



AL TO DISCUSS 'RENT CEILING' PROPOSAL
The Legislative Assembly is expected tomorrow to debate a proposal establishing maximum rent increases

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SUU KYI'S CHALLENGES IF SHE TAKES POWER
Suu Kyi's party will face a variety of hurdles in its struggle to bring more democracy to Myanmar

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Report denounces lack of school subsidy oversight

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WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN's spy agency says it has freed eight people who were among a large group of ethnic minority Hazaras kidnapped earlier this year.

THAILAND Police announce the arrest of a man they said tricked more than 100 men into working for low pay on illegal fishing boats in Indonesia, part of the government's effort to show that it is cracking down on an industry that has been rife with human trafficking and labor abuses.



SLOVENIA, once a staunch critic of fences between EU countries, said yesterday it will start building a barrier on the border with Croatia to stem the influx of migrants but not stop it entirely. Prime Minister Miro Cerar said yesterday "at this moment, about 30,000 immigrants are on their way toward Slovenia" and that "a big number" of them could be stranded in the small Alpine state if neighboring Austria restricts their flow to an average of 6,000 a day.

More on backpage

Casinos fall as November gambling revenue forecast cut

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Electric car manufacturer Tesla enters local market

Renato Marques

AMERICAN electric automobile manufacturer Tesla Motors has announced its official entry into the Macau market with the launch of Tesla's official Macau website. Through this platform, Macau customers can now place orders for the brand's award-winning Model S.

To celebrate the announcement and to seize the opportunities created by the 5th China (Macau) International Automobile Exposition, held recently at the Venetian's Cotai Expo, a representative of the manufacturer for Macau and Hong Kong displayed two units of its Dual Motor All-Wheel Drive Model S. This was to enable Macau customers and enthusiasts to have an intimate encounter with the car and experience some of its features and options.

Macau has become Tesla's fifth market in the Asia-Pacific region after Australia, China, Hong Kong and Japan, showcasing the company's commitment and mission to advancing the adoption of electric vehicles in the region.

Just like what happened in Hong Kong, and in addition to vehicles sales and aftersales service, Tesla will also set up charging solutions to support its customers. This was one of the major concerns from the public in adopting this type of vehicle in Macau. As the Regional Director of Tesla Hong Kong and Macau, Ms Isabel Fan, noted to the Times: "We will provide the necessary support to the customers so that they can install their own charging station at home or at the office (each vehicle in-



Isabel Fan poses for a picture besides the Tesla Model S

cludes one charging station), and can also partner will local companies and institutions in order to establish [public or

semi-public] charging areas." These places, as a representative from Tesla mentioned, can include hotels, parking

lots, and shopping malls. For the time being, in Hong Kong, Tesla already set eight of these partnerships into motion, with

one more set to open in the next few days.

"We are thrilled to be making our debut in Macau," said Ms Fan. "The close cultural proximity between Hong Kong and Macau, as well as the support from the Macau SAR government, makes Macau an ideal place for EVs. We are committed to helping the city accelerate its transition to sustainable transport," she added.

As for deliveries, the first batch of vehicles is expected to be ready for delivery in the first quarter of 2016.

No figures are yet available regarding orders from Macau customers, since the website only started operations on Friday. But Ms Fan mentioned that the company's interest in the Macau market had a lot to do with "the many requests received in Hong Kong from potential Macau customers." She added that by being a "small territory, it is in fact the perfect location for the successful implementation of the EVs, since the bigger concerns in other countries and regions is always the range that the car can reach. Since the Model S is set in between 400 and 500 kilometers, I do not think that will be a problem for most of the drivers here."

As for the long-awaited "Falcon Winged doors" Model X, this will be the brand's first foray into the SUV market, with Ms Fan mentioning that "the delivery of the first batch is expected for the middle of 2016."

Test drive: An impressive car

AT first glance, the Tesla Model S 85D captivates the public by its executive and discreet look, with some futuristic elements that hint at its capacities.

The interior is luxurious with various fabrics and leather used throughout the cockpit. At the center of the console, a huge 17-inch touchscreen clearly indicates that we are in the presence of something different. Using the touchscreen, everything in the car can be set up and customized:

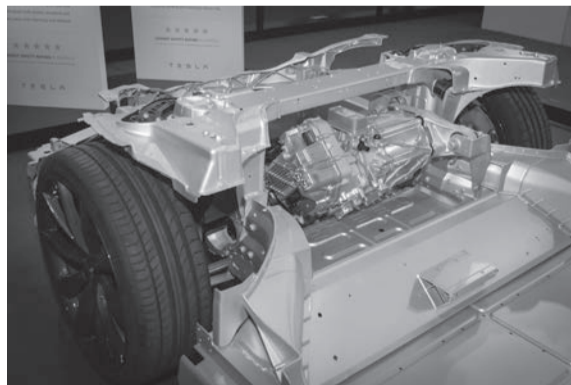
the seat or driving wheel adjustments; the air conditioning, sound system, navigation; the amount of light on board; the backlight in the displays; and, of course, all the necessary parts of the vehicle, including battery life and charging status.

On the road, the Tesla impresses because of its power. The output delivery from its dual-motor system provides a real-time Four Wheel Drive experience. The fact is, although the car does not conven-

tionally resemble a "super car", the electric engines provide full torque, in this case a 660 Nm. This is the equivalent of what the Bentley 4.0L V8 engine or a Lamborghini Murcielago 6.5L V12 would deliver.

The power of its two motors working together reaches 311kW or 416BHP output and it can reach 100Kph from 0 in 4.4 seconds, like a Mercedes S Class 65 AMG or a Porsche 911 GT3 997.

Its top speed is set at 250 kph. Can you believe that all of this happens with zero fuel and zero emissions? **RM**



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Renato Marques

THE Commission of Audit (CA) says that financial subsidies granted to private schools are poorly monitored. According to a report revealed yesterday, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) and the Education Development Fund (FDE) have been ineffective in solving problems detected in the manner in which schools are subsidized. Neither body has been able to confirm that the data collected in the schools is dealt with effectively.

The CA report claims that the failures in monitoring private-school subsidies have contributed to damaging both the public coffers and those of the students and their parents.

The CA report features reviews and suggestions as to how the one might solve the problems that have arisen as a result of procedures adopted by DSEJ and the FDE.

According to the report, which refers to the academic year 2012/2013, private schools were subsidised to the tune of about MOP2.084 billion, of which MOP1.232 billion was given by the DSEJ under the "Free schooling system" and MOP759 million was allocated for the FDE within the schools development plan program. These subsidies account for 95.54 percent of the total amount of funds distributed.

The CA has selected 324 Subsidy Plan Reports from 8 schools to analyze the situation in detail. The findings point out that the administrative body FDE was not strict in attaining proof of expenses from schools, therefore acting against the approved regulations.

In 29 of the reports analyzed, various irregularities were found, including an absence of evidence, insufficiency of evidence, and lack of consistency between the amounts of evidence and the amounts declared in the expenses reports, among other mismatching cases. The total amount of unverified expenses amounts to around MOP9.56 million.

Additionally, the CA states that the FDE did not ensure that the inspectors fully complied with the procedures that

Audit report claims inefficient monitoring of school subsidies



had been established to verify activities within the project. Of the implementation reports analyzed, 69 of them had no evidence relating to a project's execution, and the inspection reports also did not contain any information regarding initiatives that would prove its execution. In cases that amount to a combined MOP28.13 million, the purpose of the subsidy grants is called into question.

The auditory report adds that DSEJ's school inspection service has a duty to monitorize the schools included in the free education subsidy program. However, DSEJ did not clarify how the inspection service

works. According to the audit report, some of the schools covered by the exemption program charged illegal fees to the students, a problem that DSEJ inspectors sometimes failed to detect.

After examining the accounts from the schools included on the free education program for the academic years 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013, 36 potential charges claimed by schools that were likely to be covered by the exemption were identified, which was confirmed on 6 of them by the School Inspection. The CA found that in these reports, 20 unauthorized charges had been recorded totaling MOP360,786. By July

2015, more than 80 percent of these amounts had not yet been returned to students, leading the CA to conclude that DSEJ did not effectively monitor the schools' performance of the duties that they must undertake as beneficiaries of the free education system. This reportedly led to a situation where the interests of the students and their parents were harmed.

While the CA also found that some of the issues identified by DSEJ in the past continue to remain unfixed for years, it also suggested that the bureau did not adopt measures to ensure that these issues were solved, suggesting instead that

account approval reports had simply been eliminated from the procedures. The audit report says that DSEJ failed to apply any of the sanctions prescribed, even in situations that constitute a legal offense.

The report notes that the public audit is designed to detect problematic situations relating to legality and compliance procedures in a timely manner, and thus to allow the relevant authorities to take the necessary corrective and preventive measures to reduce repeated infringements. It states that education is a priority in the

Unverified expenses amount to around MOP9.56m

government's action plan, and the results have a significant impact on the cultivation of talent in Macau as well as social and cultural development. Therefore, the cost/benefit ratio is given particular attention by the population. The DSEJ and the FDE, as responsible entities for granting financial aid to private schools, must provide clear instructions and control measures in order to avoid irregularities from the schools. By effectively completing their duties, they thus ensure good application, allocation and management of the financial support granted annually, and consequently, good management of public financial resources. The report concludes by saying, "The problems detected in this audit should be carefully considered by the DSEJ and the FDE." It urges these entities to "proceed quickly in order to correct the problems and to promote better education for all."

Legislative Assembly to discuss 'rent ceiling' proposal

THE Legislative Assembly is expected tomorrow to debate a proposal regarding the tenancy law, aimed at addressing sensitive issues such as the length of tenancy and a proposed rent ceiling. The rent ceiling, or the establishment of a maximum rent in-

crease, is being hailed as the most significant change, which would be tied to consumer price indexes (CPI) and the pace of the real estate market.

The draft, whose main proponent is lawmaker Chan Meng Kam, is looking to for relevant authorities to contribute

during the signing period of tenancy agreements. It would also reinforce the existing rule that rent increases can only be requested by landlords following the completion of a two-year contract.

Any proposed rent increase cap would apply to both residential and com-

mercial units, and would be correlative to CPI and the overall pace of the real estate market during the year prior to signing the contract.

In addition, lawmakers are tackling the issue of landlord-tenant disputes, reported to be on the rise, through the estab-

lishment of a mediation body. This could relieve the pressure put on courts and the Housing Bureau when dealing with disputes.

Macau's rental market has been put under increasing pressure, mainly due to what many complain are excessive ren-

tal costs. Last month demonstrators took to the streets to protest a lack of affordable housing in the SAR, after around 40,000 applicants were unsuccessful in their application for the subsidized housing scheme.

Coupled with a rise in various other conflicts between landlords and tenants, renting in Macau has barely improved in the past few years.

Travel sector eager to join China's development strategy

Aries Un

THE International Travel (Industry) Expo, which will be held from this Friday until Sunday, takes advantage of Beijing's regional strategy, as the capital seeks to expand its targeted market from professional buyers to the general public with its strengthened offerings.

The expo committee's head, Alex Lao, who also happens to be the Macau Travel Agency Association's chairman and a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), told journalists yesterday afternoon that the travel and cultural sector could serve as a stepping stone for the territory to join the mainland's highly touted strategy.

"This time, we have over one hundred routes related to the 'one belt, one



Alex Lao

road' strategy available for citizens," he said, "and also over 1,000 dis-

counted travel routes." Alex Lao believes that the exhibition, which

will be held at the Venetian Macao's 6,500-square-meter hall, was what Macau needed to "fill the void," given the near absence of any similar events. "It also allows citizens to better understand the latest information and products from overseas and the mainland," said Lao.

Hailed as one of the region's signature events, the expo hosts exhibitors from over 30 countries. The organizer aims to attract 50,000 visitors in three days.

The organizer aims to foster the development of other auxiliary industries other than hospitality and travel through the annual exhibition.

These goals come amid the government's efforts to turn the city into a world center for leisure and other emerging opportunities, such as development in Hengqin.

Mozambique's Gorongosa Park showcase

ALL the history and restoration of Gorongosa National Park (PNG), Mozambique's largest and most important protected habitat, will be on display in Macau this month.

This is an initiative of the Mozambique Friends' Association in Macau, who developed the exhibition in conjunction with the park's directors. Almost 90 percent of the park's fauna was destroyed during the country's civil war in 1992, the vice president of the association, Carlos Barreto, told Lusa.

The exhibition comprises sets of photographs and films provided by PNG and will be open to the public from November 14 to 29 at the Macau Tower. The exhibition launch will take place on November 13, unveiling what the Mozambique Friends' Association presents as "perhaps the greatest story of wildlife restoration in Africa."

The films on display are divided into two sections: one composed of short clips 1 to 2 minutes long; the second with short stories up to 25 minutes long.

Both the photography and films aim to tell a little about the story of the Park and to inform viewers about its ongoing restoration projects.

"The aim is to inform people about the history of the park, established in 1924 in central Mozambique, its wildlife, preservation, the discovery of new species, and the integration of the communities in the restoration project," the organizer stated. **RM**

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Secretary Rosário blames legal disputes for land recovery delay

In response to accusations that the authorities have been inactive in recovering idle land lots from expired contracts, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário has claimed that actions have not been immediately taken due to the potential for legal disputes where developers might take cases to court. This would usually end up in long periods of waiting, according to Rosário. The secretary stressed that no land has officially returned to the government yet, as all of the plots are still bound up in ongoing legal proceedings, which will dictate the outcome. So far, up to 22 land parcels have been proven idle.

Macau Pass to issue mainland-compatible cards



Macau Pass will offer a new type of card able to be used nationwide for public transport, starting next January. This

comes after Macau joined the City Union network of 72 city members. Up to 150 million cards are currently in circulation. The electronic payment service provider has already been authorized to run the service in RMB. However, the cards that have been issued by the region will only take effect in February. Macau Pass had earlier formed a partnership with the mainland's third-party online payment platform Alipay, which allows payment to be made by Alipay through Macau Pass terminals.

Sports betting seen as way to re-invigorate gaming industry

UNDERDEVELOPMENT and lack of investment in the gaming industry's sports betting sector is a missed opportunity "that the government seems in no hurry to fix," according to a Forbes article.

Currently there aren't sports betting lounges in local casinos. The only sports betting operator in the SAR is Macau Slot, an affiliate of Stanley Ho's SJM Holdings, which is underdeveloped and missing revenue opportunities, according to the report.

Despite mobile and online options for Macau Slot, the sports betting services earned a measly MOP736 million last year, piling in comparison to Hong Kong's reported revenue of HKD78.2 billion, accumulated off the back of its football betting component alone. The revenue differential reflects the lack of investment in sports betting lounges, and not the difference in population, say analysts.



People look at a newspaper during the first racing day of the season at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Tuen Mun betting retail outlet in Hong Kong

"Revenues reflect the lack of investment and innovation endemic to monopolies," says Cohen, who clarifies that the existing sports betting infrastructure is far below par. The lack of gaming liberalization means that only a single operator holds a sports betting license.

When the expiration of Macau Slot's concession was approaching at the end of June 2015, authorities made

the decision to extend the monopoly, but this time only for a single year.

Some analysts are pondering whether the brief renewal will herald a new stage of gaming liberalization in Macau. But could sports betting be the key ingredient to refreshing the stagnating gaming industry?

"Sports betting lounges can enhance the appeal of a casino," says Global Market Advisors partner Andrew

Klebanow, by attracting demographics uninterested in traditional casino games.

The chairman and CEO of FootballBet.com, David Leppo, added that under the government's table cap policy, the new Cotai resorts will have room for many more gaming tables than the number that will actually be allocated. He suggested that sports betting could be a lucrative way to fill the space. **Staff reporter**

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ENVIRONMENT

Gov't launches 'polluter-pays' principle on construction landfill fees

A new proposal by the Environmental Bureau suggests the introduction of a multi-level fee system for discarding construction waste. According to the bureau, this could reduce construction residue by up to 25 percent, and produce an additional MOP300 million in tax revenues.

The proposal is the result of a landfill crisis in Macau – specifically the construction material landfill, which reached full capacity in 2013. In an effort to reform the construction waste handling system, the bureau has suggested adopting a “polluter-pays” principle, whereby the costs of discarding construction materials are paid by the discarder.

The bureau has suggested introducing different levels of fees for dumping inert and non-inert construction materials. Under the new proposal, a ton of inert residue would cost a discarder MOP30, whereas a ton of non-inert waste would cost MOP130.

Inert residues, including debris, rubble, earth and concrete, are suitable for land reclamation use and site formation. Some of these materials will be used in the land reclamation projects in Macau, helping to alleviate the shortage of materials that has, according to developers, caused delays.

Non-inert residues, such as bamboo, timber, vegetation, packaging waste and other organic materials, are unsuitable for land reclamation work. As such, the Environmental Bureau has announced that it will encourage developers to sort the residues into the two categories, and to pay two tiers of fees for the discarding of materials.

“Some of them [players in the construction industry] said that they couldn't do the sorting. We must understand that the mechanism doesn't mean we won't receive these residues. However, I don't believe all construction sites are so small that they can't do the sorting,” said Vai Hoi Ieong, director of the Environmental Protection Bureau.

Vai says the law will be reviewed one year after it is implemented, and suggests an interim period of six months. The consultation period will last until December 23 and will consist of three public seminars to garner opinions.

Casinos fall as November gambling revenue forecast cut

Daniela Wei

MACAU casino shares fell in Hong Kong after Wells Fargo & Co. cut its forecast for November gross gaming revenue due to worse-than-expected gambling data from the city's casinos so far this month.

MGM China Holdings Ltd. lost 5.5 percent by the close of trading in Hong Kong while Wynn Macau slumped 4.8 percent, both recording their biggest drop since Sept. 29. Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Sands China Ltd. were down more than three percent. SJM Holdings Ltd. fell 2.5 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng Index was down 1.4 percent.

Average daily revenue came in at 525 million patacas (USD65.8 million) in the



People walk past the entrance to the casino floor on The Boulevard at Studio City casino resort

first eight days of the month, down 36 percent year on year, even after the Oct. 27 opening of Melco Crown's Studio City casino resort, Wells Fargo analyst Cameron McKnight wrote in a note on Monday.

The weak-than-expected performance prompted him to cut revenue estimate for November to a drop of as much as 34 percent, compared with his previous forecast

for a 30 percent drop. Casino takings may fall 32 percent, according to a median estimate of five analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. That would be worse than the 28.4 percent fall in October.

Macau is experiencing its worst downturn in history, as China's slowdown and scrutiny of corruption deterred high-stakes VIP gamblers from visiting the world's

largest gaming hub. Total takings at casinos fell for 17th straight month in October with revenue from high-end players dropping 33 percent, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

VIP volumes so far this month were softer than recent trends, probably due to the segment being “over-stretched” last month during China's week-long National Day holiday, a peak season for Macau casinos, JPMorgan Chase & Co. analysts led by DS Kim said in a report on Monday.

Studio City resort helped draw mass market customers, boosting Melco Crown's market share to 14.8 percent in the first eight days of November, the highest since at least May, according to data from Sanford C Bernstein. **Bloomberg**

Hong Kong lags behind rivals in eCommerce

DESPITE Hong Kong being home to the highest internet and smartphone penetration in the Asia-Pacific region, a new survey conducted by global payments company, Visa, found that eCommerce in the SAR lags significantly behind the other 12 markets that were examined.

The online survey, conducted between May and June 2015, interviewed 733 internet users in Hong Kong aged 18 to 55 and found that the city is still in the “evolving” stage in the development of eCommerce. It classified 22 percent of customers as “mature” e-Commerce users, 37 percent as “evolving”, and 35 percent as “emerging” based on the average number of online purchases made per year.

These statistics exist despite Hong Kong's reputation in the Asia-Pacific region for high internet and smartphone penetration, at 79 percent and 87 percent, respectively.

The survey also found a strong preference for Hong Kong consumers to use mobile devices (mobile phones or tablets) for browsing and purchasing online, further closing the gap on desktops. Termed “mCommerce,” the growth in mobile commerce for the year 2015 records a 23 percent increase year-on-year. As of 2015, 79 percent of consumers use mobile devices for browsing and 58 percent use them for purchasing.

Of the consumers contacted in the survey, 43 percent recorded purchasing while commuting, whereas the majority of consumers (71 percent) do so at home. Analyzed by category, the most popular online purchases from Hong Kong consumers are bill payments (68 percent), movies (58 percent) and travel (56 percent).

“We are seeing a high usage and fast growth of mobile commerce [as] people in Hong Kong get more comfortab-

le using their smart devices to research and browse ... [and for] making online payments,” said Caroline Ada, Country Manager of Visa Hong Kong and Macau. “mCommerce should soon overtake traditional eCommerce habits, strengthening this channel of engagement between consumers and retailers,” she added.

The report notes that as online shoppers mature in their behavior, they are expected to add additional categories to their purchasing. For example, shoppers may expand beyond making online payments for travel arrangements to also paying for their movie tickets through a mobile device. Almost half of consumers (48 percent) in Hong Kong have added at least one purchase category in the past 12 months, with 29 percent saying that they have added two, and 19 percent have added three. **Staff reporter**

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Chinese billionaire buys Modigliani for record USD170.4m

Katya Kazakina

CHINESE billionaire Liu Yiqian bought Amedeo Modigliani's painting of a reclining nude woman for USD170.4 million, the second-highest price for an artwork at auction, in a volatile sale at Christie's in New York.

Modigliani's 1917 "Nu Couché (Reclining Nude)" anchored Christie's special, mixed-category sale titled "The Artist's Muse," which included 34 paintings and sculptures created from the 1860s through the 2000s. The evening tallied \$491.4 million, setting five auction records for artists including Gustave Courbet and Roy Lichtenstein, whose painting of a nurse sold for \$95.4 million. The Modigliani price was an auction record for the Italian artist.

"Prices have reached the Promised Land," billionaire collector Eli Broad said after the sale. "I can't imagine it going much higher though. Can you?"

Some resistance was already visible during the packed evening sale, which was part of a 10-day marathon in which more than \$2.1 billion of art is on offer at Christie's, Sotheby's and Phillips. Ten lots failed to find buyers, including those by Lucian Freud and Willem de Kooning.

The results fell within Christie's presale target range of \$442 million to \$540 million,



This undated image provided by Christie's shows the painting "Reclining Nude," created in 1917 to 1918 by Amedeo Modigliani

but were 30 percent lower than the company's first hybrid sale in May, "Looking Forward to the Past." That auction tallied \$705.9 million, and a Pablo Picasso painting set a new auction record at \$179.4 million.

To win the prized artworks, Christie's offered the sellers of 17 pieces minimum guaranteed prices regardless of the outcome in the salesroom. Initially, the guarantees were ba-

cked by Christie's. Before the auction started, Jussi Pylkkanen, the auctioneer, announced that five guaranteed lots, including top works by Modigliani and Lichtenstein, were financially backed by third parties, a move that reduced Christie's risk but could also eat into potential profit.

Bidding for Modigliani's ravishing brunette on a red couch started at \$75 million and attracted seven hopefuls. The

Long Museum in China was the buyer of the Modigliani, according to Christie's. The museum was founded by Liu Yiqian, who frequently buys art with his American Express card.

"It was a sensational picture and it brought a sensational price," said Guy Jennings, managing director of the Fine Art Fund in London and Christie's former deputy chairman of Impressionist and modern

The Long Museum was founded by Liu Yiqian

art in New York. "It was the best painting Modigliani ever made. It's not often that you can say this about an artwork at auction."

The previous auction record for Modigliani was \$70.7 million, established at Sotheby's a year ago for a carved stone head of a woman.

Courbet's painting of a sleeping nude fetched \$15.3 million, quadrupling the Impressionist artist's previous auction record. Courbet's 1862 canvas, "Femme nue couchée," was estimated at \$15 million to \$25 million.

Lichtenstein's comic book-style "Nurse" painting fetched \$95.4 million, also an artist auction record. Although the final price, which includes buyer's premium, surpassed the presale target of more than \$80 million, only one bidder wanted the work, a client of Laura Paulson, Christie's senior international director in the postwar and contemporary art department. The work's value increased about 5,500 percent in the 20 years since it last sold at auction. Lichtenstein's previous auction record of \$56.1 million was achieved in May 2013 at Christie's in New York. **Bloomberg**

Budget line VietJet buys 30 Airbus planes for USD3.6b

Andrea Rothman

LOW-COST airline VietJet Aviation Joint Stock Co. agreed to buy 30 Airbus Group SE A321neo planes at the Dubai Airshow, a deal worth USD3.6 billion at list prices.

The purchase is for nine A321ceo and 21 A321neo aircraft, Hanoi-based VietJet said in a release yesterday announcing the deal.

"VietJet has grown faster than expected in the last few years and our previous purchasing plans for new aircraft could not keep up with developing demand," VietJet President and



Passengers stand at a ticket counter for VietJet Air, operated by VietJet Aviation Joint Stock Co., at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City

CEO Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao was quoted as saying in the release.

Vietnam's only privately owned carrier is seeking to expand in a

market that grew 20 percent from a year earlier in the first half of 2015. VietJet initially took out options on the planes at the 2014 Singapore Air-

show, part of a contract it signed for 100 aircraft.

Although the "focused and stressful" negotiations ran over the allotted time, VietJet is "very happy with the deal and contract we signed," Thao said in an interview in Dubai after the deal was announced. "It was a win-win situation."

VietJet flies 35 routes in Southeast Asia and to China, using 29 Airbus planes. The new planes will be used to expand the carrier's destinations in Asia, including to South Korea and Japan, Thao said. She also hinted at horizons further abroad.

"Also in our plans is to

consider suitable aircraft for the Middle East," Thao said. "This is still in planning."

The planes will be delivered between 2016 and 2020, with financing provided by leading banks and lessors including GE Capital Aviation Services Inc. and Avolon Holdings Ltd., Thao said in a Dubai news conference.

VietJet in June forecast its passenger numbers would rise 67 percent to 10 million this year. The company has announced plans to sell bonds and shares to fund expansion aimed at increasing its international routes and boosting its domestic market share to more

than 50 percent.

"This additional order from the fast-growing airline VietJet confirms the success of the A320 Family as the preferred choice for airlines in the single-aisle market," Airbus sales chief John Leahy said in the statement announcing the purchase.

As is common in the industry, VietJet will pay less than list price for the planes, Leahy said at the Dubai news conference.

VietJet will buy 30 CFM56-5b engines for the planes for about \$660 million, the carrier said in a separate e-mailed statement. **Bloomberg**

MOZAMBIQUE

Measures implemented to offset metical devaluation



THE Bank of Mozambique is implementing measures to cushion the effects of the devaluation of the metical in recent months and the expected rise in the inflation rate, said the central bank's spokesman.

Waldemar de Sousa, on the sidelines of a meeting with the Confederation of Economic Associations of Mozambique (CTA), which brings together Mozambican employers, recalled that to cushion the negative effects of the current economic climate the central bank had increased interest rates.

The Bank of Mozambique also raised the reserve requirements, or the amount of capital that commercial banks are required to deposit with the central bank, the spokesman

said cited by Portuguese news agency Lusa.

"Measures are underway in order to effect greater absorption of liquidity to ensure macroeconomic and financial sector stability in 2016, similar to what is being done for 2015, despite an adverse international climate," said Sousa.

The "Economic Situation and Inflation Outlook" report published last week by the Bank of Mozambique showed that the country's currency had been in sharp decline in recent months, inflation may exceed 5 percent in 2016 and GDP will grow only 6.3 percent against the initial forecast of 7.5 percent.

The Mozambican central bank attributed the worsening of macroeconomic indicators of Mozambique to strengthening of the dollar, falling prices of raw materials and a slowdown in the extractive industry, driven by the fact that the projects in the sector are entering the development phase, after a period of prospecting, particularly for natural gas. **MDT/Macauhub**

Angola expands funding sources by issuing bonds backed by ICBC

ANGOLA has successfully completed an issue of Eurobonds, an operation supported by a group of international banks which includes the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, expanding its sources of funding in troubled times.

The Ministry of Finance last week announced the completion of an issue of Eurobonds to the amount of USD1.5 billion, getting closer, according to a survey by Eaglestone Securities, to the target of an additional USD10 billion in credit, set by the government to address the financing needs brought about by the drop in oil prices.

"As mentioned by the Angolan authorities, this issue will enable the country to become less dependent on traditional sources of credit," said Eaglestone in a statement after the results announcement.

The consultancy said demand for the issue was "very significant", which could "lead the Angolan authorities to consider issuing more Eurobonds in the future."

The placement of the issue, as with other African oil producing countries, demonstrates that even with the financial difficulties experienced by these countries, investor interest "remains intact."

The bond issue had been under consideration since 2011 and, according to the international financial agencies, was planned for the last



few months, but was eventually postponed, pending improved market conditions.

This was the second time Angola successfully approached international debt markets after in 2012 it issued debt instruments similar to Eurobonds in the amount of US\$1 billion.

The cash raised from the new operation, as well as bilateral loans and available credit lines, is intended for infrastructure projects considered priorities for the 2016-17 period in the areas of education, health, water and roads.

Of about US\$9.5 billion raised in recent months, the largest share – US\$6 billion – comes from China, followed by the World Bank, BBVA, Société Générale, Goldman Sachs and Gemcorp.

Eaglestone Securities said the additional credit now obtained is expected to raise Angolan public debt levels by almost 15 percentage

points to 57 percent of GDP in 2015.

The goals set by the Angolan Ministry of Finance for the Eurobond issue were to diversify sources of external funding, establish long-term sources of funding with international investors, improve the assessment of credit rating agencies, consolidating a history of investor yields and possibly increase the amount of foreign currency reserves.

The operation had the legal and technical support of Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, the World Bank and IMF and the President of Angola mandated as representatives of the Angolan State, Deutsche Bank and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), in addition to investment bank Goldman Sachs.

Eurobonds are debt securities denominated in a currency other than that of the issuing country, usually focused on investors in more than one country and traded in various financial markets. **MDT/Macauhub**

Cape Verde launches 5th Agricultural Census

THE 5th General Agricultural Census (RGA) of Cape Verde started on Monday and is expected to take three months and cost 4.9 million euros, according to the Minister of Rural Development.

Minister Eva Ortet said, during the announcement of the census, that it was a "strategic" operation and would allow Cape Verde to have fundamental information about the dynamics of the agricultural sector on a national level.

"We have the perception that all investments in agriculture have had an effect. We estimate that there is a large increase in production, there is

a decrease in prices, but we have to measure this impact, we must have actual data on the sector and also to assess what contribution the agricultural sector gives to GDP," said the minister at the time.

The agricultural census will involve about 500 people, including agents, supervisors and representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development across Cape Verde, coordinated by the National Statistics Institute.

The first agricultural census was conducted in Cape Verde in 1963, followed after independence by censuses in 1978, 1988 and 2005. **MDT/Macauhub**

corporate bits

MGM OFFERS THANKSGIVING MENUS



The highlight of any Thanksgiving Day celebration is a feast with roasted whole turkey, pumpkin pie and other festive delicacies. MGM Macau has brought the comfort dishes of the West to Macau to give guests an assortment of Thanksgiving Day treats.

A three-day celebration from

November 26 until November 28 is available at Rossio with Thanksgiving lunch and dinner buffet menus including classic Thanksgiving dishes and some innovative specialties, like Citrus herb roasted turkey with stuffing, plus Caribbean rum glazed ham. Pies are also a must for the special day, in-

cluding the savory Turkey pot pie and sweet pies, including Pumpkin pie with cinnamon cream, Mississippi pecan nut pie and others.

For those who prefer celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday at home with family and friends, the Pastry Bar offers a Thanksgiving take-away menu featuring Herb scented roasted turkey and Honey glazed baked ham. These come with different types of sauces, including traditional cranberry sauce, Port scented redcurrant glaze, spiced pineapple chutney, etc.

The take-away menu also features side dishes including Braised Brussels sprouts with spicy chorizo, Thyme scented haricot beans as well as festive desserts like the Classic Pumpkin pie, and special Caramel pumpkin cheesecake.

SANDS CHINA LAUNCHES NEW TRAINING PROGRAM



Sands China Ltd. is pioneering a new staff development program, offering employees the chance to master cross-departmental skills.

Staff who join the Integrated Resort Team Member Program will have the chance to train in a department of their choice, including entertain-

ment, food and beverage, conventions and exhibitions, Sands Rewards Club, and hotel operations. As a result, they will enjoy expanded skill sets, giving them the ability to rotate between their original and their newly trained department, to support the needs of both. The program essentially

creates employees who are cross-departmental and multi-skill proficient, in contrast with the traditional setup of single-department employees.

"We want to help create team members who are truly multi-talented leaders in the integrated resort industry," said Ciaran Carruthers, senior vice president of property operations for Sands China Ltd. "This innovative new initiative does that by investing in our workforce. Helping them develop new skill sets further strengthens an already solid foundation, and that benefits our team members, the industry, and Macau as a whole. We hope efforts like this will help support the Macau government's push to diversify the city and its labor force beyond gaming."

INTERNATIONAL CRIME

254 telephone scammers sent back to mainland



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, suspects are escorted through Customs by police officers at Guangzhou International Airport

A total of 254 Chinese citizens arrested in Cambodia and Indonesia for running telephone and Internet scams targeting Chinese victims were repatriated yesterday to face charges in China, the Public Security Ministry said.

A statement on the ministry's website said the suspects were flown back to Beijing and three other Chinese cities aboard chartered flights. They are suspected of committing upward of 4,000 major cases of cross-border telephone fraud targeting victims in more than 20 cities and provinces, the ministry said.

No details about the nature of the scams were given, although the ministry said such fraud cases are among the fastest-growing categories of crime and some of the most difficult to solve. Police in Cambodia said the group detained there had set up their operation in rented homes in the beach resort town of Sihanoukville, and that authorities were still seeking the masterminds.

The ability to exploit electronic bank transfers from a safe distance, hide identities and constantly vary the nature of their scams allowed those criminals to conti-

nue misleading victims and avoid detection, China's Public Security Ministry said.

Such scams generally involve suspects taking on a wide range of false identities in order to obtain personal information or prompt victims into transferring funds into overseas bank accounts.

Previously busted scam rings have involved scammers posing as staff from banks, telecommunications firms, social security and public health care agencies demanding payment of non-existent fees or account balances. Others would pose as police or postal service staff claiming to be investigating crimes such as drug smuggling and money laundering and demanding personal information to clear the victims of suspicion.

Still others would pretend to offer cheap air or train tickets, low-interest loans or contraband such as drugs, firearms and surveillance equipment. Phony job offers, lottery wins, cars, houses and school admissions were also used as bait, while others were scammed by phony relatives or acquaintances desperate for money to pay off debts or medical bills.

The suspects who arrived yesterday were the first to be

repatriated since a new campaign against overseas-based telephone fraud was launched last month. The ministry said it would continue to strengthen intelligence gathering and coordination with foreign agencies so as to "leave criminals with nowhere to rest, nowhere to hide and nowhere to commit their crimes."

Cambodia's national police force said on its website yesterday that 168 Chinese, including 19 women, had been sent home aboard two chartered flights after being arrested on charges of using the Internet to extort money from Chinese victims.

Cambodia acted on information provided by the Chinese authorities, and police from the two countries are now working together to find the masterminds of the scheme, it quoted Gen. Khun Sambo, Cambodia's deputy chief of police, as saying.

Senior Cambodian immigration police officer Gen. Ouk Haiseila said the 168 Chinese had been arrested Oct. 31 in Sihanoukville. The group, some of whose members had been in Cambodia for two years, had rented a guesthouse and large villa in which to live and run their phone scams, Haiseila said. AP

Inflation eases, leaves room for stimulus



A worker walks through the gate of a construction site in Beijing

CHINA'S inflation eased in October, leaving room for Beijing to stimulate its slowing economy if necessary.

Consumer prices rose 1.3 percent over a year earlier, down from September's 1.6 percent, government data showed yesterday. That was driven mostly by a 1.9 percent increase in food costs.

Lower inflation leaves room for Beijing to cut interest rates or take other steps to stimulate its cooling economy after growth weakened to a six-year low of 6.9 percent in the latest quarter.

October trade was unexpectedly weak, raising expectations Beijing might face more pressure to shore up growth,

though Chinese leaders have said they want to avoid an across-the-board stimulus.

Producer prices, measured as goods leave the factory, declined further in October, falling 5.9 percent compared with a year earlier.

Wholesale prices have fallen for several years due to a glut of excess production capacity in many industries. That has helped to hold down consumer prices but raised concern about the financial health of companies that are caught in price-cutting wars.

China's stocks halted a four-day rally after the data, with the Shanghai Composite Index losing 0.2 percent. AP

Shanghai vice mayor under formal party investigation

A vice mayor of China's financial hub of Shanghai is under investigation by the ruling Communist Party amid an ongoing drive against corruption at all levels of government.

Ai Baojun was being probed on suspicion of "serious violations of discipline," the party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said on its website yesterday. The phrase almost always refers to corruption.

Ai's name had already been removed from the list of Shanghai vice mayors, a likely sign that he will soon be fired and expelled from the party as a precursor to prosecution.

The 55-year-old Ai was appointed a vice mayor in 2007,

and two years ago became director of the city's new Hong Kong-style free trade zone that has been heavily promoted by the central government. Trained as an accountant, Ai had also been chairman of Baoshan Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., the listed unit of Shanghai's massive Baosteel Group Corp.

Thousands of officials have been investigated under the anti-graft campaign that President Xi Jinping launched shortly after taking office two years ago. More than 100 senior officials and military officers have been placed under investigation or charged criminally, with no sign yet of the campaign abating. AP



Teresa Cerojano, Manila

CHINA'S top diplomat asked the Philippines yesterday not to raise contentious issues — an obvious reference to the Asian neighbors' territorial spats — in an annual economic summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in Manila next week, a Filipino official said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's request, relayed to his Philippine counterpart Albert del Rosario during talks in Manila, underscored Beijing's objection to any effort to bring the long-raging disputes to an international arena, where rivals like Washington could use it to criticize Beijing.

Beijing's request underscored its objection to bring the long-raging disputes to an international arena

Non-inclusion of the thorny topic would also shield Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is expected to attend the Nov. 18-19 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Manila, from a potentially embarrassing confrontation.

"They said they hope that contentious issues will not be raised during APEC," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said in a news conference, when asked if the disputes were discussed in Wang's hour-long talk with del Rosario.

Wang also mentioned that his Manila visit was to ensure that

Beijing to Philippines: No sea feud talk at APEC summit



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, center, waves to the media as he leaves the Department of Foreign Affairs following his talks with Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert Del Rosario

Xi's visit "will be smooth, safe and successful," Jose said.

Wang also met President Benigno Aquino III in the first visit by a top Chinese official to Manila since the two Asian neighbors' relations soured in the last three years due to overlapping claims in the South China Sea, a regional conflict that involves four other Asian

governments, whose leaders are attending the Manila meetings.

The last time a Chinese foreign minister visited the Philippines was in 2009 and Jose said Wang's visit in itself "is an indication that we can move the bilateral relations forward."

Aquino said he welcomed Xi's decision to join the meetings

and promised "the warmth of Filipino hospitality," according to presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma.

The Philippines, Jose said, agreed that the meetings in Manila would not be the proper forum to discuss the conflicts, adding that Manila has a pending legal challenge against Beijing's massive claims in the South

China Sea before an international tribunal in The Hague.

"In the context of APEC, we both agreed that APEC is an economic forum and it won't be a proper venue to discuss political and security issues," Jose said.

Asked if other leaders can raise the thorny issue, Jose said they can.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Monday that the "bilateral relationship is beset by difficulties due to reasons known to all." But he said that China "attaches importance to its relationship with the Philippines and stays committed to properly resolving relevant issues through consultations and negotiations."

China has criticized last month's patrol of the USS Lassen, a U.N. Navy guided-missile destroyer, within the 22-kilometer territorial limit of Subi Reef, which has been transformed by Beijing into an island over objections of other claimants, particularly the Philippines.

China, the Philippines and four other governments have claims across the vast South China Sea, with Beijing claiming it has sovereignty over virtually all of the waters. Some of the disputed areas are believed to sit atop vast undersea deposits of oil and gas.

Jose said the two sides also agreed to resume bilateral consultations at the vice foreign minister level "to explore areas where we can move bilateral relations forward."

It is the Philippines turn to host such a meeting, the date of which is still to be discussed. The last such consultation took place in 2013.

But the consultations will exclude contentious issues like the South China Sea as agreed to by Aquino and then President Hu Jintao during Aquino's state visit to China in 2011, Jose said. **AP**

Party says 2-child policy to add 30 million workers by 2050

CHINESE authorities expect that easing the country's one-child policy will add more than 30 million people to the country's labor force by 2050, a senior official said yesterday.

Wang Pei'an, spokesman for the National Health and Family Planning Commission, said at a news conference that more than 90 million women will become eligible for having a second child when China formally moves away from

the one-child policy to allow all couples to have two children.

The new policy is expected to add 3 million extra births each year in the initial years, Wang said. China had 16.87 million births last year, and the easing of the policy is expected to boost the annual figure to nearly 20 million births — in line with China's population goals, he said.

Lu Jiehua, an expert on demographics at Peking University, said the 30

million estimate appears to be conservative, given an estimate of 3 million extra births per year. "Maybe the consideration is that the birthrate will drop after the initial several years," Lu said.

Wang said the younger blood will improve China's age makeup in the labor force, lower the percentage of the elderly in the population by 2 percent, and slow society's aging process.

The policy is expected to be formally adopted in

the spring.

About half of the women of child-bearing age expected to become eligible for having a second child will be in their 40s, Wang said.

The country's family planning workers — notorious for their past work of forced sterilization and forced abortions to enforce the one-child policy — are also involved with processing applications for additional children and directing couples to prenatal care. Wang said



Children walk past by a man dressed like an emperor, center, promoting photography services in Beijing

they are likely to see their workload increase under the new policy.

"Their tasks will only increase and get heavier, so this team can only be strengthened, not weake-

ned," Wang said.

He told reporters that China is not ready to abolish the birth limit because it still needs to manage the population growth. **AP**

ANALYSIS

If Suu Kyi takes power in Myanmar, she faces an uphill task

ONCE the euphoria over Aung San Suu Kyi's apparent victory in Myanmar elections subsides, her opposition party will face a variety of hurdles and complications in its struggle to bring more democracy to the long-repressed country. Here are some of the main challenges:

SUU KYI'S PURSUIT OF THE PRESIDENCY

Even if Suu Kyi's party wins by a landslide, she cannot become president. The Nobel laureate's longtime popularity was so feared by the former military junta, which ceded power in 2011, that it included a clause in the 2008 constitution to limit her political power. It states that anyone who is married to a foreign citizen or whose children are foreigners cannot be president. It is seen as custom-made for Suu Kyi, whose late husband and two sons are British. In interviews before Sunday's election, Suu Kyi said if her party won, she would run the government and be "above the president" — a statement meant to encourage voters but which raised eyebrows among analysts who wondered what she meant. Suu Kyi has not explained or said whom she would nominate as president. If her National League for Democracy does win enough seats to form a government, there is also the challenge of how to lead it. Nobody in her party has any experience running a government.

MILITARY POWER

No matter who wins the election, the military still holds control and influence over the government. Under the constitution, 25 percent of the seats in Parliament are reserved for the military. That means to have



Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by supporters upon arrival at the headquarters of her National League for Democracy party

a simple majority, Suu Kyi's opposition party must win two-thirds of the vote. It also means that any government she leads would be hamstrung by the military's continued role in politics and power. Amendments to the constitution require more than a 75 percent vote. The military also retains control over three crucial ministries that oversee the police, army, border affairs and a vast bureaucracy across the country. And, the military has special emergency powers written into the constitution that give it the right to take direct control of the country for vague and unspecified reasons of "national security" and "national unity" — meaning the army could retake control if it sees fit.

ETHNIC CONFLICT

Last month, the government signed a cease-fire agree-

ment with many of the country's ethnic minority guerrilla groups. The pact nominally put an end to decades of armed conflict. But major groups with the heaviest firepower stayed away from the accord.

Also, many cease-fires have come and gone over decades of ethnic insurgencies, and like them, the latest makes no concession to the bedrock demands of the ethnic groups for greater autonomy. Not included among the cease-fire groups are the Kachin, whose combat against the government has been the fiercest in recent years. They believe there can be no lasting settlement of ethnic complaints under a government dominated by the military, which claims that an aggressive counterinsurgency is crucial to maintaining national unity.

MUSLIMS AND THE ROHINGYA

Suu Kyi has been criticized by many former admirers overseas for failing to defend Muslim rights and for silence on the plight of the Rohingya, the country's persecuted Muslim minority. She has defended her reaction as a means of political survival in the mostly Buddhist country, saying her job is to reconcile the two communities, not fan divisions. In a pre-election news conference, she urged reporters not to "exaggerate" the Rohingya's problems in a country with many problems to solve.

London-based Burma Campaign UK said in a pre-election report that the NLD "has appeared to pander to prejudice against Muslims rather than challenge it, leaving many Muslims without much hope that

the NLD will do much to stop growing anti-Muslim activities" or repeal recently enacted anti-Muslim laws.

Another rights group, the Washington-based United to End Genocide, said in a statement Tuesday that the "poisoned atmosphere" against Muslims in general and the Rohingya in particular could lead to violence that would give the military a pretext for stepping in to protect the peace.

For the first time, about 500,000 normally eligible voters from the country's 1.3 million-strong Rohingya minority were barred from casting ballots. The government considers them foreigners even though their families have lived in Myanmar for generations. Neither the opposition party nor the military-backed ruling party fielded any Muslim candidates.

AUSTRALIA

Standoff ends at immigration detention camp

Kristen Gelineau, Sydney

A standoff between protesting detainees and officials at a remote detention center for asylum seekers in the Indian Ocean ended yesterday after federal police arrived to stop more than a day of unrest that prompted guards to flee the facility and left parts

of the compound badly damaged, officials said.

Most detainees cooperated with police negotiators at the detention center on the Australian territory of Christmas Island, but officials used "some force" against a core group of protesters who had built barricades and had threatened to use weapons, the immigration department

said in a statement. Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said officers used tear gas to subdue the detainees, but declined to elaborate on what other tactics police used to quell the unrest.

Five detainees were being treated for injuries or medical conditions, though none were life-threatening, the depart-

ment said. Dutton said the injuries amounted to minor lacerations.

Some areas of the facility appeared to be severely damaged, with Dutton estimating the cost of repairs at around 1 million Australian dollars (USD700,000). Detainees were being held in undamaged parts of the compound.

The unrest broke out Monday following the death of an asylum seeker who escaped from the facility. The man's body was found on Sunday at the bottom of a cliff on the island. The cause of his death is under investigation.

Immigration officials say a small group of Iranian detainees staged a peaceful protest following

the asylum seeker's death, but other detainees then began damaging the property, lighting several small fires and prompting guards to retreat.

The people leading the unrest were not believed to be asylum seekers, but detainees who are being held at the facility due to their visas being canceled, immigration officials said. AP

Esther Htusan and Vijay Joshi,
Yangon

MYANMAR

Opposition: government delaying results deliberately

MYANMAR opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party, which appears headed for a massive election victory, accused the government election panel yesterday of intentionally delaying results, saying it may be trying "to play a trick."

However, in an interview with the BBC, Suu Kyi did not repeat the claims by her party, only noting that the military-backed government has promised to respect the will of the people. She also said the party expects to win around 75 percent of the seats in Parliament.

The surprising accusation by the National League for Democracy added a worrying twist to what had been an amicable election, with the ruling party appearing to be taking its expected loss gracefully after the Sunday vote.

"The Union Election Commission has been delaying intentionally because maybe they want to play a trick or something," NLD spokesman Win Htien told reporters at Suu Kyi's house after a party meeting. "It doesn't make sense that they are releasing the results piece by piece. It shouldn't be like that."

"They are trying to be crooked," he added.

Nearly two full days after voting ended, the election commission, which did not immediately respond to the accusation, has released results for only 83 seats in the 664-member Parliament, giving 74 to the NLD and four to the ruling party.

Based on its own counting, the NLD has claimed victory in 154 of the 164 seats in four of the country's 14 states. In addition, the commission announced that the NLD had won 11 of 15 seats in four regional parliaments.

The accusation raises questions about the intentions of the ruling Union Solidarity Development Party, which is beholden to the military that ruled the country with an iron grip from 1962 until 2011.

AP PHOTO



Supporters of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party cheer as they watch the results of the general election on an LED screen displayed outside the party's headquarters Monday

Since 2011, the USDP, largely made up of former junta members, has been led by President Thein Sein, a former general who has been praised for beginning political and economic reforms to end Myanmar's isolation and jump-start its moribund economy.

It is also disconcerting because in 1990 elections, which the NLD won overwhelmingly, the junta refused to recognize the results.

In the BBC interview, Suu Kyi was asked why, given the events of 1990, things will be different this time.

"They've been saying repeatedly they'll respect the will of the people and that they will implement the results of the election," she said.

She also said the people are far more aware now than in 1990.

"The times are different, the people are different ... very much more alert to what is going on around them. And then of course there's the communications revolution which has made a huge difference. Everybody gets on to the net and informs everybody else of what is happening, and so it's much more difficult for those who wish to engage in irregularities to get away with it," she said.

Observers also believe that the military had little to gain by interfering again, because as part of reforms to allow gradual democracy it has already secured its position with constitutionally guaranteed powers.

For example, no matter who forms the government, the military gets to keep control of the ministries of defense, interior and border security. It controls large parts of the national economy. Also, the military can block constitutional

amendments because 25 percent of the seats in Parliament are reserved for it. Amendments require more than a 75 percent vote.

■ Suu Kyi said the party expects to win around 75 percent of the seats in Parliament

The NLD is widely expected to finish with the most seats in Parliament. A two-thirds majority would give it control over the executive posts under Myanmar's complicated parliamentary-presidency system.

The military and the largest parties in the upper house and the lower house will each nominate a candidate for president. After Jan. 31, all 664 legislators will cast ballots and the top vote-getter will become president, while the other two will be vice presidents. A massive majority in Parlia-

ment would allow the NLD to take the presidency and one of the vice president slots.

Capturing the presidency and Parliament would give the NLD power over legislation, economic policy and foreign relations. But a constitutional provision bars anyone with a foreign spouse or child from being president or vice president, meaning Suu Kyi, 70, is not eligible for those posts. Her two sons are British, as was her late husband.

Suu Kyi has said, however, that she will act as the country's leader if the NLD wins the presidency, saying she will be "above the president."

In a reflection of the reverence that many people here have for Suu Kyi, a woman in her 70s came to her house yesterday to give the opposition leader a ruby brooch set in gold, shaped like Myanmar's map.

Htay Htay Aye told reporters, "I've kept this brooch for more than 40 years but it's time for her to wear it. This is a present for her victory."

Suu Kyi was in a meeting and couldn't meet the woman. "But I left her that present. It's not because we are friends, it's only because I respect her," Htay Htay Aye said. **AP**

CARTER CENTER FINDS VOTING FAIR

A TEAM of election observers led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's grandson says that while the voting process in Myanmar's election on Sunday was a success, the country's transition to democracy remains incomplete. The Carter Center said in a statement issued yesterday that it fielded 62 monitors who observed 245 polling stations, and found the voting and counting process to be generally well-conducted. It described the elections in most areas as "competitive and meaningful."

The group noted several problems with the process, however, including barring members of the country's Rohingya minority from voting, a lack of transparency in the advance voting process and inconsistency in making preliminary results available at the constituency level.

Jason Carter also highlighted "serious flaws in the overall constitutional framework," a reference to provisions in the military-imposed charter that reserve powers for the army at the expense of the elected.

BREXIT

Cameron: UK wants 'irreversible' changes to EU

Jill Lawless, London

BRITISH Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday officially outlined his government's demands for European Union reforms, saying they aren't "Mission Impossible."

Cameron said the European Union must agree to "irreversible changes" — and limit freedom of movement by allowing the U.K. to restrict benefits for migrants from other member states — as part of the broad reform package he seeks.

Britain will hold a referendum by the end of 2017 on whether to leave the 28-nation EU. Cameron says he wants to stay in, provided he can secure greater autonomy for Britain. He called the vote



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron delivers a speech on EU reform and the UK's renegotiation, at Chatham House in London

the most important Britons will face "in our lifetimes."

Cameron outlined his demands yesterday in a speech in London and a letter to European Council President Donald Tusk, marking the formal opening of what is expected to be a difficult campaign for concessions from other European leaders. He admitted that getting the other 27 nations to agree would be a major challenge.

After outlining the demands, the European Commission said some of the issues raised by Cameron are "highly problematic."

Cameron told an audience at the Chatham House think-tank that Britain wants change in four areas, including protection for countries such

as Britain that don't use the euro single currency, less red tape and greater power for national parliaments to opt out of rules made by the Brussels-based EU.

"We are a proud, independent nation. We intend to stay that way," Cameron said, stressing that Britain wanted a "clear, legally binding and irreversible" exemption from the EU's commitment to an ever-closer union.

Most contentiously, Cameron said Britain wants to "tackle abuses of the right to free movement, and enable us to control migration from the European Union." He said Britain wants to bar EU migrants from receiving tax credits and other benefits paid to working people during their first four years in Britain.

That is likely to be a tough sell with some EU leaders, who see free movement of labor, as well as of goods, as a cornerstone of the bloc.

"We don't want to destroy that principle," Cameron said. "But freedom of movement has never been an unqualified right." AP

ANIMAL RIGHTS

SeaWorld says it will end orca shows by 2017 amid backlash

Julie Watson and Mike Schneider, San Diego

SEAWORLD will end orca shows at its San Diego park after visitors at the tourist attraction made it clear they prefer seeing killer whales act naturally rather than doing tricks, the company's top executive said Monday.

CEO Joel Manby told investors the park — where the iconic "Shamu" show featuring killer whales doing flips and other stunts debuted decades ago — will offer a different kind of orca experience focusing on the animal's natural setting and behaviors, starting in 2017.

Animal rights activists called the move a marketing gimmick and want the company to phase out holding any whales in captivity.

"An end to SeaWorld's tawdry circus-style shows is inevitable and necessary, but it's captivity that denies these far-ranging orcas everything that is natural and important to them," said Jared Goodman of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. "This move is like no longer whipping



In this Nov. 30 2006 file photo, Kasatka the killer whale performs during SeaWorld's Shamu show in San Diego

lions in a circus act but keeping them locked inside cages for life."

The Orlando, Florida-based company has seen revenue drop since the 2013 release of the documentary "Blackfish" that examined how orcas respond to captivity. It chronicles the case of Tilikum, a killer whale that caused the death of trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010 by pulling her into a pool at SeaWorld Orlando.

Attendance has dropped the most at the San Diego location, and the decision to end orca shows will be limited for now to that park, the original home of Shamu, its first orca.

The shows will continue at the other two SeaWorld parks in San Antonio and Orlando.

The killer whale shows at the Shamu stadium in San Diego were the park's main draw in the 1970s and helped build SeaWorld as a top tourist attraction. Trainers would ride the whales in the giant pool before getting out and signaling for the orca to slap its tail in the water to splash spectators in a "splash zone."

After Brancheau's death, trainers stopped going in the water during the shows, but they continue to swim with the killer whales while training them. AP

TURKEY

EU report chides Ankara on human rights, freedoms

THE European Union yesterday severely criticized Turkey for a series of flaws in its respect for human rights and democratic standards at a time when the bloc is looking to Ankara to help deal with the migrant crisis.

In an annual report to prepare for possible Turkish membership, the EU said that on political issues "the pace of reforms slowed down," adding that some key legislation "ran against European standards."

The full report, obtained yesterday by The Associated Press, also said that "major shortcomings remain" when it comes to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The release of the report had been delayed so as not to influence elections last week.

In an initial assessment for the European Parliament, EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn told legislators that "over the past year, significant shortcomings affected the independence of the judiciary as well as freedom of assembly and freedom of expression."

He specifically cited "increased pressure and intimidation of journalists and media outlets" on top of the muzzling of internet reporting.

After a decade when the EU had the upper hand in membership talks, the bloc now needs Turkey to deal with the migrant crisis since it is a key nation on the way between Syria and the European heartland where migrants have sought shelter.

The EU is already in talks with



Migrants heading to Germany after crossing the German-Austrian border near Wegscheid, Germany

Ankara on an action plan to help ease the Syrian refugee crisis, with the EU holding out a package that would involve 3 billion euros (USD3.4 billion) in aid. The EU report said that Turkey had already spent over 6.7 billion euros (\$7.2 billion) to manage the hosting of some 2 million refugees from Syria.

If Turkey is better able to keep the migrants from crossing into Greece and into the EU's heartland, the pressure on EU nations would be relieved. Yet, such considerations did not stop the EU from criticizing Ankara.

Instead of coming closer to EU standards on democratic principles, it said, there is "significant backsliding in the areas of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly."

It said corruption in Turkey remains widespread and its fight against it "inadequate." AP

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what's ON



FRINGE: ABSTRACTIONS

TIME: 4pm-4:30pm (November 11; Ruins of St. Paul's); 4pm-4:30pm (November 14; Senado Square)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

FRINGE: PLAY GAMES – DRAMA

TIME: 8pm-9pm
DATE: November 11-12, 2015
VENUE: Old Court Building
ADMISSION: MOP50
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

NOTABLE COUPLE – ARTEFACTS FROM SUN WAN, DR. SUN YAT-SEN'S SECOND DAUGHTER, AND HER HUSBAND, TAI ENSAI
TIME: 10am-6pm (Ticket booth closes 5:30pm; Closed on Mondays; Open on public holidays)
UNTIL: January 10, 2016
VENUE: Exhibition Gallery, 3rd floor, Macau Museum, No. 112 Praceta do Museu de Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

THE ART OF LINGNAN SCHOOL – CHINESE PAINTINGS BY LAI MING

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

WESTERN VIEWS ON CHINA: PAINTS OF THE 19TH CENTURY ABOUT CHINA

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

FASHION POP-UP SHOP

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

Offbeat

MAN TO PLAY ICONIC LEAD IN 'HELLO DOLLY'

A Boca Raton production of "Hello Dolly" is breaking ground with a male taking on the iconic lead role made famous by Carol Channing and Barbra Streisand.

Boca Raton's Wick Theatre had to get special permission from composer Jerry Herman. The Sun-Sentinel reports it will be the first production in the U.S. where the role of Dolly Levi has been played by a man. Danny La Rue took on the role in England in 1982. This time around, Lee Roy Reams is stepping into the part.

Reams starred opposite Channing twice in the Tony-award winning show and has even directed it.

The musical tells the story of a matchmaker who sweeps into the staid lives of a Yonkers store owner and his staff, as well as two ladies in a New York millinery. The show runs through Dec. 6.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:15	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeat)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Bernie Ecclestone Formula One & The Offshore Billions
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
01:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

05 Nov - 11 Nov



007 - SPECTRE

ROOM 1
2.15, 6.45, 9.30 pm
Director: Sam Mendes
Starring: Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 148min

ARE YOU HERE

ROOM 1
5.00 pm
Director: Jill Wong
Starring: Nina Paw, Helena Law, Susan Shaw
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 86min

OUR TIMES

ROOM 2
2.15, 4.45, 7.15 pm
Director: Ding Sheng
Starring: Andy Lau, Liu Ye, Wu Ruofu, Wang Qianyuan
Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)
Duration: 134min

ARE YOU HERE

ROOM 2
9.45 pm
Director: Jill Wong
Starring: Nina Paw, Helena Law, Susan Shaw
Language: Chinese (Cantonese and English)
Duration: 86min



SHE REMEMBERS, HE FORGETS

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Wong Say Ping
Starring: Miriam Yeung, Jan Lamb
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 110min

MACAU TOWER

05 Nov - 25 Nov

007 - SPECTRE

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Sam Mendes
Starring: Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 148min

this day in history



1992 CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOTES FOR WOMEN PRIESTS

Women fighting for the right to be Anglican priests are celebrating a narrow victory.

After a five-and-a-half hour debate the General Synod - the Church of England's parliament - passed the controversial legislation by a margin of only two votes.

There were jubilant scenes among supporters outside Church House in Westminster, London, when the decision was announced.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who had backed the proposal said he recognised the result would not please everyone.

"What binds us together in God's love as a Church is vastly more important than a disagreement about women's ordination," Dr Carey said.

But the Reverend Peter Geldard, who opposed women priests, warned the decision would "pit diocese against diocese, parish against parish and parishioner against parishioner".

The Church of England currently allows women to serve as deacons which means they can perform baptisms, marriages, and burials.

However, they are not allowed to give communion or administer any of the other sacraments.

The issue of whether to ordain women as priests has divided the Church since it was first debated 17 years ago.

Traditionalist priests and bishops have threatened to resign over the issue.

More than 1,000 priests are expected to leave in the next few years and an opposition group, Cost of Conscience, is planning to form breakaway groups.

One high-profile opponent of women priests is government minister Ann Widdecombe who recently left the Church of England.

Ms Widdecombe, who accused the Church of "promoting political correctness above the very clear teachings of Scripture", said she was considering becoming a Roman Catholic.

About 1,400 women deacons are waiting to be ordained priests.

It is not expected any ordination of women will take place for at least a year as the change first needs to be approved by parliament.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The ordination of women in the Church of England began in March 1994.

By the year 2000 about 1,700 women were working as Anglican priests.

A report in the same year revealed many women priests suffered harassment and nearly half of male clergy refused to take communion from them.

In 1993 Ann Widdecombe became a Roman Catholic. A year later former Environment Secretary John Gummer also converted in protest at women priests.

The debate in the Church of England has now moved on to whether women should be allowed to become bishops.

So far only Anglican churches in the USA, Canada and New Zealand have women bishops.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You already know how to count your blessings, especially if there's someone worse off than you in view. Of course, today there is, but with a twist. You have no idea who is who. Regard everyone with interest.

Taurus April 20-May 20 How can you turn desperation into excitement? There is a way, and it doesn't involve a top hat or a magic wand. Putting things into perspective should be the first step in your new routine.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're getting dangerously close to being too overwhelmed to function. Get a grip on yourself. Imagining someone else finishing all of your pet projects should be sobering enough for you. Then get a move on.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You like to stay active, so sitting back, watching and waiting are real work for you. But that's what the times call for. Be extra careful about starting any new projects.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Don't count on getting your financial needs met by others. Friends can only do so much. But don't give up just yet on taking care of yourself, either. Caution and confidence are a good combination.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Go ahead, play mind games with yourself, as long as you're realistic when it comes to the numbers. Tell yourself this is but a minor set back if that's what helps you continue trying.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 What passes for a super day changes all the time. Flirting with disaster has a way of altering your perspective a bit. You'll be happy with the way things unfold, even if it's as simple as balancing your checkbook.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 At least you're not unconsciously shooting yourself in the foot. This time the problem is bigger than you and your subliminal sidearm. In fact, the world economy is your new perfect excuse.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You can't help but be tuned in to the big picture now, if you weren't in the past. Even so, decisions involving money and investing are as difficult as ever. Make sure you think through all aspects.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 If you thrive on challenges, then you couldn't be living through a better time. Keep focusing all of your energy on work, even if it feels like you're not getting anywhere. Oh, and enjoy.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 No matter how intellectual you are, it takes time to process the changes you've been through. You won't feel like a new person overnight, but you will feel good soon. In fact, expect a bit of the better emotions today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You may think you've picked the wrong path, but that is foolish. You're simply stuck in a patch of thickets. Did I mention the thorns? You'll make your way out the other side, a few scrapes and scratches notwithstanding.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Table with 3 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

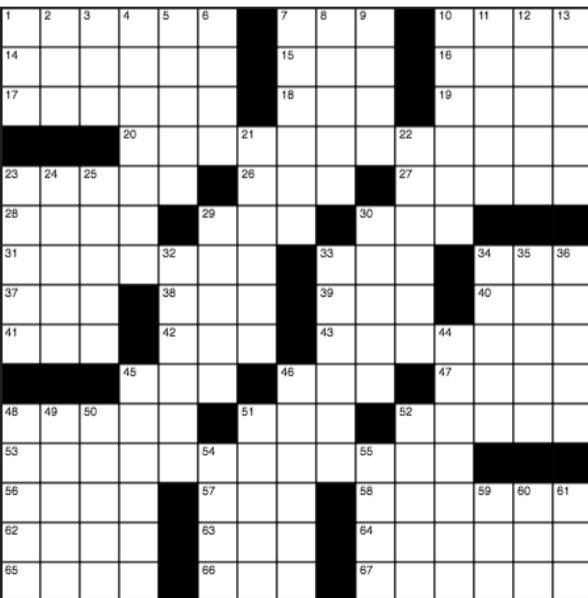
WORLD

Table with 3 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- End of a threat; 7- Grads-to-be; 10- Burmese, Manx, and Scottish Fold; 14- Disavowal; 15- Covering for the head; 16- Immensely; 17- Wide street; 18- Second sequel tag; 19- Dr. Zhivago's love; 20- Peculiarity; 23- Sordid; 26- ABA member; 27- Floating bombs; 28- ___ girl!; 29- Sis's sib; 30- Tic ___ Dough; 31- Intimate ballad; 33- Slow run; 34- Switch settings; 37- Fam. member; 38- Chopping tool; 39- ___ we there yet?; 40- ___ Dawn Chong; 41- Before; 42- Gave grub; 43- Spirit; 45- ___ Cruces; 46- In the past; 47- Bud of "Harold and Maude"; 48- Less outgoing; 51- Litigate against; 52- Bony prefix; 53- Juice aroma enhancer; 56- Burrows and Vigoda; 57- Scooby-___; 58- Biases; 62- Make weary; 63- East ender?; 64- Untidy states; 65- Type of gun; 66- Skin color of Washington football players; 67- Indo-Europeans;

DOWN: 1- Harem room; 2- Accelerate; 3- Compass dir.; 4- Person who repairs telephone wires; 5- Impertinent; 6- Util. bill; 7- Religion of Japan; 8- Singer Bonnie; 9- Agitate; 10- Containing lime; 11- Actor Delon; 12- Rich cake; 13- Remains; 21- Merited; 22- Likenesses; 23- ___ bleu!; 24- Old anesthetic; 25- ___ of Two Cities; 29- Crates; 30- Trunk; 32- Adventurous expedition; 33- Hunter; 34- Ready ___; 35- Mother of pearl; 36- Handle; 44- Rapturous delight; 45- Reduce; 46- In reality; 48- Tiffs; 49- Nun wear; 50- Grenoble's river; 51- Night noise; 52- Crude carrier; 54- River to the Baltic; 55- West Point inits.; 59- Code-breaking org.; 60- X; 61- Draft org.



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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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
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THE STUDIO Macau
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GOLF

Ryder Cup carrot dangled in front of Knox

Doug Ferguson, Shanghai

RUSSELL Knox was the center of attention after winning the HSBC Champions, and not just with the sponsors.

After his press conference, he posed with four flight attendants from Emirates Airlines. Next up was a photo with the owner and executive staff of Casillero del Diablo, which supplied the wine for the week.

When he sat back down to sign flags and caps for HSBC, another man approached whom Knox did not recognize.

"Hello, Russell. I'm Keith Waters with the European Tour."

Waters is the chief operating officer, and he was equipped with all the answers Knox did not know and was too overwhelmed to ask at the moment — mainly, the process of becoming a European Tour member and how that relates to the Ryder Cup.

Sensing that the 30-year-old from Scotland was still trying to digest his first big win — a World Golf Championship, no less — Waters gave him a business card with his mobile number and told him he would be available any time. And there was one more thing.

"Also just so you know, Darren Clarke is going to be calling you," Waters said.

"We'll be in touch for sure,"



Russell Knox, center, of Scotland walks with his champion trophy during the award ceremony of the HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China

Knox replied with a grin.

Clarke is the European captain for the 2016 Ryder Cup at Hazeltine. Odds are, he has been on the phone with Matthew Fitzpatrick, Thomas Pieters and any other European who appears to have even a remote chance of qualifying.

To be realistic, Knox barely has that.

Is he interested in the Ryder Cup? Of course. Even though he has lived in Florida his entire professional life, he grew up in Inverness and is proud of his Scottish heritage. His sister, Diane, is a popular radio DJ in Scotland.

"Obviously, it's going to be a goal of mine to make the Euro-

pean Ryder Cup team, and this obviously springboards me to a place where ... I mean, yesterday I was nowhere near it," Knox said. "I have no idea where I stand on making the team or what I need to do. But I look forward to finding out and giving it a run, that's for sure."

Much will depend on what European Tour chief Keith Pelley announces next week in Dubai on a new membership policy.

One of the options is to require a minimum of five European Tour events (down from 13), but that number would not include the majors or WGCs. So it really would be no change at all, except for making it practical for players who have slipped

out of the top 50 — such as Luke Donald and Graeme McDowell — and no longer are automatically eligible for the eight biggest events in world golf.

For Knox, that would mean adding four tournaments to what he already plays.

Knox is among dozens of Europeans who live in America and play the majority of their golf on the PGA Tour. But his career is more closely in line with the likes of Carl Pettersson and Martin Laird than with McDowell, Ian Poulter or a resurgent Paul Casey.

Pettersson was born in Sweden and moved to North Carolina when he was in high school. Laird is from Glasgow, played at Colorado State and never went back to Europe until he already had his PGA Tour card. One year he played the Scottish Open at Loch Lomond, and a local radio reporter aware only of his accent innocently asked Laird why it had taken so long for him to do well on his home soil.

"This is my first event," Laird said.

Knox played 99 times on either the PGA Tour or the Web.com Tour before making his European Tour debut last year in the Scottish Open at Castle Stuart, not far from where he grew up. He played his first British Open this year — he was the alternate who replaced Rory McIl-

roy when he tore up his ankle playing soccer.

Knox was the only player keeping the third round from being completed Saturday evening at Sheshan International because he thought it was too dark to play the final hole. That led some in the British press to jokingly refer to him as the "American" because of the minor inconvenience. When he returned the next morning and made birdie, and then never lost the lead on Sunday, he became a Scot again.

It was all in good fun, but to be fair, only the diligent golf press in the U.K. knew much about Knox, and for good reason. This was his first win on any of the six main tours around the world. Knox had never been remotely close to the top 50 in the world until he won the HSBC Champions and shot all the way up to No. 31. Now he's the 10th-highest European in the world ranking.

He is guaranteed two majors (Masters, PGA Championship) and a WGC, and he's likely to get in the other two WGCs. Whether he takes up European Tour membership and makes a run at the Ryder Cup, Knox ultimately concluded that "it's a great problem to have."

Besides, it beats the alternative. "I always joked with my caddie that if I ever won," he said, "I was going to retire." AP

FOOTBALL

Pressure grows on Beckenbauer to speak out on corruption

PRESSURE is growing on Franz Beckenbauer to speak out on the latest corruption allegations surrounding the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

The former Bayern Munich great, who captained and coached Germany to World Cup titles, has been linked to disgraced former FIFA official Jack Warner in reports published yesterday. He was the 2006 bid's leading figure and the president of the committee.

One day after German soccer federation president Wolfgang Niersbach resigned, two German newspapers linked Beckenbauer to Warner, who was then a member of the FIFA executive committee.



Franz Beckenbauer

"We appeal to him (Beckenbauer) to bring himself more closely into the explanation of what happened," said Rainer Koch, one of the two caretaker presidents

after Niersbach's resignation.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung and Bild reported Tuesday that Beckenbauer's signature was on a draft contract with War-

ner, promising favors shortly before the vote on the host of the 2006 World Cup. Germany won the bid by one vote over South Africa in 2000.

Warner, who stepped down four years ago, has been suspended for life by the FIFA ethics committee and faces corruption charges in the United States, which is seeking his extradition from Trinidad and Tobago.

The two dailies said Beckenbauer's signature was on the draft contract, which was also initialed by his right-hand man, Fedor Radmann. They reportedly signed off on the document four days before the vote on the 2006 World Cup host. The contract promised Warner friendly matches and tickets.

Warner was at the time the president of the North American region, known as CONCACAF. AP

HORSE RACING

Pat Eddery, 11-time flat racing champion, dies at 63

PAT Eddery, the Irish jockey who was crowned flat-racing champion 11 times, has died. He was 63.

Racing manager Teddy Grimthorpe, who worked alongside Eddery throughout his career, confirmed the death yesterday, saying "everyone at Juddmonte (Farms) is very shocked and saddened by it."

The cause of death was not announced.

Eddery is one of the most successful jockeys of all time, having won more than 4,600 races in his career, including the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe four times. His 1986 victory, aboard Dancing Brave, is regarded as his most memorable.

Eddery also won 14 British Classics before retiring in 2003 and beginning a training career. AP



opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



WHY NO ONLINE GROCERY SHOPPING?

In many parts of the developed world people have been able to go online, shop for groceries and other things and have them home delivered for years. Every week, for example, I receive special wine deal emails and I take up one of the offers every few months, pay online and the wine is delivered to my father in Australia. However, this is still not possible in Macau, which is compact and densely populated and where we have one of the highest average incomes in Asia. The problem must be incompetence in the retail sector, the banking sector or the government, but in any case it is just not good enough and we should be demanding much better.

Home deliveries from most Macau supermarkets, wine merchants and some other shops has been possible for years. The major exception seems to be frozen goods because the home delivery trucks do not have freezer space, which is an easily solved problem if the demand is there. Thus, the problem is (mostly) not in the delivery infrastructure, which is quite inexpensive given the high population density in Macau.

It should also not be in the technology to set up online shopping portals. For years, Park 'n' Shop (see www.parknshop.com/WebShop/index.do) and the other major supermarket chains in Hong Kong have had extensive online presences where you can buy a long list of fresh, chilled and frozen foods and other items and get everything home delivered. Given that we have the same supermarket chain in Macau I am baffled as to why they have not replicated the Hong Kong system here.

There does seem to be a bank or monetary authority problem in that setting up online credit card payments in Macau. I know of several people who have asked local banks about doing this and they have been told it is not possible. Again, this is incomprehensible given that online credit card payments are very easy to do in Hong Kong, China and Portugal and the banks here are mostly subsidiaries of banks in these other places. Shopping cart software is also standard. Turbojet and some other companies offer online ferry ticket and other bookings in Macau, but they seem to be working through their Hong Kong offices. I suspect that the main problem lies with the Macau Monetary Authority, which is a totally unacceptable situation.

For years I have been saying that to add value and to enable economic diversification, Macau needs to be a showcase for high technology. When tourists come here they should feel that they are coming to the future, a showcase of what their home towns can aspire to be. Then, when tourists go home and start asking for a Macau level quality of life, Macau people can provide the expertise and products for other places in the region to upgrade themselves. Unfortunately, nowadays, many tourists must consider Macau to be a backwards "sleepy hollow".

Macau is small and rich so that it is relatively easy to achieve 21st century quality of life here - it just needs competence in the government to create a local economy that encourages and values creativity and innovation and a local business sector populated by people with vision and a willingness to invest. Sadly, both seem to be missing. We deserve better in Macau, but we will not get it until we demand it, so start making some noise about improving things in Macau. For starters, I would really like to be able to shop online in Macau, pay by credit card and have goods home delivered - is it too much to ask?

THE BUZZ UM SWIMMING TEAM MAKES A SPLASH

The University of Macau (UM) swimming team recently broke 8 records and won 11 gold medals and a silver at a national inter-varsity swimming competition. This year's five-day competition was the largest in its history, attracting 728 students from 59 universities, some of whom are members of the Chinese National Swimming Team.

This was the first time that UM has participated in the competition. Five UM students - Lo Wai Lam, Lei On Kei, Tan Chi Yan, Mak Chong Hun, and Chao Man Hou - won gold medals with "record-breaking performances" across eight swimming categories. In addition to individual awards, some of the UM students won events in medleys.

Rights groups issue concerns over four missing publishers



FOUR Hong Kong publishers, known for publishing books critical of the Chinese regime and the Chinese political elite, have been reported as missing, prompting human rights groups to issue statements expressing their concerns. The four missing publishers all worked for Sage Communications - a publisher and bookshop known for producing "sensationalistic" accounts of the political and private lives of top Chinese leaders and officials.

Two employees of the publishing group, Lu Bo and Zhang Zhiping, have not been seen since they went to visit family members on the mainland. Meanwhi-

le, the whereabouts of Lin Ronji, the manager of Sage Bookshop, are not known, according to Radio Free Asia.

Gui Haiming, the Swedish owner of Sage Communications, has not been heard from since he departed to Thailand to visit his holiday home.

Maya Wang, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in Hong Kong, said that it is not uncommon for the authorities of neighboring Asian countries to cooperate with mainland China when it comes to arrests and detentions. Myanmar and Thailand are believed to have cooperated on a number of occasions, such as in the case of Dong Guan-

ging, who was arrested in Thailand while applying for political asylum.

With regard to the four missing publishers, Wang said: "They all live in Hong Kong and we are very concerned about [them]."

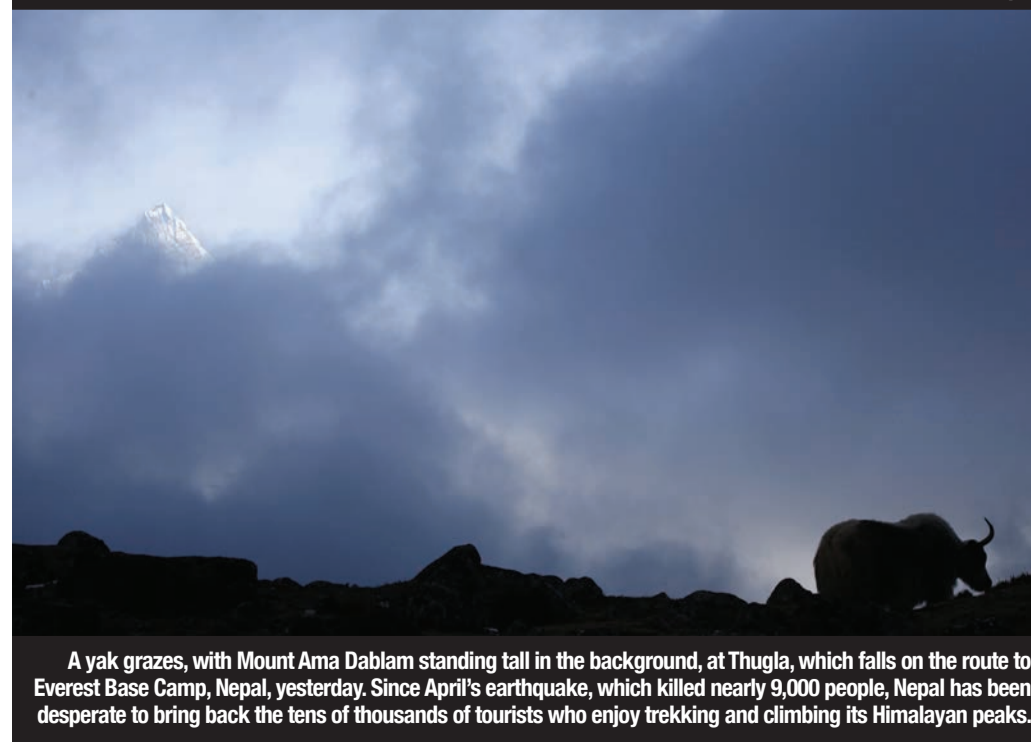
According to The Guardian, an anonymous member of the publishing industry told the newspaper that publishing in Hong Kong has become more challenging since the handover.

"We used to be fine in Hong Kong. Now we get menacing calls from people claiming to be mainland authorities, saying we have to stop publication. Self-censorship is becoming rampant," the source said.

The source also said that "Sage Communications [has] long been hated by the princelings, absolutely hated, because their books are so sensationalistic. They [Sage Communications] have been going to former mistresses asking them to write autobiographies, and in many cases they have also published made-up life stories of prominent politicians [...] they have been operating for years with no problems, but now the bookstore is getting into trouble." **Staff reporter**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Tashi Sherpa



A yak grazes, with Mount Ama Dablam standing tall in the background, at Thugla, which falls on the route to Everest Base Camp, Nepal, yesterday. Since April's earthquake, which killed nearly 9,000 people, Nepal has been desperate to bring back the tens of thousands of tourists who enjoy trekking and climbing its Himalayan peaks.

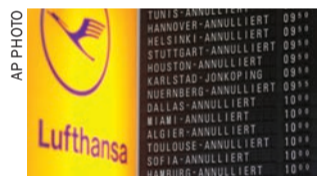
Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate	
Ambient	45-65 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



FRANCE Riot police and migrants camped near the French port of Calais have clashed in overnight violence that aid workers said reflects the growing frustration of refugees' inability to smuggle themselves aboard trucks and trains bound for England. Calais police said officers monitoring the 6,000-resident shantytown east of the port city were pelted with rocks after midnight Monday and again yesterday as migrants repeatedly tried to block a neighboring highway that leads to the main ferry terminal. They said 27 officers have suffered minor injuries, including 11 early yesterday.



GERMANY A union representing German flight attendants has called on its members to walk out on all Lufthansa flights from today. The announcement yesterday marks an escalation between the UFO union and the airline in a dispute over transition payments. The airline confirmed that all of its flights from Germany would be affected from 4 a.m. (0300 GMT) today until midnight Friday.

EGYPT A human rights advocate says Egyptian authorities have released a leading investigative journalist and human rights advocate who had been detained under accusations of spreading "false news." Heba Morayef, associate director of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, announced on social media yesterday the release of Hossam Bahgat, who was detained Sunday after being summoned to an intelligence building in Cairo.

JORDAN The Jordanian government spokesman says a shooting spree at a police training center that killed five people, including two American instructors, took place in a canteen in the compound. Monday's shooting also killed a South African and two Jordanians who were identified as translators by a news website close to the security forces. One of the Jordanians was to be buried yesterday. The assailant, a Jordanian police captain, was killed. The attack also wounded six people, including two Americans.