believer in the importance of serving the community, I am happy to announce that our team members have been engaged in over 1,900 volunteer hours and 17 activities over the last 12 months, and I am glad that we are able to extend

our care to the less privileged in the community."

Each of the six Care Ambassadors received a gift from the company as a token of appreciation, along with a framed certificate signed by Chum.

"Volunteering is a reward in itself," said Leong Ka Hou. "I feel privileged to work side-by-side with some really dedicated team members at the many Sands China Care Ambassador activities throughout the year. We always say that we receive just as much benefit – if not more – from serving our fellow community members as they do from our service. On top of all of that, it's wonderful to know that the company also appreciates the importance of the SCCA program."



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Nicole Gaouette and David Tweed

CHINA'S island-building in the South China Sea is driving Asian nations to seek closer cooperation with the U.S., Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said.

The American defense chief made the comment Tuesday (yesterday, Macau time) in response to a question - which he didn't answer - about plans being weighed by the Obama administration to sail U.S. Navy ships inside the 12 nautical miles that China claims around man-made islands it created in the sea north of Australia.

"Uncertainty in the South China Sea is having the effect of increasing our interaction with other partners in the area," Carter said at a Boston news conference with Secretary of State John Kerry and their Australian counterparts. "It's having the effect of increasing the desire to cooperate with the United States."

Carter cited as examples Vietnam, India, the Philippines and Japan, "which is doing more in general in this part of the world to support the rules-based order in East Asia," he said. Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull made the same point on Sept. 21, a week after becoming leader, as he pledged to continue Australia's surveillance flights over the South China Sea.

Carter and Kerry appeared alongside Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop at the end of two days of talks on topics from the fight against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria to cyber-defense, cooperation in Afghanistan, maritime security and trade.

"We are on the same page with the United States when it comes to the claims in the South China Sea," Bishop said. "We urge all parties to not act unilaterally, to not act in a way that escalates tensions, with primacy given to the principles of freedom of navigation, freedom of flight."

The comments in Boston triggered a rebuke from the Chinese Embassy to Australia, which said it was "seriously concerned" and that the remarks were "neither responsible nor constructive."

"It would be more helpful if they could honor their commitment of not taking sides on relevant disputes and do more to promote regional peace and stability in the true sense of the words rather than light a fire and add fuel to the flames," the embassy said in a statement, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The U.S. says it doesn't take sides in the dispute over the South China Sea, parts of which are also claimed by the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan, but American officials

BLOOMBERG



SOUTH CHINA SEA

Beijing's island moves draw neighbors closer to US, Carter says

have repeatedly said that they will act to protect freedom of navigation in one of the world's busiest commercial waterways.

"The United States will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows as we do around the world, and the South China Sea is not - and will not be - an exception," Carter said.

China claims more than 80 percent of the waters north of Australia, basing its claim on the so-called nine-dash line in a 1947 map that doesn't give precise coordinates. Under President Xi Jinping, China has been dredging and dumping tons of sand to build out reefs below sea level since December 2013.

Visiting Obama in September, Xi said islands in the South China Sea have been China's territory "since ancient times."

"We have the right to uphold our own territorial sovereignty and lawful and legitimate maritime rights and interests," Xi said, through a translator, at a press conference with Obama. He added that China "does not intend to pursue militarization" of the islands.

But China has almost completed an airstrip on Fiery Cross Reef capable of handling "most if not all" Chinese military aircraft, according to Gregory Poling, an analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Two other airstrips may be under construction, one each on Subi Reef and Mischief Reef, he said in a report for the group's Asia

The US will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows as we do around the world, and the S China Sea is not an exception.

ASHTON CARTER
U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY

Maritime Transparency Initiative, citing satellite photos taken in September.

Three of the reefs that have been turned into islands - Mischief, Subi and Gaven - were formerly submerged at high tide and wouldn't generate a 12-nautical-mile exclusion zone under international law, according to Rory Medcalf, head of the National Security College at the Australian National University in Canberra.

He said one of those reefs may be where the U.S. would challenge China's claims in a potentially tense confrontation at sea. While the New York Times reported that the U.S. has told Asian allies it plans such a challenge, defense officials say the Pentagon hasn't yet been told by the White House to initiate such a Navy patrol.

While China isn't the only country that has tried to bolster its claims by establishing a presence, the four officials made clear that they were addressing China. China has reclaimed more than 2,900 acres of land as of June, more than all the other claimants combined, according to a Pentagon

report released in July.

"It doesn't matter how big a country is," Kerry said. "The principle is clear: the rights of all nations are supposed to be respected with regard to international law."

Carter and Kerry also discussed Russia's presence in Syria, with Carter announcing plans for Pentagon officials to meet again with their Russian counterparts Wednesday to discuss air safety.

"Russia must act professionally in the skies above Syria," Carter said. He said that he expected an agreement on air safety "in very short order," but emphasized that the U.S. would engage with Russia only on this aspect of its involvement in Syria. Russian officials have made clear their aim is to support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who U.S. officials accuse of butchering his own people and intensifying the conflict by drawing extremists into the fight.

"We can't associate ourselves" with Russia's approach to Syria, Carter said. "It's wrongheaded and strategically short-sighted," he said. **Bloomberg**

Ex-public security official Li Dongsheng on trial for bribery

A former vice minister of public security went on trial in northern China yesterday for alleged bribery, the latest senior figure linked to the country's former security czar to be prosecuted in an anti-corruption campaign.

The crackdown spearheaded by President Xi Jinping has targeted scores of high-level officials at the provincial and national levels, in the military and state-owned enterprises. The highest-ranking person to fall is former state security chief Zhou Yongkang, who was once seen as a potent rival of Xi and was at the center of a vast patronage system from his various positions of power, inclu-



Li Dongsheng

ding as an executive in the state-owned oil industry.

Prosecutors in Tianjin city accused Li Dongsheng of taking advantage of several government posts he held between 1996 and 2013 to seek profits through bidding processes and job transfers, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Despite having no experience in law enforcement, he was elevated to vice public security minister in 2009, sparking rumors he was assisted by Zhou, who was sentenced to life in prison in June for corruption and other crimes.

Li previously had a number of other jobs, including vice director of the office responsible for cracking down on the outlawed

Falun Gong spiritual movement, which has been forced deep underground in China following more than a decade of brutal suppression. He was also deputy head of state broadcaster China Central Television.

Li received directly or via relatives 22 million yuan (USD3.5 million) in assets and bribes between 2007 and 2013, Xinhua said, citing prosecutors. The verdict will be announced at a later date.

Two other associates of Zhou were sentenced to prison for corruption earlier this week. Wang Yongchun, former deputy general manager of China National Petroleum Corp., was given 20 years' imprisonment and the company's former chairman, Jiang Jiemin, 16 years.

Xi has made a priority of tackling corruption that Communist Party leaders say is threatening the party's legitimacy. Critics say the crackdown also has targeted some of Xi's political rivals. AP

HONG KONG

British banker Rurik Jutting's murder trial set for next year

A Hong Kong court yesterday set an October 2016 trial date for a British banker accused in the gruesome murders last year of two Indonesian women, including one whose body was found stuffed inside a suitcase.

At a hearing, a High Court judge scheduled Rurik Jutting's case to go to trial Oct. 25, 2016, Jutting's lawyer Michael Vidler said.

He said the trial is expected to last 20 days, with a pre-trial review set for Aug. 24.

Jutting did not appear at the brief hearing. The 30-year-old Cambridge graduate and former Bank of

America Merrill Lynch employee is accused of killing Sumarti Ningsih and Seneng Mujiasih, both in their 20s.

Jutting was deemed fit to enter a plea following psychiatric assessments last year, but has not yet done so.

He has been in jail since being arrested after the wo-

men's bodies were found in his Hong Kong apartment last November. One of the bodies had knife wounds on the neck and buttock, while the other was found inside a suitcase left on the balcony.

Lengthy waits before trial are not uncommon for major Hong Kong cases expected to last nearly a month as busy lawyers and judges have to find enough time in their schedules. A recent high-profile High Court corruption case involving tycoons and government officials that ended in December also took nearly a year to get to trial. AP

Inflation eases, leaving room for stimulus

Chinese inflation eased in September, giving Beijing more room to stimulate slowing economic growth if needed. Consumer prices rose 1.6 percent over a year earlier, driven by a 2.7 percent rise in food costs, data showed yesterday. That was down of from August's 2 percent increase. The decline leaves room for interest rate cuts or other stimulus to prop up cooling economic growth and prevent politically dangerous job losses with less risk of igniting price rises. Beijing has cut interest rates five times since November. Growth in the quarter ending in June held steady at 7 percent. But that was the lowest level since the 2008 financial crisis and analysts said a stock market boom pushed up activity in financial industries, masking declines in other industries.

Cathay Pacific avoids flying over Iran after missile warning

HONG Kong airline Cathay Pacific said yesterday it has stopped flying over Iran and the Caspian Sea following an air safety agency warning about Russian missiles fired at Syria.

The airline's decision to reroute flights comes after Russia stepped up its military campaign against Islamic State group fighters in Syria. It started firing cruise missiles from its military warships in the Caspian Sea on Sept. 30.

"In view of the situation in the region, Cathay Pacific suspended all flights over Iran and Caspian Sea since last Thursday until further notice," the airline said in a statement. "We continue to monitor and review the situation on a daily basis."

The European Aviation Safety Agency issued a safety bulletin to airlines last week about cruise missiles targeted at Syrian rebels fired by Russian warships in the Caspian Sea. It said the missiles must cross Iran and Iraq below flight routes used by commercial aircraft.

Cathay added that it has had a long-term



policy of not overflying Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Syria.

The agency said it was not making specific recommendations with its bulletin, which was issued to inform airspace users about the potential hazard. Air France said earlier this week it was taking special measures regarding overflying Iran and the Caspian Sea following the agency's warning.

Airlines are more cautious about flying

over conflict zones since the downing of a Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 last year amid a conflict between Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian government forces. Two-thirds of the 298 people who died were Dutch and a Dutch Safety Board report released this week said the jet was destroyed by a Buk surface-to-air missile fired from an area controlled by Russia-backed separatist rebels. AP

Carnival to add 2 more cruise brands in mainland

Carnival is bringing two more of its cruise brands to China to keep up with growing demand from Chinese travelers. The Miami-based cruise company said Tuesday that its Carnival and Aida-branded cruise ships will start sailing in China in 2017. The company's other brands, Costa and Princess, are already sailing in China. Carnival first entered the Chinese market with Costa ships in 2006. Hotels, airlines and other U.S. travel and companies have been expanding in China to cater to the growing number of Chinese travelers.



In this Thursday Sept. 24 file photo, Nepalese policemen face protestors belonging to ethnic and religious groups dissatisfied with Nepal's new constitution

Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

NEPAL

Unrest a new blow to quake ravaged tourism industry

JUST when Nepal was recovering from the devastating earthquake that killed thousands, flattened hundreds of thousands of houses and chased away foreign tourists, protests by ethnic groups and severe fuel shortages are again keeping visitors away from the nation known for the highest peaks in the world.

The comeback that the damaged tourism industry had hoped would begin in October, normally the high season for visitors, has failed to materialize, in part because of protests and other troubles that began in August.

"We have already had at least 40 percent cancellations from tourists who had planned to visit Nepal in autumn season, and that number is expected to be much, much more," said Hari Man Lama of Kathmandu-based Incentive Tours, who added that it would take at least a year for the industry to recover.

This time of year at the tourist hub of Thamel in Kathmandu, people usually walk shoulder to shoulder along the narrow alley lined with stores for trekking gear, souvenirs, cafes and restaurants. Yet today, there is only a thin presence of visitors.

Those who have made it to Nepal are having difficulty getting around because of the fuel shortages.

Canadian tourist Darren Flach, from Calgary, had plans to trek the Mount Annapurna circuit, a picturesque trail surrounding the world's 10th-highest mountain. But now he is thinking of shortening his vacation.

"I did not imagine it was going to be so tough. I am planning to return, the sooner the bet-

ter," Flach said, adding that he was just going to cycle around Kathmandu because taxis were asking too much money.

"I have come before to Nepal during this season, and I can tell you there is lot less people this year," he said.

Protests by ethnic groups and severe fuel shortages are again keeping visitors away

The poor Himalayan country is expected to receive far fewer than the 790,000 tourists it saw last year. Tourist money is one of the main sources of foreign currency for Nepal, and which is necessary to import everything from oil and cars to clothes.

The April earthquake that killed 8,900 people — including 19 Mount Everest climbers — and destroyed buildings across much of Nepal was the worst but not the only disaster to hit the country and its tourist industry.

Sixteen Nepalese guides were killed in avalanche in April 2014, and that October, a freak storm swept through a popu-

lar trekking route and killed 42 people, including foreign hikers.

While the country has much rebuilding ahead, its latest problems are political.

Since August, Madhesi ethnic groups in southern Nepal have been blocking highways to protest the country's newly adopted constitution. They have blocked a border crossing with India that is normally the entry point for most of Nepal's fuel and other supplies.

India, which has close ties to the Madhesis, denies Nepal's accusation that it has imposed a blockade.

The fuel shortage has left long lines at service stations and created a black market for gasoline. Much of the country's bus service has been canceled, and those buses still operating are so packed some passengers must travel on the rooftops.

To ease the crisis, the government this week announced a one-time sale of 15 liters per vehicle. But Tuesday marked the beginning of the two-week Dasain festival, a time when Nepalis travel to their home villages to be with family. At the main bus station in Kathmandu, hundreds of people lined up hoping to get tickets on the few buses that were leaving.

Taxi fares, meanwhile, have increased manifold. Norwegian couple Tom Omdal and Elise Skogheim paid \$30 for what

would normally be a \$6 trip from the Kathmandu airport to their hotel.

"The situation is more serious than what I had expected. It is insane. I did not think it was so bad," said Skogheim, 26, from Oslo.

It's not just transport that has been affected. Many restaurants in Thamel have closed because they ran out of cooking gas.

"We did not even get eggs with our breakfast," Omdal said, sipping his coffee and eating a ham and cheese sandwich at the popular New Orleans Restaurant in Thamel.

The restaurant, one of Kathmandu's best-known, was serving only a small number of items, none of which required much cooking. And while the place would ordinarily be packed with customers, on this morning the crowd was as sparse as the menu.

Prajun Giri, who runs a trekking gear shop selling thick jackets, boots, lights and rucksacks, said his business is no better.

"Because of the political troubles, blockade and shortages, the number of tourists have really gone down this year. And those who have come here are not going trekking, so not many people are buying from our shop," he said.

Nepal's newly installed government says it is determined to resolve the problem. It's been

negotiating with the Madhesi and other ethnic minorities whose demands include more autonomy and a redrawing of state boundaries.

"The first priority of the new government is to resolve the protests and then fully restore the fuel supply," said Foreign Minister Kamal Thapa.

Meanwhile in northern Nepal, a border point with China that was damaged by April's devastating earthquake reopened Tuesday.

India and China are major trading partners of Nepal, which is sandwiched between the giant Asian rivals, but all traffic with China ceased when the two main trading points between the countries were badly damaged in the earthquake that killed thousands and left hundreds of thousands without homes.

On Tuesday, authorities reopened the high-altitude Jilung crossing linking Nepal with southwestern Tibet, which is generally used for bringing Chinese clothing, furniture, electronic goods and household items into Nepal, the point's management committee head, Sun Lijun, told China's official Xinhua News Agency.

But while officials were ready to process vehicles across the border, no trucks showed up on Tuesday, according to Nepalese customs official Durga Subedi. **AP**

Jim Gomez, Manila

PHILIPPINES

Video shows foreigners, Filipino kidnapped

SUSPECTED Muslim militants have posted a video purportedly showing for the first time two Canadians, a Norwegian and a Filipino who were abducted from a southern Philippine resort last month and demanded that government forces stop their artillery attacks.

Army Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado said yesterday that the military would reject any demands from the militants. Two government counterterrorism experts who examined the video separately concluded that hostages shown in it were the three foreign men and a Filipino woman seized from a marina on the island of Samal. They said the military and police were assessing details in the video to try to identify the kidnapers and determine their location.

The video was circulated online and by the U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites. It shows the hostages sitting in a grassy clearing with a dozen mostly masked gunmen standing behind them. Two black flags hang in the backdrop of lush foliage.

The three foreign hostages, speaking at gunpoint, urged the Canadian and Philippine governments to stop the military assault,



This frame grab from militant video purportedly shows armed militants surrounding two Canadians, a Norwegian and a Filipino woman abducted last month

ts, particularly artillery fire, which one captive said had hit close to them. One of the hostages, who identified himself as John Ridsdel, spoke as a long-haired militant held his head and aimed a machete on him.

"We beseech the Canadian government to please, please help us and the Philippine government ... by stopping all of the operations that have been going

on, like artillery fire which came near us," Ridsdel said.

One of the masked gunmen read a statement saying they would negotiate with the Canadian and Philippine governments and would issue their demands once the military assaults stopped. The gunmen then erupted in yells of Allahu akbar, or God is great.

Arrojado, who has been leading

months of offensives against Abu Sayyaf militants in Sulu, a predominantly Muslim province about 950 kilometers south of Manila, said the assaults would not stop.

"Our mandate is to go after the enemies of the state," Arrojado said by phone.

The kidnapers did not identify themselves, but Philippine authorities suspect Abu Sayyaf militants are behind the abductions because they have a history of kidnappings and such video postings. They usually seek large ransoms from governments and relatives of their hostages.

The two government experts said intelligence received by the military and police indicated the involvement of an Abu Sayyaf commander, Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan, in the Samal kidnappings. Sawadjaan, who is based in the mountains of Sulu's Patikul town, was also implicated in the kidnappings of two German tourists last year. Sawadjaan's group posted a video of the

Germans, who were later freed, reportedly in exchange for a large ransom.

The two experts, one from the army and the other with an anti-terror agency, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Ridsdel and fellow Canadian Robert Hall; a Norwegian man, Kjartan Sekkingstad; and Filipino Tess Flor were abducted last month by gunmen from a yacht-berthing resort on Samal Island in southern Davao del Norte province.

The video was the first indication that they were still alive. "The positive thing that we derived from this video is that the kidnap victims are in good health," military spokesman Col. Restituto Padilla told reporters.

Following the Sept. 21 kidnappings, Philippine authorities vowed to strengthen security in the south. But three weeks later, gunmen abducted a former Italian Catholic missionary from his pizza restaurant in southern Zamboanga Sibugay province.

The abductions highlight the long-running security problems that have hounded the southern Philippines, a region with bountiful resources, but which also suffers from poverty, lawlessness and decades-long Muslim and communist insurgencies. **AP**

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Las Vegas

US PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Clinton, Sanders clash in first Democratic debate

FRONT-RUNNER Hillary Rodham Clinton and her main rival Sen. Bernie Sanders clashed over U.S. involvement in the Middle East, gun control and economic policy in the first Democratic presidential debate, outlining competing visions for a party seeking to keep the White House for a third straight term.

Yet in a moment of political unity — and levity — Sanders leapt to Clinton's defense in early yesterday's (Macau time) debate on the issue of her controversial email practices as secretary of state.

"The American people are sick and tired are hearing about your damn emails," Sanders exclaimed as the crowd in Las Vegas roared with applause. A smiling Clinton reached over to shake his hand and said, "Thank you, Bernie."

While the five candidates onstage took issue with each other, they also repeatedly sounded traditional Democratic themes — such as fighting income inequality — that are sure to carry over to the general election campaign against the Republicans. They also sought to cast the Republicans as a party focused on sowing division and denigrating minorities and women.

The debate was unlikely to shake up a race in which Clinton leads Sanders by double digits in national polls and remains the overwhelming favorite to win the Democratic nomination due to her financial and organizational advantages. But the Vermont senator has surprisingly emerged as her toughest competition, particularly in the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire which



Sen. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont, left, speaks as Hillary Rodham Clinton looks on during the CNN Democratic presidential debate

kick off the primary process. Throughout most of the two-hour debate Clinton played the role of aggressor, an unexpected shift for a candidate who

had barely mentioned her Democratic rivals since launching her campaign six months ago.

After Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, derided "a casino capitalist process by which so few have so much," Clinton said it would be a "big mistake" for the U.S. to turn its back on the system that built the American middle class. Asked whether she thought Sanders, who has a mixed record on gun control legislation, had been tough enough on the issue, she said simply, "No, I do not."

While Sanders is drawing big crowds on the campaign trail, he's largely unknown to many

Americans. Yesterday's debate offered him a high-profile opportunity to cast himself as an electable alternative to Clinton and appeal for support beyond his liberal base.

Sanders has sought in particular to distinguish himself from Clinton over foreign policy, an issue where she is often more hawkish than others in the Democratic Party. The former secretary of state reiterated her call for more robust U.S. action to stop the Syrian civil war and defended her judgment on international issues, despite having voted for the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Sanders called the Iraq war

"the worst foreign policy blunder in the history of our country" and said he would not support sending American combat troops back to the Middle East to fight terrorism.

"Nobody does, Senator Sanders," Clinton interjected.

The only woman on stage, Clinton also highlighted the prospect of becoming the nation's first female president multiple times. When asked how her administration would differ from President Barack Obama's, she said with a smile, "Being the first woman president would be quite a change."

Clinton's confident performance was likely to ease anxiety among supporters who have questioned her campaign's handling of the email controversy. One question still to be answered: how her showing will affect Vice President Joe Biden's decision about making a late entry into the Democratic race. Biden, who is expected to announce his decision within days, watched the debate at his residence in Washington.

Joining Clinton and Sanders on stage in Las Vegas was a trio of low-polling candidates looking for a breakthrough moment: former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley; Jim Webb, a former Navy secretary and U.S. senator from Virginia, and former senator and governor Lincoln Chafee, the Republican-turned independent-turned Democrat from Rhode Island. **AP**

The American people are sick and tired are hearing about your damn emails

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS

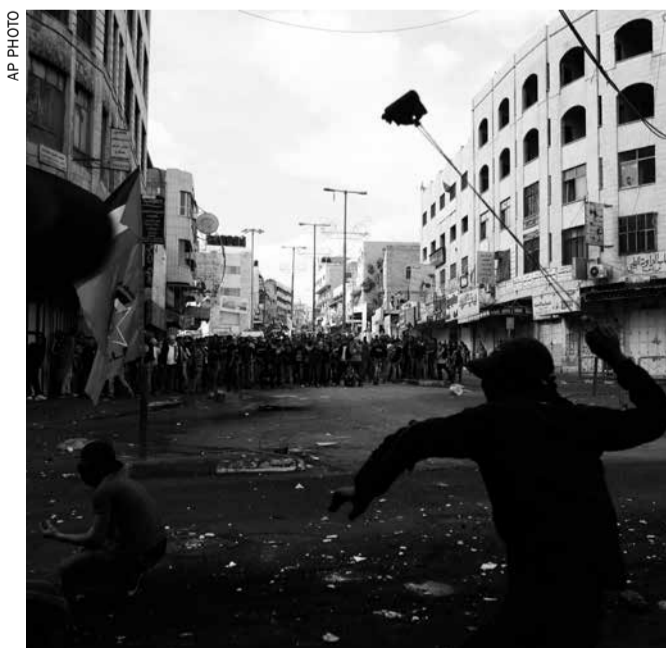
ISRAEL

Military begins deploying in cities to stop attacks

Aron Heller, Jerusalem

THE Israeli military began deploying hundreds of troops in Israeli cities yesterday to assist police forces in countering a wave of deadly Palestinian shooting and stabbing attacks that have created panic across the country.

The military's deployment of six companies marks the first implementation of measures by Israel's security cabinet to counter the attacks that have intensified dramatically in recent days. The cabinet met late into the night and announced steps early



A Palestinian tries to dodge rubber-coated bullets during clashes with Israeli troops near Ramallah, West Bank

yesterday that included allowing police to seal off points of friction or incitement. Many of the recent attackers have come from Arab areas of Jerusalem, prompting calls to seal off those neighborhoods to contain potential attackers.

The cabinet also decided to strip residency rights and demolish homes of some attackers and draft hundreds more security guards to secure public transport.

Israeli police said 300 soldiers had already been incorporated into their deployment on the streets.

Also yesterday, Israel's internal security minis-

ter said the bodies of dead Palestinian attackers should not be returned to their families for burial.

Gilad Erdan said the funeral processions of Palestinians who killed Israelis often turn into "an exhibition of support for terror and incitement to murder." He said Israel should not allow them to "enjoy respect and ceremonies" after their deaths.

The funerals are a frequent flashpoint for clashes and often include calls for revenge. Erdan suggested the attackers be buried without fanfare in distant ceme-

teries where previous Palestinian killers have been buried.

The comments come after a particularly bloody day in which a pair of Palestinian stabbing and shooting attacks in Jerusalem killed three Israelis and another two attacks took place in the normally quiet Israeli city of Raanana. Three Palestinians, including two attackers, were also killed.

The government has thus far been unable to stop the violence, carried out mostly by young Palestinians unaffiliated with known militant groups and apparently acting on their own. **AP**

what's ON



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

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

PATH AND ADVENTURE – WORKS BY MIO PANG FEI
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: November 22, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG
ART HOUSE
TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)
VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House,
Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS
– EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS
OF TAIPA AND COLOANE
TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Museum of Taipa and Coloane History
ADMISSION: MOP5 (Adult); MOP2 (Student or Group);
Free (Under 12 or above 65)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

FASHION POP-UP SHOP
TIME: 10am-8pm
(closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: January 3, 2016
VENUE: No. 47, Rua de S. Roque, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

Offbeat

AIR FRANCE DECLARES EMERGENCY AS FLIGHT RETURNS TO CDG FOR MISSING PASSENGER

An Air France flight departing for Johannesburg returned to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport due to a "missing passenger" whose checked baggage was on board, Air France confirmed to Xinhua yesterday.

Air France flight 990, which left Charles de Gaulle Airport at around 10 a.m. local time (0800 GMT) this morning, turned around shortly after takeoff when it was over southern France and returned to Paris, declaring an "emergency". The plane landed at Charles de Gaulle around 11:30 a.m. local time for verifications.

According to Air France's Twitter account, AF 990 headed "back to CDG for checks linked to matching the passengers list and a loaded bag, in line with the precautionary principle".

"The verifications are ongoing and there is no problem for now," said Air France's media relations department, adding that the plane would re-depart.

"There is a passenger connecting from London who missed his correspondence while his luggage was already checked in from London," Air France explained. Xinhua

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:50	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:10	Montra do Lilau (Repeat)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Television Film
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

15 Oct - 21 Oct



OUR TIMES

ROOM 1
2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm
Director: Ding Sheng
Starring: Andy Lau, Liu Ye, Wu Ruofu, Wang Qianyuan
Language: Chinese (English and Cantonese)
Duration: 134min

THE WALK

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
Director: Robert Zemeckis
Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ben Kingsley, Charlotte Le Bon
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 123min

THE INTERN

ROOM 2
7.15 pm
Director: Nancy Meyers
Starring: Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 121min



CRIMSON PEAK

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Guillermo Toro
Starring: Mia Wasikowska, Jessica Chastain, Tom Hiddleston
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 119min

MACAU TOWER

15 Oct - 04 Nov

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



1969 MILLIONS MARCH IN US VIETNAM MORATORIUM

Americans have taken part in peace initiatives across the United States to protest against the continuing war in Vietnam.

The Peace Moratorium is believed to have been the largest demonstration in US history with an estimated two million people involved.

In towns and cities throughout the US, students, working men and women, school children, the young and the old, took part in religious services, school seminars, street rallies and meetings.

Supporters of the Vietnam Moratorium wore black armbands to signify their dissent and paid tribute to American personnel killed in the war since 1961. The focal point was the capital, Washington DC, where more than 40 different activities were planned and about 250,000 demonstrators gathered to make their voices heard.

Some peace demonstrators gathered on the Capitol steps last night singing songs and holding a candlelit vigil until rallies began in the morning. Addressing a rally in Washington, Dr Benjamin Spock, the child care expert, said the war was a "total abomination" that was crippling America and must be stopped.

Outside the White House, there were scuffles and several arrests made when police clamped down on black activists. In Portland, Oregon, 400 protesters clashed with police after an attempt to prevent conscripts entering an army induction center.

Administration supporters have been critical of the moratorium. General Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff called protesters "interminably vocal youngsters, strangers alike to soap and reason".

In a letter to President Richard Nixon, 15 Republican Congressmen have called for an intensification of the campaign. Supporters of the war made their views known, too.

In New York, where the mayor, John Lindsay, had ordered the US flag to be flown at half-mast for the day, police officers and fire fighters drove with their headlights on in protest at the moratorium day as did many ordinary American citizens.

Some officials wore badges that read: "USA - Unity and Service for America". But Senator Edward Kennedy, a vocal anti-war campaigner, called for combat troops to be withdrawn from Vietnam by October next year and all forces by the end of 1972.

Speaking in Boston, Senator Kennedy was careful not to accuse the president of perpetuating the war. "I do not believe that President Nixon is committed to continuing the war in Vietnam, but I do believe this nation is in danger of committing itself to goals and personalities that guarantee the war's continuance."

President Nixon continued to work from the White House without comment, as thousands marched around him.

Peace activists congregated outside US embassies across Europe. In London a crowd of some 300 people demonstrated opposite the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

American combat troops had been fighting the Communist Viet Cong in Vietnam since 1965. Some 45,000 Americans had already been killed by the end of 1969. Almost half a million US men and women were deployed in the conflict, and opposition to the war was growing.

The Moratorium for the first time brought out America's middle class and middle-aged voters, in large numbers. Other demonstrations followed in its wake.

Nixon had already established a gradual programme of withdrawal of US forces, but the war continued, supported by his "silent majority" of voters.

After an established ceasefire in 1973, US deployment in Vietnam ended. Saigon eventually capitulated to the Communist forces on 30 April 1975.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Try not to keep a lid on your emotions today — you need to make sure that you're expressing yourself clearly, even when that causes problems.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You may need to push yourself a little in order to take advantage of today's romantic energy. Take a risk! Tell your sweetie how you really feel, or ask out that super-hottie from down the hall.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to write down all your tasks today — don't rely on memory! You should find a great deal of satisfaction from whatever you do accomplish, but more is better. Dig deep!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try not to just spin your wheels today — it's all about new beginnings for you and your amazing personal energy! Leap forward in an exciting direction and lead the way to success.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your intuitive side is making itself known — so listen up! You may get clues from all sorts of unexpected sources, and your hunches are more likely to pay off than usual, so act on them.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Try to keep your door open and let others wander in and out of your life today — you need the company! Even if you're in a great mood (and that's likely), you need to surround yourself with good people.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Try to deal with today's big problem flexibly — if you can't handle it, you need to call in reinforcements. Things can get a lot better, but only if you find a way to adapt to circumstances.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You need to mix things up a bit today — try a different kind of restaurant or go in search of an activity you've never tried before. Your great personal energy is ready for a new challenge!

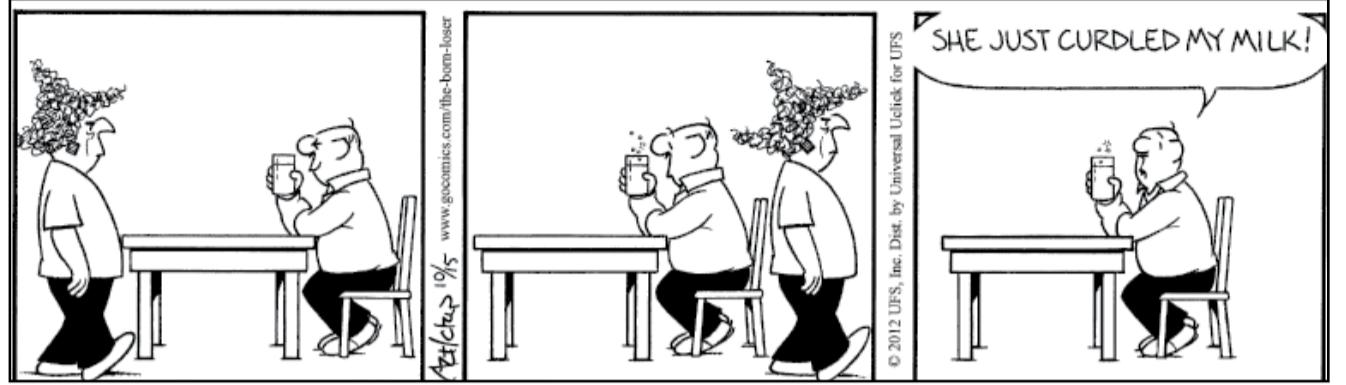
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Spend time patching up a relationship in dire need of repair. Your energy isn't all that great for work or school, but it's terrific when it comes to friends or family. Things can get so much better!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You are feeling that grass-is-greener phenomenon happening again, so see if you can either find a new niche for yourself or find a way to take comfort in what you've got. Things can get better!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to get a move on — so make sure that you're active today! Things are sure to get better as long as you can keep from sticking to one place all day long. It's not easy, but it's worth it.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to spend more time asleep — or at least daydreaming — while this great spiritual energy flows through you. Expect clear messages from the subconscious and beyond throughout the day.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

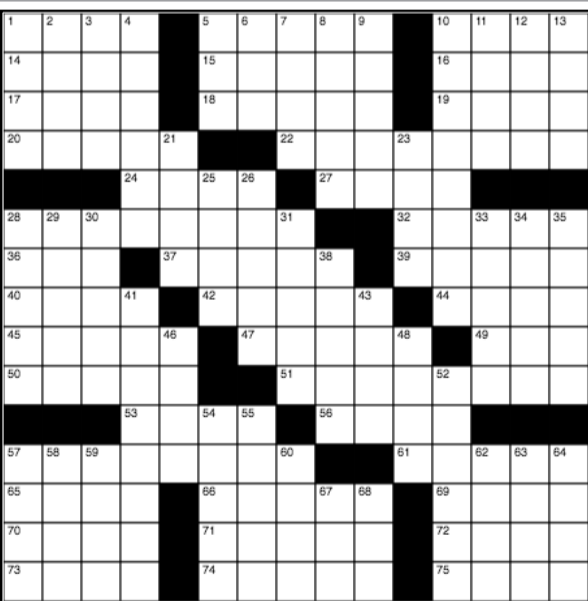
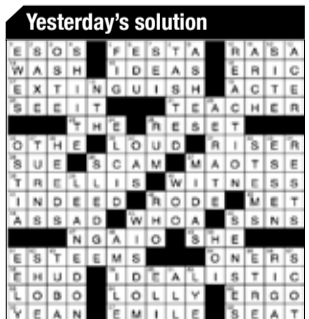
WORLD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Wild guess; 5- Lugged; 10- Lama Ding Dong; 14- Greek peak; 15- Get hitched quick; 16- Crikey!; 17- Frozen rain; 18- Prevent; 19- The Ponte Vecchio crosses it; 20- Toothbrush brand; 22- Young plant; 24- Sleep like ...; 27- Parody; 28- Group of seven; 32- Thin fogs; 36- Cabinet dept.; 37- Biblical spy; 39- Host; 40- Ladies of Sp.; 42- Dig find; 44- Part of QED; 45- Inventor Nikola; 47- Ready to hit; 49- NATO member; 50- Old anesthetic; 51- Language letters; 53- Mozart's "... kleine Nachtmusik"; 56- First name in architecture; 57- Offhand; 61- Russian range; 65- "Unforgettable" singer; 66- Yoga posture; 69- Chinese weight; 70- Get an ... effort; 71- The ... Mutiny; 72- Met highlight; 73- Numbered rds.; 74- Funeral fires; 75- Tailor's line;

DOWN: 1- London district; 2- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 3- China setting; 4- Simple song; 5- A Kennedy; 6- Flamenco cry; 7- Small children; 8- Sporting blades; 9- Jeter of the Yankees; 10- Actual elapsed period; 11- Farming prefix; 12- Jazz flutist Herbie; 13- Sick as ...; 21- Coalition; 23- Thin change; 25- Actor Epps; 26- Hood-shaped anatomical part; 28- Speed; 29- Heron; 30- Tactless; 31- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 33- Rub vigorously; 34- Mock, annoy; 35- Went after; 38- Christian writings; 41- Railway ties; 43- Matador's flourish medium?; 46- Parched; 48- Drive-...; 52- Main arteries; 54- Civil rights org.; 55- Composition; 57- Operation memento; 58- Attic; 59- ... vera; 60- "Aquarius" musical; 62- Bern's river; 63- "Star Wars" princess; 64- Shut with force; 67- U-turn from SSW; 68- Loser to DDE;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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NBA

Hornets rout Clippers 113-71 in 2nd preseason game in China



NBA Charlotte Hornets' Jeremy Lin (7) tries to shoot over J.J. Redick of the Los Angeles Clippers during the NBA Global Games at the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Shanghai

Justin Bergman, Shanghai

AL Jefferson scored 17 points and Nicolas Batum added 14 with 10 rebounds to lead the Charlotte Hornets over the Los Angeles Clippers 113-71 yesterday in the second preseason NBA game between the teams in China.

The Hornets went on a 36-8 run after halftime and took a

36-point lead with 8:26 remaining. Charlotte also won the first game between the teams in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on Sunday and improved to 4-0 in the preseason. The Clippers fell to 1-3.

Clippers point guard Chris Paul played with two fingers taped together on his non-shooting left hand after frac-

turing his index finger during a scrimmage on Saturday.

Paul still led the Clippers with 17 points, while Blake Griffin added 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Jeremy Lin added 13 points for the Hornets, who shot nearly 45 percent from the field and went 14-of-25 from 3-point range.

Lin, whose parents are from

Taiwan and grandparents were born and raised in mainland China, got a huge ovation from the crowd when the starting lineups were announced and an even bigger cheer when he addressed the crowd in Mandarin before tip-off.

For the first quarter, the Shanghai crowd also got a taste of Linsanity.

Playing with his hair spiked

in a Mo-hawk, Lin scored the first basket of the game — a 3-pointer — about one minute into the game. He then hit a fadeaway jumper, landing on his back on the court, followed by a layup and another 3-pointer in the next three minutes, accounting for all of the Hornets' first 10 points.

"I was in the zone after the first 3-pointer went in, I felt all the shots would go in," Lin said. "It was such a fun trip. I got to show my teammates China, my culture. And we're excited to go home and get some rest."

Charlotte also won the first game between the teams in Shenzhen

Los Angeles coach Doc Rivers said his team looked frustrated from the first quarter when they began missing easy shots and it only worsened after halftime. The Clippers went a miserable 4-for-23 from 3-point range in the game and finished with 22 turnovers.

Paul Pierce missed all five of his shots — including three 3-pointers — in 15 minutes and starting center DeAndre Jordan finished with just three points and four rebounds in 25 minutes.

Still, as poorly as his team played, Rivers said the China trip was positive from a bonding standpoint.

"Our guys have been going out to different restaurants together and just enjoying each other," he said. "The one thing about going abroad for all teams, Charlotte as well, is I think it allows you to team-build sooner than if you were at home. So mission accomplished." **AP**

David Porter

SUPPORTERS of legalized sports betting in New Jersey won a victory yesterday when an appeals court voted to reconsider an earlier ruling against the state.

That means an August ruling that struck down a law allowing sports betting at casinos and racetracks is vacated, and the full 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia will hear the case.

It's the latest development in a more than three-year court battle that began when the four major pro sports leagues and the National Col-

Appeals court to reconsider New Jersey sports betting case

legiate Athletic Association sued New Jersey as the state prepared to start offering legal sports gambling.

Currently, only Nevada offers betting on individual games, and Delaware offers multigame parlay betting in which players must pick several games correctly to win. Hundreds of billions of dollars are bet illegally on sports annually.

Several court rulings in the New Jersey case have sided with the leagues and NCAA in holding that New Jersey's law repealing prohibitions against sports gambling amounts to state authorization, which conflicts with a 1992 federal law.

The state argued that two 2-1 rulings by the 3rd Circuit, one in 2013 and the other in August, offer opposing interpre-

tations, making the issue unresolved.

In its petition for a rehearing, attorneys for the state noted that 3rd Circuit Judge Julio Fuentes wrote in his dissent from the August ruling that the two decisions are "precisely the opposite." The first held that New Jersey could repeal laws against sports betting without violating federal law, which

the second held that doing so would violate it.

In an earlier iteration of the case, the 3rd Circuit declined New Jersey's request in 2013 for the full circuit to rehear the case, called an en banc hearing.

The leagues and NCAA, in addition to arguing that federal law prohibits New Jersey's actions, have said that expanding legal sports gambling

will compromise the integrity of their games and lead to more incidences of game-fixing.

Sports betting supporters have called the leagues' stance hypocritical, saying the leagues condone and profit from sports fantasy leagues in which participants assemble rosters of players from different teams and compete against others.

This week, U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez and Rep. Frank Pallone urged the government to investigate the fantasy leagues after allegations of insider trading at some of the companies. **AP**

Tariq Panja

Man. City's USD61m purchase of Mangala faces FIFA probe

THE record 54 million euro (USD61 million) transfer of defender Eliaquim Mangala to Premier League leader Manchester City from Porto may have explicitly violated a longstanding rule of global football.

FIFA, the governing body of global football, is investigating the 2014 trade to see if outside investor Doyen Sports played an improper role in negotiating the trade.

Doyen, which raised 50 million euros as part of its first investment fund, is the biggest investor in the \$4 billion transfer market for football: It buys a share of the future trade value of a player, betting that whatever he might go for in the future will more than cover the initial investment.

Documents reviewed by Bloomberg included a letter between executives from Porto and Doyen in which the football club ceded power to the fund to negotiate the sale of its stake in Mangala. That agreement appears to fly in the face of FIFA's rules at the time, which prohibited third parties from influencing teams' transfer negotiations.

A FIFA spokesperson confirmed that the Zurich-based organization is "looking into the matter." Doyen Chief Executive Officer



Eliaquim Mangala (center)

Nelio Lucas declined to comment. In the past, he's said the fund, which has invested millions of dollars in dozens of players across the globe, has acted within the rules. Porto didn't respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

Manchester City spokeswoman Vicky Kloss didn't respond to an e-mail seeking comment. FIFA is not investigating the club's involvement in the trade, only Porto's engagement with Doyen.

If FIFA's disciplinary committee decides that Porto broke the rules,

the club could be fined or blocked from buying players.

Mangala struggled in his first season at City, playing 25 times in the league, collecting seven yellow cards and being sent off once. City, owned by Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed al Nahyan, the billionaire deputy president of the United Arab Emirates, struggled as Chelsea won the English title. He's fared better this year - playing in seven of City's eight league matches - amid increased competition for defensive places at the Premier

■ If FIFA's disciplinary committee decides that Porto broke the rules, the club could be fined or blocked from buying players

League leader following the signing of Nicolas Otamendi.

In a press release announcing Mangala's transfer, Porto said it received 30.5 million euros for its 57 percent ownership of Mangala's contract. Lucas said at the time Doyen got a similar valuation for its 33 percent stake, bringing the total fee to about 54 million euros, the highest amount ever paid for a defender in the Premier League. The remaining

10 percent stake in Mangala was owned by a London-based company called Robi Plus. Doyen paid Porto 2.6 million euros when it acquired its percentage of Mangala's transfer rights in 2011.

The timing of FIFA's investigation comes at a sensitive moment for Doyen, which is waiting for a ruling from the Court of Arbitration for Sport over another high profile transfer. Sporting Lisbon refused to pay the fund its portion of the 20 million-euro sale of defender Marcos Rojo to Manchester United, arguing it pressured the club to move the player despite it wanting to keep him.

Doyen has also challenged FIFA's more recent ban on third-party investing in players' contracts, and the outcome of the Rojo case and this new investigation may influence that court's proceedings. The practice started in South America and is spreading to parts of Europe, with clubs using investors' cash to acquire players they say they couldn't otherwise afford. **Bloomberg**

AD



WORLD PRESS PHOTO

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Seminar **Creative Industries**
a strategic platform enhancing economic relations between China, European Union and Portuguese-speaking countries

Prof. Augusto Mateus
President of Augusto Mateus & Associados
Professor of Economics in ISEG, Lisbon

Date
17th October 2015 (Saturday)

Hour
3:00 pm

Venue
Macau University of Science and Technology, N211 (Library - Block N, 2nd Floor)

Address
Av. Wai Long, Taipa, Macau

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opinion

HK Observer
 Robert Carroll



STALEMATE

The politicization of the appointment of a new University of Hong Kong chancellor has been unfortunate. More unfortunate has been the rejection of a previously highly vetted and approved candidate on spurious grounds. It is very hard to see the situation as being other than the result of heavy pressure by outside forces. Since there was no controversy over or strong opposition to the anointed candidate until local pro-Beijing newspapers took aim at Johannes Chan Man-mun's candidacy - and not just a salvo or two but a heavy barrage - how can we come to anything but the conclusion that it was Beijing's hands at work. However we can understand why they would do so.

If that was the case surely it means that academic freedom is at stake, or most likely that political affiliation will now affect other academic appointments at senior level if that has not already been happening in other universities here. The real reason council members vetoed the former law dean for the vice-chancellorship is widely seen by the public and within academia as stemming from Chan's pro-democracy sympathies. He's a defender of human rights too, but worst of all, he has a good relationship with former law faculty colleague, Benny Tai Yiu-ting, an organizer of the Occupy Central movement. This led to pro-China forces' behind the scenes lobbying. Reportedly the university's councillors were summoned individually by Beijing's intermediaries and it is concluded enough of them bowed to pressure to halt Chan's candidacy.

If the appointment had gone ahead as planned there would have been no blowing up of the issues and antagonizing numerous students and alumni. If, as his accusers claimed, he was incapable of doing the job surely he would not have lasted long in the position. If the accusers are right doesn't it mean that whole appointment process is flawed; and all those involved are incompetent. What a can of worms! Now, not only has the authority of the institution's academic recruiting and vetting process been undermined but there is now a climate of outrage and fear at HKU.

So why does it matter so much to Beijing that someone linked to Benny Tai get the job? From Chinese government's viewpoint, mass organized opposition to the National People's Congress's plan for the election of the Chief Executive by universal suffrage, is a direct challenge to their authority. The NPC is the legislature of the country and the Standing Committee the senior body of that institution. Therefore in their eyes publicly challenging that decision in such a manner is tantamount to challenging the very legitimacy of the government too. That the demonstration and occupation was illegal is without doubt and adds to the anger in the corridors of power in China.

Any demonstration in Hong Kong must get prior approval, and most do, but given the long advance notice given by Occupy Central's organizers, the opposition too was long and heated. In that climate Occupy saw little chance of getting approval for their campaign and certainly it would not have been given permission for such a long duration as occurred. Moreover there's the issue of civil disobedience. They felt that the law should not be respected when greater issues were at stake than demonstrating without permission - a relatively minor offence - a more democratic means to choose future leader of the SAR.

On the other hand it is clear that China does not trust Hong Kong's citizens to choose their own leader, unless he or she is one among two or three they pre-approve.

Stalemate.

THE BUZZ CHEEVER CHRONICLES DRINKING IN AMERICA IN NEW BOOK

Drinking, and not drinking, is as old as America itself, from the beer-loving pilgrims on the Mayflower and Paul Revere's boozy horse ride to Prohibition and the rise of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Some nations drink more and some less, but nowhere do those two things collide and replay on a loop through history quite like they have in the United States, said Susan Cheever, who's written "Drinking in America: Our

Secret History."

Cheever was addicted to alcohol, as was her father, author John Cheever. She's visited the subject of drinking in the past, and she's been in love with history since a college professor inspired her. But this project, published in October by Twelve Books, was "really a eureka moment," she said in a recent interview.

Nobody has really gone deep enough into American history and booze, she said.

New films scrutinize Brazil's World Cup legacy



LAST year's World Cup in Brazil may have been the "cup of cups" for football fans, but for Brazilian taxpayers, who forked out some USD11.5 billion for the month-long tournament, its legacy has proven negative, according to two new films.

"Brazil vs. Brazil" and "The March of the White Elephants" show the dark underbelly of the mega-event, which saw thousands of poor people removed from their homes and billions poured into state-of-the-art stadiums, some of which are now being used as parking lots or wedding venues. The critical documentaries, which screened at the Rio Film Festival that closes Wednesday, come as Brazil enters the final stretch before next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro and amid an unfurling corruption crisis at World Cup organizer FIFA.

"I think it was terrible for Brazilians," said Laura Colucci, a Sao Paulo native who co-produced "White Elephants" along with her South African husband, Neil Brandt.

"They felt betrayed, they felt embarrassed, they felt defeated," said Colucci, adding that the harm wrought by the tournament has gone well beyond Brazil's 7-1 pummeling by Germany in the semi-finals.

In the year leading up to the 2014 tournament, many Brazilians were angered by the spiraling costs of preparations and the chronically woeful state of the country's public schools and hospitals. Thousands took to the streets in the biggest protests in

a generation. Once the ball started rolling, however, most here left politics aside, embracing Brazil's five-time champion national team and the chance to host football's biggest event.

■ Taxpayers, the films show, ended up stuck with the bill for stadiums that cost several times their initial estimates

The documentary directors come from very different backgrounds. "Brazil vs. Brazil" is by celebrated Brazilian director Marcos Prado, who produced the 2007 police drama "Elite Squad," while "White Elephants" is by Australian documentarian Craig Tanner. However, both reach similar conclusions about what hosting the World Cup meant for Brazil.

Both films draw on interviews with similar sources, including anti-World Cup activists, academics, politicians and people who were forced out of their homes to make way for stadiums and other infrastructure.

Taxpayers, the films show, ended up stuck with the bill for stadiums that cost several times their initial estimates. Some were built in cities

such as the remote agricultural capital of Cuiaba, which does not have a first-division football team. In some cities, including Rio, slum dwellers were pushed out of their homes, in principle to make room for parking lots or other facilities.

And with World Cup tickets out of the price range for most in this middle income nation, local spectators were overwhelmingly from the country's elite, exacerbating the divide between rich and poor in this most unequal of societies.

Today, without permanent tenants, those so-called "white elephant" stadiums are now playing host to the occasional wedding or are parking lots.

The only real winner from the 2014 World Cup, the films suggest, was FIFA. The Zurich, Switzerland-based not-for-profit posted revenues of nearly \$5 billion off the Brazil World Cup.

FIFA didn't respond to a request for comment on the films.

Images of top Brazilian officials including President Dilma Rousseff and her predecessor and mentor, Luiz Inacio Luiz da Silva, embracing FIFA head Josep Blatter and other FIFA top brass drew groans from the crowds at the Rio Film Festival.

Both the FIFA officials and the Brazilian leaders have suffered major reversals of fortune since the World Cup. Criminal probes on two continents into allegations of large-scale corruption helped forced last week's suspension of Blatter, who had reigned over FIFA for 17 years.

In Brazil, Rousseff's political future appears uncertain amid a tanking economy and a spiraling investigation into corruption at the state-run oil giant at Petrobras that's ensnared lawmakers from her governing Workers' Party.

"There is nothing in the film that's new - not one scrap of information in there that's not publically available with a Google search," said Brandt, co-producer of "White Elephants." "But when you join all the dots together, that's the eureka moment." **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	75-105 Bad
High Density Residential Area	110-140 Bad
Ambient	105-135 Bad

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

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MALDIVES The president of the Maldives fires his defense minister, a move believed to be linked to an explosion on the leader's speedboat last month that officials suspect was an assassination attempt.

SRI LANKA Relatives and civil rights activists demand that the Sri Lankan government release hundreds of ethnic Tamils detained without charges for years on suspicion of links to the now-defeated Tamil Tiger rebels.



AP PHOTO

IRAN has sent hundreds of troops into northern and central Syria in the first such open deployment in the country's civil war, joining fighters from its Lebanese ally Hezbollah in an offensive against rebels and taking advantage of cover from Russia's air campaign, a regional official and Syrian activists said yesterday.

JAPAN Toyota, under ambitious environmental targets, is aiming to sell hardly any regular gasoline vehicles by 2050, only hybrids and fuel cells, to radically reduce emissions.

SINGAPORE's economy expanded slightly in the third quarter, narrowly avoiding recession after shrinking in the previous three months, preliminary figures show.

NEW ZEALAND's government posts a budget surplus for the first time since 2008, fulfilling a financial target it set itself after borrowing billions of dollars to pay for the fallout from the global financial crisis and a devastating earthquake.