



COMMISSIONER DEBUTS WITH POSITIVE OUTLOOK

The new Foreign Affairs Commissioner in Macau, Ye Dabo, said that the region would continue to thrive

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TAXI OVERCHARGING LINKED TO UBER

Uber's operation in Macau would exacerbate the practice of taxis charging arbitrary fares, Secretary Wong Sio Chak claimed

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COELHO TO OPEN ESPLANADE AT D2, BRING BACK THAI BANDS

P7 INTERVIEW



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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA's leaders yesterday affirmed plans to double the size of the country's economy by 2020 from 2010 levels, a goal that sets up a potential clash with efforts to nurture more self-sustaining growth.

AP PHOTO



CHINA-USA China's military will take "all necessary" measures in response to any future U.S. Navy incursions into what it considers its territorial waters around man-made islands in the South China Sea, a Defense Ministry spokesman says.

XINHUA



PHILIPPINES Smoke was billowing from a fire at a slum area yesterday in Paranaque City in the Philippines. The fire razed 50 shanties, rendering 150 families homeless.

MALDIVES The Maldives passes a law allowing authorities to install cameras in the homes of people they suspect of being sympathetic to the Islamic State group and arrest them if they try to join the militants overseas.

JAPAN resumes construction work needed to relocate a U.S. air base from one area of Okinawa's main island to another, overriding vigorous protests by local residents.

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China decides to end one child policy, allow 2 children

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RENATO MARQUES



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Customs patrols catch more people trying to cross border illegally

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times Extra

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Extra times

weekend Guide

INSIDE

Customs patrols catch more people trying to cross border illegally

Renato Marques

THE number of illegal immigrants intercepted by Macau Customs Service sea patrols increased by 12.46% year-on-year from January to September, the head of Maritime Enforcement Department, Leong Wa Kan, revealed yesterday morning in a presentation to media representatives.

The total figures show that until September, the Maritime Enforcement Department registered a total of 107 cases, which resulted in the arrest of 305 illegal immigrants. According to Mr Leong, the majority of illegal immigrants were intercepted between the peninsula and Taipa island in an area understood to be located between the Friendship and Sai Van bridges.



The provision of services led by Leong Wa Kan were also responsible for the detainment of nineteen people who were staying in Macau illegally on expired visas.

Yesterday's event also

marked the fourteenth anniversary of the Customs Service and to provide an opportunity for the press to learn more about the equipment, duties and daily work of the force.

The official also highlighted

the importance of one of the department's main duties - to participate in the civil protection of the MSAR and in emergency operations together with other entities. He stated that this has been assuming a more relevant role in many aspects of civil society, especially in what has been referred to as the new areas of reclaimed land, located on the outer harbor.

In a Times report published on October 9, the secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, accompanied by customs officials, claimed to have broadly recognized the two entry point black spots for illegal migrants: Coloane's Long Chao Kok and the University of Macau's Hengqin campus. He further claimed that they have intensified their anti-stowaway watch along the shoreline of

Coloane.

At that time, the secretary reported a surge in the number of illegal migrants, which grew by 64 percent between January and September. These figures were considered as "very high" by Mr Wong, promising action from the authorities involved to develop more approaches to mitigating the surging flow of illegal immigrants. He also announced the introduction of police personnel patrolling the waters close to the shore in speedboats.

After the presentation from Leong Wa Kan, journalists boarded one of the Class B Patrol Boats where they had the opportunity to get a taste for the job by accompanying the Marine Enforcement Teams in one of their daily patrolling actions.

Billionaire Packer's Crown buys Nobu stake for USD100m

Brett Foley

CROWN Resorts Ltd., the Australian casino group controlled by billionaire James Packer, bought a 20 percent stake in Nobu for USD100 million to extend its relationship with the global restaurant and hotel company.

The other 80 percent will continue to be held by existing owners and entities associated with Nobu Matsuhisa, Robert De Niro and Meir Teper, Crown said in a statement. Packer will be nominated to join the Nobu board as one of four directors.

The up-market Japanese eatery has outlets in Crown's casino complexes in Melbourne and Perth and there is a Nobu Hotel at the City of Dreams in Manila, owned by Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd., according to the statement. Melco Crown this week opened the Hollywood-themed



James Packer listens during a news conference at the Studio City opening

USD3.2 billion Studio City resort in Macau, which features a Batman ride and a 400-foot Ferris wheel. The opening was attended by De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Martin Scorsese.

"We see the Nobu brand as complementary to Crown Resorts' global luxury entertainment positioning and the Nobu business has an attractive near-term growth profile, with a number of new restaurant and hotel openings planned," Crown Chairman Rob Rankin said in the statement.

Moody's Investors Service said in a statement yesterday that the transaction is credit negative for Crown Resorts, citing an additional financial commitment at a time when the company has an "extensive pipeline of projects" to be undertaken over the next four years. Moody's said the investment has no immediate impact on the company's ratings.

Crown Resorts' shares fell 1.7 percent to A\$11.47 yesterday, bringing their decline for the year to 9.6 percent.

Packer, Australia's third-richest man who stepped down as chairman of Crown in August, is focusing on developing the group's resorts, which include a planned casino in Las Vegas and a hotel for high-rollers on Sydney Harbour. He also holds an interest in movie-production company Ratpac with filmmaker Brett Ratner.

Bloomberg

Commissioner debuts with positive future vision

Aries Un

THE new Foreign Affairs Commissioner in Macau, Ye Dabo, said that the region would continue to thrive despite the current economic downturn under the central government's support.

Ye succeeded Hu Zhengyue as the new Commissioner and made his official debut in an inaugural ceremony yesterday afternoon in the presence of key local senior officials and representatives from the private sector.

The Commissioner firstly praised the authorities for managing to "maintain stable economic fundamentals, ensure sound fiscal status and keep a relatively low-level unemployment rate" under the Chinese government's multiple strategies.

As key Communist leaders yesterday wrapped up the fifth Party plenum over the policy blueprint for the coming five years, Ye believed the territory would "enjoy even greater prosperity and development" together with the mainland.

"The thirteenth five-year plan will put forward policies of how the central government will support the development of Macau," said the commissioner.



Ye Dabo (2nd from left) toasts with Chui Sai on and other top officials

Ye continued: "Macau is now at a new historical starting point, and it is now facing extremely important opportunities for development. I am deeply convinced that with the strong backing of the motherland, as well as unity and concerted effort of the SAR government and society, Macau will enjoy even greater prosperity and development."

The mainland official's address also touched on the central government's pledges to maintain steady economic growth in the future, the nation's role on the international stage over regional security, and its strengthened ties with other countries.

"I feel the full weight with which this responsibility is entrusted to me. Based on the sound foundation laid down by my predecessors, I will earnestly fulfill my duties and make pioneering efforts," he vowed.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

WE VOLUNTEER TEAM: MAKING A DIFFERENCE SINCE 2010

Only people make people happy

ESTABLISHED in 2010, the WE (Wynn Employee) Volunteer Team has over 600 active members who dedicate their personal time to making society better, one smile at a time. Last year alone, the volunteer team has contributed over 2,380 hours of community service. The program is one of Wynn's CSR activities and it was founded on the strong belief that by donating one's time, a world of difference can be made.

Thomas Lau, Director of Human Resources at Wynn, has been the "captain" of WE volunteer from the beginning. "Wynn realized that there were people in Macau that needed to be cared for, so we proposed forming a volunteer team"

Wynn is committed to supporting education and community outreach: through the WE Volunteer program employees give back to the elderly, youth, people recovering from mental illness and animal welfare. Keen to be part of the program, WE Volunteer Team member Ian Pang has even tried to change his shift to participate in some of the activities

As Wynn readies for Wynn Palace's opening next year, more



Wynn's WE Volunteer Team.



劉德明 Thomas Lau

Nothing is more rewarding than realizing your help made someone smile.

"Captain" Lau

employees will be recruited to join the team, giving it greater strength and positive energy to care for the community.

Many volunteers are surprised at how their good deeds have returned manyfold. "I wanted to make good use of my spare time

to broaden my horizons, help people and to meet new friends. After participating, I realized that when we help others we actually learn a lot from them," explained Floria Leong.

Ricky Yu, Sous Chef of il Teatro, Wynn's Italian restaurant, and also a founding member, has hosted a cooking class he adapted to suit the special needs of the Richmond Fellowship of Macau. "I needed to think about what kind of dish they could handle and would be interested in." Yu is happier after he became a WE volunteer. He now understands the difference regular citizens can make in someone's life.

to talk to and listen."

The WE Volunteer Team has surpassed expectations of many of the local associations, such as the Macau Youth Volunteers' Association, Richmond Fellowship of Macau, Peng On Tung and Lar De Nossa Senhora Da Penha. Providing free full day care to children with special needs, Lar De Nossa Senhora Da Penha's Ms. Lei Hou Suen says good team management makes for smooth operation: "We just call and tell them the number of volunteers needed and the activity details, and they make the arrangements."

Jones Sou, Director of Richmond Fellowship of Macau described an impressive "small but

warm act", "A discharged patient recently told us that, after a volunteer activity, one of the Wynn employees had accompanied him home after seeing him waiting for the bus alone."

Wynn Macau provides substantial support for volunteer activities. "Nothing is more rewarding than realizing your help made someone smile. This reflects on the quality of service we provide. In the words of Mr. Wynn: only people make people happy," explained Mr. Lau.



WE volunteers hosted a pastry making class for a group of children. With the help of the Wynn pastry chefs, the children had fun baking delicious homemade cookies.



WE volunteers visiting Anima and enjoying the company of man's best friend.



At the WE Volunteer anniversary dinner, the team designed a panel showcasing highlights of the volunteer activities held in the past five years.

The WE Volunteer Team has surpassed expectations of many of the local associations

Kenny Fong, who spends his spare time with the elderly, loves to share stories. "We held a house-cleaning activity before CNY. One of the elderly ladies didn't want us to do any cleaning, instead she just wanted us to talk to her. When time came to move to the next house, she asked us to clean the air-conditioner, just so she could keep us a little longer. It made me realize that what people need has nothing to do with financial support or goods. They just need someone




For the past five years, WE volunteers have helped decorate Lar de Nossa Senhora so that children could enjoy a colorful Christmas and a cheerful Chinese New Year.



WE volunteers helping in the distribution of food hampers to the underprivileged families.


AD



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nível II/level II

06/11/2015
teoria/theory: 20h30-23h30
local/venue: CPM

07/11/2015
10h - 13h
local/venue: EPM

12/11/2015
19h - 22h
local/venue: Jung Chin

15/11/2015
14h-17h
local/venue: EPM

19/11/2015
19h - 22h
local/venue: Jung Chin

28/11/2015
14h-17h
local/venue: EPM

29/12/2015
10h - 16h
local/venue: Hong Kong

início/starts: 06/11/2015
fim/finishes: 29/11/2015
Total: 24 horas/hours
7 sessões/sessions
≥ 16 anos/years old
propina/fee: MOP 1120 *

nível III/level III

11/12/2015
Aula teórica/prática
theoretical/practical class:
18h - 22h
local/venue: EPM

12/12/2015
10h - 18h
local/venue: EPM

13/12/2015
10h - 18h
locais/venues:
Jung Chin/Homeless

19/12/2015
10h - 18h
local/venue: Coloane

20/12/2015
9h - 17h
local/venue: Hong Kong

início/starts: 11/12/2015
fim/finishes: 20/12/2015
Total: 32 horas/hours
5 sessões/sessions
≥ 18 anos/years old
propina/fee: MOP1280 *

NÚMERO MÁXIMO DE PARTICIPANTES POR TURMA/MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER CLASS: 8

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Lionel Leong

Vice director to temporarily take over gaming watchdog

Aries Un

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong is seeking trilingual and law-savvy talents to succeed outgoing Gaming Inspection and Coordination director (DICJ), Manuel Neves. Meanwhile, deputy head Leong Man Ion is due to take over the helm until a successor emerges.

Following the DICJ head's unexpected announcement to retire after his mandate ends on November 25, the Secretary was pressed by media yesterday afternoon on the sidelines of a ceremony to name possible candidates to take up the position.

Leong dropped hints that only a candidate well-versed in the law with high language proficiency would be considered, yet stressing that so far he prioritized no one. "We will consider every possible direction based on the requirements of the position," he said. However, TDM

announced yesterday that the chosen candidate would be Paulo Chan (see box).

Asked if Dore Group's embezzlement was behind Neves' departure, the Secretary dismissed the allegation. "No, definitely not. As he himself said, he has worked in the public department for 31 years, and he thought it's time for retirement and his family," he stated.

In addition, Leong told media that Neves' departure would not impact the bureau, which he said was "always firmly structured" and under the deputy head's supervision.

"Following the adjustment in gaming, probably the works that ensue have to be done cautiously to respond to social demand," he conceded, while stressing it would be fine.

The secretary also added that the current regulation would prevent the outgoing director from working for gaming companies six months after his resignation.

TDM: PAULO MARTINS CHAN IS NEW DICJ HEAD

PROSECUTOR PAULO Martins Chan will be the new Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau director, according to TDM. He will replace Manuel Neves, who will end his tenure on November 25. With vast experience at the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), Martins Chan is reported to have been hired because of his legal knowledge which is considered

relevant because of the upcoming gaming operators' concessions renewals. With a law degree from the University of Macau - where he later became a part-time lecturer - Paulo Chan was one of the first magistrates of the newly created Macau Special Administrative Region, having been appointed to the position on December 20, 1999.

Aries Un

UBER'S operation in the territory would exacerbate the already rampant phenomenon of arbitrary charging in the taxi industry, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak claimed yesterday afternoon.

Wong's remarks came a day after the Public Security Police Force fined two local drivers working for the transportation services company, which started running in Macau last Thursday.

"Legally speaking, Uber probably would rationalize and popularize the individual cases of arbitrary charging found in the legal taxi industry," said Wong on the sidelines of an inaugural reception for the region's new commissioner from China.

Legally speaking, Uber probably would rationalize and popularize the individual cases of arbitrary charging.

WONG SIO CHAK

Wong Sio Chak links taxi overcharging to Uber operation



A woman leaves the headquarters of Uber in San Francisco, Calif.

"[This is because] you can't regulate Uber's fares in its operations, unlike taxi's."

The secretary reiterated the authorities' firm opposition to the on-call taxi service, which he believed would most likely be prohibited in the region in the near future.

Moreover, he said that the authorities' main efforts at present were to "improve the legal industry in response to citizens' expectations towards taxis." As deliberations over the degree to which current

regulation for the taxi industry would be amended within public departments is underway, Wong pledged to eliminate the misconduct prevalent in the taxi industry with the prospective revised ordinance.

The official also cited the taxi drivers' protest against Uber in Portugal, which involved litigation, as a means of supporting the authorities' crackdown. "Yet in light of the whole world, at least over half of all countries don't allow [such operations]," he claimed.

Wong Sio Chak urged citizens to respect the enforcements. "Citizens and companies have their obligations to abide by the laws, and enforcers have their own ones too," said Wong.

Asked if sting operations would be introduced in the revised law to clamp down on the overcharging taxis, the security official said it would be an open question, yet expressed his belief that the chance of implementation was slim.

He later added that a public consensus might make it happen, while recognizing the need to facilitate investigations into violators with that measure.

The government's immediate anti-Uber response, which occurred shortly after the firm's service launch, has caused a stir among the service's proponents, Wong stressed that the authorities reacted to all illicit operations on the road in the same manner.

They called a press conference yesterday to comment on the Uber operation in Macau, where it was announced that the pair involved in three cases was fined MOP30,000 each. Both drivers were dispatched by a travel agency, which supplies manpower to Uber.

The vehicles adopted for the rides are also registered with the travel agency. One of the arrested individuals is on the firm's payroll as a tourist guide while the other one was said to be a part-time driver. Both receive daily remuneration of MOP600, TDM reported.

The Tourist Office also noted that travel agencies found supplying vehicles for other parties for non-tourism purposes again would face license revocation. The police authorities also vowed to continue their probe.

Chui forms committee to enhance city's int'l role

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, has assembled a new committee to formulate policies in line with the region's role as a world travel and leisure center. The committee, chaired by Chui, will study and lay out plans for the following five years. Other members on the committee include: the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong; the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam; the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Arrais do Rosário; the government's spokesperson, Victor Chan; the chief of Chui's office, O Lam, along with another representative from the same office; and a representative from the government's think tank. The committee has been financially, technologically and logistically supported by Chui's office and, if necessary, Chui may enlist human support from other public or private entities for the committee's projects.

Foreign consuls tour Macau cultural samples

On the occasion of the International Music Festival (MIMF), consuls of various countries were invited to take part in a tour organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). The tour took place on October 24 and involved a visit to Cinematheque Passion, Woodcraft Works of Master Lu Ban Exhibition Room, and the heritage exhibition of a traditional pawnshop business. The delegations then headed to Mount Fortress where they were presented with a concert of "O-Kai Singers" from Taiwan and "Charatay", a group hailing from Hong Kong. At the Cinematheque Passion, the delegations watched a short film entitled, "The Tricycle Thief", which had been filmed in Macau. Finally, the IC hosted an evening reception led by its vice-president, Leong Hio Ming, and the chief of the Cultural Events Department, Kent Leong.

CE's Office launches mobile app

The Chief Executive's Office has launched a free mobile application called "GCE Macao" as a way for residents to keep up with the latest information and updates about the Chief Executive (CE). According to a press release, the app aligns with the government's policy of diversifying its communication channels, taking advantage of the growing use of mobile devices and new technologies to provide information promptly. It features access to frequently updated information on the CE, the CE's Office, and the MSAR government. GCE Macao has eight sections: News; Chief Executive; Word from the Chief Executive; Photos; Videos; Comments and Suggestions; Policy Highlights; and Policy Address. The app also allows users to choose their preferred language from Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese and Portuguese.

Uber: 'We're surprised and disappointed'

REACTING to the crackdown on Uber's ride sharing services in Macau, the company's spokesperson Harold Li sent the Times the following statement: "Given that we're working with the same local travel agencies and drivers that have long been providing transportation to Macau residents and visitors, as well as hotels and casinos, and there are clear legal provisions for them to do so, we're surprised and disappointed at how the police are attempting to prevent drivers from providing such transportation services.

We will continue to work with legal counsel to address what we believe are misunderstan-

dings. Uber stands by our local partner travel agencies and their drivers 100 percent and are continuing to work with them to provide safe and reliable rides to the people of Macau. We've been overwhelmed by the tremendous positive response from the Macau public since our launch and will continue to work hard on meeting your transportation needs."

Regarding pricing, Uber fares are transparently presented to riders before each trip begins, eliminating any uncertainty. If riders encounter any questions or concerns about this or other matters, our customer service team is available 24/7."

GAMING

MGM China quarterly revenue drops

IN the three months ended September 30, MGM China reported a total revenue of HKD4.1 billion and an adjusted Earnings Before Interest, Taxation, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) of HK\$1.1 billion, signaling a sequential decrease of 5pct and 3pct respectively from the second quarter.

According to a press release issued yesterday by the gaming operator, revenue accumulated from VIP table games was flat quarter on quarter. The number of main floor table wins was down 10 percent sequentially, while mass hold was at

the low end of the range in the third quarter. During the latest period, the main floor contributed over 70 percent of profit.

Regarding the MGM Cotai project, which is currently under construction, the gaming operator stated that it has achieved "a milestone event" of topping off the hotel towers, an event that will be celebrated in the coming week.

"We have completed the structural steel installation on our Spectacle roof structure. Featuring approximately 1,500 hotel rooms and up to 500 gaming tables with

over 85pct gross floor area of non-gaming elements, MGM Cotai remains on target for fourth quarter 2016 opening," MGM China stated.

Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China said: "Our goal is to provide our local talents with the opportunity to be future leaders as we look to support Macau's development into an international tourism destination. MGM is committed to grow our presence in Macau and share these opportunities with our community."

50 chefs develop new Chinese cuisine dishes

OVER 50 chefs from Sands Macao and Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao attended an event called "Sands China World of Chinese Cuisine", held yesterday at the Sands Macao ballroom. The event involved more than 50 chefs presenting around 100 "innovative and creative" dishes currently being considered for the menus at Golden Court, Canton and Dynasty 8, which are Chinese restaurants owned by the Sands group.

Sands is currently in the process of selecting which of the 100 new dishes will be included on the menus of their restaurants. However, the chosen dishes will only be made available from Spring.

The purpose of the event was to allow the main and junior chefs to develop their creativity. Emmanuel Souliere, Executive Chef at Sands Cotai Central, said, "The idea behind the event is to tap into the diversity of cooking talents across the three hotels and to create a synergy of creativity by bringing



them together."

"We have been experimenting for about three months, and we want the team to be recognized for what they have done," he said, before adding: "This is a rare opportunity to get 50 chefs together – this doesn't normally happen!"

According to Sands Macao, the event is the first in a series that is designed to enable culinary teams at Sands Macao and Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao to continually develop their respective menus so guests are constantly presented with innovative and delicious dishes.

"As a chef it is very important

to keep our menus relevant and updated," said Alen Chow Len Yeun, Executive Chef of Convention catering, Food and Beverage, at Venetian Macao. "One of the best ways to update a menu is to talk to other chefs about what trends we are currently seeing in the industry as well as to talk to them about their particular specialties, which can lead to a crossover with techniques and ingredients."

Kan Kai Wing, Chef at Golden Court restaurant in Sands Macao, said of the event, "I enjoyed sharing my experience and knowledge with friends and peers where I can." **Staff reporter**

TOURISM

Region promoted in Kuala Lumpur

THE Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) is staging a "mega roadshow" under the theme "Experience Macau", to be held in Kuala Lumpur between Oct. 27 and Nov. 1. This event is expected to provide an opportunity for Malaysian locals to get a glimpse into tourism opportunities in Macau. MGTO has partnered with local travel agencies to offer special travel packages at the event.

The roadshow is being held at the Pavilion Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital's famous shopping mall. The venue was decorated in such a way as to recreate the environment of Senado Square, and featured a variety of interactive exhibits for locals to experience the elements Macau has to offer.

The event features a range of special experiences including on-demand personalized caricatures and interactive photo zones, which allow roadshow visitors the chance to win prizes in return for sharing pictures via



MGTO's head Helena de Senna Fernandes (center) attended the event in Kuala Lumpur

social media. In addition, there is a Grand Prix simulator which permits visitors to experience the challenges of the Guia Circuit first-hand.

During a trade networking dinner hosted by MGTO on Wednesday, the director, Senna Fernandes, exchanged ideas with representatives of Malay travel agencies about attracting visitors to Macau. The roadshow and dinner are expected to raise Macau's profile as a tourist destination and to encourage and facilitate travel to the SAR among Malaysians.

AD

Dead's Night Out

Get your freak on as the Lion's Bar transforms itself into a haunted haven! Celebrate the monster within and enjoy an evening of creepy-crawly good times and spooktacular fun! Join the other zombies, ghouls and demons in our scary costume contest where the winners can take home frightfully fantastic prizes!

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Q&A FRANCISCO COELHO
THE 'DARK KNIGHT'

'Macau's economy will come back better and better'

Paulo Coutinho

NICKNAMED the "godfather" of Macau's nightlife, Francisco Coelho, 56, has been running the hottest clubs in town, namely D2 and DD3, for over two decades. Mr Coelho is confident that the city's current economic downturn will reverse "in one and a half to two years" with a vengeance. That is why his stance on new investments is "wait and see," and expanding to casino-land may be an option in "three-four years' time, when Cotai will be fully-developed as an entertainment center."

Francisco Coelho runs his business with a thousand staff generating around MOP100 million in gross revenue. He invested MOP30 million in moving the famous D2 to the Fisherman's Wharf where he also did renovations in the nearby DD3, the branch targeting younger patrons.

The move to the Wharf was, also, aimed at having access to the board-walk and so to accommodate an open-air smoking area - which will open by December or January at the latest.

Broadening his vast interests, the "dark knight" ventured into a lighter form of the "pleasure-business" by opening ice-cream and chocolate franchises from top brands in Macau: Häagen-Dazs and Godiva, of which he currently has a total of 10 shops. Plans are in place to open another three-four outlets of these yummy franchises in two years' time.

Going down memory lane, Mr Coelho aims to bring back the 1990s UFO-style Thai bands to D2 "soon enough". For Coelho, nightlife now "is a safe place." The interview.

MDT - Does the ongoing decline in gaming revenues affect the nightlife business?

Francisco Coelho (FC) - Yes, business went down after the casinos started to slow down. The VIP clubs have been losing customers. Before that, the PRs from the junkets - even when people [VIPs] win or lose money - anyway, [the PRs] would bring them to the club to entertain them, to get a closer relationship, to accompany and follow their customers - so this was the way the nightlife was booming in Macau. But besides [the gaming crash] there's another very important factor affecting businesses: since Macau[s border] opened up for 24 hours many people are going to China, to Zhuhai to have fun...



Francisco Coelho (left) and a party at D2 (right)



MDT - So there's competition from Zhuhai?

FC - Very strong competition, yes. So before when the border closed at midnight people after midnight [...] wouldn't think of going to China. Well now, even at dinner time [they go]. The restaurants in Macau are being affected; some restaurants are losing 50%.

MDT - Do you plan any ventures there, in Zhuhai, Hengqin?

FC - Actually, a long time ago people were pushing me to China, but I didn't feel good about it. I didn't feel [positive about it] because once you put up a business in China, you need to go [live there], but I don't feel safe there, you understand?!

MDT - The rules were not that clear?

FC - The rules were always changing. [But] if I'd gone back ten years ago, I'd be there and [would have made] a lot of money, without even staying close to Macau, even in Shanghai.

MDT - So you think that these actions Xi Jinping took against a lavish lifestyle and corruption and "vice" is affecting a lot of Macau businesses, gaming and otherwise?

FC - Of course. Gambling is "the head". So when the head is going down all businesses down to the smallest of businesses fall. Macau now must really take time to wait - I think, at least one and a half to two years to come back. To come back slowly, not like before. And it will come back, better and better. But after two years or so.

MDT - From what you're saying, it seems that before with the huge expansion

of the casino industry, even with competition, it was better for you in terms of business.

FC - Yes because everywhere you looked - busy, busy, busy. Everybody was making money, not only me. Everybody. But now, once things turned down, of course, [we watch each other]. [Watching whether] you have customers or not. They also know [if] you have problems. This one has a problem, now everybody has a problem.

MDT - Over the last 15 years or so, the nightlife and the society in general was a very safe place. Is nightlife still safe in Macau?

FC - Yes. Macau actually is safe, really safe. Everywhere you go is safe: no problem.

MDT - But with less money, business coming down, do you foresee any dangers in the nightlife sector?

FC - Not for the night business, but I think you'll see problems where people used to make money in the casino. That's now stopped. Then what they do, they will do.

MDT - Are you talking about the junket operations?

FC - Junkets and other casino business.

MDT - Do you foresee the emergence of security troubles such as we saw in the late 1990s?

FC - Not so much, because Macau has also changed. Macau is within China. Especially now the police and everything involves China. So it makes [the rule of law] stronger, not like before. It's difficult to do something [crooked].

MDT - Has the smoking ban, now in place for about

two years, affected business too?

FC - In the first year, it affected us a lot. But now it's getting better day-by-day. People are more educated. It takes a little bit of time to adjust.

Macau now must really wait - at least one and a half to two years to come back ... slowly, not like before.

MDT - Another business issue for Macau is rental prices. Do you think the rents will go down?

FC - Yes, just a little bit. Now we are facing an economy going down and maybe the landlords will adjust rents. I think 10% to 15%, something like that.

MDT - Was that one of the reasons you moved from AIA Tower to the Fisherman's Wharf?

FC - No, AIA has not renewed my rental contract because AIA doesn't want to have this kind of entertainment in the building. They want just restaurants and offices and that's why I moved to the Fisherman's. And secondly, we moved to the Fisherman's because we were looking for outdoors areas also. So I will have [at D2] an outdoor bar. It will be open, I think, by December or January next year.

MDT - Going back to your career in Macau running

businesses, you started with the D, the original D at Jai Alai.

FC - I started my first entertainment business at Jai Alai Show Palace, about 23 years ago. I still have that. That is a table dance bar.

MDT - And the first "D", the original "D"?

FC - The disco, the first one was UFO. UFO at the Jai Alai, my first club ever. It was about 20 years ago with Thai bands on the stage. I think I will put that back soon.

MDT - Will it be the same style, the same model?

FC - No. I'm [reviewing that] because Macau is changing. You see, Pacha [at Studio City] opens tomorrow. I'm thinking of changing it a little bit; something like "UFO memory lane" at D2; that will be good.

MDT - When did you move from Jai Alai to Sintra?

FC - Before Sintra, we need to remember [there was] also Fortuna club on the 6th floor. I had two bands at that time, [when] nobody was doing two bands. One Canadian and one Thai band. So after the Canadian, there was a 15-minute break, [then on] comes the Thai band.

MDT - This is the 1990s right?

FC - It's 1990s, yes. Then, after that, we moved to Sintra's basement for eight years. There we had the "guei-lo" side and the "big disco" side [smiles]. After Sintra, we moved to AIA Tower, where we stayed for seven years. We've never stopped moving. In the Fortuna days, the [hotel] boss called me one day and he told me, "I'm sorry, your business brings people like crazy to [...] Fortuna. This is good. But, you know, you sell sound and alcohol. I sell rooms for people to sleep." [laughs]

MDT - You had a clash of interests... The noise.

FC - Yes. He complained, you see [we were on] the sixth floor. So, from the eighth floor there were rooms [all the way] to the top, so every night [guests] would call the resident manager: blah, blah, blah. He'd come to me and complain: blah-blah-blah. This happened for years and when the contract finished - not because business wasn't good or the rent too high, the issue was - says the manager - "I can't go on having complaints every night." So we moved.

MDT - You also had complaints when you moved to Sintra...

FC - Yes. We had another set of complaints when DD opened at Sintra Square basement. Not because of the noise, but because of the proximity of the Portuguese School. Sometimes [at odd hours] parents would bump into their children arriving to class...



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MGM Resorts creates REIT for hotels to cut debt, boost value

Christopher Palmeri

MGM Resorts International, the Las Vegas casino owner that's been under pressure from an activist investor, said it will put its properties into a real estate investment trust to help cut debt and boost the stock price.

MGM Resorts will contribute the real estate associated with 10 of its properties, including than 24,000 hotel rooms, and the REIT will assume approximately USD4 billion of debt, according to a statement yesterday. The shares rose 8.5 percent to \$23.60 yesterday in early trading.

The casino owner is joining companies including Penn National Gaming Inc., Caesars Entertainment Corp. and Pinnacle Entertainment Inc. in creating a REIT. Land & Buildings Investment Management LLC, an activist investor, has been pushing MGM Resorts to restructure, and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jim Murren had said a decision would come this year.

The company is in the middle of an effort to boost profit by \$300 million annually through a combination of cost-cutting and steps to increase revenue. MGM Resorts has had to cope with a steep drop in business from the Chinese enclave of Macau, one of its largest markets, as well as weak betting at home.

MGM Resorts also reported third-quarter earnings that beat analysts' estimates after reducing expenses. Profit totaled 12 cents a share, excluding items, compared with a loss of 4 cents a year earlier. Analysts were forecasting profit of 4 cents, the average of 17 estimates compiled by Bloomberg. **Bloomberg**

Google's Internet-beaming balloons to take off in Indonesia

Michael Liedtke, Technology Writer, Mountain View Calif.

GOOGLE'S Internet-beaming balloons are ready to take off on the next phase of their mission to deliver online access in regions where most people live offline.

The balloons will begin hovering in the stratosphere above Indonesia in an expansion of the project announced Wednesday (yesterday, Macau time). About 250 million people live in the country composed of about 17,000 islands in that part of Southeast Asia, although only 42 million have Internet access, according to the CIA's estimates.

Google's 2-year-old "Project Loon" program aims to change that by transmitting high-speed Internet signals from clusters of balloons floating about 60,000 feet above the Earth.

Although the project is still being funded primarily by money that Google makes from digital advertising, it recently became part of an independent lab called X that is run by Google's new parent company, Alphabet Inc.

Alphabet frames Project's Loon as a noble endeavor striving to get about 100 million currently unconnected people tapped into the vast reservoir of knowledge, entertainment and conveniences available online. But it could also enrich Google by expanding the



Google's Project Loon balloon just prior to launch, during their Central Valley Research Flights.

potential audience that can query its search engine, watch video on YouTube, correspond through Gmail and click on digital ads.

Project Loon is still testing its technology, so there is still no estimate when it will start selling the Internet service to households and businesses within range of the balloons.

The Internet access will be sold through wireless service providers in Indonesia, where there the number of mobile phones — about 319 million — outnumber people. But most of those

phones don't connect to the Internet because users can't afford data plans, or more frequently, live in remote or rocky terrains where it's impractical or too expensive to install the equipment need to deliver high-speed Internet access.

If things pan out as envisioned, Project Loon will deploy hundreds of balloons that serve as cell towers in the sky, invisible to the naked eye. To pull it off, the project's engineers must choreograph a high-altitude dance, ensuring that as one balloon drifts out of a target

ted territory's Internet-receiving range, another one will float in to fill the void.

The Indonesian expansion follows extensive testing in New Zealand, Australia and remote areas in California and Brazil. Indonesia's sheer size and geographic sprawl makes it Project Loon's most ambitious step yet.

Eventually, Project Loon envisions dispatching its balloons to other unconnected regions in the world, ranging from small villages in Africa to the woods of California. **AP**

corporate bits

TAP DOGS DANCE SHOW ARRIVES AT THE VENETIAN MACAO



Australian tap dancing sensation Tap Dogs is gearing up to perform at The Venetian Theatre from today until Nov. 8.

To announce their arrival in Macau, several cast members danced their way to St. Mark's

Square at The Venetian for a surprise performance that saw dancers Chris Erk, Anthony Russo, Richie Miller, Justin Myles, Aaron Burr, Jacob Stonebraker, Kurt Csolak, Phillip Russo and musicians Noriko Terada, Nerida Wu heel tap,

hop and toe stand their way through a routine from the show.

Created by renowned Australian choreographer Dein Perry, the show is an 80-minute non-stop dance and music performance that combines workmen, tap dancing and drummers to create a live theatrical performance. In water, on ladders, upside-down or jumping through scaffolding, the Tap Dogs move to the groove of their own beat as the team work together to bring the steel-works construction alive. The tap dance show has played to sell-out crowds around the world and will add Macau to its list of over 330 cities on six continents when the show's limited run kicks off at The Venetian Theatre today.

CTM LAUNCHES 'M.WALLET+' AND 'WIFI BUS+' SERVICES

CTM yesterday announced, in collaboration with Macau Pass and MOME, the launch of "M.wallet+" (which is incorporated with Macau Pass card) and "WiFi Bus+" services. With the new application services, Macau residents will be able to enjoy network access anytime anywhere plus mobile payment service.

The CTM "M.wallet" & "WiFi Bus+" launch ceremony was held yesterday afternoon at Telecentro, CTM. Officiating guests included Ebel Cham, VP of Commercial, CTM, David Lao, Executive Deputy General Manager of Macau Pass, and Joe Liu, Director of MOME. The launch of "M.wallet" & "WiFi Bus+" is a result of CTM, Macau Pass and MOME combining under



the "E-Commerce and Network Business Partnership" framework formed by the three parties early this year.

"M.wallet+", launched in Macau for the first time, demonstrates a breakthrough in mobile payment. In the first stage, the Macau Pass card will be incorporated into the "M.wallet+". Customers can use the M.wallet+ at over 3,000 Ma-

cau Pass service points for consumption or top-up with specific Android handsets that support the NFC feature. In addition, through CTM Buddy, customers can inquire as to their balance and consumption record, settle CTM service bills, or top-up BEST Prepaid cards. Users can top-up the "M.wallet+" service at all CTM shops or Macau Pass service points.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS
Did you know...?

20 interesting facts about Macau property - Part 3

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



JULIET RISDON

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Five more facts about Macau Property that you may or may not already know:

11. Rental yields in Macau are very low

Rents may seem high at times, but rental yields in Macau are some of the lowest in the world. Why? Other major cities around the world have diverse but mutually beneficial industries such as finance, educational institutions, advanced healthcare facilities and the like. Macau has none of these industries, which incidentally also require skilled and well-paid professionals to run them. Instead, Macau has only casinos and hotels, and whilst service professionals may earn reasonable salaries, they are certainly not enjoying the 6 figure bonuses that come hand in hand with other industries.

12. Rental increases & limits

The rent may be adjusted once the agreement comes to an end, and there is no cap on the amount that the rent may be adjusted both up or down. In some countries, the amount that rents can be increased is limited to a certain percentage; say 10% for example. However in Macau, once the agreement comes to an end all subsequent agreements are treated as a new agreement.

13. Why many old buildings in Coloane & Taipa are falling down

If you have looked at the old sea front buildings in Coloane Village or the low rise houses in Taipa Village and wondered why they are not fantastic restaurants, trendy cafés or just extremely nice houses, you are not alone. There are two reasons that the properties have remained in a similar condition for such a long time. The first is that there is no clear legal title on some of the properties. Property ownership on the islands of Taipa and Coloane is slightly different from the Macau peninsula, and many of the village properties do not have a legal binding title. Buying a property under these circumstances represents a great risk for the buyer, who would not be able to secure bank financing because of the legal issue. The second reason is because some of the buildings are 'protected'. Now that should be a good thing shouldn't it? Well in this case, protected means that it is not actually protected and maintained, but rather that it cannot be 'improved' unless it becomes dangerous and unstable. Hence, owners are incentivized to leave the buildings until they fall down after which they can build a nice, new building...

14. The responsibility to maintain the apartment.

The responsibility to maintain the infrastructure, such as the water, electricity, sewage etc belongs to the landlord. He or she must maintain these elements to a reasonable standard unless some other provision is made explicitly between the two parties. The upkeep of the apartment itself is the responsibility of the tenant, who must hand back the apartment in the same condition that it was handed over in. This even includes cleaning the apartment before leaving IF it was handed over in a clean state at the beginning.

15. When your neighbor causes damage to your apartment

When a neighbor causes damage to your apartment through a burst or leaking pipe for example, they are duty bound to fix the problem but are not obliged to fix the damage it has caused. Apartment living can be hazardous, especially if the block is old and in need of attention, and this would help to explain the reluctance of some people to move into older buildings no matter how well appointed they are.

Next week: the Top 5

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Party decides to abolish one child policy

Louise Watt, Beijing

CHINA'S ruling Communist Party announced yesterday that the country will start allowing all couples to have two children, abolishing an unpopular policy that limited many urban couples to only one child for more than three decades.

The decision is the most significant easing of family planning policies that were long considered some of the party's most onerous intrusions into family life. The restrictions led to an imbalanced sex ratio because of a traditional preference for boys, and draconian enforcement that sometimes included forced abortions.

A communiqué from the party's Central Committee carried on the official Xinhua News Agency said that the decision to allow all couples to have two children was "to improve the balanced development of population" and to deal with an aging population.

The move may not spur a huge baby boom in part because fertility rates are believed to be declining even without the



A child bends over in a public park in Yinchuan in northwestern China's Ningxia Hui autonomous region

policy's enforcement. Previous easings of the one-child policy have spurred fewer births than expected, and many people among China's younger generations see smaller family sizes as ideal.

The communiqué followed the panel's meeting this week to chart the country's economic

and social development through 2020. In recent years, it has been unusual for such plenary sessions to result in major decisions. They generally focus on economic topics and there was no indication that this one would take action on the one-child policy.

China, which has the wor-

ld's largest population at 1.4 billion people, introduced the one-child policy in 1979 as a temporary measure to curb a then-surging population and limit the demands for water and other resources. Soon after it was implemented, rural couples were allowed two children if their firstborn was a girl. Ethnic minorities are also allowed more than one child.

■ The country will start allowing all couples to have two children

Chinese families with a strong preference for boys have sometimes resorted to aborting female fetuses, a practice which has upset the ratio of male to female babies. The imbalance makes it difficult for some men to find wives, and is believed to fuel the trafficking of women as brides.

Couples who have broken the rules were forced to pay a fee in proportion to their income. In some cases, rural families saw their livelihood in the form of their pigs and chickens taken away.

In November 2013, the party announced that it would allow couples to have two children if one of the parents is a single child, the first substantial easing of the policy in nearly three decades.

The decision announced yesterday removes all remaining restrictions limiting couples to only one child.

"The good news is, it is here. The bad news is, it is too little too late," said Cai Yong, a sociology professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"It's better late than never," said Willy Lam, an expert on Chinese politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "It might serve to address the current imbalance in the sense that if they do not boost the growth rate then very soon, within 20 years or less, the working population will be supporting four aged parents." **AP**

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Residents who are relocated from a drought-prone region sort out maize stalks at their new home in Hongbusi in northwest China's Ningxia Hui autonomous region

Paul Traynor, Dacha

CLIMATE CHANGE

Answer for drought-plagued area: Move residents out

VILLAGE elder Yang Zhenjun isn't ready to move out from the valley where his people have herded sheep and tended crops for generations amid arid, drought-prone mountains of China's northwest. Still, he acknowledges that life as he has known it is all but over.

The community's 60 families have dwindled down to 11 in recent years. Others have left this area, which is almost completely dependent on often-scarce rainfall, and have headed north to plains with better infrastructure and more accessible water.

"The village has completely died," says Yang Zhenjun, a fifth-generation resident of Dacha village in Ningxia province's Xiji County. Still, he is not eager to move. "I was born in this village. I grew up in this village. Everyone struggles with these same feelings."

Most former residents of Dacha have moved under a government plan to relocate 350,000 people to lift them out of grinding poverty which, for their region, has been worsened by an increase in average temperatures of 2.2 degrees Celsius (4 degrees Fahrenheit) over the past half-century that leaves the land more parched.

The U.N. refugee agency says that people being displaced because of climate-related reasons are a growing global problem. It's pushing for greater awareness of their plight during a climate change conference in Paris opening Nov. 30. The UNHCR says long-term planning can help minimize such displacement in the future.

Many of Dacha's houses are

empty and overgrown with plants and trees; walls and roofs have crumbled. As people leave, schools and other facilities in villages like Dacha are forced to shutter, making life tougher for those left behind.

■ About 60m people worldwide are living in what the UNHCR terms 'climate change hotspots,' and China is one of the worst affected

On the other hand, some of the parched land can recover now that fewer people are using its scarce water.

"Resettlement and climate change are becoming more closely entwined," said Sarah Rogers, an Australian geographer who has studied the effects of climate change on China, adding that the Chinese govern-

ment has identified resettlement as a way to adapt.

There are about 60 million people worldwide living in what the UNHCR terms "climate change hotspots," and China is one of the worst affected, agency spokesman Andreas Needham said in Geneva.

"UNHCR is calling for explicit recognition" of people displaced by climate change at the Paris meeting "to enable states to prevent further displacement in the future," Needham said. The agency wants to push for individual states to address the issue of displacement in climate change policies, in hopes that planning will help reduce both internal and cross-border displacement.

The UNHCR says an average of 26.4 million people have been displaced by natural disasters every year since 2008. Of the 19.3 million thought to be displaced last year, more than 85 percent were in Asia, including 5 million in the Philippines and 3 million each in China and India.

Many who have moved in Ningxia are for the most part content with the result.

Hai Yanhu, 71, who moved in July 2012 from Panwan village in Xiji County to a resettlement project in Pingluo County in the north, said he is happy to

now have running water and a shower. He barely thinks anymore of his old village, where going long distances to fetch water was a daily task.

"We would have to go down into the valley, and carry the water with a pail on our backs. We would go every day, but if there was something special happening at home then we would have to go four or five times a day," Hai said.

Not all the moves were voluntary. Wang Ziyi, 52, said he moved to Pingluo in December 2014 from Huoshizhai in Xiji County because the government claimed the village's land to plant forests to make a tourist site.

Some families tried to live in tents on the outskirts of the old community, Wang said. "But it's cold. If you tried to put up a house the government wouldn't let you build it, so there was no choice but to leave."

Wang said he misses his old town but that the "economy here is better than the economy in the mountains of Xiji. It's more convenient. Here, it's a bit easier to find manual labor jobs."

The government is proud of the relocations. Zou Yuzhong, deputy director of Ningxia Poverty Reduction Bureau, says the government is moving peo-

ple out of "inhospitable" climates to "help put them on the path to success."

He dismissed any claims that some are unhappy about leaving their ancestral homes.

"They are incredibly happy and absolutely are in favor of the government implementing these livelihood projects," he says.

Some migrants, however, struggle to adapt, said Wang Yuxiao, head of the Yinchuan Green Sustainability Development Centre, a nongovernmental agency.

"There are many old people who do not want to leave their old homes," Wang said. "Another problem the migrants are facing is the problem of finding work once they've moved to their new homes."

Ma Bingfu, 52, who moved to Pingluo from Taobao Village in Xiji County in October 2011, said the young adjust better than older people.

"This area that we're living in now? There's water and the roads are good, and young people are fine here. But old people don't like it. We can't find work. We have no land to grow on and we can't find work."

"Lots of old people want to go back," he said. "In our old villages we had land we could work. Here we have nothing." AP

NORTH KOREA

UN investigator: Tens of thousands doing forced labor abroad



Statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il stand above soldiers during a military parade in Pyongyang

Edith M. Lederer, United Nations

TENS of thousands of North Koreans are being sent to work abroad in conditions that amount to forced labor to circumvent U.N. sanctions and earn foreign currency for the country, amounting to between USD1.2 billion and \$2.3 billion annually by one estimate, a U.N. investigator said early yesterday (Macau time).

Marzuki Darusman, the special rapporteur on human rights in North Korea, said in a report to the U.N. General Assembly and at a news conference that the workers are providing a new source of money to a country facing a “really tight financial and economic situation.”

He accused the North Korean government of violating the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it has signed and which bans forced labor. And he said that companies hiring North Korean workers “become complicit in an unacceptable system of forced labor.”

Darusman said more than 50,000 North Korean workers are currently employed in foreign countries, mainly in the mining, logging, textile and construction industries, according to various studies — and he said the number is rising.

The vast majority are working in China and Russia, he said, but they are reportedly also employed elsewhere in Asia, Africa, the Mideast and Europe. He listed Algeria, Angola, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Darusman said civil society organizations report that workers from the reclusive Asian nation earn \$120-\$150 per month on average, don't get enough food, and are sometimes forced to work up to 20 hours a day, with only one or two rest days a month and insufficient food. Employers pay “significantly higher amounts” to the North Korean government, he said.

Former workers interviewed by the organizations said jobs are assigned according to the worker's state-assigned social class with those in lower classes assigned the most dangerous and tedious tasks, he said. The ex-workers also reported being under constant surveillance by North Koreans in charge of ensuring that they comply with government rules and regulations, he said.

Darusman praised a construction company in Qatar for dismissing 90 North Korean workers in May — nearly half its workforce — for alleged repeated violations of domestic labor legislation. According to the company, which was not named, supervisors were forcing them to work more than 12 hours a day, he said.

Darusman cited a report by the International Network for the Human Rights of North Korean Overseas Labor in 2012 that North Korea is believed to earn between \$1.2 billion and \$2.3 billion annually from these workers. **AP**

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Shop 3008, Level 3, Shoppes at Cotal Central



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Elaine Kurtenbach
and Esther Htusan, Yangon

MYANMAR

Open-for-business factories struggle for global foothold

AFTER Myanmar's military yielded to a civilian government in 2010, foreign investors rushed to set up factories and raze old neighborhoods to build luxury housing estates. Five years on, the country has only a precarious foothold in the global economy.

The government has loosened curbs on the media and political dissent. Many people have access to the Internet and cell phones for the first time. New hotels and shopping malls stand like beacons among the ruined colonial mansions and crumbling socialist era apartments of Yangon, the biggest city.

Elections in November will provide the U.S. and other nations that eased sanctions with a key test of whether Myanmar's generals are relinquishing power as promised. The ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party, allied with the country's former military rulers, can point to economic growth of over 8.5 percent, and foreign direct investment topping USD8 billion this year, as evidence its reforms are making progress.

But more than a third of Myanmar's 51.4 million people still live on less than \$1.25 a day. Their reality is rural poverty or urban slums dominated by gangs, factories paying workers barely enough to get by, and a near absence of public services.

The reaction of employers to a September hike in Myanmar's minimum wage to 3,600 kyats (\$2.80) a day has highlighted the meager rewards for workers on the road to industrialization.

Some international clothing companies backed the minimum wage law, expecting it would help ensure better pay by their local subcontractors. Instead, many garment companies in the Hlaing Thayar industrial zone near Yangon cut hours,



Day laborers traveling in the back of a truck pass an abandoned government owned factory on their way to a construction site in Yangon

perks and bonuses. Hundreds of female workers were laid off, and hundreds more went on strike. Eventually the striking women went back to their sewing machines. Some income, they reasoned, was better than none.

"We were excited and thought that the minimum wage would make things better, but it actually made things worse," said 17-year-old Thae Ei Kyaw, who followed her older sister's example in quitting school to work in a garment factory. "Everyone needs money, even if it's less than before. They have to survive. So they accepted what they are getting."

Three decades after China began transforming itself into the world's factory floor, Myanmar faces tough competition from other low-wage developing countries such as Cambodia, Bangladesh, Morocco

and Madagascar. They are all hoping to replicate the Chinese industrialization strategy through low-cost manufacturing.

While the Hlaing Thayar garment workers complain of pay cuts, factory owners gripe that the higher wages are too heavy a burden.

Both are right, said Vicky Bowman of the Myanmar Center for Responsible Business and a former British ambassador to Yangon.

"If workers are unlucky and have really poor management they will end up with less money. In most cases, they probably won't end up with more money," said Bowman, whose center works to help local businesses improve their corporate governance.

At the same time, "The garment manufacturers are screaming not entirely without justification," she said.

After decades of isolation and underdevelopment under military rule, Myanmar's factories face excessive costs for transport and electricity, relying on costly diesel-fueled generators due to constant power outages. The lack of even basic industries means apparel makers must import everything they use to make garments: thread, cloth, zippers, buttons.

"They're deeply inefficient and that's exacerbated by a lack of infrastructure," said Bowman.

Myanmar needs millions of jobs to grow its economy and to absorb legions of migrant workers, many of whom are displaced by land seizures and natural disasters or fleeing their villages to escape debt collectors or ethnic conflict.

The hopes of many in Myanmar for an alternative to the military-allied government rest with Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy, which is ex-

pected to do well in the Nov. 8 election. It won a sweeping victory in a 1990 election but was denied a role in government by the military junta.

A big risk for Myanmar's economic development is if the results of the election create greater uncertainty or instability, which would discourage foreign investors, said Sean Turnell, a Myanmar expert and professor at Macquarie University in Sydney.

The location of garment manufacturing is "fairly footloose" and driven by which country can offer the lowest wages and setup costs.

"It can move out quite quickly," Turnell said. "Western investors are hanging back, and if things go wrong, they'd want to wind back."

The garment workers who went on strike said they now take home about 130,000 kyats (about \$100) in pay, including overtime, slightly below their earlier earnings but more than they could make if they stayed in their rural villages.

"I am always in debt by the end of the month," said Zin Mar Aye, 31, a widow with a young son.

After a decade of working in Hlaing Thayar, Ei Thein Oo said that however bad conditions are in their trash-strewn slums, the past five years have brought some improvements.

With Ei, her sister Thae Ei Kyaw, Ei's husband and mother now able to work, the family earns enough to feed the seven-member household and pay schooling costs for the two youngest children, both boys.

"There are so many more jobs now," said Ei. **AP**

“We were excited and thought that the minimum wage would make things better, but it actually made things worse.”

THAE EI KYAW, 17

NEPAL

Kathmandu turns to China for fuel after India restricts supply

Binaj Gurubacharya,
Kathmandu

FUEL-STARVED Nepal has signed an agreement with China to import gasoline, diesel and cooking gas, effectively ending monopoly on supply from India, which has restricted fuel convoys as a result of political protests in the Himalayan nation.

The decision to import

Chinese oil amid severe shortages has brought the northern giant a step closer to Nepal, which traditionally is more influenced by India in the south. The two Asian rivals have been jostling for influence in landlocked Nepal.

Nepal sent a team of officials to Beijing this week, where they signed a memorandum of understanding Wednesday with China National Uni-

ted Oil Corporation, said Nepal Oil Corporation official Deepak Baral.

Details on how much fuel Nepal would receive, prices and other arrangements still need to be worked out, Baral said, but confirmed the supply would be on a regular basis.

It would be the first time for Nepal to import Chinese fuel. It has so far relied exclusively on India for its energy needs.

Violent protests and road blockades over the recently adopted Nepalese Constitution by southern Madhesi ethnic groups, which have close cultural ties with India, have strained relations with India.

Delhi has restricted fuel supplies after protesters, demanding more rights for their traditionally marginalized ethnic groups, blocked a key



In this Sept. 24 file photo, Nepalese oil tankers and commercial trucks stand stranded near a gate that marks the Nepalese border with India

border crossing point. Other crossings are free of protesters, but India has refused to resume the supply of fuel.

India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup declined comment on Nepal's agreement with China. **AP**



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HUMAN RIGHTS

Jailed, flogged Saudi blogger Badawi wins EU rights prize

Lorne Cook, Brussels

A Saudi blogger sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for insulting Muslim clerics has won the European Union's prestigious Sakharov Prize for human rights.

Raif Badawi was honored with the award as a symbol of the fight for freedom of speech — an announcement greeted with a standing ovation yesterday at the European Parliament assembly in Strasbourg, France.

"I urge the king of Saudi Arabia to free him, so he can accept the prize," Parliament President Martin Schulz said.

Schulz described Badawi as "an extremely good man, an exemplary man who has had imposed on him one of the most gruesome penalties that exist in this country, which can only be described as brutal torture."

Badawi is serving a 10-



Members of the Austrian Greens attend a protest against the detention of Saudi blogger Raif Badawi in Vienna, Austria

year sentence after being convicted of insulting Islam and breaking Saudi Arabia's technology laws with his liberal blog. He also was sentenced to 1,000 lashes, spread over 20 installments, and fined USD266,000. The flogging has been suspended since he received 50 lashes in January, a punishment that sparked interna-

tional outrage.

Western governments have condemned Badawi's treatment, and rights groups including Amnesty International have campaigned for his release.

The freedom of thought award is named after the Soviet scientist and dissident Andrei Sakharov. It was set up in 1988 to honor

people and organizations that are defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Badawi was one of three nominees for the prize this year, along with the Venezuelan opposition movement Mesa de la Unidad Democratica and assassinated Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov.

"The European Parliament has sent today a strong political and humanitarian message to Saudi Arabian authorities," said Guy Verhofstadt, leader of the Liberal bloc. "We urge His Majesty King Salman to release Raif Badawi from prison and in any case to end the barbaric punishment of flogging."

In February, the EU parliament voted a resolution calling for Badawi's immediate and unconditional release from jail. They called his flogging a "cruel and shocking act." AP

SYRIA CRISIS

China, Germany appeal for political solution

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang appealed yesterday for a political solution to Syria's civil war as diplomats prepared to meet in Vienna for new peace efforts. The talks among diplomats from the United States, Russia, Iran and other governments are aimed at reviving a peace process toward an end of the 4-year-old war between President Bashar Assad's government and rebel factions. "We both agree that we should work out a political resolution through diplomatic channels," said Merkel at a news conference with Li. "I hope that we can soon have all the important parties sit down together to discuss the issues and offer substantial help to the Syrian people." Diplomats are trying to revive the 2012 Geneva Communiqué, which called for creating a transitional government in Syria to oversee elections as part of a political transition. Also taking part in the talks are Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Germany, Europe's biggest economy, is not part of the talks but Merkel is under political pressure to stem the flow of thousands of refugees from Syria and other countries into the country. Syria overshadowed efforts by Germany and China to use Merkel's visit to forge closer commercial ties. Merkel, who was on her eighth visit to China since taking office in 2005, attended a signing ceremony with Li at which China committed to buying Airbus jets worth USD17 billion. AP

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REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Trump, Carson defend seriousness of White House bids

MARCO Rubio bid forcefully for control of the Republican Party's establishment wing in Wednesday night's (yesterday, Macau time) third Republican debate, deflecting jabs from Jeb Bush, who desperately sought to right his floundering campaign.

Insurgent outsiders Donald Trump and Ben Carson defended the seriousness of their White House bids.

Bush, the former Florida governor and son and brother of former presidents, was once seen as the top Republican contender. But he entered the debate in the midst of the most difficult stretch of his White House campaign. By attacking Rubio, a senator, for his spotty voting record on Capitol Hill, Bush signaled that he sees his fellow Floridian as the candidate most likely to block his political path.

"Marco, when you signed up for this, this was a 6-year term and you should be showing up for work," said Bush, who is struggling to right his campaign after being forced to slash spending in response to slower fundraising.

Rubio, who has had a close relationship with Bush, responded sharply: "Someone has convinced you that attacking me is going to help you."



AP PHOTO
Republican presidential candidates, from left, John Kasich, Mike Huckabee, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Donald Trump, Ben Carson, Carly Fiorina, and Ted Cruz take the stage during the CNBC Republican presidential debate

Bush and Rubio clashed for control of the party's more mainstream wing in the debate, which comes some three months before the first votes are cast in the race, leaving much time for things to change.

Trump, a brash billionaire businessman, dominated in the polls for months, but Carson has recently taken the momentum and overtook Trump in polls in Iowa,

where the first of the state-by-state contests will be held. Neither Trump nor Carson are career politicians but both have capitalized on anti-Washington, anti-establishment feeling among many conservatives.

Trump largely refrained from personal attacks on his rivals, which has been a signature of his campaign, even taking a light touch with Carson.

He bristled when asked by a debate moderator if his policy proposals, including building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and deporting everyone who is in the U.S. illegally, amounted to a "comic book" campaign.

"It's not a very nicely asked question, the way you ask it," Trump responded. Then he defended his proposals as reasonable.

Carson, a soft-spoken retired neurosurgeon, stuck to his low-key style and sought to explain his vague tax policy, which he has compared to tithing, in which families donate the same portion of their income to their church regardless of how much they make.

Carson said in an earlier debate that someone making USD10 billion would pay \$1 billion in taxes. Wednesday night he floated the idea of a 15 percent flat rate. Critics have questioned whether the government could still raise enough revenue under that type

of flat tax system to pay for federal programs.

The Republican nominee will most likely face Hillary Rodham Clinton, former first lady and secretary of state. The overwhelming favorite for the Democratic nomination, her candidacy received a boost from a strong debate performance two weeks ago.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie are each seeking to break through with more mainstream Republican voters. Kasich in particular was aggressive from the start in bemoaning the unexpected strength of unorthodox candidates.

Also on stage were former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and former technology executive Carly Fiorina, the star of the second Republican debate. Fiorina, the former Hewlett Packard CEO, has struggled to capitalize on that strong performance and has faded toward the back of the pack. **AP**

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

SATURDAY

10:45	Boonie Bears S.2
11:35	Young Adult
12:00	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
16:40	Liga Nos: Tondela - Benfica (Repeated)
18:10	News
18:30	Contest
19:20	Miscellaneous
19:50	Macau 360° (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Drama
23:00	TDM News
23:45	Rugby World Cup 2015 (Final): New Zealand vs Australia (Live)
01:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:50	Young Adult
17:20	Documentary Serie
17:55	Miscellaneous
18:50	Action
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Contraponto
22:10	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	UEFA Europa League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme
01:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report

offbeat

IN SCRAMBLE FOR POLITICAL FINANCE, BOLIVIANS TURN TO COCA

While U.S. politicians are scrambling for ways to pay for campaigns, few are likely to adopt the latest Bolivian tactic.

Backers of President Evo Morales say they're bolstering their finances with donations of potatoes and coca, the crop that's a traditional stimulant in Bolivia but is banned abroad as the raw material of cocaine.

The president's partisans are seeking a constitutional amendment eliminating a ban on Morales seeking another term in 2019.

Coca growers' vice president Leonardo Loza says his members are pledging 20 tons of coca to be sold to raise money for the effort. They hope to raise USD120,000 and say none of the crop will go toward cocaine. Morales is honorary president of the growers' union.

Other growers' groups are pledging potatoes and rice for the campaign.

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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: Cantonese (Cantonese/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: Cantonese (Cantonese/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

1981 EUTHANASIA CHIEF
JAILED OVER SUICIDES

The secretary of the UK's pro-euthanasia group Exit has been jailed for two and a half years for aiding and abetting suicide.

Nicholas Reed was found guilty on three counts of aiding and abetting suicide and one of conspiracy to aid and abet.

Mark Lyons, 70, Mr Reed's co-accused and the man who helped people commit suicide by providing pills and alcohol was given a two-year suspended sentence.

"If you get into trouble in the next two years you are going to cop it," the judge told him.

He was spared a jail term after the judge took into account his age and the fact he had already served 325 days awaiting the trial.

"I take into account the fact that you are not as young as you used to be. But you are not as old as I am," said the judge, Mr Justice Lawson.

The judge added that he believed Mr Lyons had learned his lesson and was "not going to start messing around with plastic bags and pills anymore".

The pair were tracked down after the death of a multiple sclerosis sufferer. As a matter of routine her death was reported to the coroner and a post-mortem revealed she died from taking a barbiturate drug with alcohol.

Two women at the inquest, who had been at the dead woman's house the day before she died, identified Mr Lyons as a visitor to the house.

When police went to Mr Lyons' flat in West Hampstead they found thousands of pills and tablets and several diaries that outlined visits to people wanting to commit suicide.

In court Nicholas Reed described how he had sent Mr Lyons on missions to "comfort and console" people but said he had no idea that he was helping people commit suicide.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following the verdicts Exit released a statement reiterating their aim to change the law "so that everyone in Britain will have a right to medical help to secure an easy death if life has become intolerable because of incurable, painful or incapacitating illness".

The British Medical Association responded by saying: "The guidance given by Exit is squalid and bears no comparison with the help which can be offered by the NHS for those in need."

Nicholas Reed had his sentence reduced on appeal to 18 months.

Exit started out as the Voluntary Euthanasia Society in 1935 but changed its name to give itself a more punchy and dynamic image.

In 2002, Holland became the first country to legalise euthanasia.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to start something new today - it's in your blood. Try to dig deeply into your well of ideas, as there's a good one that's been dormant for far too long. Push forward and have fun!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today is all about communication, so make sure that you're keeping the flow moving with grace and speed. You should find that it's easier than ever to pass along the most important info.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You just aren't sure what to think - which is a rarity for you! It's a good time to let things proceed on their own while you try to make up your mind one way or the other. Let the process go on its own.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to deal with an important personal issue today. Don't panic - it's not the end of the world; in fact, you should find that you've got what it takes to turn it into a real asset!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're feeling a sense of power and control that may be new to you. It's a great time for you to get your people to rally around a new cause or to just cease fire long enough to celebrate something wonderful.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've got to get better organized - and yes, that is possible! See if you can get your people to rally around a cleaning effort, or maybe you could just tackle your filing system once and for all.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The smaller things in life are more important than you realize today - so make sure that you're focused on the details! It may be hard with everything going on in your life, but it's a mental health break.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Control is a problem for you, and today you have a new opportunity to let go. See if you can find a good way to just ease into your new situation without having to know everything ahead of time.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You and your colleagues or family members are out of sync, but it's not the end of the world. You just need to step up and make sure that they don't see this rough patch as a symbol of anything bad.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to avoid the temptation to take offense today - someone lets fly with a comment that can be taken in many different ways. You are much better off assuming they mean it to be harmless.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to get out in the world and work your muscles! Some kind of exercise is vital - but don't overdo it, of course! You just need to make sure that you're on top of your fitness.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Try not to worry too much about your romantic situation today - you are in a good place, and whether you're single or seeing someone, you can expect things to get a lot better by the end of the day!

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- Dollop; 5- Large artery; 10- Gravitare; 14- Actress Anderson; 15- Haggard; 16- Lanai neighbor; 17- Pub pints; 18- Surround; 19- Sicilian smoker; 20- Move suddenly; 21- Staff; 23- Hi-; 25- Caustic chemical; 26- Italian earthenware; 31- Driving hazard; 35- Green prefix; 36- Tusks; 38- Polynesian porch; 40- Nair competitor; 42- Cosmetician Lauder; 44- Steals; 45- Genre; 47- Jewelled crown worn by women; 49- Hawaiian acacia; 50- Academy award; 52- Building; 54- Letter after pi; 56- Singer Torne; 57- Highly seasoned sausage; 62- Tolstoy heroine; 66- Wishing won't make; 67- Fortune-telling cards; 68- Sites; 69- Algo alternative; 70- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 71- even keel; 72- Words of comprehension; 73- Dig find; 74- Layer of paint;

DOWN: 1- Pleased; 2- "Damn Yankees" vamp; 3- Lulu; 4- European-style restaurant; 5- Stickum; 6- Utah city; 7- Freeway access; 8- Woven fabric; 9- Bugs; 10- Hook's mate; 11- Must've been something; 12- Sisters; 13- Sportage maker; 22- Shout; 24- Actor Wallach; 26- Department store department; 27- Vinegary prefix; 28- Kangaroo kids; 29- Price paid; 30- Bandleader Shaw; 32- Decoration at the top of a chair leg; 33- Japanese mushroom; 34- Off-limits; 37- 365 days; 39- This outrage!; 41- Pampering, briefly; 43- Like a recluse; 46- Tombstone lawman; 48- "Ventura" was played by Jim Carrey; 51- Daniel Webster, e.g.; 53- Aztec god of rain; 55- Speechify; 57- School orgs.; 58- Salinger girl; 59- Prepare to be shot; 60- Hurler Hershiser; 61- Me neither; 63- Taboo; 64- Final Four org.; 65- Isn't wrong?; 66- Second sequel tag;

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

A crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters pre-filled.

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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RUGBY

All Blacks not just the best but also the most resilient

WHEN the great Victor Matfield was sent into the Rugby World Cup semi-final last weekend with South Africa down by five and a whole quarter to go, he sized up New Zealand and didn't like what he saw.

"I have been fortunate enough to play in teams where you just know you are going to win the game. It doesn't matter how far you are behind, you know you are going to win the game in the end," Matfield says. "I must say when I went on, I never saw panic in their eyes."

That the All Blacks prevailed by two points over Matfield and the Springboks to reach the final this weekend surprised very few.

Yes, they are filled with inspirational leaders, world-class players with an abundance of skills, speed, ambition, and determination, but they are also the most resilient team in world rugby.

It doesn't matter whether they are chasing or being chased in a match, they hardly ever crack. They have had to tip their hat to only three opponents who have



South Africa's Victor Matfield, left, and New Zealand's Samuel Whitelock compete for the ball in a line out

edged them in the four years since the last Rugby World Cup.

They were down to 14 men in Christchurch in 2012 when they beat Ireland with a last-minute dropped goal. Ireland should have beaten them for the first time in 2013 in Dublin but conceded a penalty with 28 seconds left, and that was all the All Blacks needed to score a converted

try deep in injury time.

Last year, the Wallabies were rolled over after leading by 10 with 11 minutes to go in Brisbane, the same point at which Wales was run down in Cardiff after being up by one, prompting Wales lock Alun Wyn Jones to say "they are probably 20 minutes ahead of everybody else."

Just before this World Cup, South Africa was overturned in Johannesburg, blowing a three-point lead with seven to go.

All Blacks coach Steve Hansen said after the semi-final he was confident his side would pull through against South Africa.

"I've got a lot of faith in our composure," he says. "We've been in tight spots a lot over the last four years, and the years before that, and when you've got the experience that we've got ...

"A lot of people have made noises about guys being too old, but they're in good form, and if they've been around a long time they bring a lot of experience. Most of our experiences are positive ones, therefore you get a lot of inner self-belief with that."

The All Blacks haven't always been this way. They have been the best team for most of the last 30 years, but they choked regularly in World Cups. Through the 1990s, when Australia

won two World Cups, the Wallabies under John Eales had a supreme belief in themselves, and New Zealand was mentally fragile.

The turnaround began in 2000, when then-All Blacks coach Wayne Smith invited Gilbert Enoka, a former international volleyballer, into their setup. Enoka was to the fore in regarding mental skills as important as passing and catching. He was retained by coach Graham Henry, then Hansen, who has Enoka on his staff at this tournament.

Enoka was there in Cardiff in 2007 when the All Blacks lost to France in the quarterfinals, and lost their heads so to speak. That won over remaining skeptics among the players. Former lock Brad Thorn says they wouldn't have beaten France in the 2011 final without Enoka. The All Blacks were mentally at their collective best in not conceding a penalty in the last 10 minutes. AP / Oddschecker.com

AD

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opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



AMERICA'S NOT THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD ANYMORE

If you are truly lucky enough with children (and students and employees, for that matter), you experience those rewarding moments when you're offered a glimpse of the way they are developing and the internalisation of the values that you have guided and mentored them in. I just had one of those moments.

My charge came to show me a video of an excerpt from HBO's TV series "The Newsroom". I had seen this masterpiece of fictional oration when it hit the airwaves and went viral the first time around. Apparently, it's still making people stop and think. The speech by the TV news anchor character, Will McAvoy, is fundamentally about testing assumptions, not merely swallowing received wisdom or thoughtlessly repeating rhetoric.

In the episode the question put to a panel of American journalists is "Why is America the greatest country in the world?" We of a different time and place we might pause to ponder but nationalistic pride, hubris and a dash of jingoism have a way of blinding people: we generally don't think to question the question – the validity of it.

The brilliance in McAvoy's "it's not" speech is in the interrogation of what greatness might look like. McAvoy cleverly (as only a script can) expounds upon the virtues and attributes that make up a great nation and in doing so demands his audience compare America today against others. He flings an endless stream of such damning statistics that "the greatest country in the world" mantra is exposed as a lie. He dares question the question. In the face of the belief of a nation he stands up to and demands that the audience demand evidence to test the criteria.

With the opening of Studio City this week, we have been privy to some of Lawrence Ho's similarly straight-shooting speeches, not all of which have been reported as assertively as they were said. Although future competition for an uncertain number of gaming concessions is imbuing such public presentations with a political agenda - of which we are likely to see a great deal more - we were again reminded by Ho, as we have by Steve Wynn before, that diversified offerings in entertainment and retail are only granted by the largess of the gaming dollar.

This diversification is pretend industry diversification, for these industries could never stand on their own business-model feet; they are mostly subsidised by the gaming table dollar. Unless we consider the family-based customer, it's drawing a long bow to call the activity we are seeing a diversification of customer base, for Macau is still targeting the hordes over that Lotus Bridge. For industry (rather than offering or customer) diversification to occur, it would need to happen as viable and separate from the gaming industry and not subsidised by it: education (tertiary in particular), and tourist attractions that draw their own crowds for instance.

In Macau, we continue to conspire in going along with the diversification mantra but rarely do I hear us question the question. Either we should demand clarification of what success looks like and set some clear, specific and measureable targets for diversification regardless of how relatively miniscule they could only possibly be against the gaming juggernaut, or get over the rhetoric about diversification and accept that nothing of great substance is going to happen in Macau without the gaming industry propping it up.

As the news anchor says, "The first step in solving any problem is recognizing there is one." Ours is that we haven't a clue where we're supposed to be going, what success in industry diversification looks like and who's supposed to take us there.

THE BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CLIMATE CHANGE IN GULF

Speaking from a Gulf nation whose skyscrapers rose on oil wealth, Britain's foreign secretary called yesterday on the rest of the wealthy Arab world to put their money toward renewable and clean energy ahead of the landmark climate change conference in Paris later this year.

Philip Hammond's comments while on a Mideast tour came as he visited the Masdar City renewable energy and sustainable technology

project in Abu Dhabi. Hammond applauded the Emirates for investing in the technology, as well as its pledge to have 24 percent of its electricity come from clean energy sources by 2021.

"I suppose the romantic in me says there is something rather nicely symmetrical about the idea that the wealth that's been generated from years of successful exploitation of fossil fuels would be reinvested ... in the energy technologies of the futures," Hammond said.



This July 2012 photo provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection shows methamphetamine disguised as a chocolate candy bar in Los Angeles

Chocolate meth? US customs agents have seen it all

SOMETHING about the dozens of individually wrapped chocolate bars in the luggage of a man flying from California to Japan struck a federal Customs and Border Protection officer as odd. Sure enough, when unwrapped, they turned out to be more than 4 pounds of methamphetamine covered by a "chocolate-like substance."

That bust at Los Angeles International Airport in July 2012 was one of

tens of thousands of drug seizures made by customs agents each year at the nation's airports, including many where drugs were hidden inside food.

Customs officers stopping travelers coming and going from the United States have found drugs disguised as cream filling in cookies, in bags of coffee, bottles of rum, and stuffed inside bricks of frozen meat, among other places.

"Drug smugglers, mules, what have you, they use

various consumer methods. Depending on how much experience they've had, (officers have) probably seen every consumer method under the sun," said Anthony Bucci, the public affairs specialist for Customs and Border Protection's New York regional office.

Customs officials made 153,000 drug seizures from people trying to enter or leave the country between the 2011 and 2015 fiscal years in the top five ports of entry alone, according to the agency.

Officers in the New York region – including Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark airports – made more than 72,000 stops over the five-year span, and Chicago had more than 36,000. **AP**

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

WORLD BRIEFS

S KOREA's highest court sentences the head of a ferry operator to seven years in prison over a ship sinking last year that killed more than 300 people.

INDIA Prime Minister Narendra Modi described India and Africa as bright spots of hope and economic opportunity and offered technology and credit to match rival China at a summit with more than 40 African leaders yesterday.

BELGIUM French far-right leader Marine Le Pen faces a parliamentary probe over voting irregularities at the European Union's legislature. Le Pen acknowledged yesterday she left her voting card at her desk and that a Dutch group colleague voted in her place during the plenary in Strasbourg, France, this week. Voting is strictly personal at the European Parliament and infractions must be investigated.



USA Republicans rallied behind Rep. Paul Ryan (pictured) to elect him to the powerful post of House speaker yesterday as the splintered party turned to the youthful but battle-tested lawmaker to mend its self-inflicted wounds and craft a conservative message to woo voters in next year's elections. In a roll call, 236 Republicans called out the Ryan – a former Republican vice presidential candidate – as their pick for the top job.

GERMANY A 32-year-old German man arrested in the disappearance nearly a month ago of a 4-year-old Bosnian migrant has confessed to killing the boy, authorities said yesterday. Prosecutor Michael von Hagen told reporters that the man, whose identity wasn't released, was turned in by his mother after she recognized him in video released by police. Police were interviewing the mother at her home in the state of Brandenburg, outside Berlin, when the suspect showed up there yesterday morning and confessed, telling police that he had the child's body in the car.

times square by rodrigo

