

Extra  
times  
weekend  
INSIDE

Ask Alexa

GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC THIS WEEKEND

P3



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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

**AUSTRALIA** Two men will be charged over the fatal shooting of a police accountant outside a Sydney police building two weeks ago as investigators continue to probe an extremist network with members as young as 12, officials said yesterday.

**GERMANY** Graffiti artists hired to work on the set of Showtime's "Homeland" have duped the popular series, painting Arabic slogans criticizing the show on walls seen in the background. In the episode aired in the U.S. Sunday — set in a Hezbollah-run refugee camp in Lebanon but filmed in Berlin — star Claire Danes can be seen walking by slogans including "Homeland is racist" and "Homeland is a joke and it didn't make us laugh."

AP PHOTO



**UK** Doctors have found that Ebola can linger in some male survivors for up to nine months but aren't sure if that means they might still be infectious, according to new research. In a study of 93 men in Sierra Leone, scientists found the Ebola virus in semen samples from about half of them. The risk seemed to decline over time. Ebola was detected in all nine men tested at two to three months after their illness began but in only 11 of the 43 survivors tested at seven to nine months.

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# Affordable housing shortage draws protests

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## The Parisian Macao's Eiffel Tower tops out

P3



# Affordable housing shortage draws protests

Aries Un

**PUBLIC** demand for affordable housing has intensified, after a long-awaited ballot draw early last week shattered over 40,000 applicants' dreams of owning a house at an affordable price. Civil organizations now seek to marshal citizens' strength and reinstall a defunct regime that guarantees applicants a flat as part of a long-term arrangement.

A demonstration is being plan-

**Let's not turn teenagers into 'housing slaves' who'd end up working hard for nothing.**

PROTESTER



Leong Veng Chai submitted a petition to the government yesterday

ned for this coming Sunday afternoon, organized by the Macau Community Development Initiative (MCDI), which is supported by lawmakers Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong. Prior to the demonstration, an improvised concern group told media in a press conference that they aimed to exert pressure on the authorities to build 40,000 housing units - a quantity responsive to the number of those unsuccessful applicants who entered the draw - before 2019.

Additionally, the protesters want to pressure the government to bring back the former system used to select eligible grantees for the scarce affordable housing units.

According to the current mode, potential grantees were categorized according to three groups, with families consisting of blood-relatives prioritized, followed by families with members not directly related to each other, and then by individuals.

"You would therefore know how

long you have to wait, being hopeful, when there's a queue, whereas the draw mode seems 'less prudent' and 'perfunctory,'" said Jeremy Lei, vice-president of the MCDI, referring to the preceding system that allowed applicants to continue waiting for flats that are under construction. It was just a matter of time.

Those families who fail to secure a flat in the draw must return for another round, but are probably assigned the same classification in a draw that also favors families with aged and junior members. Leong Ka Fai, another young member of the concern group, expressed his disappointment with the current system, through which he believed it would take an "infinite" amount of time for him to be eligible for an affordable home.

"We couldn't rival other families with elderly members and minors," he said, noting that he hails from a family of three. "Chui has promised us a 'sunny government,'" said another

## GAMING GROUP JOINS PROTEST

**POWER OF** the Macao Gaming Association convenor Stephen Lau and lawmaker Leong Veng Chai submitted a petition to the government yesterday morning, urging for a "clear mechanism" for affordable housing applicants. "There should be an exact schedule as to how many economic housing units would come up for eligible citizens," Lau told media. "The authorities have got to deliver a message to citizens as to how long they have to wait, how to be eligible, when and how many [units] are available." Lau believes the city's leader Chui Sai On would address the plight facing many families in his November policy address. "It's almost impossible for Macau youth to own a flat," he added. "It's pretty much the same when it comes to some middle-class citizens."

member in his fifties. "Let's not turn teenagers into 'housing slaves' who'd end up working hard for nothing."

Another two members, Cloee Chao and Ieong Man Teng, also well-known activists in gaming-related issues, said that there were sufficient land reserves available to satisfy housing requirements, according to their own estimates.

On Wednesday, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Rosario, asserted on the sidelines of a ceremony that the authorities have yet to recover even one idle land swathe for development, while also downplaying the upcoming march. "It's everyone's right to demonstrate, and it's also normal to have differing views," he said.

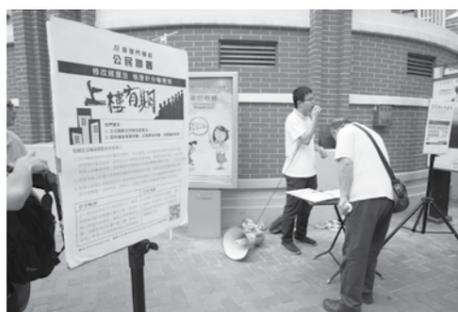
Ieong expressed his belief that the official's remarks might have triggered fresh resentment, further boosting the turnout of the march.

## New Macau collects signatures outside Red Market

**THE** New Macau Association held a signature-collecting campaign right outside the Red Market yesterday. Their efforts, which would continue at least until Sunday, serve to alert all of the 33 lawmakers about the appeal of the previous model for families awaiting economic housing.

"We wish to turn the resentment into drive for changes to the system," said Chiang Meng Hin, the association's head, echoing Leong's viewpoint.

Chiang believes that mounting housing demand would only be addressed if the authorities were to reinstate the old sche-



me, and to devote more idle land to social housing development.

A graphic bearing the faces of the 19

lawmakers who vetoed the former model accompanied the campaign, drawing the attention of passersby and those contributing their signatures. "As everyone seems to have woken up, let's fast backward to the time when those lawmakers failed to defend their interests," he said.

Chiang also noted that last week's result was obviously an indicator of the acute land shortage versus increasing demand. "No matter how you divide the 1,900 units, it wouldn't satisfy the 42,000 families at the end of the day," he said. "Unless the secretary is the Jesus Christ who knows how to do loaves of bread and fish."

**THE** Fire Services Bureau has been called fewer times to fight fires in the first nine months of the year, compared to the equivalent period last year. However, the fire brigade has seen more incidents overall this year than last year.

The 780 blazes recorded from the start of the year until September indicates

## Fire brigade copes with fewer blazes, more emergency calls

an approximate 13-percent drop from the same timeframe last year, with most attributed to negligence in turning off stoves and short circuits.

The data released on Wednesday also shows that the number of rescue works conducted by firemen has gone up by around 8.3 percent from 937

last year to 1,015 this year, while the deployment of ambulances also increased by 6.98 percent.

The authorities intensified their anti-fire patrols

citywide, rising by 5.19 percent to a total of 3564 rounds. They commended residents for being cooperative in reducing incidents, claiming that

anti-fire awareness has risen significantly.

The Fire Services Bureau has also dispatched personnel to visit the oil depot located near Ka-Ho Village and the temporary fuel storage facility in Ilha Verde 380 times since the start of the year, with both facilities recognized as being up to par in terms of safety.

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**T**HE Parisian Macao resort reached one of its most significant milestones yesterday. Marked with the symbolic act of capping the dome and lantern structure, the moment also signaled the beginning of the tenure of the appointed president and chief operating officer for Sands China Ltd, Mr Wilfred Wong.

Mr Wong, who presided over the ceremony held yesterday at the construction site of the new resort, explained, "The Parisian Macao, and in particular its Eiffel Tower, is certain to be a landmark presence on the Cotai Strip, and an iconic addition to the city's skyline."

The new president and chief operating officer for Sands China Ltd took this opportunity to inform the public that he will begin work with the company from November 1. He highlighted in his speech the European style and the uniqueness of the integration between the company's resorts, asking, "Where else but here could you have lunch alongside the serenading gondoliers plying the picturesque canals of Venice, and then have dinner at an authentic French bistro, before enjoying

# The Parisian Macao tops out its iconic tower



Wilfred Wong

breathtaking views from Cotai Strip from the Eiffel Tower?"

Following the announcement of Sands China's aim to recreate some of Europe's most famous

iconic locations and structures in Macau, the ceremony itself reflected a blend of Eastern and Western cultures, incorporating both the typical Southern Chinese Lion Dance and the distinctive French cabaret dance, the Cancan. A fashion show was also held, featuring some of the team members' uniforms for the new resort, which also merged the French and Chinese cultures.

**The Parisian Macao, and in particular its Eiffel Tower, is certain to be a landmark presence on the Cotai Strip.**

WILFRED WONG

Expected to open in the second half of 2016, The Parisian Macao will feature an integrated resort with about 3,000 rooms and suites, as well as conference rooms, restaurants, shops, a spa and health club, a children's club, two observation decks and a pool deck, including Aquaworld – a themed water park aimed at mostly business, leisure and family travelers.

Once it has been completed, The Parisian will increase the visitor capacity of Sands China in the Cotai area to 12,000 rooms and suites and 800 duty-free shops.

As Mr Wong explained, the major points of interest around The Parisian and its iconic half-size replica of the Eiffel Tower do not end with the structure itself, but continue in the events that are expected to take place. Raising the veil, Mr Wong highlighted the daily musical light show that will illuminate the tower, as well as the many upcoming shows and events. **RM**

## REPLICA EIFFEL TOWER FUN FACTS



The height is about **160 meters**, the equivalent to a **38-storey building** (approximately half of the original in Paris)

The completed tower will feature many ornamental touches synonymous with Paris

The structure used **2,800 tons** of steel and **853,000 decorative rivets**

This is the tallest and most realistic replica of the Eiffel Tower existing all over the world

To reach the top by stairs you need to climb **740 steps**

The two observation decks are located on the 7th and 37th floors

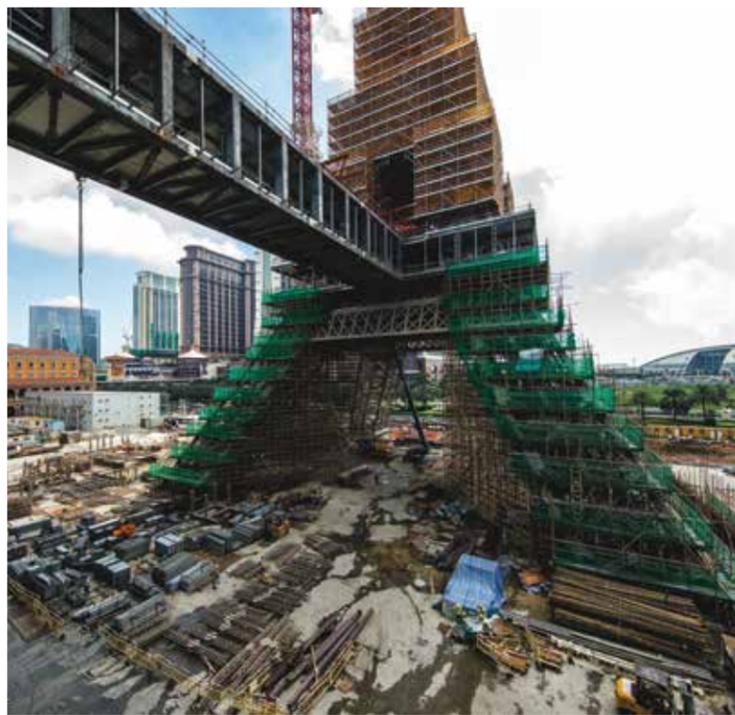
A ride in one of the two elevators takes visitors to the top in only **40 seconds**

There will be a well-trained team on site to replace the light bulbs

The Parisian Eiffel Tower is decorated with **6,600 light bulbs** connected by **26 kilometers of electric cabling**

Eiffel Tower Restaurant "Gustave" will be located on the 6th floor featuring unique food concepts and entertainment

The retail area will feature a backdrop of Parisian streets



# Gov't headquarters to open to the public this weekend

**T**HE government headquarters will open to the public this weekend from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. During these two days, members of the public will be encouraged to visit the landmark constructed more than 160 years ago, along with its garden, both of which are located on Avenida da Praia Grande.

There will be guided tours of the ground floor

of the headquarters and a photo exhibition centered on the historic center of Macau.

There will also be a flower show based on the theme of "Joy of Family". The highlight of the display will be the Calla Lily.

During the weekend, the backyard of the government headquarters will be transformed into a playground. It will fea-

ture colorful swings made from old tires.

There will be live performances from the Macau Police Band and dance performances staged by students of the Macau Conservatory. Local postal services will set up a temporary booth near the Nam Van Lake selling commemorative items. The Macau Government Tourism Office will also

set up a booth to distribute promotional materials. The program is also set to include performances from the Nam Van Lake Cybernetic Fountain, operated by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau.

Visitors can enter the government headquarters from the entrance on Travessa do Paiva, situated on the right side of the palace. According



to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, the designated route should be followed, as this route includes visits to the Multipurpose Room and the

Lotus Room on the ground floor. Walking up the marble staircase to the first floor, visitors can explore the Grand Hall, the Green Hall, the Yellow Hall and the Blue Hall.

## GAMING

# Galaxy surges 11pct as quarterly profit increases sequentially



A casino dealer at Galaxy Macau

Annie Lee and Daniela Wei

**G**ALAXY Entertainment Group Ltd. surged the most in more than three months after reporting a 13 percent sequential increase in profit for the third quarter as the opening of new casinos helped boost customer traffic and revenue.

The Hong Kong-based casino operator jumped 11 percent to close at HKD29.10, the biggest gain since July 2. The city's Hang Seng Index rose 2 percent.

Galaxy reported income of HK\$2.1 billion (\$271 million) in the third quarter, as measured by adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, the Hong Kong-based company said yesterday. That compares with the HK\$2.05 billion median estimate of four analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

"What's important is that mass market and slot machines

grew notably compared to the second quarter," said Grant Govertsen, an analyst from Union Gaming Group. "They started growing nicely on a sequential basis which suggest that Galaxy's expansion is gaining attraction in the mass market. The third quarter is certainly a positive sign."

China's anti-graft campaign and a slowing economy have discouraged high-rolling VIP

**What's important is that mass market and slot machines grew notably.**

GRANT GOVERTSEN

gamblers from playing. While gross gaming revenue fell for 16 straight months in the world's biggest gambling hub, the pace of declines has been slowing since February. Operators such as Galaxy and Sands China Ltd., are building shops, tourist attractions and other non-gaming features to lure tourists as part of the city's goal to reduce reliance on hard-core gamblers.

The company, which is adding new amenities to its expanded casinos, aims to save HK\$800 million by controlling costs, Galaxy said without disclosing details.

While Galaxy's revenue plunged 29 percent year-on-year, sales rose 5 percent from the June quarter to HK\$12.3 billion in the three-month period.

Galaxy Macau recorded non-gaming revenue - comprising of hotels and food and beverages - almost doubled to HK\$742

million in the third quarter year-on-year, including a quadrupling of the rental revenue for its shopping mall Promenade. Occupancy rate at Galaxy Macau's five hotels reached 99 percent, it said.

Angela Han Lee from China Merchants Securities Co. expects contribution from rental revenue will be even higher in the coming two quarters. "I think it's just the start of the contribution of the non-gaming rental revenue," which will help improve margin, she said.

Galaxy Entertainment, controlled by billionaire Lui Che Woo, opened the phase two expansion of Galaxy Macau and the revamped Broadway Macau in May. The \$3.1 billion projects marked the first in Macau in three years.

The Galaxy Macau casino's adjusted EBITDA was down 30 percent year on year and rose 19 percent from the second quar-

ter. Revenue from VIPs fell 38 percent from a year earlier and 4 percent from the previous quarter. Mass revenue fell 2 percent from a year earlier and rose 21 percent sequentially. Broadway Macau recorded revenue of HK\$189 million for its first full quarter of operation.

"Spending behavior in Macau remains cautious, but we are very confident in the longer term outlook and prospects for Macau" and the company as it's encouraged by performance during China's weeklong holiday this month and potential stimulus from the government, it said in the statement.

Stock analysts are turning bullish on casino operators, a sign that the worst is over for investors as share prices rebound from the lowest in three years.

The stocks are also bouncing back after investors speculated Beijing would introduce policies to support Macau's economy. Stronger-than-expected gaming revenue in the first 11 days of this month, including China's weeklong National Day holidays, has boosted share prices of the gambling operators this week.

Galaxy's mass market share climbed to 18.1 percent in the third quarter from 16.5 percent in the previous three-month period, while VIP market share jumped to 26.1 percent from 23.5 percent, according to Deutsche Bank AG.

The Oct. 27 opening of Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd.'s new Studio City casino resort, which features Asia's tallest Ferris wheel and a Batman ride, could further boost customer traffic.

"We believe that the unique offerings will be sufficient to create the story and 'wow factor' to attract visitation, benefiting the mass segment," analysts led by Kenneth Fong at Credit Suisse Group AG wrote in a report.

Rivals Wynn Macau Ltd. and Sands China are also scheduled to open new projects in 2016.

Bloomberg

**S**TOCK analysts are turning bullish on Macau casinos at a record pace, betting that the worst is over for investors as share prices rebound from the cheapest levels in three years.

Sands China Ltd., Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and three of their smaller Hong Kong-listed peers attracted at least eight rating upgrades this month as analysts pointed to a recovery in receipts from small-time gamblers, a bottom in industry earnings and better-than-estimated revenue during the Golden

## The bulls are back as analyst ratings surge at record pace

Week holiday. There's also growing speculation that China will take steps to boost Macau's economy, an "upside option" that Credit Suisse Group AG says is undervalued by the market.

A turnaround can't come soon enough for shareholders who watched \$110 billion of market value disappear amid the gambling hub's

worst-ever downturn. If the analysts are right, Macau casino stocks have another 8.2 percent upside after rallying 37 percent so far this month.

"There's been a sudden re-assessment of the sector," said Mari Oshidari, a Hong Kong-based strategist at Okasan Securities Group Inc. "Shares are probably headed for a short-term rebound, so

it's a good environment for analysts to slap on buy ratings."

While there's no historical precedent for such a surge in analyst optimism toward Macau casino shares, periods of improved sentiment in the Hong Kong stock market have been good times to invest. One-month returns following the five biggest share-price target upgra-

des in Hang Seng Index companies have averaged 1.4 percent since Bloomberg began compiling the data in 2004, versus a 0.6 percent gain for all months during the period.

The BI Macau China Gaming Market Competitive Peer Group Index surged 6.8 percent at the close in Hong Kong, its steepest gain since July 2. Galaxy reported its third-quarter

profit today, showing an increase of 13 percent from the previous three months. Its shares jumped 11 percent, while Sands China rose 10 percent.

The average consensus rating on the five casino stocks -- including Wynn Macau Ltd., SJM Holdings Ltd. and MGM China Holdings Ltd. -- has climbed to 3.77 on a scale where 5 signals unanimous buy ratings. That's up from 3.2 just five months ago, the biggest increase since MGM China became the last to list shares in 2011. Bloomberg

CORRUPTION

# Reports link tycoon who lead China's advance into Africa to Macau

**T**HE mentor of what the Financial Times deems a “secretive Hong Kong-based business network at the heart of China’s advance into Africa,” and who was recently detained in Beijing on suspicion of links to “regulation-violating” former-Governor Su Shulin, could actually be from Macau. According to various sources, Sam Pa has used a number of aliases, and different passports during his travels and business ventures. But mystery surrounds the investor’s nationality as much as it does his real name.



Sam Pa

According to a report published in May 2015 by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies in Washington D.C., there is a dispute among those who claim to know him regarding his nationality. Some people claim that he was born and raised in Hong Kong. Others claim that he moved to Hong Kong but was originally from the mainland, Singapore or Macau. Media reports covering his 2004 visit to Argentina even claimed that he was Cambodian.

Sam Pa, 57, is the founder of the Queensway Group. The group’s name has been attributed to the corporate network controlling China International Fund Ltd and China Sonangol, both of which share headquarters on the 10th floor of Two Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong.

He is currently detained following investigations into his links with the former Sinopec boss and Fujian Governor, Su Shulin. Pa is suspected of having assisted with the organization of a number of major overseas deals for Chinese oil giants using his

political and business connections among foreign elites.

Specifically, when Su was the general manager of Sinopec, Pa is believed to have been instrumental in securing a number of oil fields in Angola. Between 2008 and 2013, Sinopec acquired a total of five offshore Angolan oil fields.

Caixin reported that “the acquired fields in Angola since 2008 have become black holes for Sinopec, with the company continuing to invest without generating any commercial returns”.

In 2014, Pa was placed under sanctions in the U.S. after his Hong Kong-based Queensway Group was accused of propping up Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe’s regime in exchange for business interests. It is believed that the group funded Mugabe’s secret police force – an organization notorious for its human rights abuses and misconduct.

According to the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies report, the Queensway Group “frequently

appears in resource-rich states in Africa where it can operate with high levels of opacity.” Few details from the contracts in each country are disclosed to the public, and some have alleged that the bribery of African government officials and other illicit activities have allowed the group to secure contracts.

“In states where contracts have been unearthed, such as Guinea and Tanzania” the report continues, “the deals were revealed to be flagrantly unfavorable to the citizens of the host country.”

His relationships with senior officials in African institutions have been nurtured for several decades – dating back to his time as a Chinese intelligence operative and alleged weapons trader. Some sources have claimed that his intelligence activities have overlapped with his business interests, as it has been suggested that he has acted as an intermediary between Beijing and foreign governments, and has brokered international arms deals. **Staff reporter**

## CCAC staff member commits suicide

A male staff member from the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) committed suicide yesterday, jumping off the Dynasty Plaza building. CCAC issued a statement saying that it is investigating the tragic incident together with the Judiciary Police.

## Transport and storage sector up 11.4pct

The receipts and expenditure of the transport, storage and communications sector totaled MOP27.80 billion and MOP22.69 billion respectively in 2014, up by 11.4 percent and 8 percent year-on-year. According to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the sectorial contribution to the economy amounted to MOP8.98 billion, up by 21.9 percent year-on-year.

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- After completion of play on Saturday 17 Oct. Application required
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- Limited places available, successful applicants notified early October

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- A chance to win a VIP trip for two to enjoy Venetian Macao Resort Hotel's 'Ultimate Spa Escape Package'
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- Ernie Els, Anirban Lahiri, Scott Head, Zhang Lian-wei and Liang Wen-chong all confirmed to play
- Asian young guns Pan Cheng-Tsung (Chinese Taipei) and Guan Tian-lang (China) ready to show their promise
- There is a Golf introductory clinics where you will be taught basic skills (Saturday 17 Oct only)

For more details of the activities and how to register for a golf clinic and wine tasting, please visit [www.thevenetianmacaoopen.com](http://www.thevenetianmacaoopen.com) or [www.facebook.com/venetianmacaoopen](http://www.facebook.com/venetianmacaoopen)

## REAL ESTATE MATTERS

## Did you know...?

## 20 interesting facts about Macau property

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

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



JULIET RISDON

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**1. The law on security deposits**

The usual security deposit (or 'bond' as it is sometimes called) in Macau is an amount equivalent to 2 months rent.

The law states that the security deposit is negotiable between the landlord and the tenant. As such, the amount of the deposit may vary according to the contents and value of the property.

If you rent an apartment unfurnished, it is more likely that you will be able to negotiate a different deposit than if the apartment is full of expensive furnishings and appliances.

**2. Tax on rental income**

Landlords are duty bound to pay tax on the rental income they receive from a property.

Originally, this tax was 16% of the rental income, but the government has recently reduced the amount to 10%.

There are thresholds and allowable deductions for maintenance and upkeep that reduce the overall effect of the tax.

If tax remains unpaid, the government will accrue the back tax, and add a daily interest rate. Non-payment can be expensive!

**3. Property insurance**

In general, owners pay 'building' insurance, which is the amount of money that it will cost to rebuild the property in case of some major event.

However, it is up to tenants to insure the contents of a property as they are the 'guardian' of those contents during the term of the tenancy.

Insurance can be arranged through most local banks, and tenants living in older buildings are well advised to protect themselves in case of loss.

Generally, Macau is one of the safest places on earth to live, and content loss is more likely to come from burst pipes, electrical fires and typhoon damage than anything else.

**4. Different levels of stamp duty**

Stamp duty in Macau has been revised in the past few years, and varies according to the price of the property.

For the first MOP 2,000,000 the stamp duty is set at 1%.

For the next MOP 2,000,000 the stamp duty is set at 2%

For everything over MOP 4,000,000 the stamp duty is 3%

Hence if you buy an apartment for MOP 3,000,000 the stamp duty is MOP 40,000 (MOP 2,000,000 x 1% plus MOP 1,000,000 x 2% = MOP 40,000). If you buy an apartment for MOP 5,000,000 the stamp duty is MOP 90,000 (MOP 2,000,000 x 1% plus MOP 2,000,000 x 2% plus MOP 1,000,000 x 3% = MOP 90,000).

**5. Why bank valuations vary dramatically from bank to bank**

The value a bank puts on the property is not just about the property itself, but also reflects how the bank feels at that time about the property market and financial markets as a whole.

Prices are based on the size of the property, recent transaction prices and the location only. They do not reflect the level of the interior or fit out.

You can request and pay for a full property valuation from professional valuation companies, who will come and visit your property.

They will account for the quality of the interior and any potential the property might have to expand.

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CEM ENERGY FUN FAIR THIS SUNDAY



Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM), with the support of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Youth and Education Affairs Bureau and the Office for the Development of the Energy Sector (GDSE) is again hosting its annual 'Energy Fun Fair', which is set to be held at Tap Seac Square this Sunday 18 October, from 11:00am to 4:30pm. With the younger generation as the primary focus, the theme this year is "green energy for a sustainable future" seeking to promote the usage of renewable energies as an environmentally friendly way to contribute to a sustainable future.

# VW forced to recall rigged diesels after Germany takes hard line

Arne Delfs, Christoph Rauwald and Elisabeth Behrmann

**T**he German government forced Volkswagen AG to recall about 2.4 million diesel cars after throwing out the carmaker's proposal for voluntary repairs, setting off a chain reaction by authorities across Europe.

The Federal Motor Transport Authority, or KBA, demanded the recall after reviewing proposals Volkswagen filed last week to fix cars fitted with software designed to cheat on pollution tests, German Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt said yesterday in Berlin. A mandatory recall will speed the process, which Volkswagen has said will take until the end of next year, and give authorities more control.

Germany's rare public snub to its biggest carmaker came after Volkswagen circumvented emissions regulations starting in 2008. Germany's demands will set the tone for the rest of Europe, where die-



The VW sign is displayed in Berlin, Germany

sel dominates the market and the illegal software is installed in some 8 million vehicles. Authorities in Austria and Switzerland said the recall applies to cars sold there as well, adding almost another half-million autos to the total.

"It's an unusual measure to be ordering a mandatory recall," said Arndt Ellinghorst, a London-based analyst with Evercore ISI. "It shows to me that the KBA is losing patience with VW's slow response on what to do to fix the engines so

far. Customers have been left unsettled."

The mandatory recall will be more expensive for Volkswagen because the company will need to fix the cars more quickly, Ellinghorst said. The company has yet to specify exactly how it will fix the cars, though it has said some will require only a software update while others will need new or repaired engine parts.

Volkswagen must tell authorities by the end of November exactly how it will fix the cars, and the recall will begin in January. The KBA will test vehicles to ensure the repairs were successful, Dobrindt said. New parts necessary to fix some vehicles will probably be ready by next September, he said. Throughout Europe, Dobrindt has estimated that Volkswagen will probably need to exchange or rebuild parts for about 3.6 million engines.

A Volkswagen spokesman said the company is reviewing the KBA's decision. About 400 of the company's top executi-

ves were meeting in Leipzig to discuss the diesel scandal yesterday.

The company admitted in September to designing software so that 482,000 of its diesel cars in the U.S. would turn on full pollution controls only when undergoing laboratory emissions testing, not on the road. Since then the deception has been shown to be far broader, affecting about 11 million cars worldwide. The software was also active in diesels VW sold with the same EA189 engine in Germany, Dobrindt said yesterday. **Bloomberg**

2.4M

The number of diesel cars recalled

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# China passes US in number of billionaires

**C**HINA has passed the United States in the number of billionaires, driven by the rise of fortunes in technology and manufacturing, according to a survey released yesterday.

Despite a cooling economy, the number of Chinese billionaires rose by 242 this year to 596, according to The Hurun Report, which follows China's wealthy. It said that it surpassed the 537 the company found in the United States.

The report reflected the success of online retailing, entertainment and other service businesses, while traditional industries such as steel and natural resources have declined.

No. 1 on this year's list is Wang Jianlin, chairman of Wanda Group, which operates hotels, shopping malls and cinemas, at USD34.4 billion, up 52 percent from last year.



China's richest man, Wang Jianlin

No. 2 is Jack Ma of e-commerce giant Alibaba Group at \$22.7 billion, followed by Zeng Qinghou

of the Wahaha soft drinks and mineral water empire with \$21.2 billion. Ma Huateng of Tencent

Ltd., operator of the popular WeChat social media service, is in fourth place and Jun Lei of smartphone maker Xiaomi is No. 5.

New additions included Frank Wang, founder of DJI, the world's biggest maker of civilian drone aircraft, with a net worth of \$3.7 billion, and Cheng Wei of taxi-hailing app Di-di-Kuaidi, with \$1 billion.

China's economy grew by 7 percent in the quarter ending in July over a year earlier, down from last year's 7.4 percent annual expansion and the lowest level since the 2008 global crisis.

"Despite the slowdown in the economy, China's richest have defied gravity, recording their best year ever, and creating more wealth than any country has ever done before in a year," Rupert Hoogwerf, chairman and chief researcher of The Hurun Report, said in a statement. **AP**

# Burberry hit by slowdown in Asia sales

Danica Kirka, London

**L**UXURY goods maker Burberry saw its shares slump yesterday after it said its six-month revenue growth slowed to a trickle, due largely to weaker sales in Hong Kong and mainland China.

The London-based company said revenue in the six months ended Sept. 30 edged up less than 1 percent from a year earlier, to 1.105 billion pounds (USD1.7 billion). The report raised concerns among investors, who pushed the shares down 12.6 percent to 1,240 pence in mid-morning trading.

Burberry said it expects growth to accelerate in the second half and that pretax profit for the fiscal year should be "broadly in line with" the average analysts' estimate of 445 million pounds.

Chief Executive Christopher Bailey said customer demand for luxury goods declined in key markets as "external conditions" worsened. "While mindful of this external volatility, our plans for the festive season position us well to return to a more positive sales trend in the all-important second half," he said.

Slowing growth in China has hurt Burberry and its rivals who counted on rising wealth in the world's second biggest economy to drive demand for luxury goods. China's gross domestic product grew 7 percent in the second quarter, as the government worked to shift the economy toward self-sustaining domestic consumption and away from exports and investment. **AP**

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Didi Tang, Beijing

# Media: Rights lawyer's son used by anti-Beijing forces

**C**HINA worked with police in neighboring Myanmar to nab the 16-year-old son of a detained rights lawyer and send him back home because he had been coerced into a plot to illegally migrate, Chinese state media said Monday.

Activists have said the boy was trying to flee from house arrest within China after his parents — rights lawyer Wang Yu and legal activist Bao Longjun — were detained in July in a sweeping crackdown on civil society.

The teenager, Bao Zhuoxuan, at the time was at the Beijing airport on his way to Australia to attend high school when he and his father were intercepted by Chinese police. Since then, Chinese authorities confiscated his passport and placed him under house arrest in Inner Mongolia with his grandmother.

A network of activists then tried to help Bao escape to the United States, where he had hoped to study, activists have said. However, he was detained along with two men in northern Myanmar over the weekend and returned Monday to his grandmother's house where foreign journalists have been barred from speaking with him.

The U.S. State Department said



In this April 18, 2015 file photo, Wang Yu, a lawyer for Chinese activist Li Tingting, speaks during an interview in Beijing

Wednesday it was concerned that the boy was being held under house arrest, and by a “seemingly systematic campaign” to target family members of those who “peacefully challenge official policy.”

“If Bao Zhuoxuan’s family wishes him to study abroad like hundreds of thousands of other

Chinese students, China should permit him to leave the country,” department spokesman John Kirby said.

China’s Foreign Ministry said the government would handle the case according to law. “No countries should intervene in China’s judicial independence, sovereignty and domestic affairs for any

reasons,” ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said.

Yesterday, the state-run Global Times, quoting unidentified police sources, said an illegal immigration ring hostile to China arranged for Bao’s escape but that the plot was thwarted by Chinese police. It said police acted on intelligence and formed a special operation to catch Bao.

The newspaper said two activists, Tang Zhishun and Xing Qingxian, and Bao all admitted to the act of illegal immigration after they were caught by Myanmar police and that Chinese police had collected evidence against the trio, including their phone contacts with foreign personnel and a video of them crossing a border checkpoint.

The Global Times also quoted Bao’s parents — who are being held in secret detention on suspicion of inciting to subvert state power — as saying they were opposed to foreign forces taking their son out of China.

The newspaper article sugges-

ted that hostile foreign forces were using the boy to smear China. Critics say Chinese authorities have unfairly punished the teenager by intimidating him and depriving him of his right to travel by confiscating his passport.

Calls to the Ministry of Public Safety to confirm details of the report were not immediately answered.

A long-running network has helped numerous Chinese activists and their family members leave China, including the wife and two children of prominent rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng in 2009 and, recently, a daughter of jailed Christian minister Zhang Shaojie.

In the case of Gao’s family, the three made a harrowing trip across Southeast Asia before reaching Thailand, where they were accepted as refugees by the U.S. government. Family friends apparently had hoped Bao, the teenager, could follow a similar route. **AP**

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Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

## SOUTH CHINA SEA

## Military reaches out amid tensions

AS expectations grow that the U.S. Navy will directly challenge Beijing's South China Sea claims, China is engaging in some serious image-building for its own military by hosting two international security forums this week.

The events kick off today with an informal meeting of defense ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations known as ASEAN — four of which exercise claims to seas and islands in the South China Sea that clash with Beijing's own. It is the first time China has hosted such a meeting.

That will be followed by the Xiangshan Forum, at which analysts, military leaders and others from around the globe will grapple with Asian-Pacific security, maritime issues and anti-terrorism.

"China wants to use these sorts of forums to promote China's views, explain China's policies and improve China's security image," said regional security expert Li Mingjiang of Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

Since 2013, China has accelerated the construction of new islands atop reefs and atolls in



In this Sept. 17 file photo, Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr., Navy Commander, U.S. Pacific Command walks past a photograph showing an island that China is building on Fiery Cross Reef in the South China Sea

the South China Sea and is adding buildings and airstrips in apparent attempts to boost its sovereignty claims to the territory.

Unnamed Pentagon officials said last week that the U.S. Navy may soon receive approval to sail a ship inside the 21-kilometer territorial limit surrounding China's man-made islands, reported the Navy Times, which is closely affiliated with the U.S. Navy. ASEAN member the Philippines expressed support this week for such a move.

Sailing within the 21-kilometer boundary would mark the first time the U.S. has directly challenged China's territorial

claims since 2012 and reinforce Washington's assertion that the land reclamation does not add sovereign territory.

The U.S. and its allies, including the Philippines, insist that the newly made islands threaten stability in an increasingly militarized region.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Wednesday the artificial islands were created for the public good and have "nothing to do" with militarization.

China has also sparred with Vietnam, another ASEAN member, over ownership of the Paracel island group, leading to a weeks-long confrontation last year when Beijing moved

a massive oil drilling platform into contested waters.

China's Defense Ministry has said that the ASEAN gathering in Beijing is to "promote strategic trust and pragmatic cooperation." Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Chang Wanquan will hold talks with his counterparts and host them on visits to military units, the spokesman said.

Li, the regional security expert, said China realizes its defense relations with its neighbors are weak and wants to refurbish its image. Li said talks would likely steer clear of contentious issues and focus on non-traditional security cooperation, military exchanges and

regional security in general.

"Because the meeting is in Beijing, it would be hard for any country to confront China over the South China Sea," Li said. "There's also a lack of solidarity among ASEAN countries over the issue."

China vastly expanded the scope of the Xiangshan Forum last year, making it an annual rather than biennial event and boosting participation to more than 300 defense officials and academics from 47 countries.

With the world's second-largest defense budget, China's military — especially its navy — is gathering formidable capabilities.

It will soon deploy its first aircraft carrier and is rapidly adding advanced destroyers, missile cruisers and nuclear submarines. A massive military parade in Beijing last month showcased new missiles permitting China to hit targets — including U.S. Navy ships and bases — throughout the region.

Along with claiming almost all of the South China Sea's island groups and crucial sea lanes, China is dueling with Japan over ownership of an uninhabited chain of islands north of Taiwan, and in late 2013 declared an air defense zone that would theoretically give it control of aviation over much of the East China Sea. Many analysts believe China is now considering declaring a similar zone over the South China Sea.

To defuse such concerns, China needs to turn gatherings such as the Xiangshan Forum into venues for "a genuine two-way conversation," rather than simply attempt to impose its own views, wrote U.S. Defense Department analyst Kim Fessler in a recent paper for the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Fessler wrote that this includes "urging Beijing to explore how its actions contribute to narratives of China as an aggressor instead of a regional leader." AP

**China wants to use forums to promote China's views, explain China's policies and improve China's security image.**

LI MINGJIANG  
REGIONAL SECURITY EXPERT,  
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY

## HONG KONG

## 7 police charged over protester's filmed beating

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG Kong police yesterday charged seven officers with harming an activist who was beaten in a filmed confrontation that stirred outrage among city residents at the height of the pro-democracy protests last year.

The seven officers were charged jointly with one count of grievous bodily harm and one also was charged with common assault, a statement from police said. They

are due to appear in a magistrate's court Monday.

The activist, Ken Tsang, said police informed him he should also expect to be arrested. He said police called to ask him to report to a police station and told him they planned to charge him with one count of assaulting an officer and four counts of obstructing police, although it's not clear what specific incident those charges would involve.

The accused officers, all



Activist Ken Tsang, center, is greeted by his supporter Audrey Eu, chairman of the Civic Party, left, as he reports to a police station in Hong Kong

men aged 31 to 48, were working in plainclothes at the time. The charges are being laid exactly one year after the filmed encounter that occurred during the protests that gripped the city for months.

As protesters and authorities battled into the early hours of Oct. 15, 2014, for control of an underpass outside government headquarters, local station TVB filmed officers taking a handcuffed Tsang behind a building in a nearby park.

The footage showed the officers placing Tsang on the ground, then one punches him while several others kick him. AP

SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Vietnam accuses Chinese vessel of sinking fishing boat



In this May 11 file photo, an aerial image taken through a glass window of a military plane shows China's alleged on-going reclamation of Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea

VIETNAM said yesterday that a Chinese vessel rammed into and sank one of its fishing boats near disputed islands in the South China Sea in an incident that could further raise tensions between the countries.

The 10 fishermen on board were rescued by another Vietnamese fishing boat and the case was reported to authorities when the fishermen returned home two days ago, said Phan Huy Hoang, president of central Quang Ngai province's Fisheries Association.

"Chinese actions against fishermen from Quang Ngai province have been more aggressive and brutal," Hoang said by telephone.

More than 20 Vietnamese fishing boats have been attacked by Chinese vessels this year including another that sank in July, he said, adding a formal protest will be made to China.

Boat captain Dang Dung said he and the nine crew members were sleeping after a night of fishing near the Paracel islands on Sept. 29 when the Chinese vessel slammed the side of their boat and five Chinese men jumped aboard. Dung said by telephone from Quang Ngai that the men carried knives and took away his boat's navigation devices, fishing equipment and their catch.

Dung said his leaking boat sank about 12 hours later, and the crew then

spent four hours floating with life vests before being rescued.

It was not clear if the Chinese vessel belonged to the government.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said, "Chinese authorities have the rights to take law enforcement measures in accordance with the law on boats that have illegally entered" waters the country claims as its own territory.

Vietnam's Foreign Ministry said it was investigating the fishermen's allegations and reiterated that it strongly protested inhumane treatment of Vietnamese fishermen in any circumstances.

"If there is such a case that foreign law enforcement commits acts that hinder the normal and legitimate operations of Vietnamese fishermen in this area, we will have formal and appropriate response," ministry spokesman Le Hai Binh said.

Vietnam and China both claim the Paracel Islands, which were occupied by China after ousting the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese navy in 1974, one year before the end of the Vietnam War.

The two countries, along with the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, also claim parts or all of the Spratly islands, an area which occupies a busy international sea lane and is rich in oil and gas and fish resources. AP

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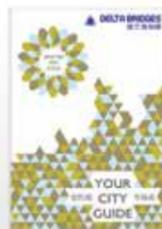
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AFGHANISTAN

# Obama to keep troops stationed beyond 2016

**P**RESIDENT Barack Obama will keep 5,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan when he leaves office in 2017, according to senior administration officials, casting aside his promise to end the war on his watch.

Obama had originally planned to pull out all but a small, embassy-based U.S. military presence by the end of next year, a timeline coinciding with the final weeks of his presidency. But military leaders argued for months that the Afghans needed additional assistance and support from the U.S. to beat back a resurgent Taliban and hold onto gains made over the last 14 years of American bloodshed and billions of dollars in aid.

The president was to announce the changes yesterday morning (US time) from the White House. Officials said he would outline plans to maintain the current force of 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through most of next year, then draw down



President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington

**The narrative that we're leaving Afghanistan is self-defeating.**

ASH CARTER  
DEFENSE SECRETARY

to 5,500 troops in 2017, at a pace still to be determined by commanders.

The officials previewed the decisions on the condition of anonymity because they were

not authorized to discuss the matter publicly ahead of the president.

U.S. officials have been hinting at the policy shift for weeks, noting that conditions

on the ground in Afghanistan have changed since Obama's initial decision on a sharper troop withdrawal timeline was made more than two years ago. The White House has also

been buoyed by having a more reliable partner in Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who succeeded the mercurial Hamid Karzai last year.

"The narrative that we're leaving Afghanistan is self-defeating," Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Wednesday during a speech at the Association of the U.S. Army. "We're not, we can't and to do so would not be to take advantage of the success we've had to date."

While officials said the Afghan policy had been under review for several months, Obama's decision to leave more forces in Afghanistan than initially envisioned was reinforced when Taliban fighters took control of the key northern city of Kunduz late last month, prompting a protracted battle with Afghan forces on the ground, supported by U.S. airstrikes. During the fighting, a U.S. airstrike hit a hospital, killing 22 people, including 12 Doctors Without Borders staff and 10 patients.

Beyond the recent security troubles in Afghanistan, U.S. commanders have also expressed concern about Islamic State fighters moving into the country and gaining recruits from within the Taliban.

The troops staying in Afghanistan beyond next year will continue to focus on counterterrorism missions and training and advising Afghan security forces, the officials said. They will be based in Kabul and Bagram Air Field, as well as bases in Jalalabad and Kandahar. **AP**

Aung Sine Oo, Naypyitaw

MYANMAR

# Rebel armies sign ceasefire pact with gov't

**M**YANMAR'S government and eight smaller ethnic rebel armies signed a ceasefire agreement to end more than six decades of fighting, but other more powerful groups refused to come on board, signaling that peace will remain elusive for some time to come.

The pact was signed at a ceremony in Myanmar's administrative capital, Naypyitaw, by President Thein Sein and representatives of the groups. The refusal by the larger armies, such as those of the Kachin and Wa ethnic groups, to sign it robs Thein Sein of what he had hoped would be the crowning achievement of his five-year term.

Still, the agreement, called the "National Ceasefire Agreement" despite its truncated list of participants, is seen as a first step toward ending longstanding insurgencies against the Burmese-ma-



Myanmar President Thein Sein, right, sits along with Mutu Say Po, chairman of Karen National Union (KNU), for a group photo session during the signing ceremony of "Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement"

majority government by various minority groups demanding autonomy and control over their natural resources in the north, northeast and east of the country.

Ethnic groups, representing 40 percent of the country's 52 million people, have found themselves victims of military abuses and discrimination in areas spanning

from health and education to road construction and access to electricity.

"Although some organizations are currently not ready to sign, the government decided to conclude the (agreement) with the vanguard group," Thein Sein said in a speech at the signing ceremony.

"We will continue with our efforts to bring the remaining organizations

into the process. The door is open for them," he said. "The road to future peace in Myanmar is now open."

Though largely an agreement to keep talking, the agreement could pave the way for a more comprehensive political settlement in the future.

"It can't be considered a nationwide ceasefire agreement but it is the start of a process that mi-

ght actually lead to all the ethnic groups signing the cease-fire agreement," Larry Jagan, a specialist on Myanmar and freelance journalist, told The Associated Press.

Myanmar stunned the world by opening politically and economically in 2011 following a half-century of harsh military rule. But early reforms have since either stalled or started rolling backward. That has upped the stakes for getting ceasefire deals with all ethnic armies, one of Thein Sein's biggest pledges.

Many ethnic armies have been fighting since the country gained independence from the British in 1948, and experts say continued civil unrest is slowing development in one of the region's poorest countries.

The signing of the agree-

ment, which was also witnessed by representatives of the United Nations, the European Union, China and others, comes just before the Nov. 8 general elections for a new parliament, which will eventually lead to the election of a new president.

Critics said the only real beneficiary of the agreement would be Thein Sein, as he would use the image as a peacemaker to try to win another presidential term. Some of the groups decided they'd rather wait and negotiate with a new government, even if that means starting from scratch.

The powerful Kachin Independence Army, Shan State Army and United Wa State Army, the biggest in terms of army strength and territory size, were among the groups refusing to sign. **AP**

Frank Bajak, Mazamari

**I**T happens about four times a day, right under the nose of Peru's military: A small single-engine plane drops onto a dirt airstrip in the world's No. 1 coca-growing valley, delivers a bundle of cash, picks up more than 300 kilos of cocaine and flies to Bolivia.

Roughly half of Peru's cocaine exports have been ferried eastward to Bolivia on this "air bridge," police say, since the rugged Andean nation became the world's leading producer of the drug in 2012.

Prosecutors, narcotics police, former military officers and current and former U.S. drug agents say that the narco-flight plague is the military's failure because it controls the remote jungle region known as the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro river valley.

The transactions normally take about 10 minutes: A dozen or so drug-carrying backpackers will appear on a landing strip's fringe as a plane approaches and men with assault rifles keep watch. Money is offloaded and drugs fitted into the cabin.

The motor re-engages. The plane whirs aloft.

An Associated Press investigation found that "narco planes" have touched down just minutes by air from military bases in the nearly road-less region known by its Spanish acronym as the VRAEM.

The AP obtained video of two such transactions taken by drug police who said they were too outgunned to intervene.

The airborne flow — each planeload of cocaine is worth at least USD7.2 million overseas — is so brazen that Peru's congress voted unanimously in August to authorize shooting down the mono-engine planes.

But whether the government will act decisively is in question. Earlier this year, it scrapped plans to buy and install the necessary state-of-the-art radar, a \$71 million purchase it announced in congress last November.

President Ollanta Humala, a former army lieutenant colonel whose approval rating is below 15 percent, has eight months left in office.

Wilson Barrantes, a retired army general who has long complained about military drug corruption, said giving the armed forces control of the cocaine-producing valley is "like putting four street dogs to guard a plate of beefsteak."

One accused narco-pilot interviewed by the AP said some local military commanders charge \$10,000 per flight to let cocaine commerce go unhindered.

Peru's defense and interior ministers did not respond to repeated AP requests to discuss the accusations.

Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Vega, who runs counterinsur-



Police officers stand guard over seized cocaine they present to the press in Lima, Peru

PERU

## Military questioned over drug flight plague

agency efforts in the region, said no military officials were under investigation to his knowledge.

"Corruption exists, but we are always looking out for it," he said. "If we know of anyone involved, we'll throw the book at them."

### ■ Roughly half of Peru's cocaine exports have been ferried eastward to Bolivia by 'air bridge'

On taking office in 2011, Humala said combatting illicit drugs was a priority. His government has destroyed record amounts of coca leaf.

But that's not enough, says Sonia Medina, the public prosecutor for illicit drugs.

Trafficking and related corruption in the police, military, courts and criminal justice system have gone "from bad to worse" on Humala's watch, she said. "What we are doing in counter-narcotics is completely distorted, incoherent and inert."

Most of Peru's cocaine production has merely shifted to the VRAEM region, where there is no eradication.

The Ireland-sized area has been under a state of emergency for nine years owing to the persistence of drug-running Shining Path rebels. They have slain more than 30 police and soldiers during Humala's tenure but are now much reduced, down to about 60 combatants.

The government has nevertheless resisted destroying coca in the region, saying it would cause a bloody backlash by fueling Shining Path recruitment.

Some 6,000 soldiers are stationed at more than 30 bases in the valley, ostensibly to battle "narcoterrorism." By law, counter-narcotics is the job of the fewer than 1,000 narcotics police here. But police rely on the military for airlifts and many chafe at joint drug missions with soldiers.

In documents and testimony obtained by the AP, police and anti-drug prosecutors questioned the military's trustworthiness. One recalled asking about clandestine airstrips during a 2013 meeting with military officials and watching them "take out their maps, which showed airstrips here and there. They had never informed us of all this."

There were also suspicions of intelligence leaked to traffickers.

Four anti-drug prosecutors complained about it in a May 2014 letter to their boss that the AP obtained.

Three times they shared information with the military on when and where drug flights would land, they said. In each case, the planes never showed. The fourth time, they kept the intel to themselves and acted alone with police.

The pilot was captured, the copilot killed in a firefight and 357 kilograms of cocaine and \$5,500 in cash seized. The March 2014 operation was the only one in the past two years in which drugs, money, plane and pilot were all taken into custody.

Over that period, more than two dozen suspected drug pla-

nes have been "captured." Most were crash landings. In all but five cases, the pilots escaped.

The pilot who said military commanders charged \$10,000 per narco flight for safe passage said "no plane arrives without at least half a million dollars to pay for the drugs, for the airstrip and to corrupt the authorities."

Like others, he only agreed to speak if not identified for fear of his life and the AP could not independently confirm his claim.

Before the narco-flight boom, the military sent people to the valley to be punished for transgressions, said Victor Andres Garcia Belaunde, an opposition congressman.

"But it has, alas, become profitable to be in VRAEM and today there are officers who ask to go." AP

### PERU ANNOUNCES PROBE AFTER AP DRUG PLANE REPORT

**PERU'S DEFENSE** minister announced Wednesday an investigation into allegations of military corruption in the world's No. 1 cocaine-producing valley after The Associated Press reported that the armed forces turned a blind eye to the ferrying of cocaine abroad by small planes. The official, Jakke

Valakivi, said the defense ministry and the joint armed forces command would investigate together. In part because of the nearly unhindered "air bridge" from the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro river valley, Peru surpassed Colombia in 2012 as the world's No. 1 cocaine exporter.



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## TV canal macau



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

## SATURDAY

10:45	Boonie Bears S.2
11:45	Young Adult
12:10	Cooking
12:30	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
18:10	News
18:30	Contest
19:20	Miscellaneous
19:50	Macau 360° (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Documentary
22:15	TDM News
22:45	Rugby World Cup 2015 (Quarter Final): South Africa - Wales (Live)
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## SUNDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:30	Young Adult
17:20	Documentary Serie
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:20	Miscellaneous
18:50	Action
19:45	Rugby World Cup 2015 (Quarter Final): Ireland - Argentina (Live)
21:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
22:00	Contraponto
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	UEFA Europa League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme

## offbeat

## US: TRAVELER HID COCAINE IN OIL, VINEGAR BOTTLES



Law enforcement officials say a passenger arriving at New York's Kennedy Airport had 11 pounds of liquid cocaine packed into oil and vinegar bottles.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says the cocaine was found Oct. 5 when Andres Josue Leal Valle arrived with three suitcases and a carry-on bag.

Agents say they opened bottles of oil and vinegar in Leal Valle's luggage and detected an unusual chemical odor.

Customs officials say the liquid in six bottles tested positive for cocaine. They say the total weight of the cocaine was 11 pounds and the street value was USD194,000.

The case is under investigation by the Department of Homeland Security.

No information on an attorney for Leal Valle was immediately available.

Leal Valle is a citizen of Guatemala.

## 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/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



## 1974 MAZE PRISON GOES UP IN FLAMES

Three prison staff are being treated in hospital after rioting prisoners set fire to the Long Kesh Maze prison near Belfast.

More than 130 prisoners were injured in the trouble - nine needed hospital treatment. One officer is being treated for a suspected fractured skull.

Troops were brought in to quell the violence but much of the camp, which houses 1500 convicted prisoners and internees, has been destroyed.

Overnight, flames were visible along the whole length of the camp from a distance of several miles.

Violence broke out when prison officers were attacked by inmates in a republican compound yesterday at around 1800GMT.

Governor of the Maze, Robert Truesdale, said the army unit controlling the outside perimeter was sent in as soon as fighting broke out.

Reports say republican inmates set fire to their living quarters as troops were called in. Loyalist prisoners are also said to have been involved although this has not been confirmed.

The fire is understood to have started in compound 13 which then spread to at least 20 or 30 other compounds.

Witnesses described how helicopters and army lorries brought in more troop reinforcements to take back control of the prison.

Other helicopters hovered over neighbouring fields and lanes to prevent any breakouts.

Police say fire engines were obstructed from entering because of the ferocity of the rioting inside.

Earlier today the authorities claimed to have regained control of the camp and were restoring order after almost a whole night of rioting.

Damage to the prison is substantial with a number of prison buildings and most of the prisoners' living huts completely destroyed.

No explanation has yet been provided for the riots, but both loyalist and republican inmates had recently been protesting over living conditions.

During the night, news of the fighting spread to communities in Belfast. Catholic crowds appeared on the streets in the Ardoyne and Ballymacarrett districts and several hundred uniformed UDA men marched in protestant Ballygomartin.

Northern Ireland Secretary Mervyn Rees has made a statement seeking to dispel rumours that prisoners had been killed, and condemned those seeking to "foment disorder" in the streets with false allegations.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The riots spread that day to other prisons in Belfast. Women prisoners held the governor of Armagh Prison hostage. At the Maze, four guard dogs were burned to death. Many buildings including the prison hospital and a new kitchen facility were destroyed.

In 1971, the government introduced a law to allow people to be interned without charge. This led to hundreds of young men from nationalist areas being held in huts at Long Kesh, on the site of what became the H-block wing of the Maze prison.

The policy was later abandoned after the government realised that they were very often holding the wrong people. They instead began trying members of paramilitary organisations for violent offences, saying their actions were criminal, not political. The Maze's H-Block wings were built to house the paramilitary prisoners.

The prisoners played a crucial role in the peace process. Republican and loyalist parties linked to paramilitaries regarded the release of prisoners as a key part of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. The Maze closed in September 2000 after all the prisoners had been released under the deal.

**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Your drive and motivation are everything right now — and you should find that your energy is best spent sparingly. Focus it all in one direction and you should see great dividends soon!

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Try not to worry all that much about your emotional state — you are sure to feel more grounded early on today. In fact, you may find that what felt like a burden is actually a blessing!

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
Watch out for new rules — especially those that come from people you know and trust! It's hard for you to accept authority when it's so close to home, but for now you may be better off letting it happen.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Things are looking up, most likely — but if this seems wrong to you, then that means it's time for a quick adjustment to your perspective! You've got the means to pull up out of any rut.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Your confidence and righteousness may rub others the wrong way today, so try to wrap them up in a big blanket of humility. It may feel weird, but it's the best way to get others to notice.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Your romantic energy is heightened today, so if you're single, get out there! If you're already seeing someone, it may be time to get more serious. Whatever you do, have fun with it!

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
Your past is not as distant as you would like — someone or something comes back to haunt you today. It may be that it ends up as nothing much to fret over, but you may have to work to make it right.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Your plans are great — but you need to take action on them! Start today, even if it's just something small. You should be able to make serious progress, but only if you actually get to work.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You are always true to your values — even when you can feel them start to change, as they are today. You should be able to make sense of it all by the time you're through this phase, though it may take some work.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You can work all night if you must — but the odds are that you don't really need to. Things are looking good, and you should find that your energy is stable for as long as you need it to be.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
You feel the walls start to close in on you — and no, you're not going insane. It's just that new rules are starting to make themselves known, and you may need to just cope with new restrictions — for now.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
Life is easy right now — maybe too much so! You need to make sure that you're asking the right questions and checking in with the right people in order to make the most of this great time.

**THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	12	25	cloudy/clear
Harbin	10	20	clear
Tianjin	11	25	overcast/clear
Urumqi	7	12	drizzle
Xi'an	9	25	clear
Lhasa	5	17	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	16	27	cloudy
Chongqing	19	27	cloudy/clear
Kunming	13	22	cloudy
Nanjing	15	25	cloudy
Shanghai	18	26	clear
Wuhan	15	28	clear
Hangzhou	17	26	cloudy/clear
Taipei	24	26	cloudy
Guangzhou	24	30	clear
Hong Kong	25	29	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-3	8	flurry/drizzle
Frankfurt	10	7	overcast/drizzle
Paris	6	11	cloudy
London	9	12	cloudy
New York	9	18	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- SeaWorld attraction; 6- Greased; 11- Back muscle, briefly; 14- Stationery brand; 15- Benjamin; 16- Old English letter; 17- Betrothal; 19- Never, in Nuremberg; 20- D.C. VIP; 21- Bunches; 22- More strange; 24- Actor Baldwin; 25- Mystery; 26- Capital of Utah; 30- Bony prefix; 31- Dispenser candy; 32- Catch; 36- Beauty of "Superman"; 37- Irrigated; 41- Stray; 42- Simplicity; 44- Opposite of post-; 45- Lout; 47- Standing alone; 51- Forbidding; 54- Mild oath; 55- Tries to bite; 56- Burn the midnight oil, studying; 57- Safety device; 60- Bearded grazer; 61- Irrigate beneath ground level; 64- Orch. section; 65- Maine college town; 66- Horselike African mammal; 67- Univ. aides; 68- More recent; 69- Ford fop;

**DOWN:** 1- Tennis matches are divided into these; 2- Fabled loser; 3- Like \_\_\_ of bricks; 4- Witticism; 5- Desecrate; 6- Word of the hour?; 7- Monogram ltr.; 8- Limb of a felled tree; 9- Put out, in the old days; 10- Sense; 11- Bolshevik leader; 12- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 13- Unit of heat; 18- Entreaty; 23- Beams; 24- Corroded; 25- Super server; 26- Unit of loudness; 27- On or towards the Mediterranean, for example; 28- Former Fords; 29- Fencing swords; 33- "M\*A\*S\*H" soft drink; 34- Elvis's middle name; 35- Alcoholic drink; 38- An opening; 39- Corner; 40- Make more active; 43- Young newts; 46- Append; 48- Logic; 49- Abject fear; 50- Thickening agent; 51- Emo anxiety; 52- Utah's \_\_\_ Mountains; 53- Urges; 56- Silver screen; 57- Apprehends; 58- Versailles verb; 59- Blue hue; 62- Fiddle stick; 63- H.S. proficiency test



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VENETIAN MACAO OPEN

# Thitiphun turns on style to lead first round



Thailand's Thitiphun Chuayprakong takes the lead in the Venetian Macao Open

**T**HAILAND'S Thitiphun Chuayprakong eclipsed the stars with a flying seven-under-par 64 to snatch the first round lead at the USD1 million Venetian Macao Open on Thursday. The 23-year-old, who is seeking his first win on the Asian Tour, stormed home with a back-nine score of 29 to cap off a brilliant round, which included eight birdies.

Korean Jeunghun Wang and Bangladeshi Siddikur Rahman each shot 65 to trail by one, while defending champion Anirban Lahiri of India and the 2013 champion Scott Hend of Australia were among those bunched on 66.

Thai ace Kiradech Aphibarnrat, who broke into the world's top 50 for the first time in his career this week, battled to post a 68, while countryman Thongchai Jaidee carded a 71. South African Ernie Els shot a disappointing 74.

The day belonged to Thitiphun, who needed only 21 putts to position himself atop the leaderboard. "Today is a lucky day. I didn't hit it good with my tee shots but I had a good short game. I could make a lot of birdies. This is a great round for me. I'm happy and feel fan-

tastic with a 29 coming in," said Thitiphun.

"Last hole, my second shot came back out but I still can make birdie. I have worked a lot on my putting since last year, so it's working now. The greens are very fast, but I have a good feel [for them]."

It is a case of "beware the injured golfer" as two-time Asian Tour winner Siddikur enjoyed a bogey-free card to sit one back. He endured pain in his lower back due to a pinched nerve, but without the weight of expectation, he rose to the occasion.

"I told myself to take it easy and to protect my back. I have lost about 10 yards in my driving and I'm already a short hitter! But if I can putt like today, it's okay. I'm happy as, for the first time in a long time, I had a bogey-free rou-

**This is a great round for me. I'm happy and feel fantastic.**

THITIPHUN

nd," said the 30-year-old.

Following his President's Cup debut where he was disappointed to have failed to deliver a point for the Internationals, Lahiri bounced back in style with a five-birdie round to finish the opening round only two shots shy of the leader. "It's back to the usual, I guess," noted the current Asian Tour Order of Merit leader. "I think it was a solid round of golf. I misread a few. Hopefully I can make those six- or eight-footers through the rest of the week."

Hend, who was last year's runner-up, is now 37-under-par through his last nine rounds at the challenging Macao course. "The first few times I came here, I just didn't want to come back as it killed me," he explained.

"But we seem to have found a way to play the course, where to hit it, what to do, and when to be aggressive. I'm normally the sort of guy who will shoot seven birdies and throws in a double and a couple of bogeys. This means I've played some solid golf, which is positive."

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

## opinion

John Leicester

### IN DEFEAT, IS JOSE MOURINHO STILL WORTH OUR TIME?

Already a proven winner, Jose Mourinho now must become a specialist in failure, too. When the Chelsea manager used that phrase last year to take a cheap swipe at Arsenal counterpart Arsene Wenger, he meant it in a mean, small-minded way. It was one of many occasions where Mourinho has allowed toxic emotions, not lucid reason, to be his master. All told, the verbal and occasional physical outbursts that are as much part of Mourinho's career as his triumphs paint a portrait not of a manager in easy control, but of an almost pathological need to burn bridges and make enemies.

Which isn't a terminal problem, at least not in his industry, for managers who win. Because football is so fixated on success in the next match, it always finds room for bad behavior that gets results. Victory absolves most sins. Even when he did wrong, Mourinho's trophies in Portugal, England, Italy and Spain seemed to make him right. In the short-termism of football, the ends ultimately appeared to justify Mourinho's means and loud mouth.

But take away victory, and the shield it provides disappears. Mourinho cannot, as he claims, be the best in his business when Chelsea's non-starting Premier League season is turning that brag into a lie. Continuing to boast in defeat of "a big self-esteem and a big ego" merely makes him a tiresome bore.

When his teams were winning, the "us against the world" siege mentality Mourinho cultivates looked motivational. But complaining about referees and supposed anti-Chelsea treatment simply becomes a feeble excuse when his methods stop working.

And even winning couldn't have justified the public humiliation Mourinho heaped on his medical staff when Chelsea started its Premier League title defense, such as it is, with a 2-2 draw against Swansea. That was simply nasty, hot-headed behavior that hints of someone who stops being a team player when the going gets rough.

In short, when the ends no longer justify the means, then the means must change. Instead of blaming others, Mourinho must turn his critical eye on himself. He must understand that managers and clubs aren't judged solely by how well they win but also by how well they lose.

Mourinho famously claimed that winning the Champions League in 2004 made him "a special one." But that will only be true if he now learns to become special in defeat, too. That doesn't mean being resigned to failure. But it does mean not acting like a brat when it happens.

Just eight games into a 38-game season, Mourinho has already made a spectacle of himself with a rambling seven-minute televised rant, after losing 3-1 to Southampton, that this week brought a Football Association fine of 50,000 pounds (USD77,000) for bad-mouthing referees and the threat of a one-match stadium ban if he steps out of line again.

At this rate, if he doesn't wise up and cool down, it could be a very long and damaging season for Mourinho and his club that took him back in 2013 for a second spell as manager, despite his history of histrionics.

On Saturday, against Aston Villa, Mourinho will be exhorting his players to shake off their stupor. He says he remains "more than convinced" that Chelsea will finish the season in the league's top four, which would give it a crack at the Champions League again next season. But Premier League history suggests he is clutching at straws.

Since 1995, when the league slimmed down to 20 clubs, no team that started this poorly — in 16th place after eight games — subsequently recovered that well. The closest any team came was Everton in 2008-2009, which finished fifth having been 17th after eight games.

So Mourinho is going to have to eat humble pie with a smile. Chelsea has other cup competitions it could win. But the Premier League is effectively a write-off. No one expects him to simply give up trying. But nor should football, his players, his club and its fans have to suffer through a season of him being miserable. When he is winning, he is impossible to ignore. But when losing gracefully, he's not.

Because of his history of winning, there'll always be another club willing to woo Mourinho if this second marriage with Chelsea ends sourly. But it would be better for both their reputations if they could build something more long-lasting, where both accept that winning and losing are inseparable sides of the same coin.

The trick is to be good at both.

opinion

**Bizcuits**

Leanda Lee



**BEING GREEN**

For those who remember Kermit the Frog, "it's not easy being green." We can try very hard but unless the infrastructure is available, minimising our carbon footprint is difficult; almost impossible in Macau.

It started for me upon arrival on these shores, as for the first time I could see the volume of waste that was put out nightly by neighbours. Most of us share a single rubbish disposal room on our apartment-block floors. This offers some insight into neighbourly habits that we wouldn't get in our homes of origin unless we choose to be creepily voyeuristic.

I felt bad enough that my veggie scraps were to be dumped in with everything else (I considered a worm farm for a moment) but in those rubbish rooms could be found beautiful things: decorative tins (especially at this moon-cake time of year), hardly used kids toys and pre-loved clothes among the putrid refuse of polystyrene take-away containers and the stench of dripping plastic bags.

Refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle. This is the new mantra for environmentalists on a mission. Note that recycling is the very last option. The first is to refuse; as in plastic bags from the supermarket, or unnecessary freebies. I have given up buying any fruit or vegetables wrapped in plastic but this is becoming more difficult. I'm refusing and doing without more produce and throw-away cup encased coffees than I used to. Thank goodness for the local markets and green grocers in Macau. They are still happy and unsurprised when we present our own boxes, shopping bags or baskets. Try doing that in some of the large supermarket chains in Australia or the USA. There, even some delicatessen scales have been modified removing the zeroing-out function that enabled tare weight to be calculated.

Reduce: With all our abundance one would think that one was easy. Culturally, reduction is anathema. Abundance implies wealth and status and importance, also hospitality and generosity. Such a value system is not readily changed, although calls for austerity from Beijing have started to put it on the agenda.

Reuse: Even that plastic bag that we didn't refuse can get reused. Coffee cups – take your own. There was a wonderful article in the Detroit news last week about the local zoo no longer selling water in plastic bottles. They have put filtered water refilling stations throughout the grounds forgoing the USD250,000 income they used to make selling 62,500 bottles of water per year. Now visitors bring their own bottles or purchase a refillable souvenir one. The aim is to remove single-use plastic bottles from the environment. This will be an interesting initiative to follow and one that I would dearly like to see MGTO and Macau's casinos emulate. Where there's a will, there are ways around potential biohazards.

The ability, or perhaps it's the time available in our days, to repurpose seems to have been lost. Cleaning cloths used to be old underpants or T-shirts. Towels and clothes beyond use were made into delightful bathroom mats. I remember cutting up old dresses into hexagonal shapes and helping my mother sew quilts but lack of time and that abundance-value thing got in the way. Cleaning out my father's shed over summer I found old kettles, ice-cream containers, coated wire ties, worn sieves and rusty knives, all repurposed for the garden. Repurposing takes initiative and a bit of lateral thinking but now we seem to have the perfect gadget for every single task.

The fall-back position for minimal response to environmental issues emanating from an affluent society is recycling. Yet, there is no great clarity about what happens when we make the effort to take our waste to the IACM recycling depots around town for paper, metal, clean plastic bottles, New Year's red packets and moon-cake boxes. Given 1) the hesitant response of our recently hired but long-term Macau domestic helper to my request to take recyclables down to the depot and 2) the fact that there's always space in them, I have my doubts that Macau's even a light shade of green.

**THE HEAD OF HOLLYWOOD ACADEMY: DIVERSITY DEBATE AT TOP OF AGENDA**

The president of Hollywood's movie academy says criticism about the lack of diversity among Oscar nominees has helped spark a vital global discussion about how to make the entertainment industry more inclusive.

Cheryl Boone Isaacs says "the whole discussion about diversity is a great discussion, because now it's at the top of everybody's mind, not just the academy's. It is now a global discussion, and that's

really important."

Boone Isaacs spoke at a reception at the U.S. ambassador's London residence for new European members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. This week's event was part of a push to boost the international profile of the organization.

An all-white roster of acting nominees at the 2015 Academy Awards increased scrutiny about the lack of diversity in the organization.

**UEFA members decide to back suspended Michel Platini**



Michel Platini grimaces during a press conference

Rob Harris, Switzerland

**A**LL 54 European soccer nations are backing suspended UEFA President Michel Platini. Austrian federation president Leo Windtner, speaking yesterday after attending an emergency meeting at UEFA headquarters, said the member nations agreed to stand by Platini, who last week was suspended for 90 days by the FIFA ethics committee.

"We got a unified position of UEFA," Windtner said. "All nations give all support to Mr. Platini." Earlier, a statement from the Russian Sports Ministry said the UEFA executive committee expressed its "full support" for Platini.

Russian soccer union president Vitaly Mutko, who is also Russia's sports minister and a member of the FIFA executive committee, attended the meetings.

"During the first meeting,

which was chaired by UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino, all members of the UEFA executive committee expressed absolute trust and full support for UEFA president Michel Platini," the ministry said in a statement.

Platini and FIFA President Sepp Blatter were suspended for 90 days last week by the FIFA ethics committee following an investigation into a 2011 payment to the former France captain. Both Blatter and Platini deny wrongdoing.

Pending the outcome of the FIFA investigation, the two soccer officials could be handed longer bans.

Platini received 2 million Swiss francs (about USD2 million) from FIFA in 2011 which, he says, was unpaid additional salary from his job as Blatter's adviser between 1998 and 2002.

Platini has not produced a written contract to show the money was owed to him.

Because of his ban from any role in soccer, Platini is not allowed to attend yesterday's meeting.

Executive committee member Allan Hansen, who is also a member of the FIFA audit and compliance committee, said earlier this week he could no longer support Platini if there was no written contract.

"I expect to get some further information because I didn't so far," Hansen said as he arrived at Geneva airport yesterday.

FIFA investigators have not yet been convinced there was even an oral agreement between Platini and Blatter which accounts for the unpaid debt called in at the start of 2011. Platini said he did not receive his full salary by 2002 because FIFA could not afford to pay him.

Besides the FIFA probe, the payment is also being investigated by the Swiss attorney general.

Platini still hopes he can clear his name in time to stand in the FIFA presidential election in February, even though he is expected to be declared ineligible once the candidate integrity checks are conducted after Oct. 26.

Only Platini and Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan have said they have submitted their paperwork to FIFA ahead of the deadline for candidates. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	75-105 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	125-155 Bad
Ambient	125-155 Bad

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**UK-ECUADOR** Ecuadoran officials are asking the United Kingdom to let WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange leave his asylum at country's embassy in London briefly for medical checks. Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino told a news conference on Wednesday that Assange needs an MRI for a pain in his shoulder that began three months ago.

**ISRAEL** Palestinian assailants carry out a pair of stabbings in Jerusalem, even as Israel begins deploying hundreds of soldiers in cities across the country in a stepped-up effort to counter a month-long wave of violence that has seen near daily, apparently spontaneous attacks.



**BELGIUM** European Union leaders faced stern warnings at yesterday's summit meeting their credibility would suffer if they failed to respect pledges on tackling the refugee emergency. The leaders promised last month to provide hundreds of millions of euros for Syrian refugees and to help Africa better manage its borders, as well as funding experts to fingerprint and screen new arrivals in Italy and Greece.

**GREECE**'s coast guard says eight people are missing after a wooden boat carrying migrants or refugees attempting to reach the eastern Aegean island of Lesbos sank after colliding with a patrol boat during a rescue operation.

**USA** Electric car maker Tesla Motors is leapfrogging competitors with a new autopilot system that lets cars change lanes by themselves. Tesla CEO Elon Musk added a word of caution though: Drivers need to keep their hands on the wheel, and the autopilot system will chime to remind them if they don't. Drivers – not Tesla – will be held liable if there's a crash, Musk said.

**times square by rodrigo**

