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WORLD BRIEFS

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USA Vice President Joe Biden said he won't be a candidate in the 2016 White House campaign, solidifying Hillary Rodham Clinton's status as the Democratic front-runner and the party's likely heir to President Barack Obama's legacy.

AP PHOTO



USA Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton took center stage yesterday as the star witness in the Republican-led investigation into the deadly 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya that have long shadowed her presidential aspirations.

AP PHOTO



SOUTH KOREAN singer PSY is fighting a legal battle with artist tenants who are reluctant to leave a building he owns in Seoul. The property dispute has struck a nerve in a country where super-high rents have been criticized as killing vibrancy in cities by spurring gentrification and evictions.

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UBER IN THE CITY

Taxi platform service launched in Macau



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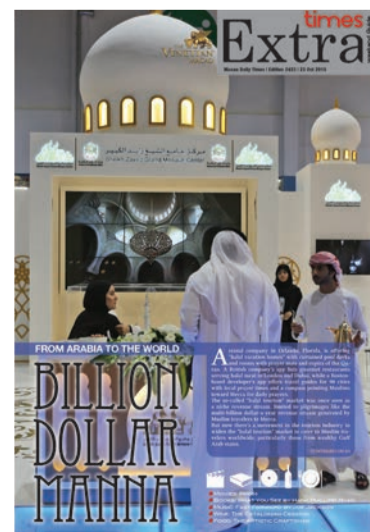


Gaming receipts to improve in October, says Secretary Leong

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 weekend Guide
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Aries Un

THE Macau government has diversified the 20th Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) based on the central government's much-touted strategy of regional cooperation, reinforcing a wide range of offerings and sub-events within the four-day exposition.

The annual exhibition commenced yesterday morning at the Venetian Macau in the presence of many high-level officials, bringing more than 1,900 exhibitors from around the globe onto an interaction platform of around 37,000 square meters.

However, one local exhibitor, Fok Ion, owner of the Kit Ou (Macau) – Pelaria Limitada, who has been exhibiting at the event since its debut in 1996, told the Times that strengthened investment in the fair was “not always linked to improvement and profits, at least not for certain types of homegrown small and medium-sized enterprises.”

During Secretary for Economy and Finance Leong Vai Tac's visit around the venue in the afternoon, Fok whispered into Leong's ear when the high-level official dropped by his booth.

Fok said afterwards that it was not an event as full of business potential as the officials had claimed in their respective addresses, and he reckoned it would be hard to garner business opportunities in the

MIF

'One-belt-one-road' oriented trade and investment fair kicks off

following days.

Having attended similar industry fairs many times before in both Hong Kong and the mainland, in Macau he could barely find fitting partners, except for one local hotel in a previous edition.

“As it was mostly professional visitors [in Hong Kong and the mainland], whereas here you could see lots of miscellaneous visitors,” said the businessman. “It's hard for us to find real business partners under these circumstances.”

Returning to the expo simply to support the authorities' efforts, he also did not hold out any hope for the business matching either.

However, some foreign participants saw value in the fair, which they believed has ushered in many potential opportunities.

Lisa Delcambre, a sales representative from a French beverage manufacturer's office in Hong Kong, commended the fair for bringing potential clients to the newcomer, who was introduced to the event by the French Chamber of Commerce.



Chui Sai On, Li Gang and Lionel Leong at MIF yesterday

Having yet to make a deal, Delcambre said she was glad to have exchanged business cards with many other exhibitors.

Cristian Prado Ahumada, a commissioner at the Trade Commission-Consulate General of Chile in Hong Kong, echoed the French exhibitor's

praise, adding that he has seen partnerships reached between the group's members and other parties over the past four years.

Starting right after the opening ceremony, many specific-themed seminars are planned throughout the following days. This year's event also focuses

on acting as a bridge for the Portuguese-speaking nations. For the first time, the authorities have set up a designated district called the “Portal Professional Service Supplier Exhibition Area,” in which 16 professional service providers have their services on display.

Disgraced businessman Ng's Hengqin venture unaffected by graft

Local businessman Ng Lap Seng's alleged case of bribery in the United States will not deter his ongoing investment project in the Zhuhai island of Hengqin, confirmed Niu Jing, the director-general of the administrative committee for the acclaimed island strip.

The head of the commission told media on the sidelines of the 20th MIF yesterday that the venture under Ng's Sun Kian Ip Group remained intact in the Hengqin New Area, as the mainland regulator has commenced planning



Niu Jing

for the project.

“It didn't affect the project itself much. This is

among the projects recommended by the Macau government and it's

been running smoothly,” he revealed.

Of the total 33 developments that have successfully made their entry into the plot of around 106 square kilometers, only a couple of them are from the Portuguese-speaking countries, according to Niu.

However, those overseas ventures require third-party channels and platforms to be launched, which the mainland official said were still under establishment.

After being asked how much progress the initiatives of Macau-licensed

ventures allowed to run on Hengqin land have made, Niu said that both local and mainland authorities were still “actively working on it,” although a timeline has yet to have been made available. The final scheme will determine, aside from private cars, what other sorts of locally-registered vehicles would be allowed.

Additionally, the recent announcement of the desire to expand circulation of patacas in Hengqin last month from the same official will take some time to materialize, as Niu said

that the authorities on both sides were gradually moving in that direction.

As the biggest island in Zhuhai is turning itself into one of China's most important economic districts, the commission head pledged to swiftly introduce more infrastructural developments into the area in the near future in response to rapid changes.

“The business and residential facilities will grow more and more in the following years, the living and working standard there will get better as well,” he claimed. “At that time, I think Hong Kong and Macau residents as well as the mainland business practitioners will welcome Hengqin more than ever, and be more willing to live their lives there.” **AU**

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Uber launches taxi platform service in the city

AFTER more than a year of awaiting, Uber, the international transportation network company, has undertaken a soft-launch of its services in Macau, making the SAR the 343rd city in which the company operates. The Uber Technologies Communications team for North Asia confirmed the report with the Times, stating, "We're very excited to be bringing this new safe, reliable, and high-quality transportation option to Macau residents and tourists."

Tomás Campos, Uber Macau's launcher, said that the company's entry into the SAR has been eagerly anticipated. "The demand in Macau even before we launched has been tremendous. To date, 127,000 users have opened the app in Macau to see if they could access an Uber trip, including thousands of Macanese locals and users from 70 countries worldwide," said Campos.

Uber's first customer to experience the service in Macau was local Cantopop star, Terence Siu-fay, who said that the experience was "totally awesome – the car



Terence Siu-fay, Cantopop star, experiences Uber's first taxi ride in Macau

arrived in just three minutes, the service provided by the driver was outstanding, and I loved getting out without having to fumble with cash."

In an announcement on their

newsroom website, Uber opened with, "We have heard you, Macau," in response to their claim that hundreds of Macau locals have asked when the technology service was launching in the city. "Ubers are now on the road in Macau, as part of an initial test period, [however during this period] car availability will be limited."

Anticipation regarding the launch in the city grew earlier this month when the Times reported on October 6 that two positions for Uber Macau had been posted online (General Manager and Marketing Manager), and that a Twitter account had been set up for the SAR.

Uber officially launched its service in Hong Kong in June 2014 following a similar announcement on the company's blog. A link was shortly posted to the Facebook page of the South China Morning Post, which drew considerable attention from Macau locals. One person commented, "I wish Macau had it [Uber] too since local people can't get any taxi[s] even if they are willing to pay more [than the counter]." Others

agreed, "Yes, Macau desperately needs it."

Macau's current taxi problems are widely reported in the media and frequently criticized by locals. Earlier this year, the Public Security Police recorded 1,333 cases of misconduct from taxi drivers within a two-month period. In addition, a Facebook group was set up in September 2014 to, according to the page, complain about and "shame" taxi drivers in Macau. Currently, the group has more than 5,200 members.

The Uber technology service remains highly controversial in many countries and cities in which it operates. Traditional taxi service companies have claimed that the service is unsafe, illegal, and unfair – the latter a testament to the fact that, as a technology service rather than taxi company, Uber asserts that it is not required to abide by the regulations of the industry. The disruptive nature of the service has resulted in a backlash from taxi drivers in the form of protests and, as in France of January 2014, an attack on an Uber vehicle. **Staff Reporter**

Chui to deliver 2016 Policy Address on November 17



According to the government, the Chief Executive, Mr Chui Sai On, will deliver his 2016 Policy Address on Nov 17 at the Legislative Assembly (AL). The session, which will be held at 3pm, will be followed by a press conference at the Government Headquarters at 5pm, where Mr Chui will be available to answer questions from the press. On Nov 18, from 3pm to 6pm, he will attend the AL plenary meeting in order to explain his policy program to the legislators and to answer their questions. The events to be held on both days will be broadcast live by the public broadcaster, TDM, on both television and radio channels. Meanwhile, the Times has learned that the sectorial debates will be held according to the following schedule: Nov 23 – 24, Administration and Justice – Sonia Chan; Nov 26 – 27, Economy and Finance – Lionel Leong; Nov 30 – Dec 1, Security – Wong Sio Chak; Dec 3 – 4, Social Affairs and Culture – Alexis Tam; December 9 – 10, Transport and Public Works – Raimundo do Rosário.

121 restaurants to serve up dishes at 15th Macau Food Festival



A total of 121 eateries will be present at the 15th edition of the Macau Food Festival, to be held from the 13th to the 29th of next month. 42 of the restaurants are newcomers to the South Korean-themed annual gastronomic event, which is one of the highlights of the tourist calendar. About 80 percent of the event's cost this year is sponsored by the government. Chan Chak Mo, head of the organizing committee, acknowledged earlier that it was impossible to sustain the festival without funding from the authorities. The event has seen fewer locals in recent years.

4,800 households experience power blackout

Approximately 4,800 households experienced a power outage on Sunday evening. TDM radio reported that the power supply to those families, who were mainly scattered across the southwest region of the Macau peninsula, was not fully restored until early yesterday morning. The public utility company CEM blamed a malfunctioning medium voltage power cable for the first blackout, which lasted for about 15 minutes at around 7 pm. Another blackout occurred at 10:39 pm for a similar reason, resulting in a four-minute power loss, while some affected households did not regain power supply until early the next morning. The last outage took place at around 10:40 pm and lasted around eight minutes.

Tourist agency to work to mitigate possible fallout from tourist death in Hong Kong

THE director of the Tourist Office, Maria Fernandes, believes that the death of a mainland Chinese tourist that was linked to forced shopping in Hong Kong early this week might also tarnish the local reputation to some extent.

It has been announced that the official will discuss efforts with mainland Chinese and Hong Kong authorities soon in order to redeem Macau's possibly diminished reputation. The 54-year-old Hellongjiang tourist was beaten unconscious on Monday morning and was pronounced dead in hospital less than 24 hours later.

The man's death has immediately prompted calls on the mainland for the boycotting of travel to the former British colony.

Fernandes told media representatives on

the sidelines of the 20th MIF that the scandal would likely have a "psychological impact" on potential tourists to Macau coming from the mainland, yet she expressed her desire that the follow-up works could minimize the repercussions.

"We'd approach related departments to learn about the situation after their investigation into the case ended. Meanwhile, we'd contact the mainland agencies to see what works need to be done against the possible adverse impacts on Macau," she said.

However, she also noted that, instead of intimidation for shopping, disputes between tourists and their tour guides here in Macau are usually centered on miscommunications between tourists and their tour agencies or guides. These disputes usually result in tou-

Graft buster finds municipal regulations outdated and obsolete

and regulations that are still in force though are now outdated. This includes instances where regulations contradict the reality of the situation.

A further investigation was then issued, particularly to examine the issues on the Licensing Regulation on the Establishment for Retail of Meat, Seafood, Poultry and Vegetables, which stipulates that certain establishments can

only sell one kind of good.

The CCAC found that this regulation does not meet the demands related to everyday life and is no longer being adopted. Regulations such as these were deemed to be too superficial and abstract, and are now considered insufficient to providing an efficacious system of inspection.

As a result of regulations

such as these, the CCAC is now taking steps to revise outdated or obsolete regulations and provisions, and consequently is advising the DSAT and other bodies to do the same. The intended result, according to the CCAC is "to amend and perfect the provisions which do not fit in with the reality of everyday life but are still in force." **Staff Reporter**

ACCORDING to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), the organization has completed an investigation report on municipal ordinances and municipal regulations. The motive for the report came about earlier this year after an inspection of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), which was found to have been charging and imposing fines on those who allegedly violated regulations, despite the regulation having expired in June 2001.

The investigation prompted the CCAC to begin a preliminary study on the municipal ordinances

CURB exhibits local architects' proposals for the Lakes area

THE Architects Association of Macau (AAM) and CURB Center for Architecture and Urbanism are currently presenting the AAM Architectural Design Competition 2015 expo.

The exhibition features a total of 14 projects, which include all of the works submitted for the competition alongside the winning projects, showcasing architectural visions for the waterside and the surrounding enhancement of the Nam Van and Sai Van Lakes.

In his opening speech, the Director of CURB, the Architect and Urban Planner Nuno Soares, expressed his happiness that "AAM is taking the lead in promoting architectural design competitions in Macau", which, according to him, "are a crucial method to promoting the discussion and excellence of architecture and urban fields in Macau." These are considered the main goals of the exhibition.

The exhibited works show different strategies, design solutions and architectural shapes that can lead the audience to visualize the future, providing appropriate suggestions for what can be done. Highlighting the fact that all the works displayed were undertaken entirely by Macau based architects, Mr Soares said, "We are proving that local architects are committed and interested, and participate when these opportunities arise".

Johnathan Wong, AAM's President expressed his joy at the "very high quality of entries this year, showing a good improvement from the previous competition held two years ago." Mr Wong also revealed that the association is in negotiations with government officials and departments in order to make this competition annual. The exhibition is currently held every two years.

It is important to note that representatives from several government departments in-



cluding the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DS-SOPT), the Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), and the Civic And Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) participated actively as jury members, getting to know the proposals in detail.

"Although the purpose is not to find a solution to be actually

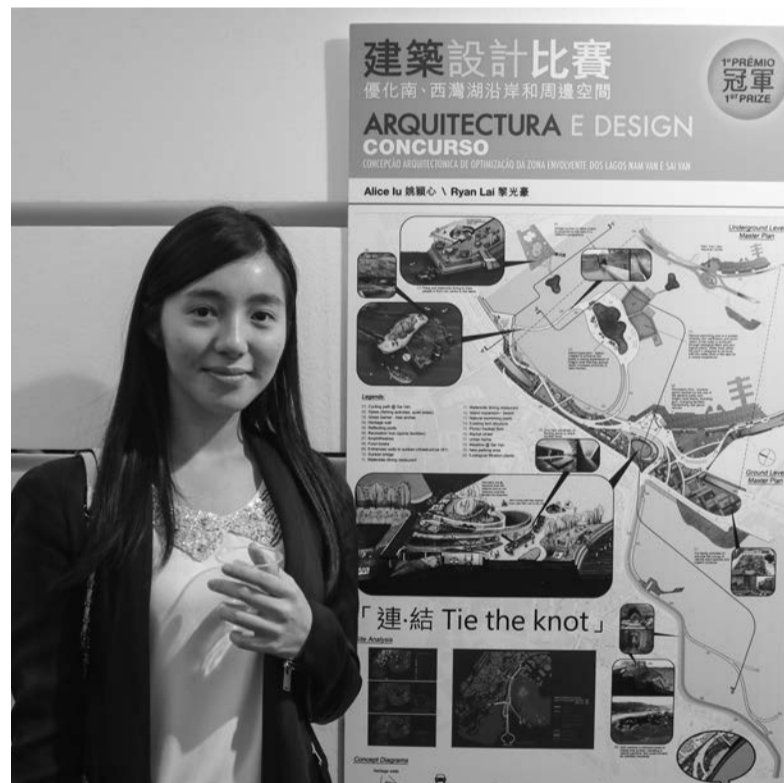
"Tie the knot" - this project underlines the idea of tying the lakes together.

Alice Lu
1ST PRIZE WINNER

built but to investigate ideas instead, these projects can show clearly what architects think about the city and its spaces and also their expectations

for the improvement of these locations," said Nuno Soares, adding that, "We are now building a 'critical mass' around

architecture and urbanism in Macau." He also confirmed his belief that an architecture course in Macau will eventually



Alice Lu

be created at the University of Saint Joseph, causing "more significant developments in the near future because we are talking about architecture students, soon-to-be architects, that are mostly locals and studying locally, people that know the local culture and have knowledge of the whole city that differs from those from abroad or have studied abroad".

Alice Lu, one of the winners,

We are now building a 'critical mass' around architecture and urbanism in Macau...

NUNO SOARES
DIRECTOR, CURB

explained her top prize-winning work: "With the title 'Tie the Knot' this project underlines the idea of tying the lakes together, connecting them in a way that they could be used more as recreational space for public, tourists and especially for families." The concept, presented by the local architect, is based on the elimination of the barrier created by the Dr Stanley Ho Avenue that separates Nam Van from Sai Van Lake, "sinking the road to the basement level and reclaiming the ground level for the people to move freely among the two lakes". This would combine a more dynamic and energetic area with a mix of possibilities and activities for all (the Nam Van side), with a more leisurely and calm area (the Sai Vai side). One must also note that all projects submitted were not aimed to be disruptive but instead needed to respect the original idea of Manuel Vicente, the architect who started to draw the main lines of this area in the early 1980s.

The exhibition began last Monday and will be on display until November 2 on Ponte 9. **RM**

Kering announces new collections launch at Studio City

KERING Eyewear has announced the launch of its Saint Laurent and Bottega Veneta eyewear collections via a partnership with DFS Group, The Moodie Report revealed yesterday.

The collections will be unveiled at the new T Galleria by DFS sunglasses boutique at Studio

City in Macau, opening on 27 October.

Together with Puma, the Saint Laurent and Bottega Veneta Eyewear collections will subsequently be rolled out in other locations.

"Kering Eyewear's partnership with DFS is a tremendous opportunity to consolidate and ensure the untapped

growth potential of each of the brands in its portfolio," the group said, cited by The Moodie Report.

"We're excited that Kering Eyewear has chosen T Galleria by DFS at Studio City in Macau for the presentation of the Saint Laurent and Bottega Veneta Eyewear Collections to the travel retail

market," said DFS Group Director of Merchandising Sunglasses, Fashion Watches and Jewellery Jason Blejwas.

"Our new sunglasses boutique at Studio City, with its award-winning design and exclusive collections, will bring customers an unprecedented shopping experience in the heart of Macau and

we're thrilled that Kering's assortment will be part of that experience," he added.

Kering Eyewear Global Head of Travel Retail and International Key Accounts Omar Hagi added: "Travel Retail is a strategic channel for Kering Eyewear in fulfilling our ambition of being the worldwide leader in

Luxury and High-end Eyewear."

"The DFS Merchandising team immediately recognised the uncompromising quality of our product offer for the Bottega Veneta and Saint Laurent pillar brands and we can therefore count on their know-how and customer-oriented approach in supporting the empowerment of our brands in this channel," Hagi concluded.

MACAU CONNECTION

Indictment brings additional bribery charges in UN case



Courtroom sketch, U.S. Magistrate Judge James Francis

FEDERAL prosecutors beefed up charges yesterday in a bribery conspiracy case that has ensnared a former president of the U.N. General Assembly, a Dominican Republic diplomat and a Chinese billionaire.

The indictment in Manhattan federal court boosts bribery charges brought against real estate mogul Ng Lap Seng and Francis Lorenzo, a suspended ambassador to the United Nations from the Dominican Republic, and two others. And it adds a money laundering charge

against the men.

But no new charges were brought against John Ashe, a former U.N. ambassador from Antigua and Barbuda who served as president of the U.N. General Assembly for one year until a year ago. He faced tax charges when he was arrested two weeks ago on allegations contained in a criminal complaint.

“Although the government added a money laundering charge to the indictment, it is predicated on the same flawed allegations as in the complaint and will be vigorously defended,” said Ng’s lawyer, Benjamin Brafman.

Pleas were scheduled to be entered on the indictment today (Macau time). Ashe is free on bail while Lorenzo and Ng remain in custody, though bail has been set at USD2 million for Lorenzo and \$50 million for Ng. **MDT/AP**

LIONEL LEONG

Gov’t expects better gaming performance in October

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong Vai Tac, said that “so far in October, monthly gaming revenue performance judged year-on-year has been better than in the prior few months.”

GGR recorded a 20 percent year-on-year decline this month, compared to a near-40 percent aggregate decline year-on-year in the first half of 2015, Secretary Leong told reporters this week.

Mr Leong said better gaming performance in October was due to the Golden Week, a week-long holiday on the mainland to mark National Day.

He further noted that the economy of a city driven by its tourism and gaming industries, “was influenced by what happened in neighbouring areas. To limit any negative impact, the government had stepped up its efforts in promoting diversification of



Lionel Leong at the MIF yesterday

the city’s economy.

Mr Leong noted that the benefits brought by new industries would be felt long-term rather than necessarily in the short term. The administration would work closely with the community to grasp fresh economic opportunities during the period of adjustment in the gaming industry, he said.

The Secretary had stated on the sidelines of a public event on 20 October that the government had decided, after comprehen-

sive analysis, to allocate respectively 250 and 100 new-to-market mass-market gaming tables to two of the city’s operators. The table allocations aim to encourage the gaming industry to strengthen its efforts in promoting non-gaming attractions, thus aiding the territory’s economic diversification, Mr Leong had then said.

Secretary Leong stressed that “the government wants to see any additional tables utilised for mass-market play rather

than for VIP play.” For this “could help encourage the development of further non-gaming elements in Macau’s tourism sector, such as food and beverage retailing, and the hotel industry.

The Secretary reiterated that the government would “strictly follow the principle of allowing a compound annual growth rate in new-to-market tables of no more than 3 percent for a 10-year period from 1 January 2013.”

Major considerations for table allocation on new projects include each development’s non-gaming elements; each project’s contribution to help transform Macau to a world centre of tourism and leisure; the scale of the non-gaming elements; and whether such elements could drive development of local small- and medium-sized enterprises, said Mr Leong. **MDT**

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Melco lenders face crunch as tables fall short of targets

Christopher Langner and David Yong

LENDERS to the newest Macau casino of Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. face debt renegotiations as the company hasn't gotten enough gambling tables for the USD3.2 billion project ahead of requirements it must meet next year.

The company controlled by billionaires Lawrence Ho and James Packer said it "intends to proactively engage" lenders after Macau's government authorized it to operate 200 gaming tables and 1,233 gaming machines upon the opening of Studio City scheduled for Oct. 27, with another 50 tables to start operation from January 2016. The company's \$1.4 billion in secured loans require it to have 400 operating tables by October 2016, according to Standard & Poor's Ratings.

"Unutilized tables from other Melco casinos could likely be allocated to Studio City if there is a need," said Grant Govertsen, an analyst at Union



Gaming Group. Given the new casino is a joint venture 40 percent-owned by hedge funds while the company owns the rest, "we don't think Melco has much incentive to transfer these tables now and, honestly, given the current demand, 250 tables may be enough for the new casino," he said.

Melco also operates projects including the City of Dreams and Altira Macau in the city,

with 619 gaming tables as of end-June, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Intelligence. Its adjusted property earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization fell 35 percent to \$204.9 million in the second quarter amid a 16-month gambling downturn in Macau, hurt by China's anti-graft campaign and economic slowdown.

Studio City had hired Kirkland

& Ellis as legal adviser and consultants Moelis & Co., which specializes in debt restructuring, due to the possibility of a lower than anticipated table allocation, according to Melco in an Aug. 12 statement. Bert Grisel, managing director in Hong Kong at Moelis, declined to comment.

A failure to meet loan requirements means banks can require immediate repayment. If that happens, bondholders are also entitled to request Melco pay back its \$1.8 billion in notes outstanding right away.

That outcome is unlikely, according to Govertsen, who said lenders would be interested to see the project become operational instead of stalling it and will probably reach an agreement with the company to change its borrowing terms. Even with fewer tables, Govertsen said, Studio City is expected to generate enough cash to repay its debt.

Melco bought a 60 percent stake in the developer of Studio City for \$360 million in 2011

from entities including hedge funds Silver Point Capital LP and Oaktree Capital Group as gaming earnings were on the rise and the Cotai Strip, where the project is being built, was seen as the next frontier in Macau.

Four years later, as the project is about to open its doors, minority shareholders, lenders and bond buyers face a much less profitable venture.

In May, S&P said Studio City's revenue and profit growth in 2015 and 2016 will be slower than anticipated and the project will remain highly leveraged. The rating company also changed its forecast for gross gaming revenue in Macau to a drop of 20 percent to 30 percent in 2015 from previous expectations of a decline of as much as 10 percent.

The latest plan to amend its loan terms doesn't affect Studio City's bond rating even as S&P is reviewing its assumptions on gaming table allocation and revenue, Sophie Lin, a Hong Kong-based analyst at the ratings agency, said in an e-mail Wednesday.

"We believe Studio City still has time to avoid an event of technical default through several possible measures, including renegotiation of terms, obtaining a waiver, refinancing, or obtaining support from Melco Crown," Lin said. **Bloomberg**

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JUPITER Asset Management Ltd., which oversees about USD53 billion, bet on Asian consumer demand after the region's sharpest equity selloff since 2011.

Ben Surtees, a London-based money manager for Jupiter, this month bought shares of Sands China Ltd., a Macau casino operator, and Ace Hardware Indonesia Tbk, a hardware store-chain operator in Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

"Markets did get very oversold during the summer on fears that the U.S. Federal Reserve is going to raise rates," said Surtees. His Jupiter Asian Fund has outperformed 94 percent of peers this month, and 73 percent over a year, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

Asian stocks and currencies are rebounding in October, with a regional equity measure poised for its best monthly gain in six years, as futures markets suggest borrowing costs in the world's biggest economy will remain near zero into 2016.

INVESTMENT

Jupiter buys Sands China, Chinese Noodlemaker stock after slump



by Bloomberg show.

Surtees plans to buy more Sands China shares, which he started accumulating early this month, after seeing strong visitor traffic at the company's resort when visiting Macau during the Golden Week holiday.

third quarter versus the previous three months, according to Credit Suisse Group AG.

"A lot of the negatives are already in the price," Surtees said. "Valuations have halved, Sands' balance sheet is fairly sound and the dividend payout ratio is high."

While Surtees' bet on Sands China is in sync with stock analysts who turned bullish on Macau casinos at a record pace this month, the fund manager took a contrarian view on Tin-

gyi. Strategists cut their target prices by 18 percent on the maker of noodles since the end of June as earnings disappointed.

"Although Tingyi's earnings has improved sequentially, the analyst community just wasn't contented with the speed of improvement," Surtees said. "After the release of the last quarterly results, the stock was sold off quite aggressively so we started buying." MDT/Bloomberg

Sell, buy, hold: Busy times for top Macau casino analyst

SANDS China top stock prognosticator has been changing his mind a lot lately.

Daiwa Securities Group Inc.'s Jamie Soo has switched his investment ratings on Sands China three times in the past two months, going from a hold to a sell, then upgrading to a recommendation equivalent to a buy before returning to a hold.

Soo's frequent flip flops help illustrate how

casinos - a group of stocks already known for their high daily swings - are getting even more volatile lately. The 30-day volatility measure in Bloomberg Industry's Macau Gaming index is at its highest level in almost four years.

Though share prices have been exceptionally volatile as of late, the overarching theme in Macau during the past couple of years has been pretty steady. The world's biggest gambling hub is weathering through its worst-ever downturn with gaming revenue slumping for 16 straight months and the

economy shrinking more than 20 percent for two consecutive quarters.

Soo's optimism for Sands China lasted about a month as he cut the stock's rating to hold, citing concerns about the casino operator's ability to maintain its dividend payment levels, though he kept the target price unchanged at HKD28.17.

Sands China saw third-quarter profit fell 33 percent, missing analysts' estimates, as competition for tourists intensified in the Cotai Strip area, the parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp. said in a statement yesterday.



Mads Nissen Dinamarca, Scapix/Panos Pictures/丹麥, Scapix/Panos Pictures/Denmark, Scapix/Panos Pictures

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS Did you know...?

20 interesting facts about Macau property - Part 2

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.

www.JMLProperty.com
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JULIET RISDON

6. Why property prices are in HKD

It is a common misconception that the reason property prices are HK\$ is to take advantage of the 3% difference in the currency exchange rate.

The real reason that prices are in HK\$ instead of the Macau Pataca (MOP) is that the MOP is not freely exchangeable, and is only valid in Macau.

As property transactions often involve overseas investment, it was vital to operate in an exchangeable currency so that money could be both remitted and sent overseas to facilitate transactions.

7. Who can decide on the rental amount

The amount of rent paid on a property is a matter between the landlord and the tenant only; there are no restrictions from the government.

The government has resisted the temptation to get involved in setting rental limits or limiting rents because it makes sense to avoid interfering in the market.

Of course it is a good idea to do a price comparison with rents before entering into a contractual agreement.

8. You can repay your property loan early

If you have a mortgage loan with the bank, you can repay the loan early in its entirety or just partially. This is an advantage if you want to reduce your monthly repayments to the bank and have an excess of cash through savings or a special bonus.

Be aware that the bank usually charge an early repayment penalty if you repay the whole amount within the first 3 years of the loan, and you can usually negotiate this fee with the bank.

9. Paying rents late can be very costly

Rental payments that are overdue can quickly become a major issue in accordance with Macau law. If a rental payment is 9 days or more overdue, the landlord has the right to charge the tenant a further 50% of the monthly rental amount.

If a payment remains due after 30 days, the amount increases to 100% of the monthly rental.

In other words, if your rent is MOP10,000 and you are 9 days late, the landlord may charge \$15,000 instead. After 30 days that would be \$20,000 and this amount is capped.

This is especially important for tenants who are under the impression that they can use the last 2 months security deposit for rent.

The security deposit may not be used as rent, and thus as soon as the first payment is missed and more than 30 days overdue, the security deposit is effectively wiped out.

10. The minimum rental contract term

There has been a lot of social network discussion on the minimum contractual term, and a lot of confusion on the subject.

According to the Macau government website on tenancy, there is a maximum period of 30 years that a rental agreement can run, but there is NO minimum period. If there is no time frame stipulated on an agreement, the government deems the agreement to be valid for 1 year.

However, under Section 1038 of Macau Civil Code, the landlord does not have right to terminate a tenancy agreement for residential purposes within 2 years from the starting date of the lease term unless it agreed by both parties.

Simply put, it means that if you have an agreement that is 2 years or longer, the landlord cannot terminate the agreement prior to the end of the initial 2-year period.

However if both parties agree to a shorter contract that will terminate after 1 year for example, this is a legally binding agreement.



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LAGOALVA WINE PAIRING EVENT AT HOTEL ROYAL



Hotel Royal, Macau and Great Time Limited jointly hosted a Lagoalva wine pairing dinner at Fado restaurant last Friday, Oct 16th.

During the event, Luís Américo, Fado's executive chef showcased his culinary skills with a live cooking performance and a 5-course dinner, paired with a selection of Quinta da Lagoalva wines.

The highlights of the menu included Tiger shrimp slow cooked in the cataplana with roasted chorizo paired with 2012 Lagoalva de Cima Arinto Charodonnay, Wagyu ox tail tornado, green asparagus and dried plum risotto with Azorian old cheese paired with 2010 Quinta da Lagoalva de Cima Syrah Tinto and Carrot and orange roll with crispy almonds, raisins and a touch of cinnamon paired with Quinta da Lagoalva de Cima-Late Harvest.

This five-course Lagoalva Wine Pairing Menu will carry on from today till Oct 31st, 2015.

Apple cleaning up act in China with more renewable energy

Michael Liedtke
Technology Writer, San Francisco

APPLE is cleaning up its manufacturing operations in China to reduce the air pollution caused by the factories that have assembled hundreds of millions of iPhones and iPads during the past eight years.

The world's most valuable company is working with its Chinese suppliers to eventually produce 2.2 gigawatts of solar power and other renewable energy.

The commitment announced Wednesday (yesterday, Macau time) represents Apple's latest attempt to prevent the popularity of its devices and digital services from increasing the carbon emissions that are widely believed to be changing the Earth's climate.

Apple Inc. estimates 20 million metric tons of greenhouse gas pollution will be avoided as more of its suppliers rely on renewable energy between now and 2020. That's like having four million fewer cars on the road for a year.

Panels capable of generating about 200 megawatts of solar power will be financed by Apple in the northern, southern and eastern regions of China, where many of



A worker cleans a window of an Apple store

its suppliers are located. The Cupertino, California, company is teaming up with its Chinese suppliers to build the capacity for the remaining 2 gigawatts of renewable energy, which will be a mix of solar, wind and hydroelectric power.

Foxconn, which runs the factory where the most iPhones are assembled, is pledging to contribute 400 megawatts of solar power as part of the 2-gigabyte commitment. The solar panels to be built by 2018 in China's Henan Province are supposed to produce as much renewable energy as Foxconn's Zhengzhou factory consumes while making iPhones.

Apple has made protecting the environ-

ment a higher priority since Tim Cook replaced the late Steve Jobs as the company's CEO four years ago.

"Climate change is one of the great challenges of our time, and the time for action is now," Cook said in a statement. "The transition to a new green economy requires innovation, ambition and purpose."

Apple just completed projects in China that generate 40 megawatts of solar energy to offset the power required by its 24 stores and 19 offices in the country. All of Apple's data centers, offices and stores in the U.S. already have been running on renewable energy.

"When you look at all the air pollution in China, all the manufacturing that is done there has a lot to do with it, so this is a significant step in the right direction," said Gary Cook, a senior analyst for Greenpeace.

Apple also has a financial incentive to help make China a better place to live. The greater China region is Apple's second biggest market behind the U.S. Tim Cook has made it clear that he wants the company to make even more inroads as rising incomes enable more of China's population to buy smartphones and other gadgets. AP

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BRITISH Prime Minister David Cameron planned to discuss the fight against extremism with Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday on a state visit hailed as a landmark by both China and Britain.

Xi and his wife said goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II after spending two nights as the monarch's guest at Buckingham Palace. Xi will dine at Cameron's country estate, Chequers, before visiting the northwest England city of Manchester to end his four-day trip.

Cameron's office said yesterday's talks would focus on international affairs and how China can help battle extremism.

Western governments are keenly interested in China's res-

Xi says goodbye to queen, set for talks with Cameron

ponse to the war in Syria. China joined Russia to block a series of Western resolutions at the United Nations against Bashar Assad's government. Russia has stepped up a military intervention in Syria that it says targets the Islamic State group but that Britain and others say seeks to prop up Assad.

Xi has been greeted with elaborate British pomp and lavish ceremony on the state visit, the first



Chinese President Xi Jinping is escorted as he inspects a guard of honor during the official welcome ceremony at Horse Guards Parade in London

UK EASES VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR CHINESE VISITORS

BRITAIN HAS used the state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping as an occasion to ease visa requirements for other Chinese visitors. Prime Minister David Cameron's office said Wednesday that standard visitor visas will be extended from six months to two years as part of the government's plan to strengthen ties with China.

Plans for a new 10-year multiple entry visa were also announced. The extended visa will be introduced in January. Officials say Chinese tourists contribute 500 million pounds (USD772 million) to Britain's economy each year. London tourism officials said the new rules should deliver a boost to tourism.

by a Chinese leader to Britain in a decade.

The two countries signed more than 30 billion pounds (USD46 billion) in trade agreements — including a contentious nuclear power deal — as Cameron said Britain sought to be China's "partner of choice" in the West.

There have also been protests by human rights activists and pro-Tibet groups, and opposition politicians have urged Cameron to press Xi on China's rights record.

The trip has dominated state media in China, where the Communist Party newspaper Global

Times said "the Sino-U.K. relationship will expect the harvest of the 'golden era.'"

It's a marked change in tone from Cameron's trip to China in December 2013, when the Global Times said Britain was an old country, "easily replaceable in China's European foreign policy." **AP**

Beijing inks nuclear power deal as UK seeks investment



A Chinese dance group supporting Chinese President Xi Jinping, perform on Parliament Square outside the Houses of Parliament

Jill Lawless, London

BRITAIN will be China's "partner of choice" in the West, Prime Minister David Cameron declared Wednesday, as China demonstrated its commitment by putting down a 6 billion-pound (USD9.3 billion) stake in the U.K.'s first nuclear power plant since the 1980s.

Chinese President Xi Jinping signed the nuclear agreement on the second day of a four-day visit that has seen the two countries agree more than 30 billion pounds (\$46 billion) in business deals.

Cameron said the "historic agreement" would create 25,000 jobs and eventually provide power to 6 million homes. But the nuclear deal

is a focal point for critics who accuse Cameron of wooing the Chinese for trade deals while ignoring the country's human rights record.

At a joint news conference at 10 Downing St., Xi said China "attaches great importance to the protection of human rights."

"Looking around the world, there is always room for improvement," he said.

Cameron said a strong economic relationship could withstand frank disagreements on some other issues.

"The stronger the relationship between our countries, the more we'll be able to have a serious dialogue," Cameron said. "We may not always agree, but we can discuss issues

openly and constructively."

The nuclear deal will see the new Hinckley Point plant in southwest England built jointly by Electricite de France and China's state-owned China General Nuclear Power Corporation.

EDF said Wednesday that it would take a 66.5 percent share in the 18 billion-pound (\$28 billion) plant and CGN 33.5 percent. The two firms also agreed to develop two further nuclear power stations in southeast England — one of which would be Chinese-designed and majority Chinese-owned.

The deal must be approved by both companies' boards. EDF said it anticipated a "final investment decision" within weeks.

Some in Britain worry about letting an undemocratic emerging superpower with powerful espionage capabilities access to Britain's critical infrastructure.

"It won't be the physical security that matters, but the cybersecurity," said Alan Woodward, visiting professor of computing at the University of Surrey. "We don't want a foreign power being able to quite literally turn off the lights from some remote location."

Others questioned the economics of the nuclear agreement. The British government agreed to underwrite 2 billion pounds (\$3.1 billion) in Chinese financing to secure the deal and has guaranteed the plant's owners a minimum power price for 35 years. **AP**

Robert Mugabe wins PRC's alternative to Nobel Peace Prize

ZIMBABWEAN President Robert Mugabe has been awarded China's alternative to the Nobel Peace Prize for what the prize committee called his inspired national leadership and service to pan-Africanism.

The 91-year-old Mugabe is the latest in a series of critics of the West who have received the Confucius Peace Prize, first awarded in 2010 amid Beijing's anger and resentment over the granting of the Nobel Peace Prize to imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo.

Mugabe has "overcome difficulties of all kinds and has strongly committed himself to constructing his nation's political and economic order, while strongly supporting pan-Africanism and African independence," the committee said in announcing the award.

Mugabe, Africa's oldest head of state, is a resilient leader who fought in a guerrilla war, denounces the West, crushed or co-opted dissent at home and has been in power for 35 years with no clear successor.

His selection as head for one year of the 54-member African Union struck some as a poor precedent on a continent where democratic change has struggled for a foothold in many regions. Mugabe is also the rotating chief of the Southern African Development Community, a 15-nation group.

Mugabe received only 36 of 76 votes, but was awarded the prize following a meeting of the committee's 13-member review board. Other candidates included Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

Prior recipients of the prize, granted by a non-governmental committee composed mainly of scholars, include former Cuban leader Fidel Castro and Russian President Vladimir Putin. None has come to claim the prize in person. **AP**

Beijing to take custody of mainland couple in Philippine deaths

Jim Gomez, Manila

BEIJING has claimed diplomatic immunity for a Chinese couple suspected in the shooting deaths of two Chinese diplomats and the wounding of the country's consul-general in the central Philippines, and will take custody of them, an official said Thursday.

A Chinese man has been accused of killing diplomats Sun Shan and Hui Li and injuring Consul-General Song Ronghua on Wednesday in a restaurant in Cebu City, where they worked at Beijing's consulate. Police say the alleged attacker is the husband of another Chinese diplomat who has also been taken into custody.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said Beijing has invoked the Chinese couple's diplomatic immunity under the 1961 Vienna Convention and a 2009 bilateral accord and has asked to take custody of them so they can be investigated and possibly tried in China. "The Chinese government would like to take custody of them and they will have to undergo the Chinese legal process," department spokesman Charles Jose said at a news conference.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said an investigation is un-



An investigator marks the crime scene where two Chinese diplomats were killed inside a restaurant in Cebu province, central Philippines on Wednesday

derway to determine the motive for the attack and gather details. "We felt deeply distressed over this incident," she said at a regular news briefing.

The 1961 Vienna Convention spells out protections afforded to diplomats and embassy staff, including immunity from local laws and criminal prosecution. China and the Philippines agreed in a 2009 accord that their consular diplomats enjoy those immunities.

Jose said Chinese and Philippine officials are discussing the transfer of custody, which is to occur after a security team arrives from Beijing. The suspects are currently still in the custody of Philippine police

in Cebu, about 570 kilometers south of Manila, at Beijing's request, he said.

China has previously insisted on trying its citizens who have been accused of crimes in other countries. A Beijing court sentenced a Chinese man to life in prison in 2012 for murdering his girlfriend in Canada. In 2011, a Shanghai court handed a 15-year prison term to a Chinese man who admitted he killed a taxi driver in Auckland.

In Wednesday's shooting, initial reports differed on whether the man or the woman was the suspected attacker but Jose backed police findings, based on witnesses accounts and security camera video at the Cebu

restaurant where the shootings happened, that the husband allegedly fired the shots.

"The shooting was an extreme act of a relative of a staff of the consulate," Jose said.

Police Chief Superintendent Prudencio Tom Banas said the couple has not issued any statement that could explain the motive for the shooting, partly because they could not speak English.

The victims and the suspects were attending a birthday lunch in a private room at the Lighthouse restaurant when the shooting occurred, Banas said.

Citing witnesses and video from a restaurant security camera, Banas said the gunman

A Chinese man has been accused of killing diplomats Sun Shan and Hui Li and injuring Consul-General Song Ronghua in Cebu

first fired at the consul-general and his deputy, Sun Shan, in the room. Hui Li, a finance officer, ran outside the room but the attacker followed and shot her, he said.

Investigators found that the Colt .45 pistol used in the attack may have been illegally obtained. A similar gun with the same serial number and an expired license has been seized from a Filipino owner in metropolitan Manila, police said.

Attacks on diplomats are unusual in Asia. In September a South Korean court sentenced a man described as an anti-U.S. activist to 12 years in prison for slashing and seriously injuring the U.S. ambassador last March. **AP**

Novelty insurance guards do-gooders against scams by elderly

Didi Tang, Beijing

Now there's an answer to a sad, strange and common question in China: How can someone be a good Samaritan to an elderly person in need without getting scammed?

China's e-commerce giant Alibaba has partnered with an insurance company to introduce a one-year, three-yuan (50-cent) insurance plan that covers up to 20,000 yuan in litigation fees for anyone who wants to help an older person to their feet but is concerned about being accused of knocking them down to begin with. The novelty insurance product attracted more than 60,000 buyers



An e-commerce website by Alibaba and Hua'an insurance, also known as Sinosafe Insurance, selling insurance to protect good Samaritans from being scammed by the elderly they help is displayed on computer screens in Beijing

since going on sale Oct. 15.

Concern has grown in recent years with media attention given to various scams in which elderly people are found to have turned against their hel-

pers. Some have been caught on video purposely falling next to cars to rip off the motorists.

A joke circulating in China's social media says a new criterion in judging one's wealth is whether

he or she has the guts to help an elderly person.

"Many people want to do good deeds by helping the elderly to their feet, but they are also worried about getting scammed," said Xu Ting, product manager at Alibaba. "We hope the insurance plan can help reduce some financial costs by paying for litigation fees that can help restore the facts."

One of the best-known cases occurred in 2007 in the eastern city of Nanjing, where a young man took an old woman to a hospital after she fell at a bus stop. When the woman was diagnosed with bone fractures, she demanded that the young man pay the medical bill, saying he knocked

her over and should be held responsible for her injuries. The man denied wrongdoing.

Without solid evidence, the court assigned no fault to either party but ruled the man should shoulder 40 percent of the medical costs. The verdict stirred a wave of criticism, with the public largely believing the man had been unfairly punished.

According to the party-run People's Daily, a Chinese college professor examined 149 disputes involving people helping others to their feet between 2004 and this year and concluded that the helpers got framed in 84 cases, the helpers were at fault in 32 and the facts of

the remaining cases were unclear.

"It's chilling that there is a high percentage of cases in which the Samaritans get framed," opined Guangming Daily, another party newspaper.

The People's Daily editorialized on Tuesday that the new insurance product by Alibaba and Hua'an Insurance provides a possible solution to the moral quandary, but also reflects a failure in China's social morals.

"You can taste frustration and bitterness in this seemingly quite civic-minded and public-minded approach," the People's Daily wrote.

Commentaries have questioned what has turned the elderly into scammers. Some critics have blamed the authoritarian country's political system. Yet many among the Chinese public have arrived at a different consensus: Some bad people have simply grown old. **AP**

NORTH KOREA

An obsessive bunch penetrates totalitarian fog

Tim Sullivan, Longmont

IN an anonymous office building in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, in a part of Colorado where cattle ranches fade into strip malls, a gravel-voiced man with a Brooklyn accent is moving through the streets of Pyongyang.

Joe Bermudez is staring into a computer screen at a detailed satellite image, maneuvering his cursor past guarded checkpoints and into restricted neighborhoods where the North Korean elite live behind high concrete walls. Looking down on the city from more than 250 miles up, he lingers over what he believes is the private airport of Kim Jong Un, North Korea's young leader, pointing out a pair of VIP helicopters and a Soviet-era biplane. He moves north, jumping across the countryside and picking out hidden tunnels, walled compounds and a small flotilla of military hovercraft designed to storm South Korea's beaches.

"Driving around," he calls it when he follows roads in search of something new, humming absent-mindedly as his eyes flick across the screen.

Bermudez is a watcher, one of the largely anonymous tribe of researchers who study North Korea, one of the world's most isolated nations. There's Michael Madden, a largely self-taught analyst with an encyclopedic knowledge of the government elite, and Curtis Melvin, whose research ranges from monetary policy to electricity grids and who shambles through the buttoned-down Washington think tank where he works in jeans and a frayed T-shirt. There's Adam Cathcart at Britain's University of Leeds and Cheong Seong-Chang at the Sejong Institute outside Seoul. There's the longtime U.S. intelligence officer, a man quietly revered by many in these circles, who now writes Pyongyang crime novels under the pseudonym James Church.

They are university professors, think tank analysts and writers for a string of North Korea-centric websites. They are collaborators and competitors. They are the Kremlinologists of Pyongyang.

And they insist North Korea is nowhere near as mysterious as you think it is. At least not always.

"North Korea is a very secretive place. But it's not as secretive as many people believe," says Andrei Lankov, a Russian-born



North Koreans pass propaganda posters as they make their way to work and school in the early morning, in Pyongyang

professor at Kookmin University in Seoul. "It's much, much easier now to get information."

The chaos that swept North Korea during a mid-1990s famine dramatically changed how information flows in and out of the country, while policy changes have eased restrictions on visitors.

Still, North Korea remains like nowhere else. It is a repressive and deeply isolated nation where the Internet is limited to a tiny elite and most outsiders are under near-constant government surveillance. It has been ruled by one family for more than six decades, with the founder worshipped as a near-deity. It has no political opposition, no free press and no freedom of movement. It has an archipelago of political prison camps that rights groups estimate hold at least 80,000 people.

North Korea is a very secretive place. But it's not as secretive as many people believe.

ANDREI LANKOV
PROFESSOR
KOOKMIN UNIVERSITY IN SEOUL

Major news — like the collapse last year of a 23-story Pyongyang apartment building — can go officially unreported for days, if ever. The inner workings of the country's top leadership, meanwhile, are so opaque that some watchers remain unsure if Kim Jong Un is truly in charge of the country. He may, they say, be only a figurehead, with real power resting with a cabal of powerful bureaucrats.

Secrecy is deeply rooted. "When the enemies peek into our republic, they see only a fog," Kim Jong Il, the father of Kim Jong Un and the country's ruler until his death in 2011, once said.

And yet North Korea is not an impenetrable bubble, say the watchers, who have spent years refining methods of peering inside.

They do it by poring over strings of digitized satellite images, and by talking to North Korean refugees who have fled to China and South Korea. They parse North Korean news reports for what is, and is not, reported. They talk to diplomats, business people and, when they can, to North Koreans. They read obscure Chinese journals for political clues and gauge economic changes by measuring how much North Korean light can be seen from space. They forge relationships with secretive government agencies that track North Korea.

The watchers search everywhere for clues: What does it mean that Kim Jong Un has put on weight? How significant is it that he used the word "people" 90 times in a recent major speech, but didn't say "nuclear" once? Do a handful of phrases in government statements, innocuous to anyone but a watcher, reflect a late 1990s power struggle?

Sometimes researchers are lucky — like the propaganda poster, photographed by a tourist in 2009, that signaled the rise of Kim Jong Un. But most of their work must be slowly knitted together, a series of threads that eventually reveal something larger.

Take satellite imagery. At first, Bermudez says, satellites seem to offer seductively easy answers: How many political prisoners are being held? Is Pyongyang close to developing a nuclear-capable long-range missile? Are more exports flowing to China?

Finding answers, though, requires diving deeply into the image. To demonstrate this, Bermudez pulls up an image of a complex outside the North Korean city of Chongjin. Look at it from directly overhead, and it's just a cluster of buildings with some agricultural fields off to one side. But look from an angle — "off-nadir" in the analyst's lexicon — and things jump into view, and that cluster

of buildings becomes the political prison known as Camp 25.

"If I was looking straight down, I wouldn't see the barbed wire. I would have trouble seeing the shadow of the guard tower," says Bermudez, chief analytics officer at the AllSource Analysis, a commercial intelligence firm based in Longmont. From an angle: "All of a sudden it becomes more real."

The ranks of the watchers grew with the spread of information, including drawing in people who might have been dismissed a few years earlier. They are not university professors, retired spies or former diplomats.

They are people like Michael Madden.

Madden is a friendly, foul-mouthed former academic with a Star Wars tattoo on his forearm (of the mysterious bounty hunter Boba Fett) and an exhaustive knowledge of North Korea's leadership. A decade ago, the 33-year-old stumbled into North Korea research and found himself addicted.

Discussions with him range across Korean history, sentences spilling over one another as he jumps across ministries and departments. He watches officials through their appearances in state media, by talking with visitors to North Korea, and through a string of contacts around the world. He can reel off the biographies of dozens of officials from memory.

He is a master of North Korean minutiae — "I do inside-baseball. I'm proud to do inside-baseball" — whose obsessive tracking of the country's leadership soon earned him respect.

His conclusion, after watching the country's new leader for four years now, and seeing so many top officials drop from view?

"Kim Jong Un is in the process of basically eliminating all alternate power centers," he says, speaking outside a coffee shop in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "That's what we're seeing."

Curtis Melvin is another of the new generation of watchers, a one-time graduate student who left school to study North Korea full time. He remembers when, just a few years ago, he could read nearly everything written about North Korea.

"Now I'm just bombarded with stuff," says Melvin, a researcher at the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, and a writer for 38north.org, the institute's influential North Korea-oriented website.

"I go over the entire country methodically, by myself," he says.

And when he finishes — when he's examined the entire country — fresh satellite images are available and it's time to start all over again. **AP**

SINGAPORE

Mega-church head guilty of embezzling USD35 million for wife's pop career

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

THE founder of a popular Singapore church was found guilty Wednesday of misappropriating more than USD35.5 million in donations to support his wife's singing career in Asia before helping her break into the U.S. market for evangelization purposes.

Kong Hee, the founder and senior pastor of City Harvest Church, was found guilty with five other church leaders of stealing 24 million Singapore dollars (\$17 million) designated for building and investment-related purposes through sham bond investments.

The State Court also found that they used another 26 million dollars (\$18.5 million) to hide the first embezzlement from auditors. It is a rare case of corruption of such magnitude in the city-state, which has an image of being highly law-abiding and largely graft-free.



City Harvest Church founder Kong Hee, center



Singaporean pop music singer Ho Yeow Sun

"They were not genuine transactions because the accused persons controlled these transactions," presiding judge See Kee Onn said in finding Kong guilty on three counts of criminal breach of trust.

"Evidence points to a finding that they knew they were acting dishonestly, and I am unable to conclude otherwise," he told a courtroom packed with church supporters, who formed long queues since early morning to get seats.

No date for sentencing has been set. The penalty for criminal breach of trust is a maximum of life sentence. For falsifying accounts, the penalty is a maximum of 10 years in jail and a fine.

The trial has put mega-churches that have risen in popularity in the affluent island nation in the spotlight. Despite the evidence against the church leaders, members have rallied around them since the case started in 2012. They felt funds were rightly used to finance the church's Crossover

Project, with stated aims to use pop music to reach out to non-believers, of which Kong's wife, Ho Yeow Sun is the face.

The stolen money was first pumped into a music production firm and a glass manufacturer, but these companies were owned by longtime churchgoers and ultimately used funds to support the secular music pursuits of Ho, who did not face any charges.

Four other members of the group were found guilty of additional charges for falsifying the church's accounts. A fifth member, like Kong, was found guilty on three counts of criminal breach of trust.

Ho has released five Mandarin albums in Taiwan. She broke into the U.S. market in 2003, appearing in several videos.

According to a 2014 annual report, the church has a congregation size of about 17,500. AP

AP PHOTO

AD



BBAM
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Wednesday, 28/10/2015

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FMBA Breakfast Meeting

Speech: Mr. Carlos Marreiros, the renowned and celebrated architect, will talk about the recent Land Reclamation Policy, the Plan for the New Land Reclamation Areas, and the regional integration of Macau.

Date: Wednesday, 28th Oct. 2015

Time: 9:00-10:30 am (Reception: 8:45am)

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RUSSIA-SYRIA

Assad's trip to Moscow bolsters sense he may survive war

Zeina Karam, Beirut

RUSSIA'S military intervention in Syria has deepened the sense that President Bashar Assad may survive the country's disastrous civil war, and his surprise visit to Moscow — a first foray out in nearly five years — underscores how emboldened the Syrian leader has become.

The show of force by the two allies is a challenge to a U.S. administration whose response on Syria is widely seen in the region as inconsistent and chaotic.

Whether it is also part of a quiet Russian push to engineer a political transition in Syria on President Vladimir Putin's terms is yet to be seen. Such a scenario would do wonders for the

Russian leader's evident ambition to seize center stage in world affairs.

Hours after Assad's visit was announced Wednesday, Russia confirmed Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had agreed to meet in Vienna today with their Turkish and Saudi counterparts to discuss the Syrian conflict.

Either way, the visit shows remarkable resilience that Assad was able to leave Syria without fear of a coup or arrest after presiding over a rare descent into hell: Half the country's population has been displaced, at least a quarter million people have been killed and Islamic State militants are in control of large swaths of territory.

Even as vast parts of his country fell from his control or tur-

ned into killing fields, Assad has kept his regime core in place and continues to hang on to strategic territory that remains firmly under his rule.

The fact that Assad has survived the war is largely due to powerful allies Iran and Russia, which have used political, financial and military means to shore up his forces. Their unswerving support is in sharp contrast to the muddled response by the U.S. administration, and has injected a self-assurance that Assad would not be allowed to fall like other Arab dictators who were either imprisoned or killed.

Assad flashed wide smiles as he shook hands with Putin and other officials in Moscow on Tuesday. "We thank you for standing by Syria's territorial integrity and its independen-



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Syrian President Bashar Assad arrive for their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow

ce," Assad told Putin.

Russia has consistently used its veto power at the U.N. Security Council to shield Assad

and last month began airstrikes in Syria following significant territorial losses by government forces to the rebels. **AP**

HACKING

WikiLeaks publishes CIA director John Brennan's emails

Ken Dilanian and Stephen Braun, Washington

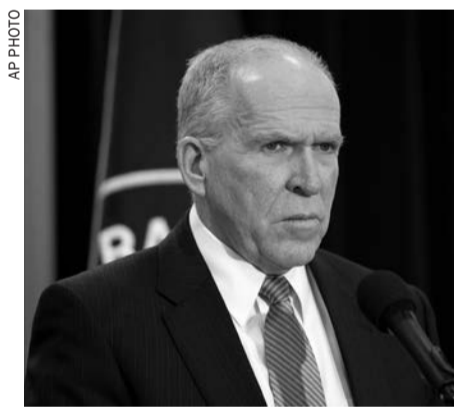
THE WikiLeaks organization posted material Wednesday from what appears to be CIA Director John Brennan's personal email account, including a draft security clearance application containing personal information.

The material presumably was taken in a compromise of Brennan's email account by a hacker who told The New York Post he is a high school student protesting American foreign policy. The hacker claimed he posed as a Verizon employee and tricked another employee into revealing Brennan's personal information.

Brennan was seeking a security clearance while applying for a job as White House counterterrorism adviser. It was not immediately clear whether any national security information was compromised in the release of the clearance application, which includes his wife's Social Security number and the names of people Brennan worked with over a long prior career at the CIA.

A CIA statement called the postings a "crime."

"The Brennan family is the victim," the agency said in an unattributed statement, in keeping with agency policy. "This attack is something that could happen to anyone and should be condemned, not promoted. There



CIA Director John Brennan

is no indication that any the documents released thus far are classified. In fact, they appear to be documents that a private citizen with national security interests and expertise would be expected to possess."

The documents all date from before 2009, when Brennan joined the White House staff; before that, he was working in the private sector. Aside from the partially completed clearance application, none of the documents appears to be sensitive.

The documents include a partially written position paper on the future of intelligence, a memo on Iran, a paper from a Republican lawmaker on CIA interrogations and a summary of a contract dispute between the CIA and Brennan's private company, the Analysis Corporation, which had filed a formal protest after losing a contract dealing with terrorist watch lists. **AP**

ISRAEL

Netanyahu causes uproar by linking Palestinians to Holocaust

Aron Heller, Jerusalem

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sparked an uproar in Israel on Wednesday for suggesting that a World War II-era Palestinian leader persuaded the Nazis to adopt their Final Solution to exterminate 6 million Jews.

Holocaust experts and survivors slammed Netanyahu's comments as historically inaccurate and serving the interests of Holocaust deniers by lessening the responsibility of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. Critics also said the statement amounts to incitement against modern-day Palestinians in the midst of a wave of violent unrest and high tensions.

Speaking to a group of Jewish leaders Tuesday, Netanyahu tried to use a historical anecdote to illustrate his claim that Palestinian incitement surrounding Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site goes back decades.

Netanyahu said the World War II-era grand mufti of Jerusalem, Nazi sym-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

pathizer Haj Amin al-Husseini, also instigated Palestinian attacks on Jews over lies that they planned to destroy the Temple Mount, known to Muslims at the Noble Sanctuary.

Netanyahu said al-Husseini played a "central role in fomenting the final solution" by trying to convince Hitler to destroy the Jews during a November 1941 meeting in Berlin.

"Hitler didn't want to exterminate the Jews at the time, he wanted to expel the Jews," Netanyahu told the group. "And Haj Amin al-Husseini went to

Hitler and said, 'If you expel them, they'll all come here.' 'So what should I do with them?' he asked. He said, 'Burn them.'"

Details of the meeting between al-Husseini and Hitler are sketchy. The Nazis released a grainy propaganda video showing the mufti making a Nazi salute before a warm handshake. The official record from the meeting says Hitler pledged "the annihilation of Jewry living in Arab space."

While the Nazis' official endorsement of the Final Solution came months after the meeting, historians note that the Nazis' mass killing of Jews was already well underway.

Moshe Zimmermann, a prominent Holocaust and anti-Semitism researcher at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said Netanyahu made a "far-reaching argument" that didn't hold up.

"Any attempt to deflect the burden from Hitler to others is a form of Holocaust denial," he told The Associated Press. "It cheapens the Holocaust." **AP**

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FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

10:45	Boonie Bears S.2
11:35	Young Adult
12:00	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	Drama
22:15	TDM News
22:45	Rugby World Cup 2015 (Semi Final): South Africa - New Zealand (Live)
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:50	Young Adult
17:20	Documentary Serie
17:55	Miscellaneous
18:50	Action
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Contraponto
22:10	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	Rugby World Cup 2015 (Semi Final): Argentina vs Australia (Live)
01:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report

offbeat

'BACK TO THE FUTURE' FANS:
AUSTRIA ISSUES HOVERBOARD RULES

It's the day that Marty McFly landed in the future — and Austria's transport ministry is ready with guidelines for hoverboards.

Fans of "Back to the Future 2" know that McFly arrived this week. They also will remember the

hoverboard sequence, with McFly being chased by Biff and his gang, all on flying skateboards.

These may never go beyond the prototype stage. But the ministry has issued tongue-in-cheek rules on their use to mark "Back to the Future" day. Its website describes a hoverboard as a "small vehicle for use outside of the road" and says a special license is needed for rocket-driven "Pit Bull" models.

It urges hoverboarders to wear helmets and to "be aware ... of possible additional regulations" for use over water.

cinema



CINETEATRO

22 Oct - 28 Oct



GOOSEBUMPS_

ROOM 1

2.30 pm

Director: Rob Letterman

Starring: Jack Black, Dylan Minnette, Odeya Rush

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 103min

OUR TIMES_

ROOM 1

4.30, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Ding Sheng

Starring: Andy Lau, Liu Ye, Wu Ruofu, Wang Qianyuan

Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 134min



BRIDGE OF SPIES_

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Steven Spielberg

Starring: Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Alan Alda

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 141min



CRIMSON PEAK_

ROOM 3

2.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Guillermo Toro

Starring: Mia Wasikowska, Jessica Chastain,

Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 119min

GOOSEBUMPS_

ROOM 3

4.45, 7.30 pm

Director: Rob Letterman

Starring: Jack Black, Dylan Minnette, Odeya Rush

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 103min

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

1956 HUNGARIANS RISE UP
AGAINST SOVIET RULE

Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets in Hungary to demand an end to Soviet rule.

There are believed to have been many casualties in a day which started as a peaceful rally, and ended with running battles between police and demonstrators in which shots are said to have been fired.

The demonstrators are demanding that the former Prime Minister, Imre Nagy, be returned to power.

Mr Nagy was dismissed last year for his liberal policies, but has since been rehabilitated and was re-admitted to the Hungarian Workers' Party this month.

Other demands include free elections, freedom of the press, and a withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The uprising began as a rally in central Budapest, to express solidarity with Polish demonstrators who have recently succeeded in getting their deposed liberal leader, Wladyslaw Gomulka, returned to power.

The gathering turned into a mass demonstration for a similar Hungarian "declaration of independence" from Moscow's control.

As more and more people joined the demonstration, the First Secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party, Erno Gerö, made an unscheduled radio announcement, describing as "lies and rumours" reports that Hungary wanted to loosen its ties with the Soviet Union.

Mr Gerö is known for his hardline views, and tensions in Hungary have been high since he was appointed in July.

Immediately after the broadcast, the crowd marched on the broadcasting station.

The gathering was peaceful at first, but the crowd became restless and tried to force their way in.

They were driven back by security forces with tear gas and responded by throwing stones at the windows. One group drove a heavy lorry at the front door in an attempt to break it open.

The incident marked the start of an escalation of violence.

A running battle began to clear the crowd away from the building, while clashes between demonstrators and armed police broke out elsewhere in the city.

When the crowds refused to disperse despite police opening fire on them, Mr Gerö ordered Soviet tanks onto the streets.

The demonstrators, however, are showing no signs of giving up their protest, which is continuing into the night.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Hungarian Communist Party met the same night in emergency session and re-instated Imre Nagy as prime minister. Soviet tanks were still on the streets, however, and the uprising continued.

On 25 October, tanks opened fire on a crowd in Parliament Square at point-blank range.

Hundreds died and were wounded, and the Communist Party was so shocked by the incident that it sacked Erno Gerö, replacing him with Janos Kadar.

Soviet troops began pulling out of the Hungarian capital on 30 October. Mr Nagy formed a government which was dedicated to lifting the shackles of Soviet communism.

By 4 November, the Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev, sent in the tanks in a ruthless crackdown in which thousands died and another 200,000 fled the country.

Imre Nagy took refuge in the Yugoslav embassy but was abducted by Soviet agents. He was executed in 1958 after a secret trial in Budapest in which he was accused of high treason.

In 1989, he was officially rehabilitated and reburied with full honours.

Hungary remained under Soviet control until the collapse of communism in 1989.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
So far, your ambitions have all been predictable. Where finance is concerned, meeting your goals is becoming less and less likely. It's time to come up with something totally out of the ordinary. Be open to it.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You're feeling more and more conservative, a predictable reaction to stress. Buckling down won't help you out of your financial predicament, but it may keep you from emotional weirdness. Use whatever works.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Everything in life feels radically changed, the landscape is foreign and your most familiar friends seem different. There, now that you've gotten that out of your system, buck up and get back to work.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Don't they call it cold, hard cash? And here you are getting all sentimental about it. Try to go for intellect rather than emotion, or you'll have quite a long soap opera ahead of you.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You can't hold onto certain things, no matter how tightly you cling to them. Yes, love is like a butterfly and you should let it go to see if it comes back to you, but money is even harder to handle. Be patient with it.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
It's a whole new ballgame. You need to reorganize everything, from your closets to your spending habits. Experiment a bit to see if you can come up with something new.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
You can't be severe and Spartan seven days a week. Or can you? Well, you can cut out the somber aspect without losing any of the austerity if you work at it a bit. In other words, learn to have fun only on the cheap.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Why are you the only one in the family concerned about money? The way your finances look, redecorating is a frivolous urge. You might want to point out the obvious by bringing out the books.

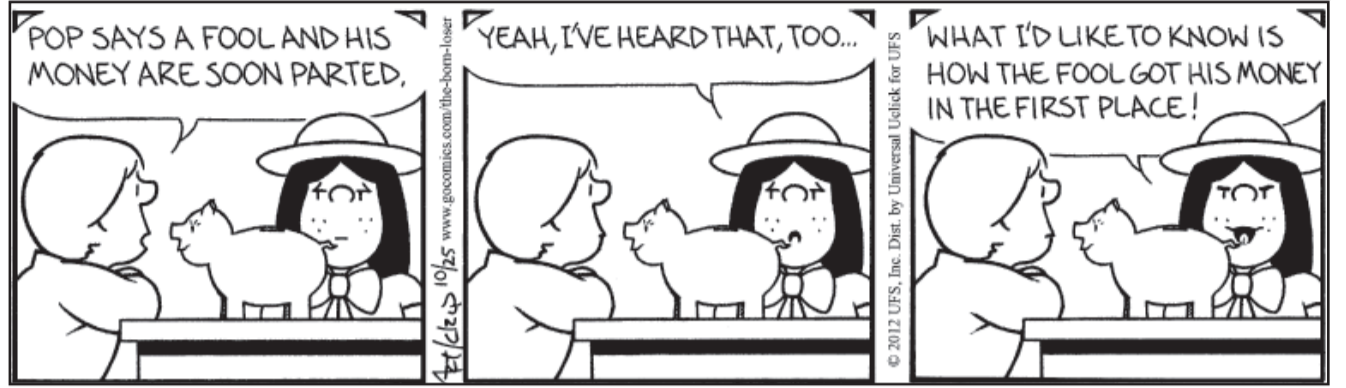
Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You need something or someone new in your social scene. Why not? Everything else in life is changing. Get out there and start meeting people. It's the perfect day to strike up a conversation with a stranger.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Things don't always turn out the way you expect. You have a plan for the future, but you'd be wise to come up with a plan B. Make sure it fits the financial climate of today and not of yesterday or last year.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Talking about anything and everything on your mind is an attractive scenario, and not just because you'd be the center of attention. You'll affect others in a positive way if you share your ideas today.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
With things heading south, there's no telling how much further things in your life will slide. It's hard to make plans. Even daydreaming about the future is unrealistic. Give yourself a break and do nothing at all.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	9	12	drizzle
Harbin	1	15	clear
Tianjin	19	12	drizzle
Urumqi	4	15	clear
Xi'an	14	24	smoggy
Lhasa	3	19	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	18	23	drizzle
Chongqing	19	28	cloudy
Kunming	10	24	clear
Nanjing	16	25	cloudy
Shanghai	19	26	clear
Wuhan	14	26	clear
Hangzhou	17	25	cloudy
Taipei	24	26	moderate rain/heavy rain
Guangzhou	21	31	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	29	cloudy

WORLD

Moscow	-5	6	clear
Frankfurt	8	12	drizzle
Paris	9	13	drizzle
London	7	15	drizzle
New York	10	21	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Sensed; 5- Court org.; 9- Fatty part of milk; 14- Suffix with buck; 15- Commoner; 16- Shout of exultation; 17- Hokkaido native; 18- Starchy staple; 19- Garlic sauce; 20- Kind of evidence; 23- Sugary suffix; 24- Open mesh fabric; 25- Dough; 29- Film spool; 31- Writer LeShan; 34- Cravat; 35- Equipment; 36- North Carolina university; 37- In spite of; 40- Elation; 41- Dampens; 42- Preminger et al.; 43- Are we there ___?; 44- Driving aids; 45- Refer; 46- You ___ here; 47- Turkish title; 48- Add lurid details to a story, e.g.; 56- Birdlike; 57- Type of machine found in Las Vegas; 58- Orange cover; 60- Museum piece; 61- West Wing worker; 62- Ballerina Pavlova; 63- Grenoble's river; 64- Some digits; 65- Swindle;

DOWN: 1- JFK watchdog; 2- Slang expert Partridge; 3- Actress Anderson; 4- Travel from place to place; 5- Abrupt increase; 6- Thin glutinous mud; 7- Gumshoes; 8- Assist, often in a criminal act; 9- French fashion designer; 10- Singer Bonnie; 11- "The Time Machine" people; 12- ___ breve; 13- Drudge; 21- Raccoon relative; 22- The end of ___; 25- Shabby; 26- ___ Mio; 27- Eight singers; 28- Actor Rob; 29- Reposes; 30- Breaks bread; 31- Select group; 32- Giver; 33- Emo anxiety; 35- Clarified butter; 36- 1999 Ron Howard film; 38- Chirp; 39- Knobby; 44- Daze; 45- Playing marbles; 46- Light ___; 47- Battery pole; 48- Madras dress; 49- Nights before; 50- The world's longest river; 51- The wolf ___ the door; 52- Potpourri; 53- Nest eggs, briefly; 54- Bluish white metallic element; 55- Sicilian resort; 59- Block

Wednesday's solution

C	E	S	T	A	A	L	I	F	B	A	B	A		
O	T	T	E	R	T	O	N	O	R	U	E	S		
C	H	O	R	E	A	C	E	R	U	T	A	H		
C	A	P	I	T	A	L	I	Z	A	T	I	O	N	
I	N	S	O	L	E	T	I	S	M					
E	L	S	E	T	I	A	R	A	T	I	O			
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
T	O	R	N	A	R	E	S	J	C	E	S			
O	P	E	R	A	T	O	R	E	T	S				
N	A	N	A	N	I	S	H	R	A	H				
S	U	P	E	R	S	E	N	S	I	T	I	V	E	
P	O	O	P	A	P	P	T	R	A	T	E	S		
C	L	U	E	N	E	E	R	S	P	A	R	S		
S	E	S	E	I	D	E	O	T	A	S	T	E		

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Secretaria para a Economia e Finanças da RAEM

Robert Carroll
MDT Correspondent, Hong Kong

HONG KONG LEGENDS 4, EPL ALL STARS 5

Santos' Davids go down fighting to English Goaliaths

IT was always going to be a battle akin to that of David and Goliath, as Leslie Santos' Hong Kong team met a host of ex-English Premier League and big names such as Paul Scholes, Robbie Fowler and Steve MacManaman. However, both sport and sportsmanship came on top as the hosts, the Hong Kong Legends, almost turned the tide against the visitors to a nail-biting finish after a poor start with the older players.

It's not often that we see major teams play here, so when the Sky Kids' All Star English Premier League squad arrived in Hong Kong, they were met with a barrage of local media attention heralding a much anticipated match between a Hong Kong Legends team. On the night, excitement crackled as enthusiastic fans passed into the stadium, many sporting shirts of their favorite EPL players that they had come to see. The most favored among local players was Leslie Santos, whose roots are in Macau and is widely seen as the best ever player from the territory to date.

With ex-members of some of the best teams in the world, Hong Kong Legends were the minnows coming into the match, but backed by the support of their home fans, they were to prove a surprise.

The first 13 minutes saw two goals from the visitors. First, former Liverpool and Spain winger and midfielder, Luis Garcia, made the assist to ex-Liverpool and French international player Robert Pires who then converted the pass with a winning chip in the 8th minute. Five minutes later, Leslie Santos powered a long shot, narrowly missing the netting. A minute later, the former Spurs and England midfielder Darren Anderton took advantage of poor clearance to score, making it 2-0. At the 16th minute it was Pires, the Frenchman of Portuguese descent, who again netted after a neat



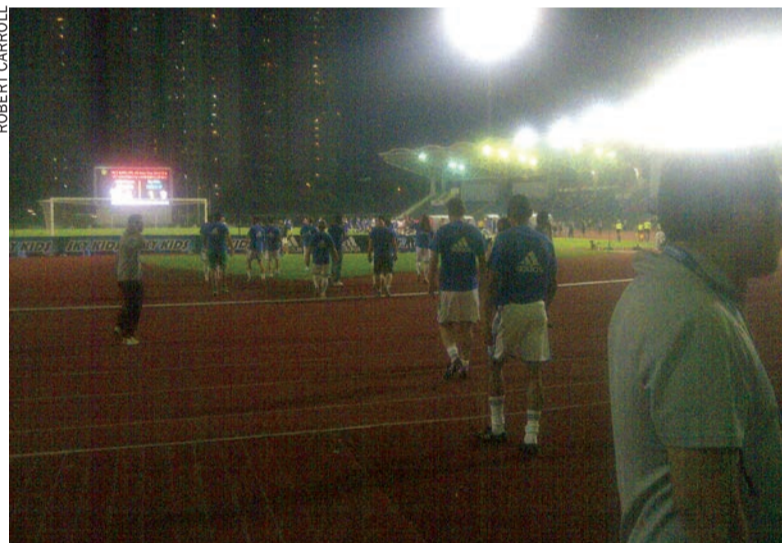
Paul Scholes EPI vs HK

cross by Ex Liverpool and Benfica defender Steve Harkness.

Ten minutes later, the EPL All-Stars then went up to 4-0 and then former Manchester United midfielder rocketed in the goal of the match with an astonishing low ball into the net from near the middle of the pitch and he was greeted with the appreciative crowd delirious with joy.

It took the Hong Kong Legends until the 29th minute to finally score when Lam Hing-Wei set up Tam Siu-wai near the box who finished shooting low. Wong Fuk-Hng made it 5-2 confidently with a rebound from his first attempt. The home crowd went wild chanting: "We are Hong Kong. We are Hong Kong".

The All Stars went up again with a masterful free kick goal



EPI All Star onto pitch

from ex-Liverpool and Manchester United prolific goal scorer, Robbie Fowler, and Scholes almost netted another just before half time. Hong Kong legends missed three good chances to score in the next 18 mi-

minutes but 3 minutes later Chiu Chung-man curled a free kick home, the Hong Kong legends now trailing 5-3. In the 75th minute, a converted penalty saw Wong Fuk-Hng obtaining his double of the evening.

The EPL team had one last chance to up the score when former Manchester United winger Keith Gillespie's shot on goal was stopped by the Hong Kong keeper.

The former Hong Kong First Division player John Pimlott talked to MDT later about the

■ The most favored of the local players was Leslie Santos, whose roots are in Macau

match. "The first twenty minutes the Hong Kong team were no contest... 3 goals down, until they brought in some of the younger players, I suppose they were making a thank you. The EPL players showed off their skills. They didn't need to put them to the sword. It was more about EPL players showing off their skills".

Pimlott who also trained with Manchester City players as a schoolboy, said Paul Scholes was "head and shoulders above the rest, in terms of technique, shots, passing and reading the game. It was one of the best goals I've ever seen."

"It was fantastic to see (some of) the best EPL players over the past 20 years", he added.

Pimlott was especially happy to have the EPL team here as it was chance to catch up with childhood All Stars Ben Thornley, a former Manchester United winger over a beer and reminisce about their junior football days in Manchester.



Andrea Pavan

GOLF

Pavan, Lu share 1st-round lead at HK Open

ANDREA Pavan of Italy made four birdies on his last six holes to take a share of the lead after the first round of the Hong Kong Open with a 6-under 64.

Pavan was tied with Lu Wei-chih of Taiwan, a stroke ahead of a trio that included Justin Rose of England. Rose made four birdies on the back nine in a bogey-free round at the Fanling Course and was

tied with Taiwanese player Pan Cheng-tseung and Jeev Milka Singh of India.

"I was happy with my putting although I did miss a couple (of birdies) which slid by," Rose said. "Yet it is a good start to the tournament."

Graeme McDowell was in a group of six players another shot back at the joint European Tour and Asian Tour event.

Ian Poulter showed no

effects of his late arrival to Hong Kong, shooting a composed 67. Poulter landed late Wednesday night after a 15-hour flight from Florida after making last-minute plans to play in the tournament. Poulter's ranking dipped nine places to 51 at the start of the week, making him ineligible to play in the WGC-HSBC Champions and leaving him one short of the minimum number of

13 European Tour events to retain his membership for next season.

The Englishman was then handed a spot in Hong Kong by American Rich Beem, who had a sponsors' invite to the tournament but agreed to step aside for Poulter.

"I'm fairly happy with that result today although I think I left a few out there. This course suits my game," Poulter said. AP

opinion

Kapok
 Eric Sautédé



TURNING A BLIND EYE

Come on, we should be gasping for breath with this Ng Lap Seng story! Keeping abreast of the twists and turns in this unraveling saga of corruption involving no less than a former president of the UN General Assembly and our own high-flying real-estate developer turned power broker should leave us with Rugby World Cup-like sore eyes! Our fingers should be numb with the frenetic flicking of pages of juicy stories! Instead of that: not much, and less in Macao than in Hong Kong.

To be fair, the English and Portuguese press in Macao has been making a real effort regarding coverage, especially since the Investigative Reporting Program of University of California at Berkeley publicly released on September 29 the confidential "Final Report on a Discreet Due Diligence Investigation into Ng Lap Seng in Macau & Hong Kong," a report that was commissioned by Las Vegas Sands to International Risk Limited back in 2010 and obtained by the program from a Las-Vegas court.

But what about the Chinese press, the one read by 95% of the population? Since Mr Ng was arrested on September 19, the Macau Daily News, the reference daily in Chinese, only published six bland short stories mentioning Mr Ng, the longest one of less than 700 characters (about 400 words)! Only the Shimin Daily (9 stories) and the San Wa Ou Daily (10 stories) seem to have done better, but yet again on the short side and certainly not in line with real reporting. More aggressive and pro-democrat small periodicals like Sonpou or Macau Concealers have provided more in-depth treatment, but mainly derived from the Hong Kong press and with a readership difficult to measure.

The Hong Kong-based Oriental Daily News and The Sun, both characterized as "pro-Beijing leftist" tabloids, published some 14 stories each! Next magazine, the pro-democrat weekly of the Next Media Group, ran its cover story on the case on October 15 and splashed 6 pages exposing possible collusion, conflict of interest and corruption with the previous Chief Executive. Even the Guangdong-based Southern Metropolis Daily published 2,700 characters of investigative reporting on October 9.

Now, what about the issue? Mr Ng, who is of course presumed innocent, is being charged in New York on at least three counts of conspiracy to bribe, bribery and money laundering in direct connection with a USD1.3 million bribery scheme targeted at the United Nations, and this on top of the charges of conspiracy to obstruct and false statements regarding USD4.5 million in cash that Mr Ng had personally funneled to the US since 2013.

And why does it matter? It has been off repeated that Mr Ng represents Macao at the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the highest consultative body of the People's Republic of China, is (was?) a member of the Economic Development Committee of the Macao SAR, a formal political entity directly under the Chief Executive, and also sits on the 400-member Electoral Committee that designates the Chief Executive. Mr Ng is on top of that a high-profile board member of numerous associations, in real estate, but also in education as well as community-based and patriotic organizations. Moreover, several publicly available records link his business operations to other prominent real-estate developers as well as the former Chief Executive and Stanley Ho. Finally, Mr Ng's name has surfaced ever since the end of the 1990s in pretty noteworthy cases of traffic of influence and corruption, even though he was never convicted, in the US, but also Taiwan and Macao - including the Ao Man Long fiasco, according to a Next magazine report of August 2014. Unfortunately, the few "persons" who allegedly know this generous "human living Buddha" (sic) appear to be only talking to the foreign press...

On the side of officialdom, with the notable exception of Ho lat Seng, the president of the Assembly, the response has been muted - what happens outside Macao does not concern Macao. Wasn't the UN-sponsored South-South Cooperation conference center at the heart of the bribery scheme supposed to be built in Macao?

THE BUZZ STUART BRAGA LAUNCHES BOOK ON 'REMARKABLE JOURNEY' OF MACAU PEOPLE

The International Institute of Macau, with the support of the Macau Foundation, has published a book titled "Making Impressions: a Portuguese family in Macau and Hong Kong, 1700 to 1945". The launch of the book took place yesterday at the auditorium of the Consulate-General of Portugal, with the tome's author, Dr Stuart Braga, attending the event.

The book is based on Dr Braga's doctoral thesis at the Australian National University, and is the

historical account of the Rosa and Braga families, who settled in Macau and Hong Kong. According to the author, the book helps people understand the "remarkable journey" of Macau people through history.

Their descendants, including the first Portuguese in the Hong Kong Legislative Council, Jose Pedro Braga, and the historian Jack Braga, participated in the establishment of the British colony of Hong Kong.

FORMULA 3

Double R faces eviction from UK HQ, Juncadella back at Guia



Daniel Juncadella

THE Double R Racing Team, established by the Formula 1 racer Kimi Raikkonen, recruits school and college graduates who go on to work for Formula 1 teams at Woking - a town located in the west of Surrey, UK - and is considered a major standout sporting success story. But this successful story is now being threatened and the team may be forced to leave town after its landlord refused to renew its lease.

Team principal Anthony Hieatt, cited by getsurrey.co.uk, said its possible departure "will deprive the area of employment and crucial local training opportunities for young mechanics".

Many of the staff at the Goldsworth Park Trading Estate-based team pursue work for Formula 1 teams, and in particular McLaren, which is also based in Woking.

"We're all surprised and very disappointed with the

decision the landlord has made regarding the lease," Mr Hieatt said.

"If we have to move elsewhere in the country, there is obviously a very high risk that some of our skilled professionals will lose their jobs with the team and it will bring an end to the apprenticeships and work experience the team provides locally too," he continued.

The team was founded in 2004 by Mr Hieatt and Finland's former Formula 1 World champion and current Ferrari Formula 1 racer Kimi Raikkonen. It has since won the Macau Grand Prix and the Formula 3 championship, proving a hub for startup racers such as Bruno Senna and Roberto Merhi before they went on to compete at the highest level.

The team has also a strong relationship with Macau and its Grand Prix as well as with local sponsors such as the Galaxy Entertainment

Group.

Meanwhile, Mercedes DTM racer Daniel Juncadella is back to Formula 3 for the 2015 edition of the Macau GP. The Spaniard is set to return to Formula 3 over the coming weeks, looking for a second win in Macau since his first in 2011.

According to sources inside Fortec Motorsport's team, the ex-Force India Formula 1 test driver who stepped into the DTM in 2013 will race in Macau this year with the Mercedes-powered squad, replacing the early advanced name of Pietro Fittipaldi from Brazil in Fortec's line-up.

No concrete reasons were given for this replacement. However, Fortec's Richard Dutton told Autosport that "Fittipaldi didn't want to do it", generating a large amount of enquiries, including from Juncadella. "The deal was done with Mercedes' blessing," assured Dutton. **RM**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-80 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	110-140 Bad
Ambient	110-140 Bad

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

PAKISTAN says airstrikes have killed 21 "terrorists" in a northwestern tribal region near the Afghan border.

INDIA One of the world's most polluted capitals, New Delhi, closed a major stretch of a road to private cars for a few hours, hoping to give its citizens a brief breath of fresh air by observing a car-free day.

THAILAND-INDONESIA Officials say the southern parts of Thailand have been hit by the most severe haze ever from forest fires in Indonesia, forcing all schools in a province to close and disrupting flights at a popular tourist area.



AP PHOTO

SWEDEN A masked man attacked a school in southern Sweden yesterday before being shot by police. Health authorities said one teacher was killed and two students seriously wounded in the attack. Students fled yesterday morning from the Kronan school in Trollhattan, near Goteborg, Sweden's second-largest city. In a statement, police in Trollhattan said the attack took place in the school's cafe area.

MALAYSIA Former Malaysian premier Mahathir Mohamad is under investigation for potential defamation as the country's longest-serving leader continues to pressure Prime Minister Najib Razak to step down. Police opened several investigation papers after reports were made against Mahathir, Deputy Prime Minister Zahid Hamidi said in a written reply to a parliamentary question. He said the probes relate to Section 500 of the penal code on defamation, and there was no immediate information on who filed the reports.

times square by rodrigo

