



**'THE AUDITION'  
SLATED  
TO COST  
USD70M**

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FINLAND'S EXAMPLE**  
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## WORLD BRIEFS

**TAIWAN** China won't get involved in Taiwan's upcoming elections, a government spokesman says, underscoring the sensitivity surrounding polls in which the island's pro-independence opposition is expected to make a strong showing. [More on p11](#)

**AFGHANISTAN** The Taliban overrun a district in northern Afghanistan's Takhar province, and intense battles are underway as government forces fight to retake it, an official says.

**AFGHANISTAN** and Pakistan are scrambling to rush aid to survivors of this week's magnitude-7.5 earthquake as the region's overall death toll from the temblor rises to 385. [More on p12](#)



**GERMANY** Volkswagen reported a loss of 1.67 billion euros (USD1.83 billion) for the third quarter as the company set aside 6.7 billion euros to pay for recalling and fixing cars that were rigged to evade U.S. diesel emissions tests. The company warned Wednesday that operating profit this year would be "down significantly" as a result of the scandal.

**AUSTRALIA** A Somali refugee who alleged she was raped in Nauru will be flown to Australia for a second time to potentially have an abortion, Australia's government says a day after the U.N. human rights agency demanded she get another opportunity to have her 15-week pregnancy terminated. [More on p12](#)

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# Four idle plots revert back to the government

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A PEDESTRIAN WALKS PAST A PRINCE JEWELLERY & WATCH CO. STORE IN THE CAUSEWAY BAY SHOPPING DISTRICT OF HONG KONG. (BLOOMBERG)



## Hello Kitty, farewell Rolex as Hong Kong shoppers go down-market

P9 FEATURE

# Marreiros urges gov't to 'act quickly' on land reclamation

Renowned local architect has urged the government to quicken land reclamation works. Speaking at a France Macau Business Association [FMBA] breakfast meeting yesterday morning, Carlos Marreiros, a former president of the Cultural Institute and current head of the Albergue SCM, specified that "Macau needs to act quickly" in light of a projected population surge and an affordable housing shortage in the SAR.

Marreiros led a presentation at the Sofitel Macau Hotel about the recent Land Reclamation Policy, the urban planning for the new zones, and the regional integration of Macau. Citing several maps dating from the early 18th century up to the modern age, he showed how the Macau peninsula had evolved through urbanization and land reclamation.

While the renowned architect commended some of the work on the land reclamation projects – particularly in Zone A to the east of the peninsula – he questioned the progress on the other proposed islands.

In light of population pressures and a scarcity of affordable hou-



Carlos Marreiros

sing units, he remarked, "I don't know why the reclamation work on only some of the islands has started [and not on the others]. It takes time," before adding that "Macau has money." He struggled to find any formal justifications in official reports for the delay in land reclamation progress on some of the islands.

According to government data, Macau's population at the end of the second quarter of 2014 was estimated to be 624,000. A government-run think tank, the Policy Research Office, projec-

ted in 2013 that the local population would reach 800,000 by 2036, but Marreiros asserts that, according to a recent (unidentified) study, Macau's population could surpass that number as early as 2025.

With "probably" the highest population density in the world, Macau offers its citizens and residents only 20 square meters per person. Marreiros motioned with his hands to show an imaginary square, four by five meters, and posited, "This per person? We have no space at all!"

During one part of the presentation, he showed the assembly 3D-rendered artistic representations of the islands upon completion. The land looked optimistically 'green' in contrast with the greyish tones of the rest of the peninsula.

"Overall I think that the plan is good. Regarding the green areas, the planning is on par with top cities around the world, and it is in keeping with the [geographical] profile of the peninsula," said Marreiros.

Overall I think that the plan is good. Regarding the green areas, the planning is on par with top cities around the world.

CARLOS MARREIROS

From 1989 to 2007 alone, the Macau peninsula's reclaimed land grew from 17.4 square kilometers to 29.2 square kilometers. According to the architect, in 2006, the peninsula was two and a half times as large as it was less than a century ago, in 1912.

The modern land reclamation project, known as the Macau New Urban Zones, is a 7.3-square-kilometer grouping of islands known as "zones". Once completed, the project is expected to provide ample space for the construction of homes for 162,000 local residents.

There has been some controversy surrounding various aspects of the project: the burdensome bureaucratic procedures; the feasibility of bridges or tunnels as part of the project; and delays accredited to a shortage of sand supply.

In June, nearly three and a half years after the project's second public consultation in 2011, a third and final 40-day consultation period was held. During the consultation, the government announced that it would prioritize the development of Zone B, connecting to the south side of the Macau peninsula.

The ceremony yesterday concluded with the presentation of a certificate welcoming Marreiros as a member to the FMBA. The association meets regularly to discuss issues relating to French and Macau trade and investment, regional cooperation and development opportunities. **Staff Reporter**

## Unemployment rate remains stable

THE unemployment rate for the July-September period has remained stable with little change compared with the June-August period, according to data from the government. The unemployment rate remained at 1.9 percent, with the number of unemployed up by 100 to 7,600 persons.

Of the total labor force of 402,500, labor force participation also remained at 73.2 percent. Total employment fell by 200 from the previous period. Fresh labor force entrants, or those looking for their first job, accounted for 14.6 percent of the total unemployed, down by 3.1 percentage points.

Analyzed by quarter, the general unemployment rate of 1.9 percent increased by 0.1 percentage points and the unemployment rate of local residents was up 0.2 percent-

age points to 2.7 percent. Total employment decreased by 3,400 quarter-to-quarter.

Analyzed by industry, the decline in demand for manpower in the construction sector compared with the previous quarter dragged down employment in Construction by 4,600 to 52,900. At the same time, Education increased by 1,800 to 17,800, and Hotels & Similar Activities rose by 1,100 to 29,500.

Median monthly employment earnings also remained constant, at MOP 15,000 in the third quarter, with Gaming & Junket Activities and Construction earning MOP19,000 and MOP13,000 respectively. However, median earnings of employed residents rose by MOP500 to MOP18,000 quarter-to-quarter.

## Tuen Mun ferries set to return

TURBOJET is poised to relaunch ferries between Macau and the Tuen Mun terminal in Hong Kong, starting from next year. The service had been suspended after North West Express filed for bankruptcy in 2012.

TurboJet received approval for its application to start links from the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal and Taipa's Pac On terminal to Tuen Mun. Macau's Marine and Water Bureau has now given TurboJet's operator, Shun Tak Holdings, six months in which to launch the services.



In addition, TurboJet will be required to operate a minimum of 14 round trips between Tuen Mun and the MSAR every week.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's Marine Department says that it has signed a seven-year tenancy deal for the Tuen Mun terminal with a Shun Tak subsidiary.

The bureau expects the company to launch services at the latest by mid-February 2016.

Tuen Mun is a modern, residential area in the north-west of the New Territories, sandwiched between two mountains, Castle Peak and Kau Keng Shan. Its proximity to the border with Shenzhen has

made it notorious for cross-border trade and smuggling, which in turn has resulted in a number of protests in the HKSAR over the last three years.

The town is currently served by ferry services to Lantau Island in Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Shekou Industrial Zone in Shenzhen.

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**I**N an interview with the LA Times, Australian gaming magnate James Packer has refused to confirm the alleged USD70 million price tag, attached to Studio City's opening-night promotional movie "The Audition." Packer was a partner in the production of the film and, according to the newspaper, opening-day media materials avoided putting an exact figure on the movie. However, Packer did not deny that such expenditure was excessive.

USD70 million was the figure that began to circulate last year before the trailer was released online at the start of the year. Some media outlets reported that the actors earned USD13 million each for the movie, despite the fact that it took less than a week to shoot.

The film, Martin Scorsese's latest, stars Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt. The plot revolves around De Niro and DiCaprio, playing themselves, unexpectedly realizing that they are competing for the same role in an imaginary Scorsese film. According to the LA Times, Brad Pitt doesn't appear on screen until the 12-minute mark.

Scorsese, De Niro and DiCaprio were in town on Tuesday as Melco Crown Entertainment officially opened its Hollywood-themed Studio City resort. The casino resort showed the movie in the

## 'The Audition' slated to cost USD70 million



Lawrence Ho (left) and James Packer (2nd from left) pose with film stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, director Martin Scorsese and producer Brett Ratner

5,000-seat theater, in what was described as an "intimate" environment.

According to the LA Times, James Packer is alleged to have

said, "The way I think about it is [that] our company, Australia Crown, is paying for half of it, and Lawrence's [Ho] company is paying for the other half of it.

And so if the numbers that are quoted are right, and it's over three years, and you divide that by two, its 11 bucks a year," he said, "for the best marketing

campaign in the history of the world. So it depends on how you allocate and look at it."

"If that was the case [that the film cost USD70 million], and you thought about it the way I just described it, all of a sudden it's not so much."

In the same interview, Mr Ho said that the short film was an "incredible" way to promote the resort in the age of social media and smartphones. He added that it conformed with the MSAR's policy to diversify Macau's economy and ease the region's reliance on the gaming industry.

"Nobody in this market, at least from the government's standpoint, has seen anything like this. This is a really historic moment for Macau," said Ho.

"The Audition" has come under some criticism since its debut at the Busan International Film Festival earlier this month. The movie had previously been pulled from the Venice Film Festival, allegedly because of "technical issues," though some believe that its unashamed commercialism may have been the real cause.

In a news conference on Tuesday, Scorsese defended the project, saying he had great creative freedom. "A short film is even tougher in a way," he said. "It has to be something that's not a prologue to a bigger work. It has to be contained in and of itself." **Staff Reporter**

### AL PLENARY

## Monthly car park passes will not be canceled, Rosário says

Aries Un

**T**HE government confirmed its intention to retain the monthly-pass mechanism at public parking lots yesterday, despite opposition from some lawmakers in the Legislative Assembly.

During the one-hour debate over a proposition raised by lawmakers Si Ka Lon and Song Pek Kei to abolish the monthly pass system, some lawmakers deemed the scheme to be obsolete, particularly considering Macau's current car traffic situation.

"Ordinary citizens have no space for their cars, yet those special bays are unoccupied: It's an utter waste of resources, which is unfair," Si expressed,

while holding pictures to show the situation unfolding in three car parks in busy districts.

To date, 16 out of 38 parking lots under government supervision are dominated by low-price parking spaces. The first one was built in the late 1980s.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, joined the Transport Bureau (DSAT) director Lam Hin San and other officials in acknowledging the problems caused by the arrangement. This system has granted over 4,000 car-owners long-term reservation of parking bays at a price much lower than private ones.

"Everyone has to unders-

tand that nobody used those early car parks; the government had to beg people to use them," said the secretary, who insisted that the ownership of these facilities is still legally protected.

Despite officials earlier pledging to gear the long-standing regulation towards a more favorable deal for the general public, Ho Ion Sang criticized the senior officials' "negative manner" in addressing the issue. In doing so, he ventured that the current approach to phasing out the parking bays was ineffective. Only users found violating the required terms or giving up their contracts could free the designated space to the public.

Taking inquiries from lawmakers, Rosário said that the authorities would not repeal the system in the short term, and will instead resort to their planned strategies to cope with the predicament, which are to introduce more car parks and raise

the costs. "If such measures fail, we'll consider [repealing the system]," said the secretary.

Responding to lawmakers Wong Kit Cheng and Leong Veng Chai's inquiry about a timeline on the possible cancellation, the officials stressed that it was not "among the authorities' tasks in hand" and

**Ordinary citizens have no space for their cars, yet those special bays are unoccupied: it's an utter waste of resources.**

SI KA LON



Raimundo do Rosário (right)

thus there was no specific timeframe.

Backing the government's position was Tsui Wai Kwan, one of very few legislators to vocally support the administration yesterday. "Those grantees received the parking spaces according to the laws in that time. Their rights would be denied if we elected to revise the law," said the appointed lawmaker, who urged the government to "take the matter seriously."

Throughout the debate, the authorities maintained that they are closely monitoring the monthly-pass holders. However, another lawmaker Lei Cheng I threw doubt on their claim, citing a newspaper's damning coverage of rife irregularities found in one car park.

The two officials, Rai-

undo Arrais do Rosário and Lam Hin San, downplayed the case, ruling out any possible flaw in supervision. "In some circumstances, as far as I understand, the cases involve police investigation. There's always a reason why some illegally parked cars still remain there," said the DSAT head.

Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho suggested that the authorities should devote part of the idle land, which is due to return to the government in the future from irresponsible developers, as an alternative to help increase supply.

Raimundo do Rosário proclaimed that public housing would have to be prioritized over parking, but hoped to make both parking and housing available when it becomes feasible.

### OVER 400 MONTHLY PASSES VOIDED

**RAIMUNDO DO** Rosário and Lam Hin San revealed that up to 423 monthly-pass parking bays in public park-

ing lots have become ordinary bays this year, as some of their owners gave up their rights.

### DSI introduces new self-service kiosks



Following the introduction of self-service kiosks for the renewal of MSAR Permanent Resident Identity Cards and applications for Macau Passports and Macau Travel Permits, the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) has introduced self-service kiosks for Macau residents to apply for the "Visit Permit for Residents of Macau SAR to Hong Kong SAR." The self-service kiosks are opening this month. Eligible applicants do not need to obtain a number tag before using the service, but can submit their own application at the abovementioned kiosks during DSI office hours.

**P**OLY Auction Macau Ltd ("Poly Macau") introduced the organization's inaugural events this week at a press conference, including an art auction, a hotel art fair and a "thematic hotel-based invitational exhibition."

Poly Macau was established this year by Poly Auction Hong Kong, a subsidiary of Poly Culture Group, and aims to become a leading art and culture center in Macau.

The art auction will feature around 100 pieces of ancient and contemporary art in a number of categories, including fine modern Chinese paintings and calligraphy; Chinese ceramics; jewels, watches and luxury goods; and ancient works of art. The event organizers aim to drive artistic communication between China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau.

At the hotel art fair, 60 artists from the four territories – all born after 1975 – will present their own exhibitions in Grand Lisboa's hotel guest rooms designed by Sabrina Ho. Each room is unique in that the artist's work will be "embedded in the space of the room."

The third event, the thematic hotel-based invitational exhibition, will feature 20 pieces selected by the art curator, Zhu Tong. The exhibition will be held in the

# Poly Macau unveils inaugural art events



Sabrina Ho (2nd from left) and Angela Leong (2nd from right) at Poly Macau's inaugural event

common areas of the hotel and the works selected to align with different spaces and styles.

Sabrina Ho, a director of Poly Macau and daughter of Stanley Ho and Angela Leong, said: "Artistic hotels have become very popular in neighboring countries and regions like South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Shanghai and Hong Kong. Artistic hotels are keen on integrating a variety of art and design into the hotel space. I hope that we can bring

this new idea to Macau."

The organization believes that the exhibitions will enable young artists to connect with art collectors across the Greater China region, thereby encouraging the development of art and culture in the SAR.

But their aspirations go further: The organization would like Macau to "earn the title of being the art capital of the East." Angela Leong, also a director of Poly Macau, said,

"I have absolute confidence in this goal. I believe that with the leadership of the MSAR government and the cooperation of local enterprises, this goal can certainly be achieved."

Poly Macau will hold its first art preview from January 7 to 9, and the auction at 4 p.m. on January 10. The art fair will run from January 7 to 10, and the thematic invitational exhibition will be held during January and February. **Staff Reporter**

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# Manuel Neves to leave Gaming Inspection Bureau

MANUEL Joaquim das Neves will relinquish his position as the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) director. After leading the bureau for 18 years and working as a civil servant for 31 years, Manuel Neves revealed to TDM that he intends "to take a break" and "devote more time to family and leisure."

Questioned about his plans for the future, Mr Neves answered: "For the time being, I don't have any projects, I will decide what I will do later on."

Born in Macau 56 years ago, Manuel Neves has a degree in public administration and business management. After completing studies in Portugal, he became a teacher in Macau in 1984. One year later he started working in DICJ, where he served in several posts.

According to an announcement published earlier in Macau's Official Gazette, the current DICJ head's tenure will end on November 25.

DICJ provides guidance and assistance to the CE on the definition and execution of the economic policies for the gaming related operations.

It was not announced who replace Mr Neves ahead of the DICJ.

# STDM's idle plots to revert back to the MSAR

THE government has made a move to take back four idle land plots, according to yesterday's Official Gazette announcement. Two of those plots had been granted to Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau (STDM).

Since 1990, Stanley Ho's company had rights to develop a land parcel located close to the School of the Nations in Taipa, where it planned to erect two buildings, one of which was to be 22 storeys tall. The land plot was granted in 1990 and STDM had three years to develop it.

The other STDM plot that is now reverting to government ownership is a smaller one at Penha Hill where the construction of a three-storey home was planned.

According to TDM, the biggest of all the land parcels now being taken back



The illuminated STDM logo

is one covering most of the area next to the Taipa Houses-Museum. Granted in 1990 to a company linked to developer Ho On Chun,

the plot was supposed to be developed into a shopping mall, a film studio and an outdoors theater, but the project never got off the

ground. The fourth reverted plot was granted in 1993 to developers of a steel and porcelain factory close to the wastewater treatment plant in Pac On.

Since 2011, authorities have pledged to look into taking back 48 land parcels that remain undeveloped. However, controversy erupted last June when 16 idle land plots were excluded from the government's recovery list.

According to the Chief Executive, the exclusions were made following legal and administrative procedures. He justified the exemption based on the assumption that development of the 16 plots was hindered by reasons such as changes in the location's urban planning or in the plot's purpose of use.

The administration has canceled land grants over 18 plots so far this year.

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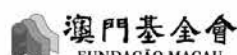
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**D**AVID Brown has been the principal of the Macau Anglican College (MAC) since its opening in 2002. Analyzing local education policies, he suggests that Macau should look to Finland or Sweden for inspiration, where teachers are normally paid “exceptionally well” in order to encourage graduates to enlist in the profession. “This sends a message to the people about the importance of education in society,” he argues, adding that it also ensures a stable supply of high-quality teachers.

“I’m not sure that Macau has gone down the best path in getting inspiration from Hong and China,” the principal told the Times during an interview to

EDUCATION | MAC PRINCIPAL DAVID BROWN

# Region should follow Finland’s example, not that of Hong Kong or China



David Brown (center)

**I have fulfilled everything that I want to do in my life in terms of education. My only ambition is to hand over the school.**

DAVID BROWN

discuss his career in education, on the week of his 70th birthday.

A British citizen, David Brown has spent the last 45 years dedi-

cated to education – serving in a number of teaching and principal posts in England, including as acting head in a number of “challenging schools”. He has been with the MAC since its inception and regards it as the

most difficult job he has ever done, but also the “most rewarding.”

The principal of the MAC applauds some of Macau’s educational policy initiatives such as encouraging informality in teaching, promoting early child development, and making education a more enjoyable experience for children.

He was undecided what he thought about the government’s expectation that all students meet a minimum standard across all subjects, saying that the MAC prefers to cultivate the students’ specialties and interests. “The difficulty,” he explained, “is in balancing the specialization that the children want with the MSAR [government]’s expectations.”

Despite this apparent difficulty, David Brown praised the policy of allowing schools the

prerogative to set their own curriculum, following approval. He acknowledged the teaching time constraints of managing a non-standard curriculum with the government’s minimum education requirements, but nevertheless believes that the policy provides much-needed diversity in educational options.

He also said that the MSAR “should obtain credit for improving the working life of teachers” by limiting the number of hours they work per week, thus giving them more time to plan and prepare for lessons, which in turn improves the education experience for students.

When asked what he plans to do next, Mr Brown’s answer was simple: “I have no ambition to do anything other than continue to grow the school, and putting in place a good leadership and management team [before I retire]. I have fulfilled everything that I want to do in my life in terms of education. My only ambition is to hand over the school.”

David Brown says that he will remain in Macau after he retires. After almost 15 years, “this is where my life is and where my friends are.”

The principal explained that he had visited China as a tourist years before the opportunity at the MAC arose, and that he had “felt a calling to come to China”. When the opportunity arose, he seized it despite the counsel of his peers. “I have no regrets,” he remarked, “it has been a very rewarding experience.” **Staff Reporter**

## ‘We were termed an experimental school, but I don’t mind’

**D**AVID Brown is not fazed that MAC is being termed “experimental.”

“When we first opened, we were termed an experimental school, but I don’t mind. I like to think that we are still a bit experimental.” The institution was termed as such because of its unconventional approach to its ‘hybrid curriculum’. Pupils are also required to learn English and Mandarin.

The MAC is a private school based in Taipa, accepting students from kindergarten to senior high school, and offering University of Cambridge IGCSE examinations.

The MAC started as a primary school, but after parents wanted the school to offer a junior high school, they expanded. This expansion was completed 8 years ago. They then proceeded to establish the senior high school. Today they have around 120 teachers and about 60 additional or support staff.

The building from an aerial observation resembles the ‘finger of God’ from Michelangelo’s famous painting, ‘The Creation of God’, on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. According to Mr Brown, the structure has been featured in architecture magazines.

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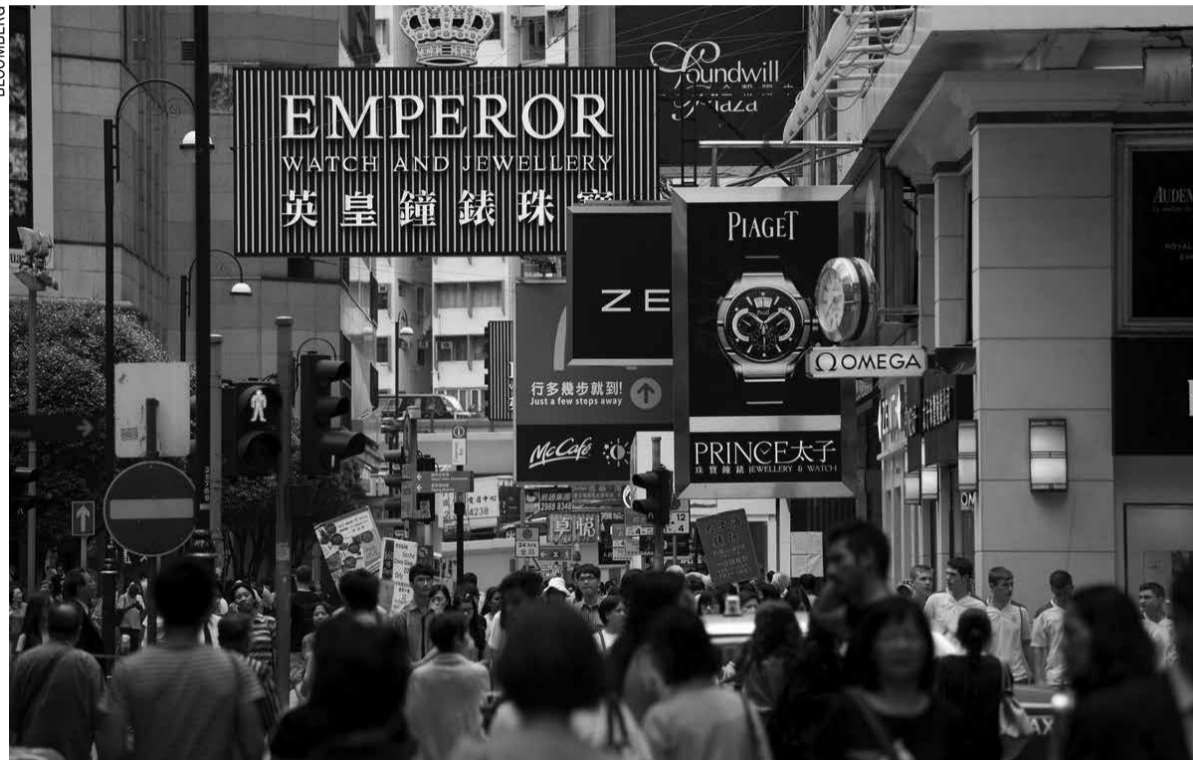
# Hello Kitty, farewell Rolex as Hong Kong shoppers go down-market

**I**N Hong Kong, fancy purses are out, sneakers are in.

U.S. luxury handbag maker Coach Inc. opened its four-story flagship store in the heart of Hong Kong's Central district to much fanfare in June 2008, with a celebrity-studded, champagne-fueled party. In August, the company quietly terminated its HKD5.6 million (USD723,000) per month lease and Adidas is moving in - paying 23 percent less in rent, according to Colliers International Group Inc.

This is not an isolated case. Russell Street in Causeway Bay, which boasted the most expensive shop rents in the world until New York's Fifth Avenue overtook it a year ago, is undergoing a major transformation. A location formerly rented by Emperor Watch & Jewelry Ltd. that sold diamond-studded Cartier watches is now home to discount cosmetics retailer company Bonjour Holdings Ltd. that sells HK\$58 packets of Hello Kitty false eyelashes and HK\$18 jars of Tiger Balm ointments. Next door, rival Colourmix Cosmetics Co. has moved into a space vacated by Swiss watchmaker Jaeger-LeCoultre.

As Kering SA's Gucci, LVMH's Louis Vuitton, and jewelry



chain Chow Tai Fook Jewelry Group Ltd. bargain for lower rents or close stores amid a decline in mainland tourists who had underpinned their sales, mid-tier retailers are filling the gaps. Brands that appeal to the broader market are taking advantage of declining leases to move into some of Hong Kong's most coveted retail locations.

"The fallout in the watch and jewelry as well as luxury sector is paving the way for fast fashion brands to expand," Tom Gaffney, head of retail at Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. in Hong Kong, said in a phone interview.

Retail rents started falling after the city's appeal as a shopping

paradise for mainland tourists was hurt by anti-China protests last year, a slowing mainland economy and Beijing's austerity and anti-graft campaigns, which have made the Chinese wary of splurging on luxury goods. Hardest hit have been sales of watches and jewelry, where sales have fallen year on year for the past 11 months.

"Shopping habits are changing; a couple of years ago it was not uncommon to see mainlanders go into watch stores and ask for 10 Rolexes," said Marcos Chan, head of research for Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau at CBRE Group Inc. «Now we hardly see people even buying one.»

While luxury brands are abandoning street-front locations, they are maintaining their presence in high-end malls where monthly rents are lower in part because landlords also receive a portion of sales receipts as part of a tenant's payment.

Another source of the slowdown is that Chinese shoppers, who represent 10 percent of global tourism and more than 25 percent of luxury spending, are forsaking Hong Kong in favor of Europe, South Korea and Japan, attracted by weaker currencies and relaxed visa procedures, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. A rising backlash against mainland tourists has also hurt Hong Kong's appeal,

said CBRE's Chan.

Jones Lang expects street rents in Central to drop a further 10 percent in 2016 after falling about 20 percent to 30 percent this year, while leases on more than 200,000 square feet of space on Queen's Road in Central, one of the city's premier shopping destinations, will become available between now and 2018.

Just steps from one of Hong Kong's busiest subway stations in Central, Athens-based affordable fashion brand Folli Follie opened a store in mid-October after luxury watch retailer Carlson moved out.

Hennes & Mauritz AB is also taking advantage of falling rents to expand. On Oct. 30, it will open a four-story flagship, its largest store in Asia, in Causeway Bay.

"One part of our expansion strategy is about getting a good and competitive deal," said Magnus Olsson, the Swedish retailer's country manager for Greater China, declining to provide rental details. "If we were not happy, we wouldn't have opened."

Helen Mak, senior director of retail services at Colliers, said that while Hong Kong's superior level of service will continue to attract tourists, they are looking for a different shopping experience on the city's high streets.

"In the past, four out of five shops were selling Rolexes," she said. "In the future, a tourist will expect to see more varieties of retail shops in Hong Kong." **Bloomberg**

## The fallout in the watch and jewelry as well as luxury sector is paving the way for fast fashion brands to expand.

TOM GAFFNEY  
HEAD OF RETAIL  
JONES LANG LASALLE INC

## corporate bits

### VENETIAN HONORED AT WORLD LUXURY HOTEL AWARDS 2015



The Venetian Macao was recognized as a Luxury Suite Hotel in Macau as part of the World Luxury Hotel Awards 2015 in a ceremony in Hong Kong on Saturday. This latest award is a reflection of the integrated re-

sort's consistent performance. "We are very proud that The Venetian Macao has been recognized at the World Luxury Hotel Awards 2015 as it validates our efforts to deliver the best possible experience to our guests," said Mark McWhinnie, Senior Vice President of Resort Operations and Development, Sands China Ltd. "Since it opened in 2007, The Venetian Macao has become a must-visit spot for visitors for its iconic architecture, comprehensive facilities and luxurious accommodation."

The World Luxury Hotel Awards was established in 2006 to recognize the worldwide luxury hotel industry and hotels with respect to overall service excellence. Presented to luxury hotels in 55 categories, nominees are vetted and evaluated by a global panel of expert consultants situated amongst 144 countries and votes are recorded by guests, clients, travel agents and industry experts.

### STAR CHEFS ON THE MENU AT STUDIO CITY



A constellation of celebrity 'star chefs' yesterday served up a taste of the culinary experiences to be enjoyed at Studio City as they unveiled details of their signature restaurants.

Studio City's roster of chefs, including multi Michelin-starred Chef Alain Ducasse; Chef Pâtissier Pierre Hermé; Hawaii Regional Cuisine specialist Chef Alan Wong; 'Global Chef Award' winner Hide-masa Yamamoto; and World Champion of Chinese Cooking Gold Medalist Chef Tam Kwok Fung, will be joined by French Michelin-starred Chef Guillaume Galliot, executive chef of The Tasting Room at City of Dreams Macau, in preparing the Studio City Grand Opening

Gala Dinner to be held on October 27. At a special media reception on the eve of Studio City's opening, Chef Pâtissier Pierre Hermé, often described as the 'Picasso of Pastry', introduced the first Pierre Hermé Paris boutique in Macau. Offering a true Parisian experience, the macaron collections of Pierre Hermé Paris will be available at The Boulevard at Studio City. Flavor combinations such as "Ispahan" and "Mogador" as well as seasonal creations will be offered. "I am delighted at the opportunity to bring the Pierre Hermé Paris experience to Macau," explained Chef Hermé. "Studio City and the Studio City Boulevard is the perfect place in Macau to discover my universe of tastes, sensations and pleasures."



## Q&A: Impact of US warship sailing near newly created island

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**BEIJING** reacted harshly to a U.S. warship sailing near one of its newly created islands in a disputed area of the South China Sea. The action did not spark a confrontation or roll back any Chinese island-building activities, but it sent a high-profile message to both Beijing and U.S. allies that Washington wants to test Chinese sovereignty assertions and ensure freedom of navigation.

Some questions and answers:

### WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

As in previous incidents, Beijing is likely to voice its outrage for a time, before reasserting the wisdom of the government's calculated approach to its crucial relationship with the U.S. However, the testy reaction underlines tensions in the strategically vital region through which about one-third of global trade passes. Frictions are likely to worsen as Washington's renewed focus on Asia rubs up against Beijing's increasingly robust assertions of its claim to vir-

tually the entire sea and its islands, reefs and atolls. China says its sovereignty claims do not conflict with the rights of other nations to operate in the South China Sea, although the Defense Ministry accused the U.S. of abusing those rights.

### WHAT DID THE U.S. NAVY DO?

The maneuver itself was relatively tame. The U.S. Navy sailed the guided missile destroyer USS Lassen past an artificial island created on Subi Reef in the Spratly archipelago. The route was within a

22-kilometer territorial limit that China might claim around the reef. However, international law permits "innocent passage" of warships through other countries' territorial seas without any need for prior notification, and there was no indication the ship did anything other than pass through. Still, the U.S. said ahead of the trip that it was aimed at challenging any Chinese claims that the newly created islands are its sovereign territory.

### WHY DID THE NAVY ACT?

The sail-by was intended to reinforce Washington's insistence on freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, parts of which are claimed not only by China but by the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei. While the U.S. says it takes no view on ownership claims, it insists that the man-made islands China has created do not constitute sovereign territory and cannot claim territorial seas. Until the legal status of South China Sea is settled once and for all, such incidents "will continue unabated," said U.S. Naval Academy China expert Yu Maochun.

### HOW DID CHINA RESPOND?

China reacted angrily, saying the sail-by was illegal, that it infringed on Chinese sovereignty and that it threatened the security of the island and the region. It said the maneuver would affect China-U.S. relations and summoned American Ambassador Max Baucus in Beijing for a high-level protest. It is unclear on what basis China claims the sail-by was illegal, partly because it has never clarified the basis of its claims to territory in the South China Sea. The Chinese response — limited so far only to rhetoric — suggests Beijing may tacitly acknowledge the freedom of naviga-

tion in the area, but does "not want the U.S. to make a regular practice of it," said Phillip Saunders, director of the U.S. National Defense University's Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs.

### WHAT ABOUT THE CHINESE PUBLIC?

Chinese Internet forums lit up with calls for a hard line against the U.S. The official China Daily newspaper published an editorial yesterday accusing Washington of "stirring the waters at the risk of regional peace and stability," and of using coercion to challenge what it called China's legitimate territorial claims. Public sentiment strongly favors China displaying its military superiority in the face of defiant acts by rival claimants, especially the Philippines and Vietnam, although Beijing has so far shied away from military escalation. Passions over the South China Sea pale in comparison to negative sentiment toward old rival Japan, with which China is competing over control of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

### WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS?

China has said it will continue work on island-building projects now underway, including the construction of buildings, harbors and airstrips on top of them. However, Washington's regional allies have been buoyed by the show of U.S. resolve that follows warming military ties with the Philippines, former foe Vietnam and others. That may stiffen the determination of China's neighbors to stand up to Beijing's assertiveness. Other players in the region, including Singapore and Indonesia, are wary of being caught up in a sharpening dispute between Washington and Beijing and all sides are calling for negotiations on a long-term solution to head off the possibility of conflict. **AP**

## Meat processors shrug off WHO cancer warning

**CHINA'S** meat processors are angry at a report from a WHO research institute that said bacon, sausages and other processed meats are carcinogenic.

Liu Jintao, vice marketing manager of Shuanghui, China's largest pork producer, said the WHO IARC's report was "deeply regrettable."

"The report, though claiming to be published for human health, is in fact inhumane," he said.

"Meat processing technology is part of human

civilization and it shall not be destroyed by being labeled 'carcinogenic'."

According to the report, processed meats — such as sausages, bacon, and other cured meats — were a Group 1 carcinogen because of their links to bowel cancer. Red meats, such as beef and lamb, were placed in Group 2A as "probably carcinogenic to humans."

From January to June this year, Shuanghui sold 753,000 tons of processed meat and posted 20.3

billion yuan (USD3.2 billion) in total revenue. In 2013, Shuanghui purchased its U.S. counterpart Smithfield Foods, making it China's largest acquisition in the food industry.

The report, though opposed by meat traders, has caused public concern.

"Although no orders have been called off, many customers called us to inquire about meat safety and sales after the report was published Monday," said Ma Xiaozhong,



head of the Jinhua Ham Industry Association.

Ma said that the Chinese

have been more and more aware of their diet in recent years, with some

choosing to avoid pickled food. He believed that the IARC's warning should just be taken as a tip to increase nutrition awareness. However, rising meat consumption has the potential to increase over the next decade.

At a Daoxiangcun store in Beijing, buyers shrugged off cancer worries. A woman who gave her name as Li was buying sausages. "Eating one sausage a day is no problem. The reports are over-exaggerated and alarmist," she said. **Xinhua**

# Beijing summons US ambassador to protest ship near reef

Christopher Bodeen  
and Robert Burns, Beijing

**C**HINA summoned the American ambassador to protest the U.S. Navy's sailing of a warship close to one of China's artificial islands in the South China Sea, in an act that challenged Chinese sovereignty claims.

China's Foreign Ministry said on its website yesterday that Executive Vice Minister Zhang Yesui told Max Bacaus that the U.S. had acted in defiance of repeated Chinese objections and had threatened China's sovereignty and security. While offering no details, Zhang said Tuesday's "provocative" maneuver also placed personnel and infrastructure on the island in jeopardy.

China was "extremely dissatisfied and resolutely opposed" the U.S. actions, the ministry said. The U.S. State Department declined to confirm the Tuesday meeting, or comment on any remarks made on the issue.

China says authorities monitored and warned the destroyer USS Lassen as it entered what China claims as a 21-kilometer territorial limit around Subi Reef in the Spratly Islands archipelago, a group of reefs, islets, and atolls where the Philippines has competing claims.

The sail-past fits a U.S. policy



In this April 8 2008 file photo, guided missile destroyer USS Lassen arrives at the Shanghai International Passenger Quay for a scheduled port visit

of pushing back against China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea. U.S. ally the Philippines welcomed the move as a way of helping maintain "a balance of power."

Since 2013, China has accelerated the creation of new outposts by piling sand atop reefs and atolls then adding buildings, ports and airstrips big enough to handle bombers and fighter jets — activities seen as attempting to change the territorial status by altering the geography.

Navy officials had said the sail-past was necessary to as-

sert the U.S. position that China's man-made islands cannot be considered sovereign terri-

**“ [China was] extremely dissatisfied and resolutely opposed [the U.S. actions] ”**

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

tory with the right to surrounding territorial waters.

International law permits military vessels the right of "innocent passage" in transiting other country's seas without notification, although China's Foreign Ministry labeled the ship's actions as illegal.

The U.S. says it doesn't take a position on sovereignty over the South China Sea but insists on freedom of navigation and overflight. About 30 percent of global trade passes through the South China Sea, which also has rich fishing grounds and a potential wealth of undersea

mineral deposits.

China says it respects the right of navigation but has never specified the exact legal status of its maritime claims. China says virtually all of the South China Sea belongs to it, while Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam claim either parts or all of it.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said Tuesday the U.S. has a right to freedom of navigation in international waters, and such maneuvers "should not be construed as a threat by anybody." He said the U.S. wants relations with China to continue to deepen.

"The U.S.-China relationship is vitally important and one that we want to see continue to improve and to grow for the benefit of both our countries, not to mention the region," Kirby told reporters in Washington.

Beijing's response closely mirrored its actions in May when a navy dispatcher warned off a U.S. Navy P8-A Poseidon surveillance aircraft as it flew over Fiery Cross Reef, where China has conducted extensive reclamation work.

A Defense Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the Lassen's movements, said the patrol was completed without incident. A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Cmdr. Bill Urban, declined to comment. **AP**

## TAIWAN

# Mainland says it will stay out of upcoming elections

**C**HINA won't get involved in Taiwan's upcoming elections, a government spokesman said yesterday, underscoring the sensitivity surrounding polls in which the island's pro-independence opposition is expected to make a strong showing.

An Fengshan, the Chinese government's Taiwan Affairs Office spokesman, told reporters that bilateral relations were entering an "important time frame," but that Beijing hoped to maintain peace and stability between the sides.

However, he defined relations largely in terms of those between Chi-

na's ruling Communist Party and Taiwan's pro-unification ruling Nationalists, who face an uphill battle in the Jan. 16 elections.

The two parties should "consolidate and enhance political mutual trust," while continuing to oppose Taiwan's formal independence, An said. China claims Taiwan as its own territory, to be brought into the fold by force if necessary.

Surveys show the candidate for Taiwan's main opposition Democratic Progressive Party, Tsai Ing-wen, favored to win the presidency by a large margin, while the Nationalists continue to strug-

gle. Lawmakers are to be elected on the same day, with control of the legislature up for grabs.

Nationalist President Ma Ying-jeou is barred from seeking a third term and the party dumped its original candidate to succeed him earlier this month amid signs that her pro-China stance was alienating voters. Young Taiwanese are especially suspicious of closer relations with Beijing and view China as both a political and economic threat.

Following decades of cross-strait enmity, China has largely taken a low-key approach to politics on the island for fear of tainting its politi-

cal allies.

Earlier attempts to threaten or cajole Taiwanese voters were seen as counter-productive, fueling the belief that Beijing was trying to undermine the island's democracy ahead of formal unification in the same manner as the formal British colony of Hong Kong.

Such threats were seen as helping DPP candidate Chen Shui-bian win the presidency in 2000, while the Nationalists earlier this year suffered a major defeat in local elections in a result attributed to dissatisfaction over their support for closer China ties.

The Nationalists fled to



Taiwan's outgoing Nationalist President Ma Ying-jeou

Taiwan following their civil war defeat to the Communists in 1949, but reconciled with their former foes a decade ago. That good will is largely based on their shared conviction that Taiwan remains a part of Chinese territory despite its sepa-

rate political status.

While the DPP officially advocates Taiwan's formal split from China, it has pledged to adhere to the will of the majority of Taiwanese, who favor maintaining the status quo of de facto independence. **AP**



Afghan men carry their belongings after an earthquake in Takhar province, northeast of Kabul, Afghanistan

## HINDU KUSH EARTHQUAKE

# Afghan death toll rises further as quake survivors await aid

Mohammad Yousaf and Rahim Faiez, Shangla

**A**FGHANISTAN and Pakistan were scrambling yesterday to rush aid to survivors of this week's magnitude-7.5 earthquake as the region's overall death toll from the temblor rose to 385.

Pakistan's disaster management authority said the nation's dead now were at 267, with 220 people killed in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and another 47 elsewhere in the country.

Afghanistan has reported 115

dead and 556 wounded, while three people died on the Indian side of the disputed region of Kashmir.

The head of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, Wais Ahmad Barmak told parliament that 7,630 homes had been destroyed and around 1,000 animals killed. In battered northwestern Pakistan, more than 10,000 homes were damaged, as well as 147 schools, officials said.

The quake, which struck Monday, was centered in Afghanistan's sparsely populated Badakhshan province bordering

Pakistan, Tajikistan and China.

The poverty-stricken region is vast, with mountains and valleys that make it difficult to reach affected areas. Taliban are active in some parts, further complicating access, Barmak said.

Survey teams have been sent to assess casualties and damage in areas that can be reached only on foot or donkey. Once the information they bring back has been assessed, food and non-food supplies would be delivered, Barmak said.

Badakhshan is often hit by earthquakes and other disasters, including floods and land-

slides. Other regions, too, such as Nuristan and Kunar provinces in the east were presenting access challenges, he told parliament. "We have got some problems like security challenges and road blocks, and unfortunately all roads from Nuristan's capital to its districts are still blocked and some roads are blocked in Kunar too," preventing delivery of help.

Meanwhile, funerals of the victims continued yesterday and in Pakistan's worst-hit town of Shangla, residents demanded the government's help to rebuild their homes.

According to Pakistan's disaster management authority, the quake damaged 10,586 houses in the country's northwest. Shangla is the worst affected town, with 49 people killed and 228 injured. Another 32 people died in Chitral, the Pakistani town closest to the epicenter of the quake.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority said it had distributed 15,519 tents, 25,700 blankets and tons of food. Further supplies would be delivered to remote areas once roads had been cleared and reopened.

In Shangla, 70-year-old Zurqun Nain said his extended family was living at a relative's home after the quake damaged his house. "I had my own home before the earthquake. Now I am homeless at this old age," he said.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited the northwestern city of Peshawar yesterday to attend a briefing on quake damages. In televised comments, he pledged his government would provide "maximum compensation" to the victims.

"We are going to start the provision of compensation to those whose homes were damaged," he said, adding that 200,000 rupees (about USD2,000) would be given to each person to rebuild their homes. **AP**

# 385

The region's overall death toll

## AUSTRALIA

# Authorities to fly Somali refugee from Nauru for abortion

**A** Somali refugee who alleged she was raped in Nauru will be flown to Australia for a second time to potentially have an abortion, Australia's government said yesterday, a day after the United Nations' human rights agency demanded she get another opportunity to have her 15-week pregnancy terminated.

The case of the 23-year-old woman, known by the pseudonym Abyan, has amplified criticism of the Australian government's policy of refusing to allow asylum seekers who arrive by boat to settle in Australia under any circumstances.

Asylum seekers who at-



Asylum seekers are caught in Indonesian waters while sailing to Australia

tempt to reach Australian shores are transferred to Australia-run immigration detention camps in the impoverished Pacific island nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

Australia flew Abyan 4,000 kilometers to Sydney for an abortion on Oct. 11, but she returned five days later still pregnant. The government said she had changed her

mind.

Abyan said in a statement from Nauru that she had not changed her mind, but had been denied an interpreter and counseling. Abortion is

illegal in Nauru.

Critics argue that she should have been given more time in Australia. Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said he was concerned that 240 asylum seekers who flew to Australia for medical treatment then got court injunctions preventing their return to Nauru.

Dutton said yesterday that Abyan would return to Australia to consult a doctor and receive mental health support, but would not say when.

"She will travel to Australia and will seek some expert assistance from medical staff in Australia," Dutton told Sky-News television.

He said Australia was not prompted by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights' call on Tuesday for Australia and Nauru to "urgently provide a decent option for Abyan ... to obtain adequate mental and physical care and to terminate her pregnancy if she desires."

"These plans have been in the making for some days," Dutton said.

Abortions are legal for the first 20 weeks of pregnancy in Australia. Abyan has not reported the rape to Nauru police. The UNHCR said she fears reprisals in Nauru, which has a population of 10,000. **AP**

Foster Klug, Seoul

## SOUTH KOREA

# Seoul, Tokyo bickering days before 3-way summit with China

**L**EAVE it to perpetually squabbling Northeast Asia to spice up that most vanilla of diplomatic activities: the meet-and-greet, photo-op-ridden international summit.

South Korea and Japan finally announced yesterday what has long been rumored — a three-way leaders' meeting with China this weekend in Seoul — but details are still scarce with just days to go. And the Seoul-Tokyo bilateral meeting, their first formal talks at this level in 3½ years? A brief Monday morning talk, breaking before lunch. It wasn't even on the initial schedule released by Tokyo, though a spokesman later confirmed the meeting.

The lead-up to the summit has seen the South Korean and Japanese foreign ministries publicly dodging questions even as diplomats leaked barbed tidbits to reporters behind the scenes.

The bickering confounds some observers because even though these summits are often devoid of substance, there is high symbolic importance in leaders from these powerful neighbors setting aside their many differences and putting on a good show. China and Japan have the world's No. 2 and 3 biggest economies, respectively. South Korea and Japan are strong U.S. allies and Washington's military and diplomatic bulwark in an unsteady region. All three have a keen interest in containing North Korea's nuclear bomb ambitions.

The problem this week, as is often the case in Northeast Asia, appears to be history, and specifically the inability of Seoul and Tokyo to settle disputes stemming from Japan's brutal colonial rule of Korea in the early 20th century.

Newspapers in Japan reported that the spat centered on Tokyo balking at Seoul's pressure for Japan to make some sort of concession on the issue of Ko-



In this March 25 2014 file photo, South Korean President Park Geun-hye, right, shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, as U.S. President Barack Obama looks on

rean women forced into sex slavery by Japan's military leading up to and during World War II. Many in South Korea feel that past Japanese apologies and attempts at recompense have fallen well short. This feeling has been compounded by a widespread view that conservative Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is whitewashing Japan's wartime atrocities.

South Korea announced that President Park Geun-hye and Abe will meet next Monday, a day after they both meet with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. Seoul has provided few other details but emphasized that the sex slave issue would be on the

agenda. Japanese media have reported that Seoul suggested a meeting of just 30 minutes because Tokyo wouldn't cave on the sex slave issue.

South Korean Ambassador to Japan Yoo Heung-soo, in a speech in Tokyo on Monday, urged Abe to make concessions on the issue when he meets with Park.

In response, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters that "Japan's position on the issue has not changed." Suga didn't say whether the topic would be raised in talks, but instead underlined the importance of the leaders meeting and talking.

Amid the wrangling, the Japanese point man on Korean affairs, Kimihiro Ishikane, met Tuesday with Lee Sang-duk, the Seoul Foreign Ministry's top official on Northeast Asian affairs, on the sex slave issue.

The summit also represents another step in Beijing's slow resumption of exchanges with Japan following a fissure in relations in 2012 over Tokyo's nationalization of uninhabited East China Sea islands controlled by Japan but claimed by China.

Their rift began to heal last year with a diplomatic settlement and Chinese President Xi Jinping's brief meeting with

**■ S Korea and Japan finally announced yesterday what has long been rumored — a three way leaders' meeting with China this weekend**

Abe in Beijing.

China's good relations with Seoul are symbolized by President Park's decision to break ranks with other democratic leaders to attend a lavish military parade in Beijing last month.

Rather than Xi, however, China will be represented in Seoul by less-influential Premier Li Keqiang. Li has a focus on economics, and Beijing says it wants to revive stalled talks on a three-way trade deal between the sides.

The meetings could be significant even if the three leaders only manage to build confidence and agree to more summits, said Jeff Kingston, director of Asian studies at Temple University in Japan.

"They can focus on trade issues, security issues, and perhaps leave territorial and historical issues to the side for a moment," he said. "Their relationships are far too important to neglect as they have." AP

## NEPAL

## Parliament elects nation's first female president

Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

**A** Communist leader who has long campaigned for women's rights was elected yesterday as Nepal's first female president.

Bidhya Devi Bhandari of the Communist Party of Nepal Unified Marxist-Leninist received 327 votes against her opponent's 214 in parliament yesterday, Parliament Speaker Onsari Gharti announced.

The president is the ce-

remonial head in Nepal while the prime minister is the nation's leader.

Bhandari, 54, is the deputy leader of the party led by Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli, who was elected earlier this month and leads a coalition government. The new constitution adopted last month required Nepal to name a new president.

Bhandari is an active campaigner for women's rights in Nepal and was among the politicians who campaigned for en-

suring women's rights in the new constitution. The document says one-third of the members in parliament have to be women and either the president or vice president must be a woman.

She has been a leading political figure since her husband Madan Bhandari, who was then leader of the party, was killed in a still unsolved car accident in 1993.

She also led many demonstrations against the then-King Gyanendra in

2006 that finally ended his authoritarian rule and restored democracy.

Bhandari is Nepal's second president since the Himalayan nation was turned into a republic after abolishing the centuries-old monarchy. The first president, Ram Baran Yadav, was elected in 2008 and was supposed to be in office for two years. But preparing and adopting the constitution took seven years because of differences between political parties. AP



Presidential candidate and vice-chairperson of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) Bidhya Bhandari waves her hand as lawmakers vote for a new president in Kathmandu

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George Jahn, Vienna

## EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS

# Austria building fence along parts of border with Slovenia

**A**USTRIA, a strong critic of building of fences to keep out migrants, announced plans yesterday to erect barriers along parts of its own border, but insisted the move was meant solely to bring order into the flow of people entering the country in search of a better life.

Slovenia, the main migrant entry point into Austria, also said it was ready to build a fence, threatening to set off a chain reaction from other countries along the land route used by those seeking a better life in prosperous EU nations.

Germany, the country of choice of many of the people fleeing regions torn by war and hardship, moved as well to reduce the migrant load. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere announced that, while Syrian citizens are mostly accepted, many of the Afghans pouring into the country will likely be sent back to their homeland.

In Austria, Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner told parliament that construction of "technical barriers" would begin after about 10 days of planning but gave no exact date for the start of work on the project.

In separate comments to state broadcaster ORF, she spoke of the need for a "fence" to maintain public order. Defense Minister Gerald Klug said containers or railings could be set up to "be able to control the refugees in an orderly way."

Mikl-Leitner insisted that there were no plans "to build a fence around Austria." Still the project is likely to run into

domestic and international criticism for the signal it sends to other nations struggling to cope with the migrant influx and because of associations with the razor-wire fence Hungary has built to keep migrants out — a move Austria strongly criticized.

## ■ Slovenia also said it was ready to build a fence, threatening to set off a chain reaction

Since the Hungarians sealed their borders a few weeks ago, thousands of migrants using the western Balkans route into Austria and beyond have been flowing into Croatia and then Slovenia daily.

Insisting that their small nation cannot cope with the influx, Slovenian officials suggested even before Austria's announcement last Thursday that they too, are considering a fence, in their case on the border with Croatia.

Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar firmed up those

AP PHOTO



Migrants walk along a road after crossing the border between Austria and Germany in Wegscheid, near Passau

plans yesterday, saying "if necessary, we are ready to put up the fence immediately," if a weekend plan by EU and Balkan leaders fails to stem the migrant surge.

In opposing fencing off border areas, Austria has invoked the

principle of free movement within the EU's internal borders.

At the same time, its attempts to cope with the migrant influx have been complicated by recent moves by Germany — the country of choice of many migrants — to slow their entry

from Austria

Mikl-Leitner acknowledged a possible effect on migrants in Slovenia if Austria builds barriers — a situation she said Austria already is struggling to deal with "because Germany is taking too few." **AP**

## SYRIAN CRISIS

# Iran to attend international talks on ending civil war

Ali Akbar Dareini, Tehran

**I**RAN said yesterday it will attend the international talks on Syria's future later this week in Vienna, following an invitation from the Russian envoy that would mark Tehran's first appearance at such a gathering.

The invitation to the talks came after the United States declared itself ready to engage long-time foe Iran if it might help halt Syria's four-year civil war.

Iran is a key ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad and has provided his government with military and political backing for years. Tehran admits that its Revolutionary Guard officers are on the

AP PHOTO



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is set to attend the talks on Syria later this week in Vienna

ground in Syria in an advisory role, but denies the presence of any combat troops in the country.

Iranian state TV quoted Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Marzieh

Afkham, as saying yesterday that Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will attend the talks.

It didn't provide details but said Zarif discussed the Syrian crisis with his Rus-

sian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, on Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

The TV also said Deputy Foreign Ministers Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Abbas Araghchi and Majid Takht-e-Ravanchi would accompany Zarif on the trip.

"We believe the solution for Syria is a political solution. Americans and foreign players in Syria have no choice but accept the realities in Syria," Abdollahian said on state TV yesterday. "Assad ... has the necessary readiness for talks with insurgents who are committed to a political path."

The semi-official ISNA news agency also quoted the foreign ministry spokeswoman as

saying the Islamic Republic would attend. Earlier in the day, she said Tehran was considering whether to join the gathering in Vienna.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Russia's Lavrov and several top European and Arab diplomats will be attending — a familiar cast that up to now hasn't included any Iranian representatives. Kerry departed for the Austrian capital yesterday.

Iran's attendance could be a game-changer. Iran has backed Assad's government throughout the conflict and the Syrian opposition may balk at Iran's inclusion in any discussions on what a post-Assad Syria should

look like.

But all previous international efforts have failed to stop the Syrian war, now in its fifth year with over 250,000 dead and millions displaced from the conflict.

Washington is trying to unite all sides with influence in the Arab country around a common vision of a peaceful, secular and pluralistic Syria governed with the consent of its people.

Beyond Iran, this week's gathering will expand to include countries such as Britain, France, Germany, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shukry also said yesterday he would attend. **AP**

## what's ON



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

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

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

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

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

## Offbeat

US: OWNER HEARS 'KABOOM,' FINDS  
CAR ON ROOF OF MICHIGAN HOME

When Joyce Kingsley heard "kaboom" while at her Michigan home, she immediately thought about extreme weather.

The 83-year-old needed to look up: A Ford Mustang was parked on the roof of her home after the driver had a medical problem earlier this week and lost control on a highway in Shiawassee County.

Kingsley's home about 30 kilometers northeast of Lansing is built next to a hill, and the roof is nearly level with the ground, The Argus-Press of Owosso reported.

"I was just watching TV inside. I had it up pretty loud – but this was much louder," Kingsley said.

State police said the Mustang went through several bushes, trees and a fence before stopping on the roof. The driver was treated for low blood sugar but wasn't hurt.

"The driver is extremely lucky," Trooper Ben Rowell said. Kingsley plans to put a tarp over the damaged roof until it can be fixed.

"It could've been a lot worse," she said. "I'm glad everyone is all right."

## TV canal macau

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

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

29 Oct - 04 Nov



## ARE YOU HERE\_

ROOM 1

2.30, 9.45 pm

Director: Jill Wong

Starring: Nina Paw, Helena Law, Susan Shaw

Language: chinese (Cantonese and English)

Duration: 114min

## OUR TIMES\_

ROOM 1

4.30, 7.15 pm

Director: Ding Sheng

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

Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 134min

## BRIDGE OF SPIES\_

ROOM 2

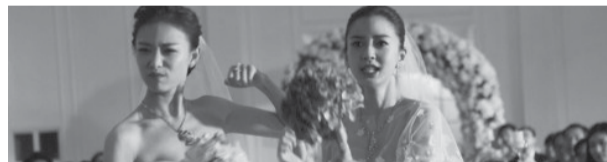
2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Steven Spielberg

Starring: Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Alan Alda

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 141min



## BRIDE WARS\_

ROOM 3

2.15, 5.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Tony Chan

Starring: Angelababy, Ni Ni, Chen Xiao

Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 90min

## ARE YOU HERE\_

ROOM 3

4.00 pm

Director: Jill Wong

Starring: Nina Paw, Helena Law, Susan Shaw

Language: chinese (Cantonese and English)

Duration: 114min

## GOOSEBUMPS\_

ROOM 3

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

1982 MOTHER JAILED  
IN DINGO BABY MURDER

Lindy Chamberlain has been found guilty of the murder of her nine-week-old daughter after a jury dismissed her claim that a dingo took the baby.

The court was told that she cut the baby's throat and disposing of the body whilst at a campsite near Ayers Rock.

Mrs Chamberlain, who is expecting her fourth child, will now start her mandatory life term with hard labour after being sentenced in Melbourne, Australia.

Her husband, Michael Chamberlain, was found guilty of being an accessory to the murder of baby Azaria, but has not yet been sentenced.

Azaria Chamberlain went missing from the campsite in 1980. Her body has never been recovered but her bloodstained clothes were found and formed the main part of the investigation.

In an earlier inquest the judge accepted the Chamberlains' claim that a dingo had taken their baby but further investigations by British pathologists showed the wounds, indicated by bloodstains on the baby's clothes, could not have been caused by a dingo and a second investigation was started.

Australian experts disagreed with the findings and claimed that assertions Azaria's throat had been cut were completely unfounded.

During the seven-week trial the jurors were taken to the Ayers Rock site. Among questions raised was the possibility that a dingo's jaw would not be strong enough to carry off a baby.

The case has taken the country by storm and become known as "Australia's murder trial of the century". It was expected to end with an acquittal and it is thought that there will now be an appeal.

Barrister John Bryson said: "An appeal is the most expected phenomenon".

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Four years later on 2 February, a matinee jacket worn by Azaria was found partially buried in a dingo's lair at Ayers Rock - this seemed to back up Lindy Chamberlain's version of events.

She was released five days later. The Northern Territory government said it was because she had "suffered enough".

In September 1988 judges in Darwin pardoned the Chamberlains. Another inquest in 1995 returned an open verdict.

The body of Azaria has never been found. The case inspired the 1988 film, A Cry in the Dark, starring Meryl Streep and Sam Neill. An opera about the Chamberlains' story was performed at Sydney Opera House in October 2002.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You have the power to succeed today - even if it feels like you're losing ground. Just keep pushing yourself. Things may look dark early in the morning, but by tonight you should see a glimmer of hope.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your earthy nature asserts itself in a big way today, but that may put off those with their heads in the clouds. You should just ignore them and let them enjoy their silly fantasies - you've got work to do!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You rely on others to help get your own business done, but today you may be on your own. Things aren't terrible just yet, but you may want to take extra time for all your important tasks.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You feel a new sense of balance today - though it might come at a cost. See if you can just enjoy what you've got and worry about the consequences when they actually start to affect you.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're making great progress toward some personal goal - but you need to keep it personal for now. Let others take center stage, and they will have more time and attention for you later.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your romantic world is spinning a little faster - so take a chance or snuggle up with your sweetheart! All that great energy needs to be shared with someone, and you can feel it when it's right.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Be wary of new situations - something isn't quite right, though that's not to say you need to avoid dealing with it entirely! Just make sure you're careful to see the bad as well as the good today.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your potent energy is the driving force behind today's big mission - so make sure that you're talking it up or inspiring others to the cause. Things should start to look really good this evening.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are firmly committed to doing it all yourself today, whether it's making your own lunch or building your own shed. Whatever it takes to get it done is readily available in your skill set.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to deal with all this energy in a positive way - which isn't such a hard task for you! Just make sure that you're actively engaged with everything that needs to happen by tonight.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're more tired than you feel you ought to be, so go easy on yourself and make sure that you're delegating responsibilities as much as you can. There's not much point in driving yourself to exhaustion!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your assistance is needed in a big way - so ask around or look for opportunities to save the day. Things may move slowly at first, but once you enter the picture, the pace picks up considerably.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fruit-filled pie; 5- Scottish loch, home to a monster; 9- Put down, in slang; 12- Baltic feeder; 13- ... who lived in ...; 15- Take five; 16- Nada; 17- Halts; 18- Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 19- Large lizard; 21- Location; 23- Story; 25- Hindu princess; 26- '60s campus gp.; 29- Middle Eastern bread; 31- Federal soldier in the Civil War; 35- Bit of butter; 36- Sky blue; 38- Nursemaid; 39- Jack of "Rio Lobo"; 41- Utopias; 43- Actress Vima; 44- Biblical spy; 46- So spooky as to be frightening; 48- Amusement; 49- Mountain range; 51- Trent of the Senate; 52- Hosp. readout; 53- ... Camera; 55- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 57- Piece of luggage; 61- Suppose; 65- Look ... I'm Sandra Dee; 66- Shooting sport; 68- Coup d'...; 69- Quartz grains; 70- Twilled fabric; 71- River to the Ubangi; 72- HBO alternative; 73- Timber; 74- Pitchfork-shaped letters;

DOWN: 1- Singer Braxton; 2- Work like ...; 3- Bausch & Lomb brand; 4- Pay for; 5- Pronounce through the nostrils; 6- Cornerstone abbr.; 7- Retail store; 8- Deep sleep; 9- He loved Lucy; 10- Gaffer Aoki; 11- Astound; 14- Composition; 15- Related to the back of the eye; 20- California wine region; 22- ... instant; 24- Musical study piece; 26- Glasses, briefly; 27- Lama lead-in; 28- Stagnant; 30- Staggering; 32- Cutting instrument; 33- Come afterward; 34- Giving the once-over; 37- Sign up; 40- Deserved; 42- Located; 45- Bric-a-...; 47- Greek vowels; 50- Collect; 54- Crooked; 56- Deplete; 57- Mouth off; 58- Four Corners state; 59- ... expert, but...; 60- First name in architecture; 62- Western Indians; 63- Former French colony of north-western Africa; 64- Hot times abroad; 67- Swelled head;

Yesterday's solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Dave Skretta, Kansas City

## BASEBALL

## Royals' Orlando becomes first Brazilian in World Series

**P**AULO Orlando had returned home to Brazil last offseason when he flipped on the television to catch the news, and saw this strange report about the first Brazilian to play in the NFL.

The Royals outfielder was immediately intrigued.

Then he was downright stunned.

Not only did he learn that Cairo Santos was carving out quite a career in a decidedly non-Brazilian sport, just like Orlando was trying to do, he was doing it with the Kansas City Chiefs — the team that plays just across the parking lot from his own team.

"I said, 'Whoa! He plays in Kansas City!'" Orlando recalled. "Then I went to winter ball in Venezuela thinking, 'Wow, if I can make the team, I can meet him one day — two Brazilian guys in the same city and representing their sports.' How crazy is that?"

About as crazy as this: One year after Santos became the first Brazilian to play in the NFL, Orlando became the first from his country to play in the World Series.

He entered this week's opener against the New York Mets in the eighth inning, and had a single in the 12th, before the Royals finally persevered for a 5-4 victory in 14 innings.

Santos and Orlando aren't the only sports stars in Kansas City, either. Paulo Nagamura is one of the best players on Sporting Kansas City, which just qualified for the Major League Soccer playoffs.

Not bad for a city with a Brazilian population of roughly 4,000 people.

"It's pretty amazing, when you think about it," Santos told The Associated Press. "It's great that we have this opportunity to re-



present our country in this way."

Santos and Orlando met for the first time a couple months ago, and along with Nagamura have followed each other's careers through social media. But with the way their seasons overlap, they haven't been able to spend a whole lot of time getting to know each other.

Not that it matters. When they did meet, Santos and Orlando slipped casually into Portuguese, a rare opportunity for both of them to speak their native language.

"It's really rare to see a Brazilian player playing baseball, and American football, too," said Marco Rabello, who along

with fellow Brazilian native Christian Maciel opened the "Taste of Brazil" restaurant and shop in the City Market section of Kansas City.

Santos wandered in not long ago. Nagamura stops by a couple times a month.

"I contacted Paulo Orlando through Facebook, and I met his wife when she came from Brazil a couple months ago," said Rabello, a former professional volleyball player who came to the U.S. for college. "For me, it's awesome to have three professional players."

With three very different stories in three entirely different sports.

Nagamura has the least far-fetched, considering soccer is easily the most popular sport in Brazil. He came up through his hometown club in Sao Paulo, spent time with Arsenal's system in the English Premier League, and for the past decades has played for MLS clubs.

He was traded to Sporting KC in 2012, helping the club win the 2013 league championship.

Santos also played soccer growing up, but started booting field goals when the Florida high school he was attending as an exchange student was desperate for a kicker. He parlayed that into a scholarship to Tulane, then won the Chiefs' kicking

job in training camp last year.

A couple of weeks ago, Santos kicked a franchise-record seven field goals — two over 50 yards — in a loss to Cincinnati. He was one field goal shy of matching the NFL record.

As for Orlando, he also played soccer as a child, but was introduced to baseball by a family friend with Japanese roots. He was ultimately discovered by a White Sox scout impressed by his speed on the base paths, and was traded to the Royals in 2008.

After toiling in the minors, he made Kansas City's opening day roster this season.

"Soccer, probably when I was a child, was my first love," Orlando said. "I wanted to play it professionally. I just thought about soccer. But baseball came into my life, and to each their own sport. I wanted to be a professional and baseball gave me everything I have right now."

Orlando became the third Brazilian-born player to reach the major leagues, following in the footsteps of Indians catcher Yan Gomes and Marlins pitcher Andre Rienzo.

But he's the first to have made it into a World Series game.

"I just trusted in what I could do. When they put me on the 40-man roster, I knew I had a shot to make the team, and I just tried to show them what I could do," Orlando said. "Now, I'm just glad to be here, that the Royals gave me an opportunity to play baseball." **AP**

## FOOTBALL

## Including Platini, FIFA accepts 7 in presidential race

**S**EVEN men are in the running to replace Sepp Blatter as FIFA president, with Michel Platini's candidature accepted but pending because of his suspension from soccer.

FIFA published the list of valid applications "proposed in due time and form" yesterday. It did not include former Trinidad and Tobago player David Nakhid, who did not have the five required nominations.

The seven candidates for the Feb. 26 election are: Platini, Prince Ali bin al-Hussein, Gianni Infantino, Tokyo Sexwale, Musa



French former FIFA executive Jerome Champagne

Bility, Jerome Champagne and Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa.

FIFA's three-man election panel, led by audit

committee chairman Domenico Scala, will announce next month which of the seven candidates have been officially accepted

after integrity checks by the FIFA ethics committee.

Three of the candidates are from Europe, two are from Africa and two from Asia.

Platini, who was suspended for 90 days this month by the FIFA ethics committee, has been accepted pending the outcome of an investigation into financial wrongdoing.

"Given that Michel Platini is currently provisionally banned from taking part in any football-related activity, his candidature will not be processed by the ad-hoc electoral

committee as long as such ban is valid and in force," FIFA said in a statement.

Platini was the favorite until he and Blatter were questioned by Swiss federal police on Sept. 25 over a suspected "disloyal payment" from FIFA in 2011. The UEFA president got about \$2 million approved by Blatter as uncontracted salary for work he did as a presidential adviser at least nine years earlier.

Platini denies wrongdoing and is appealing against the suspension. Blatter was also banned for 90 days.

Platini's right-hand man

at UEFA, general secretary Infantino, entered the FIFA contest on Monday.

Nakhid was considered an outsider in the contest but the one most likely to bring a player's perspective to the job. And although he had the five required nominations, one of his backers broke election rules by also supporting another candidate.

"In view of this, the (election) committee decided not to consider Mr. Nakhid's application as it did not fulfil the required five declarations of support," FIFA said in a statement. **AP**

opinion

**HK Observer**  
 Robert Carroll



**HELLO! LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS**

Hong Kong and Asia's richest man Li Ka-shing has finally been officially described accurately in China: a profit-only motivated man, and no patriot. The final straw was when he moved his flagship company to an offshore tax haven, the Cayman Islands. I have long asserted that the man, along with other tycoons here, are not out to serve Hong Kong, or their country's best interests, but their own economic interests.

Moving on to President Xi Jinping's successful state visit to Britain. The Chinese government's media machine was fulsome in emphasizing what the two nations had in common, and talked of shared interests. There did seem, however, to be one glaring admission. Is Hong Kong not common ground? Its institutions are based on British organizations, that - combined with Hong Kongers hard work, and economic advantages of proximity with China - have seen a great success story unfold. Do mainland Chinese companies not profit hugely, and notably, State Owned Enterprises, from IPOs here. This under systems and rules fashioned in earlier times in London and imported to this part of China.

Wasn't this great financial center, so beneficial to the mainland for decades and among a handful in the world of this dimension? Was it not created under British common law and backed by British-modelled foundations such as the civil service and the judiciary, as well as schools and universities? Is that not a shared and laudable heritage?

Moving on, the visit was beneficial to both sides. I am sure that, not just the Chinese President and First Lady, but the whole country must have felt a swell of pride at the most regal of receptions and fanfare of one red carpet event after another. And to give more face, the color red was frequently on display in the form of soldiers' uniforms to ladies of the highest standing. To meet the state leader and his wife, both and the foreign secretary's wife and the Duchess of Cambridge wore red.

However something puzzling was going on with China Daily's take on the trip. While it naturally trumpeted the success of Xi Jinping's visit to Britain, it also highlighted common ground in 20 captioned photos. Fair enough, it was a bit light-hearted face-giving but one caption stood out as rather odd: that both countries and have had great queens and still do!

Talking of royalty, and on another note, I wonder why a Magna Carta exhibition in China was canceled just before the visit? An agreement eight hundred years old between the English king and a group of barons, limiting the sovereign's power, is sensitive? Was it the parts about protection against illegal imprisonment, efficient justice as well as subjecting the agreement to a council? Surely China's leadership can't be concerned that this ancient treaty is too advanced for the world's second power? That unwelcome comparisons could be made between a negotiated settlement between a rebel faction of aristocrats and the state leader, and today's social and political climate on the mainland?

But back to Hong Kong. Financial secretary John Tsang is stirring it up yet again. He is complaining about dishwashers being paid HKD12,000 a month. That's marginally over the last official poverty line, which is set at below median income level. In his great wisdom he says that these wages are putting SMEs out of business. I am not the first to say this, and I won't be the last. It's not the wages bill that's doing the real damage. To paraphrase Bill Clinton famous dictum: It's the rent stupid.

**THE BUZZ EU AGAINST SPENDING FARM AID FOR BULLFIGHTING**

A majority in the European Union's legislature wants the EU not to spend farm subsidies that could profit the raising of cattle for bullfighting.

In yesterday's vote high in symbolism but without any direct impact, the parliament approved an amendment to a budgetary report that the EU money "should not be used for the financing of lethal bullfighting activities." It was

a 438-199 vote with 50 abstentions.

The EU's common farm policy does not specifically allocate money to bullfighting or raising fighting bulls, but general subsidies can end up being used for breeding bulls in Spain, Portugal and France for the popular Spanish pastime.

Bullfighting is widely criticized outside of Spain and has come under increasing pressure in the country itself.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Good
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Good
Ambient	35-55 Good

SOURCE: D5IMG

**Prosecutors: Local IS cell behind Ankara peace rally attacks**



Members of youth organizations hold names of victims and black balloons as they gather at the site of twin explosions that killed 102 people and injured hundreds others more than two weeks ago outside the main train station in Ankara

Suzan Fraser, Ankara

A local cell of the Islamic State group, which took orders from extremists in Syria, was behind the two suicide bombings earlier this month that killed 102 people at a peace rally in Ankara, Turkish prosecutors said yesterday.

The Ankara Chief Prosecutor's office said it had obtained "strong evidence" that the IS cell - based in Gaziantep, near the Syrian border - was also responsible for four previous attacks in Turkey since May that have mainly targeted supporters of a pro-Kurdish party.

The prosecutor's office, which is probing the Oct. 10 bombings, said investigators had established a "regular flow of money" from IS in Syria to the cell.

The announcement contradicted government claims that a "cocktail" of terror groups, including the IS and the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, had carried out the attacks in Ankara against Turkish and Kurdish activists gathered to promote peace between the Kurdish rebels and Turkey's security forces.

The local cell had received "permission" from IS in Syria to carry out attacks against Kurdish rebels and other groups in Turkey. The statement added that the cell sought the group's permission for attacks on Turkey's Jewish and Christian communities and was also planning a suicide attack on a military base in the country.

The information was obtained after experts examined the group's computers, the

**The information was obtained after experts examined the group's computers**

prosecutors said, but added only about 5 percent of the "digital material" had been inspected so far.

Earlier, the prosecutors had identified one of the suicide bombers as an IS militant whose brother blew himself up in a similar deadly attack near Turkey's border with Syria in July. Media reports said he was known to the authorities as a possible suicide attacker.

The government has come under intense criticism for failing to prevent the attack on the peace rally and has since expanded operations against IS.

On Monday, the government claimed it struck a major blow to an IS cell in a raid in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, in which seven militants reportedly were killed. Two police officers also died in the clash. AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**



From right, Melco Crown Entertainment's Co-chairman, James Packer, singer Mariah Carey, Co-chairman and CEO, Lawrence Ho and his wife Sharen Lo, pose at the red carpet of the Studio City opening ceremony.

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**SRI LANKA** is preparing to release more than 100 Indian fishermen detained for poaching and India will free dozens of Sri Lankan fishermen in its custody, an official says.

**JAPAN** Director John Woo is surprised to receive an award honoring trailblazers who have made outstanding contributions to the art of filmmaking. "I have made a lot of films, but it hardly qualifies as making a special contribution. I'm just a hard-working filmmaker," the Hong Kong director says.

**JAPAN** Visions of cars that drive themselves without emitting a bit of pollution while entertaining passengers with online movies and social media are what's taking center stage at the Tokyo Motor Show. Japan, home to the world's top-selling automaker, has a younger generation disinterested in owning or driving cars. The show is about wooing them back.

**JAPAN** Nintendo Co. posts a 3.17 billion yen (USD26.3 million) profit for the fiscal second quarter, buoyed by sales growth of portable video game machines and software titles.



**SOUTH SUDAN** African Union investigators discovered mass graves in South Sudan and found evidence of horrific crimes, including forced cannibalism, according to a long-awaited report. President Salva Kiir's faction in the conflict is also accused of recruiting an irregular tribal force before the outbreak of war in December 2013. The report, released late Tuesday, also disputes that there was a coup attempt in December 2013 by former Vice President Riek Machar.

**NIGERIAN** troops have rescued 338 captives, almost all children and women, from Boko Haram camps in a northeastern forest, the military said yesterday.