



### GP ORGANIZERS AWARE OF REGIONAL CHALLENGES

The gov't seeks to elevate the status of the MGP on the international stage amid emerging competition from neighboring regions

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

### CHINA-N KOREA

China's ambassador to the United Nations is opposing further discussion of North Korea's human rights situation by the U.N. Security Council, telling reporters that "the Security Council is not about human rights."

**CHINA-USA** The U.S. could consider criminal charges or sanctions against China if the U.S. determines hackers there are violating an agreement not to conduct economic cyber espionage on American industry, a senior Justice Department official said yesterday.

**INDIA** With the simple act of cooking causing some 4.3 million premature deaths worldwide, India is hoping to get everyone using clean-burning stoves by 2030. The effort should improve public health by clearing the air of lung-clogging soot. It could also help the climate by cutting back black carbon emissions, though that potential impact is hardly clear. *More on p12*

**AUSTRALIAN** Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was reminded of some harsh criticism he made of Prince Charles as the first in line to the British throne visited the Australian capital.

**AUSTRALIA** A shark has seriously injured a 20-year-old surfer in an attack off the Australian east coast. Sam Morgan's left thigh was mauled before sunset Tuesday at East Ballina, 745 kilometers north of Sydney.

**MALDIVES** The political crisis in the Maldives deepened with lawmakers voting to fire the country's chief public prosecutor after he refused to press corruption charges against the country's sacked vice president.

**AFGHANISTAN** A large demonstration is taking place in the Afghan capital Kabul to protest the killing of seven ethnic minority Hazaras, allegedly by the Taliban. Hundreds of people gathered in the rain west of the city yesterday and organizer Daud Naji said they would carry the bodies to the Presidential Palace. *More on p13*

More on backpage

# Casinos contest full smoking ban at the AL

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RENATO MARQUES

## British Consul memoirs depict Macau during WWII

P5 MDT REPORT





# Grand Prix organizers aware of regional challenges

Aries Un

**T**HE traditional blessing ceremony of the 62nd Macau Grand Prix (MGP) was held yesterday. The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, officiated the ceremony, stating that the government is seeking to elevate the status of the MGP on the international stage amid emerging competition from neighboring regions.

In addition to Singapore and Zhuhai, which boast their own international motorsport races, Macau faces a rising challenger from across the sea – Hong Kong, which is due to host its maiden Formula E race next October.

The secretary shrugged off possible threats from neighboring rivals, asserting that with more prospective initiatives to be rolled out, the Guia Circuit would always remain appealing to racers who are seeking a challenge.

“We have to forge Macau’s car races as a world-class brand,” Tam told media after a visit to the Grand Prix building facilities.

The official also stated that the region’s F3 race has always been considered a



Costa Antunes (left) and Alexis Tam (center)

springboard for burgeoning hopefuls on their way to becoming prominent Formula One drivers.

“For those young racers, they have to come to race in Macau if they want to achieve fame,” said Tam. “Macau is a cradle for them.”

“About two months ago, British racer Lewis Hamilton even publicly said in an interview that he thinks Macau is the best track in the world,” he added, while stressing that almost half of the current 21 F1 racing drivers have been challenged

by the Guia Circuit.

Every year around this time, criticism from some citizens pours in because of the citywide gridlock caused by the annual motor race. However, Tam asked for people to be tolerant in recognition of the benefits to Macau’s tourism.

This year, the government is for the first time allowing civil servants to travel to work between 8 to 10 a.m. on the first two days of the MGP in an effort to alleviate the traffic congestion in the morning. “I believe it will significantly improve the traffic

during the Grand Prix period,” said Tam.

With the 62nd edition of the event one week away, ticket sales have topped those of last year by 30 percent, amounting to over MOP7 million, according to João Manuel Costa Antunes, who will be heading the race’s organizing committee for the last time.

This year’s organizers have optimized facilities for physically disabled visitors to make attendance more convenient for them, the visit revealed.

# Airport exhibits F3 racing vehicles

**T**o mark the 62nd Macau Grand Prix taking place this month, the Macau International Airport is displaying a Formula 3 racing car and a motorbike from the same competition at the airport’s arrival and departure halls. The exhibition is being held in cooperation with the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) and the Macau Grand Prix Committee.

The racing units are being displayed in the airport’s departure hall, arrival hall and baggage claim areas between November 10 and 23.

According to the Macau International Airport, the exhibition offers car enthusiasts, residents and travelers a close-up view of the race car. In addition, it serves as a welcome to those who are visiting the region to attend the long Grand Prix weekend.

The displayed Formula 3 racing car was the winning car driven by Japanese racer Takuma Sato to claim the championship in the 2001 Formula 3 cup race. The motorbike was driven by John McGuinness, a British racer who won the 2001 Macau Grand Prix motorcycle race.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Oxford Economics responds to critics on illicit tobacco report

Dear Editor,

We are writing to you on behalf of Oxford Economics and the International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC) regarding the article “Report ‘One in three cigarettes illegal’ findings questioned by experts” published on 5 November in the Macau Daily Times.

By its very nature, measuring illicit trade in any good or service is an imperfect science. However, you cannot successfully combat any illegal activity without first identifying where the problem lies. To this end, the purpose of the Asia Illicit Tobacco Indicator series is to provide policymakers and administrators an objective and independent annual benchmark on illicit tobacco trade and its impact on

government revenues.

The methodology employed for the Asia Illicit Tobacco Indicator series was developed following a thorough review of alternative methods as detailed in the wider economic literature, and all available data in the individual markets covered in the report. It is our opinion that the Empty Pack Survey is the most unbiased and robust method for estimating illicit tobacco consumption, and therefore represents the preferred method used in the Asia Illicit Tobacco Indicator series, including in Macau. The results from the Empty Pack Survey are augmented with our own conservative estimates on the volume of legal non-domestic cigarettes consumed, in order to estimate the total volume of illicit consumption in each

market. For more information, and in a desire to be open and transparent, we continue to expand on the detailed Annex pages that accompany all our reports, and we encourage you to review these in detail.

We have always been upfront about how the research is funded, and as independent organizations, we have maintained full editorial control throughout.

Furthermore, we welcome open debate on the subject and reiterate our desire to engage with any interested stakeholders to share experience and best practices in measuring illicit trade, and raise awareness of what we can all agree is a serious issue across Asia. Indeed, in relation to the comments detailed in your 5 November article, we have previously

contacted SEATCA in a bid to facilitate this discussion.

A reduction in the level of illicit tobacco trade across Asia would benefit all interested stakeholders, including legitimate tax-paying manufacturers, as well as government and public health officials, and the wider general public. As such, we thank you for your interest in our research, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,  
Scott Livermore  
Managing Director, Macroeconomic and Industry Services, Oxford Economics

Daniel A. Witt  
President, International Tax and Investment Center

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# Full smoking ban could jeopardize social welfare, casinos claim

**M**ACAU'S six casino operators yesterday presented the complete KPMG study into the proposed smoking ban to the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, arguing that a total ban could negatively impact GDP, while compromising social welfare in the SAR, and even jeopardizing Macau's position as a global destination for tourism and leisure.



The study concluded that if a complete smoking ban is ordered, Macau's GDP could drop substantially, by another 16 percent. Casino operators argued that a drop in GDP and a loss of subsequent tax revenue could impact the city's social welfare in the long run. They pointed out that vital public services, such as health and education, are all supported by revenue from MSAR taxes.

The effect could also reach SMEs, the report says, since such companies make up 99.7 percent of Macau's businesses and typically serve tourism or tourism-related sectors, such as food and beverage and transportation. The operators urged legislators "to take objective views and carefully consider all of the implications that an enactment of a full smoking ban could have for Macau's economy".

The six operators maintained their position that ventilated smoking lounges in casinos would be a more suitable alternative to a full smoking ban. They released the initial results of the report in June, including information about the proportion of employees and customers who are in support of the retention of smoking lounges.

The report found that 66 percent of employees and 71 percent of customers favored the retention of smoking lounges in casinos. In addition, the operators concurred that since the smoking ban on mass gaming floors was implemented last year in October, feedback on smoking lounges from employees and customers has reportedly been mostly positive. **Staff reporter**

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## SMOKING LOUNGES SUFFICIENT, OPERATORS ARGUE

**CHAN CHAK Mo**, who presides over the AL's Second Standing Committee, stated at the end of the meeting that gaming operators strongly believe that the independent ventilation system for smoking lounges installed at the gaming venues is sufficient to protect the health of employees. "This is what they say about whether or not to keep smoking areas. They would allow employees to choose whether they want to work in the smoking areas. Employees working in smoking areas would receive a higher salary – that's a point that has come up many times already," he said.

Furthermore, Tam called on the public to offer the bureau head an opportunity to provide an explanation, as she might not even be aware of the misappropriated funds.

In a statement released shortly after the report came in, DSEJ that it "fully respects the report."

"[We] will carry out a study in a responsible manner and swiftly adopt measures to make improvements in order to ensure the legal and effective use of the grants," the statement reads.

Asked whether he would impose a penalty on the management at the bureau, as the authorities were negligent in their management, Tam continued to support the bureau and dismissed the punishment as unnecessary.

In 2012, a report also from the watchdog highlighted the bureau's problematic monitoring of the Continuing Education Development Program, which was introduced the year before to encourage locals to broaden their knowledge. Malpractice by authorities has cost the public coffer MOP17.13 million. This time the commission pointed out that the government has lost track of MOP28 million due to the bureau's laxity.

## Residential mortgage loans slow, commercial on the rise

According to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau, the number of new approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) declined, while those of commercial real estate loans (CRELs) experienced an increase in September. For September 2015, the number of new RMLs approved by banks in Macau fell by 35.3 percent month-on-month to MOP 3.6 billion, of which 96.7 percent was extended to residents. When compared with the same period last year, new approvals of RMLs have fallen by 20.6 percent. Meanwhile, new CRELs increased by 7.8 percent month-on-month, bringing the total value to MOP 10.5 billion, of which 99.5 percent was granted to residents. However, in a year-on-year comparison, new approvals of CRELs are up by 116.9 percent. In terms of outstanding balances, RMLs reached MOP 170.2 billion in September, up by 15.9 percent from one year earlier, while CRELs were up by 33 percent over the same period, to MOP 153.8 billion.

## Pedro Cardoso heads European Chamber of Commerce



The Macau European Chamber of Commerce announced the election of the board's new president and vice-president at an Extraordinary General Council Meeting. Pedro Cardoso, the chief executive officer of Banco Nacional Ultramarino, replaces Franklin Willemyns, who is retiring after leading

the Chamber from 2013 to 2015. Kevin Thompson, college master of Moon Chun Memorial College, was elected as the new vice president. Tony Un, Filipe Cunha Santos and Andrew Evans have secured their existing posts as executive vice-president, secretary and treasurer respectively. Niall Murray and Lino Ho will both remain as vice-presidents.

## Police bust pyramid scheme targeting locals

The Public Security Police Force has busted a ring that had allegedly enrolled 100 people into a pyramid scheme. The mastermind, among the eight women aged between 40 and 64 who were arrested, has been making illegal profits from the sale of skincare and nutrition products and enlisting members into the group. All of the suspects are local residents, excluding one Hong Konger. The group was said to specifically lure locals by promising attractive bonuses, dividends and discounts. The police believe that more people could be involved in the business model, which has made at least RMB1 million for the ring.

## UM hosts 13th Portuguese Speech Contest

The University of Macau (UM) Faculty of Arts and Humanities recently held the 13th Portuguese Speech Contest, an annual event organized by the UM's Department of Portuguese. Several higher education institutions in Macau sent four of their best Portuguese-speaking students to the competition. Finalists were required to make speeches relating to the quote "What is essential is invisible to the eyes," taken from the classic French novel, "The Little Prince." Cristiano Xie Mingzhi, from the Macau University of Science and Technology won this year's championship, with Lee Li Ruiping, Nuno Chan Chi Keong and Celia Lam Lai San coming as runners-up. The contest aims to provide a platform for local college students to showcase their skills in the language, as well as to encourage other students to take an interest in learning Portuguese.

## Alexis Tam applauds DSEJ after accusations from watchdog

**Aries Un**

**T**HE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, yesterday lauded the efforts of the Director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), Leong Lai, following a report from the Commission of Audit (CA) that slammed the bureau's flawed oversight that allowed for overcharging at private schools and the mishandling of government subsidies.

The senior official said that he welcomed the agency's criticisms, which he thought could result in the strengthening of management among not only the education authorities but also among other departments under his supervision.

"We need to take the lead to make all other departments understand that public money has to be spent properly," he said on the sidelines of a visit.

The audit report's findings iden-

tify that the DSEJ was not strict in attaining proof of expenses from schools, and therefore not acting in line with the approved regulations. In 29 of the analyzed subsidy plan reports, various irregularities were found, including millions of patacas in unverified expenses.

Before meeting Leong in the afternoon to discuss the CA report, Tam already told media that her [Leong's] contribution and endeavors in formulating policies over the years should not be overshadowed by a single incidence of "negligence."

Yet, he still admitted responsibility for the issues noted in the report and urged the department to keep a closer eye on how private schools spent government funds.

"I think it could have been handled better, more scrupulously and cautiously," said Tam. "Therefore in the future I will require our bureau head to do a better job."



# Gov't profiting from illicit monthly parking fees



Comendador Ho Yin Garden car park

**T**HE government had been receiving part of the profits made by the Comendador Ho Yin Garden parking lot through its illegally issued monthly passes over the years, the management firm Macau Forehap Parking Management Limited has revealed to the media.

An investigation into the arbitrary launch of the unauthorized service without permission from the authorities is being completed, after the firm admitted to issuing unlicensed monthly passes.

However, Transport Bureau director Lam Hin San told media yesterday morning after a TDM call-in program that it was too early to comment on the allegations before the authorities had fully completed their investigation. "Initially, we haven't seen in Forehap's report mentioning the monthly passes, but we

will continue to look into the allegations," he said.

The preliminary inquiry suggests that the group has raked in a total of MOP8.7 million through the illegal business since its conception in May 2012, in contrast with the initial estimation of MOP9.17 million.

The concession reached between the authorities and the firm mandates that 61 percent of the latter's income from the car park is passed on to the government, Lam also noted.

In addition, following the opening of a new center for old cars test next year, vehicles up to or over 8 years old will have to undergo a mandatory checkup, starting from 2017. The authorities are now working on the refurbishment of the center, added Lam.

When the new regulations are in place, it is expected that the number of vehicles in the territory will fall.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

# Population increases slightly

**M**ACAU'S total population for the end of the third quarter of 2015 was 643,100, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). This is a slight increase of 200 from the previous quarter. The slowdown in growth is being attributed to a low increase in the number of non-resident workers living in Macau, of which there are now 180,751, an increase of 228 over the previous quarter.

The female population of Macau accounted for 50.8 percent of the total, or 236,800 persons. There were 1,819 live births delivered in the third quarter for 2015, an increase of 9.4 percent quarter-to-quarter. The male-to-female ratio of newborns in the quarter stood at 107.4, meaning that 107.4 male babies were born for every 100 female ba-



bies. In the first three quarters of 2015, a total of 5,193 live births were recorded, slightly down by 81 year-on-year.

Meanwhile, deaths totaled 490, with a slight increase of 10 quarter-to-quarter. The top three underlying causes of death were neoplasms (188), diseases of the circulatory system (107) and diseases of the respiratory system (80).

In the third quarter of 2015, there were 1,982 Chinese im-

migrants and 405 individuals granted right of abode, up by 316 and 20 respectively from the previous quarter. The total number of non-resident workers (180,751) increased by 228 from the previous quarter.

A total of 862 marriages were registered in the third quarter, while for the first three quarters of 2015 combined there were 2,753 registrations, down by 316 year-on-year.

# Architecture Promenade records 1,700 participants

**T**HE Macau Architecture Promenade (MAP) welcomed over 1,700 participants to a series of 38 activities over the course of a month, which were divided into categories as diverse as "Books and Conversations", "Workshops and Laboratories", and "Movies and Projections."

The MAP, which highlights the role of architecture and art in culture, society and city life, this year held its activities from October 10 to November 6. The organization was coordinated by Babel, a non-profit cultural organization based in Macau, which offered a diverse set of local organizations the opportunity to use the MAP as a platform for their

own programs and activities.

According to a press release, the group stimulated collaboration between around 40 local organizations, including private and public firms, cultural and sports associations, and museums. In addition they stated that their digital content had received 36,000 views, the viewers of which were mostly between the ages of 20 and 45, and came primarily from Macau and Portugal, with significant engagement from those hailing from Hong Kong, the UK, Switzerland, Germany, Spain and Brazil.

Among the events held at the MAP was the popular "Playland" – an artistic initiative by LIKEarchitects - which

was held in the outer space of the Macao Science Center. More than 500 children were reported to have participated in the activity throughout its display weekend on October 24 and 25.

The "Bodies in Urban Spaces" performance in the city center of Macau was shared 1200 times on the cyber platform WeChat, and viewed 18,042 times on Facebook. In total, between Facebook "likes" and "shares", Babel estimates an engagement of more than 7,000 people.

As the Times reported previously, MAP also featured the book "Macau Sessions – Dialogues on Architecture and Society" by Tiago Quadros, with photographs by Ieong Man Pan. The book will later be presented during a talk at a Hong Kong and Shenzhen bi-city biennale of architecture urban planning. **Staff reporter**

AD

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Renato Marques

**C**OLIN Day was in town to speak about the findings that inspired his most recent publication, entitled "The Lone Flag: Memoir of the British Consul in Macau during World War II."

Mr Day explained during a dinner event promoted by the British Business Association of Macau that the book depicts John Pownall Reeves, a British consul in what was at the time the Portuguese colony of Macau from 1941 to 1946, the late years of the Second World War (WWII). The editor is an academic publisher who worked in both Britain and the USA before becoming a publisher for the Hong Kong University Press and later also a consultant to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

The book is based on the written reports of the British consul immediately after he left Macau to return home. During his next posting (in Rome), he wrote an account of his extraordinary years in the neutral enclave, which was surrounded by Japanese-held territory.

The core of the book is John Reeves' memoir of those years and his tireless efforts to provide food, shelter and medical care for the region's refugees. He coped with many challenges, as people faced starvation, including locals. Despite the territory's neutrality, it was thoroughly infiltrated by Japanese agents and rife with assassinations. Day also had to navigate the complexities of multiple intelligence agencies—British, Portuguese, Japanese, and Chinese Nationalist—in a place that was described at those times as 'the Casablanca of the Far East'.

According to Mr Day, Macau's exceptional position during WWII and its history during those years have been hardly studied. "John Reeves' memoir is an important contribution to our knowledge of this unique place at that time" because "we have a lot on the topic of Macau in the 18th and 19th century but the 20th century is not very well studied yet," he said.

Mr Reeves' main task was to

# British Consul memoirs depict Macau during WWII



Colin Day



This painting depicts a street scene in Macau during WWII

provide relief to the approximately 10,000 people who crossed the Pearl River from Hong Kong to take refuge in Macau and who had a claim for support from the British Consul.

**A place like Macau of the 1940s took in about 400,000 [refugees] and that really puts such an extraordinary achievement into perspective.**

COLIN DAY

In the book edited by Colin Day and Richard Garrett and with a biographical essay by David Calthorpe, "there is more than just historical facts," Mr Day says. In fact, there are many similarities between those troubled times in Macau and, for example, what is happening now in Europe with the influx of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and other countries. "We must recall that Macau in those years grew from a population of less than 200,000 people to 600,000 in 1945, so when now Germany or another of the big countries in Europe is discussing [whether or not] to accept let's say 100,000 refugees, it's important to think that a place like Macau of the 1940s took in about 400,000, and that really puts such an extraordinary achievement into perspective."

Mr Day also said that this book, and the information compiled and explained within it, could also help to explain why

Macau was able to maintain its neutrality and autonomy when all of the surrounding territories fell at the hands of the Japanese army upon invasion.

Mr Day explained to the Times that this book came about by "pure accident." "In around 2000, on one of my many visits to Macau, a South African scholar was in town and he brought with him a copy of Reeves' memoir. I got interested in it until finally we really got moving on it, [at which point] my role was primarily to try to find out as much as possible about what was in the manuscript that Reeves did not explain. For example, he mentions the secretary, but we have no more information about her besides her name. [The role] was a little about filling in the blank spots," he said.

More than just historians, Mr Day believes that this book might interest a lot of people, since it is basically a story of a terrible

adventure in which Mr Reeves found himself with no escape point. "It is about a human being rising in a challenging situation and doing very good work," Mr Day commented.

"I'm an economist by vocation and there are two particularly interesting mysteries in Macau during the Second World War. First there is the question of food supply and prices. The other interesting technical issue is that Reeves was actually receiving London-Lisbon-Macau money to pay for his refugees, and actually by the end of the war he had received 1.75 million pounds from London, which was quite substantial. How that mechanism worked and what were the actual consequences of that money flowing into Macau are interesting topics that I would like to dig into", he said.

"I do believe that this book creates more opportunities for further studies about this topic," he concluded.

Daniela Wei

**C**HOW Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd. shares fell to a record low in Hong Kong after it warned that first-half profit will plunge by as much as 50 percent due to weak consumer sentiment in Hong Kong and Macau amid a slowdown in China's economy.

The world's largest publicly traded jewelry chain forecast its net income for the six months

RETAIL

## Chow Tai Fook hits record low after warning profit to plunge

ending Sept. 30 to decrease by about 40 to 50 percent compared with a year earlier, mainly due to weakness in the two cities, increased sales of lower-margin gold products and unrealized hedging losses, according

to a statement late on Tuesday.

Chow Tai Fook fell 7.1 percent to HK\$6.17 per share by the close of trading in Hong Kong, its lowest since debuting Dec. 2011. The benchmark Hang Seng In-

dex fell 0.2 percent. The Hong Kong-based company is due to announce first-half results Nov. 24.

"Even though we were expecting the profit to fall, such a big drop comes as a surprise," said Hannah Li, a senior

analyst at UOB Kay Hian Ltd. While Chow Tai Fook has tried to deal with China's retail slowdown including by promoting higher-margin jewelry products and introducing more mid-priced products, those stra-

tegies haven't worked, she said.

The jeweler's biggest hope for margin improvement is through rental cuts for its shops in Hong Kong next year, Li said via telephone. Chow Tai Fook is seeking a 20 percent reduction in rent for some of its stores in the city when contracts come up for renewal this year, as sales of luxury items plunged, Managing Director Kent Wong had said in an interview in May. **Bloomberg**



**Y**ESTERDAY'S Singles' Day saw China's e-commerce industry set another stunning sales record - sending shivers through China's thousands of malls and department stores.

In Zhuangsheng Sogo, a high-end department store in central Beijing's Xicheng District, promotion posters hang on the walls and windows. A few customers wander among the ground floor stands, outnumbered by shop assistants, who chat or play with their smartphones. Floors two to four are closed for refurbishment.

This year has seen a growing number of conventional retailers retreat from the market. As of June 30, nine major retailers, including Dalian Wanda, Parkson, and Marks & Spencer, shut down at least 25 stores in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and other cities.

Commerce Ministry spokesman Shen Danyang said in a news briefing on Nov. 4 that retail stores face increasing pressure from the booming online shopping sector, with some stores closing or canceling their leases.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, total retail sales of consumer goods in the first nine months of 2015 totaled 21.6 trillion yuan (USD 3.4 trillion), up 10.5 percent year on year. The value of online sales in the same

# China's malls adapt to survive online shopping onslaught



period reached 2.6 trillion yuan, up 36.2 percent and accounting for 12 percent of total retail sales of consumer goods.

Nielsen's Global E-commerce and the New Retail Survey in April said several factors are at play. Rapid urbanization and high population density make the home delivery model economically viable, particularly when coupled with low labor costs. In addition, booming smartpho-

ne ownership and usage have created huge mobile commerce opportunities.

To cope with the challenge of online shopping, many department stores launched promotions one week before Singles' Day. Some offered big discounts; others welcomed customers to try on clothes and shoes even if they buy them online. Suning, one of biggest home appliance retailers in China, has joined the

online promotions in partnership with Alibaba.

Analysts say online shopping has disrupted the conventional come-buy-go mode for goods such as home appliances, electronics and off-the-rack clothes. Shoppers no longer need to go to the store if an online service can deliver the goods to their home for the same or less cost.

In Zhuangsheng Sogo, floor six is the most crowded area, with bars, a food plaza and children's playground. Liu Hailing, a mother watching her boy playing, says her son likes coming here every night. Sometimes they buy toys and clothes for him. "We probably wouldn't come here if it weren't for this playground," Liu says.

In Xidan's Joy City, a large mall and entertainment complex just a kilometer from Zhuangsheng Sogo, crowds flow in and out. A long escalator in the entrance takes them direct to floor six - the food plaza. Floors six to eight have dozens of restaurants, bars and snack stalls, while floors

nine and ten have a video game center, a gym and a movie theater. Most people come here to eat first, then watch a movie, play games, or do some shopping on floors one to five on the way out.

The combination of food, entertainment and shopping is a big advantage over online shops, and is probably the future for China's conventional retailers.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, total retail sales of consumer goods volume in 2014 hit 26.24 trillion yuan, with catering at 2.78 trillion yuan and online retailing at 2.79 trillion yuan.

Wang Jianlin, head of real estate giant Dalian Wanda, arguably one of China's richest people, said the retail market should aim at "experience consumption", which will account for two thirds of the total consumption market. The future Wanda complex would be 80 percent dining, entertainment and cultural consumption, and the other 20 percent conventional shops. **Xinhua**

AD

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### Reply

Regarding Sub-contract of CDSJ and USJ Green Campus in Ilha Verde, Our Company HCCG Building and Civil Engineering (Macau) Limited has decided to terminate the said Sub-contract on 9th of October 2015 with lao Sang Construction Engineering Company Limited due to the followings:

1. In the course of execution of the Works, lao Sang had numerous defaults including but not limited to, poor management of the Works, lack of supervision, employing staffs and workers without experience to the construction site and idling of works. Even we instructed lao Sang to leave instantly but they refused, and caused serious delays to the project. lao Sang was unable to comply with the commitment and promises when signed the contract.
2. lao Seng did not pay their workers' wages on time, which caused their workers complained to Labor Department. Eventually, HCCG had to settle directly with the workers, and this had seriously tarnished our reputation.
3. We have issued numerous warning letters to lao Seng to improve their poor performance, but without any result. Also, our Company representatives and the security guards were threatened by some outsiders at the Site.
4. Our company had made the advance payment of more than MOP200 million to lao Sang for the wages and construction works of this project. But after deducting the quantities of works that had been completed by lao Sang, lao Sang still owing HCCG more than MOP60 million (according to the Works Value Certificate by the end of July 2015).

Therefore, due to the numerous defaults of lao Sang and in order to protect our interests and reputation, and to protect the personal safety of our staff and reduce the management risk, we have no alternative but decided to terminate the Contract with lao Sang.

Meanwhile, HCCG strongly condemn the defamatory statement published by lao Sang, and we have taken legal action against lao Sang.

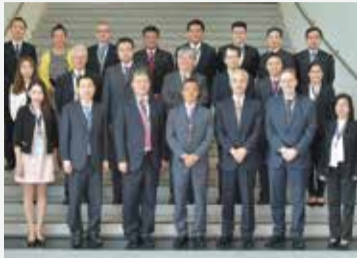
Hereby we reply.

HCCG Building and Civil Engineering (Macau) Ltd.  
12 November 2015



corporate bits

AACM HOSTS ASIA PACIFIC FLIGHT PROCEDURES PROGRAM MEETING



Hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority (AACM), the "7th Meeting of the ICAO Asia-Pacific Flight Procedure Program Steering Committee (7th FPP SCM)" began yesterday and runs through until tomorrow.

The ICAO Asia-Pacific Flight Procedure Program was developed in 2010 with the objective of gathering states and administrations to discuss how mutual assistance can be offered on performing quality control on flight procedures and providing training to increase personnel's professionalism.

Red Starbucks cups cause social media outcry

Mae Anderson Business Writer, New York

IT'S as red as Santa's suit, a poinsettia or your neighbor's ugly Christmas sweater. Yet Starbucks' stark new holiday coffee cup has set off complaints that the chain is making war on Christmas.

The outcry — which gained in intensity after Donald Trump suggested boycotting the coffee chain — illustrates the fine line companies must walk during the all-important holiday season: They want to stand out from their competitors, but not go so far as to offend or unsettle.

"The challenge is that the holiday language is same for everything," said Allen Adamson, founder of BrandSimple Consulting. "Everyone does it, so how do you do it in a way that's distinctive? If you push too far with distinctiveness, you might end up ruffling feathers."

Since 1997, Starbucks has offered holiday drinks in a festive red cup, adorned with such



A barista pours steamed milk into a red paper cup while making an espresso drink at a Starbucks coffee shop

things as Christmas ornaments, reindeer and snowflakes. This year's design is minimalist: vivid red, with nothing but the familiar green Starbucks logo.

Starbucks executives said they wanted to embrace "simplicity and quietness" and show that the coffee shops are a "sanctuary" during the holidays. The company also reminded custo-

mers that it is selling its Christmas Blend of coffee as usual this year.

But some religious conservatives saw the new cup as an affront to tradition and yet another example of what some have called the "war on Christmas" — the taking of religion out of the Yuletide season by doing such things as greeting customers

with "Happy holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas."

On Twitter, where the topic became a sensation, some people were upset over the cup, while others said they didn't understand what the big deal was.

Trump weighed in on Monday by saying, "Maybe we should boycott Starbucks." He added: "If I become president, we're all going to be saying, 'Merry Christmas' again. That I can tell you."

And a group called Faith Driven Consumer urged people to go to Dunkin' Donuts or Krispy Kreme instead.

Kit Yarrow, a professor of psychology and marketing at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, said some people seized on the cup for the same reason many Americans have been captivated by Trump's "anti-PC" stance.

"A lot of people are really just constantly on the lookout for some vehicle to express anger and dissatisfaction, and this is the vehicle du jour," she said. AP

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MOZAMBIQUE

# Netherlands pays for expansion of Maputo water supply network

**T**HE government of the Netherlands will donate 20 million euros to Mozambique to help finance the proposed expansion of the Water Supply System of Greater Maputo, said the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources.

The donation is intended to build complementary water supply infrastructure in the region, which should serve the current 1.1 million consumers and another 650,000 people in 25 neighborhoods.

Coverage of water supply services will increase by over 26 percent in urban areas by 2019, thus meeting the goals of the Mozambican Government's Five-Year Plan for 2015 to 2019.

Completion of the project is secured with the donation of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency and includes execution of water



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte

supply infrastructure, including four distribution centers with a capacity of 2,500 cubic metres each, 200 kilometers of distribution network and 20,000 new household connections. **MDT/Macauhub**

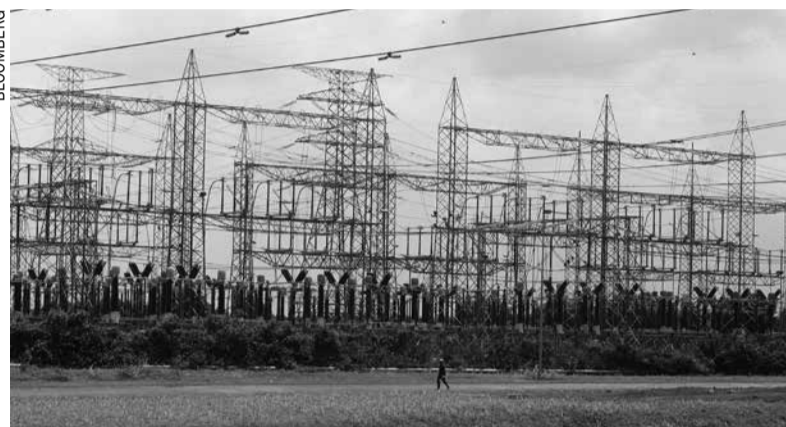
# China State Grid plans to invest billions in Brazil

**T**HE China State Grid group plans to invest about 15 billion reais (USD3.95 billion) in Brazil by 2020 and about 1.6 billion reais in 2016, said the group's president, Cai Hongxian.

The total amount includes the value provided to build two power transmission lines that will transport the electricity produced in at the Belo Monte hydroelectric facility, in the state of Pará, of over 2,000 kilometers each.

Cai Hongxian said the 15 billion reais also included construction of future transmission lines that the group plans to bid for at the next auction of the Brazilian National Electrical Energy Agency (Aneel).

The two transmission lines from Belo Monte alone are expected to cost more than 10



billion reais, Cai told Brazilian newspaper Valor Econômico.

In the first line, where the group owns 51 percent in partnership with Eletronorte (24.5 percent) and Furnas (24.5 percent), it will have to invest 2.5 billion reais, according to an estimate in 2014 and in the second line, of which China State Grid owns 100 percent, it plans

to invest 7 billion reais.

At the end of 2015 the group recorded a total investment in Brazil, since its arrival in 2010, of 9.7 billion reais, including projects built from scratch and transmission line acquisitions and the building of its subsidiary headquarters in Brazil, in the center of Rio de Janeiro.

**MDT/Macauhub**

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# Mainland auto sales grow at year's strongest rate after tax cut

CHINA'S auto sales accelerated to this year's strongest growth in October after the market pulled out of a slump following a sales tax cut, data from an industry group showed yesterday.

Purchases of sedans, SUVs and minivans in the biggest market by number of vehicles sold rose 13.3 percent to 1.9 million, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

That was up from September's 3.3 percent growth, which followed three months of contraction.

Chinese auto sales growth that peaked at 45 percent in 2009 fell steadily as the world's second-largest economy cooled and major cities tried to curb smog and congestion by imposing limits on numbers of new vehicles allowed.

Growth rebounded after Beijing cut the sales tax in September on vehicles with engine sizes of 1.6 liters and below by half to 5 percent.

In October, sales of SUVs grew by an explosive 60.6 percent over a year earlier to 622,000 units, according to CAAM. Sa-



les of sedans edged up 0.2 percent to just over 1 million.

Chinese brands that dominate smaller and lower-priced

market segments grew as fast the market, reversing a trend of trailing global brands in growth and losing market share to them.

Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 11.8 percent to 2.2 million units.

The sales decline was so une-

xpectedly severe that analysts who had forecast 7 to 8 percent growth this year slashed that to as low as 1.7 percent.

The slump was jarring for global automakers that are looking to China to drive sales. General Motors Co. and Volkswagen AG, the country's top-selling brands, cut prices to lure buyers.

—GM said sales of General Motors brand cars by the company and its Chinese partners rose 15 percent over a year earlier to a record 327,037 units. It said sales of Buick vehicles had their best month ever, rising 42 percent.

—Ford Motor Co. said sales rose 7 percent over a year ago to 95,185 vehicles.

—Nissan Motor Co. said sales rose 16.8 percent to 109,600 units.

—Toyota Motor Co. said sales nearly doubled to 103,400 vehicles. It said year-to-date sales were up 110 percent at 895,600.

—BMW AG, the country's most popular luxury brand, said sales of BMW and Mini brand vehicles rose 2.3 percent to 384,176. AP

## Factory growth weakens, retail sales stay strong



A woman walks past a sign reading "Prosperity" in Chinese and English in Beijing

CHINA'S factory output and investment weakened in October while retail sales growth edged up, suggesting economic growth has stabilized but has yet to revive despite repeated interest rate cuts and other stimulus.

The data reported yesterday reflected the two-speed nature of the economy as

communist leaders try to encourage growth based on consumer spending instead of trade, investment and heavy industry.

Economic growth decelerated to a six-year low of 6.9 percent in the latest quarter. Communist leaders insist they are comfortable with slower growth after the last decade's ex-

plosive double-digit expansion but face pressure to avoid a politically dangerous spike in job losses.

President Xi Jinping indicated last week the party plans to aim for at least 6.5 percent growth in coming years. He said that was necessary to achieve its goal of doubling the economy's size by 2020

from its 2010 level.

Beijing has cut interest rates six times since last November. Private sector analysts say they expect more stimulus targeting segments of the economy but no more large-scale measures.

October's retail sales grew 11 percent over a year earlier, up from the previous month's 10.9 percent in a positive sign for Beijing's efforts to encourage consumer-oriented industries.

Growth in factory output decelerated to 5.6 percent from September's 5.7 percent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Growth in investment edged down to 10.2 percent for the first 10 months of the year from the 10.3 percent in the first nine months.

"Today's data suggest that, despite all the doom and gloom, economic conditions continue to remain broadly stable," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

"We expect further improvements in the data over the coming quarters which ought to quash any lingering concerns that China may be about to enter a deeper downturn." AP

### CORRUPTION

## Anti-graft agency targets deputy Beijing party boss

A Communist Party official in Beijing and a deputy mayor of Shanghai have joined the rapidly growing list of prominent political figures ensnared in an anti-corruption crackdown.

The ruling party's anti-graft agency said yesterday it is investigating Lu Xiwen, deputy secretary of the capital's party committee. It said she is suspected of "severe disciplinary violations" — the party's term for corruption.

That followed the agency's announcement Tuesday that Ai Baojun, a deputy Shanghai mayor, faced a similar investigation.

Thousands of officials have been investigated during the 3-year-old campaign led by President Xi Jinping. More than 100 senior officials and military officers have been charged with crimes or placed under criminal investigation, with no sign of the campaign abating.

Lu, 60, served in party posts in Beijing in charge of economic and industrial issues. She also is president of the Beijing party branch's political training school for party officials.

Ai, 55, is a former chairman of Baoshan Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., the publicly traded unit of state-owned Baosteel Group Corp.

Ai was appointed a deputy Shanghai mayor in 2007. In 2013, he became director of the city's new free-trade zone, which has been heavily promoted by the central government. AP





Delivery men sort through goods at a distribution center in Beijing



Alibaba founder Jack Ma

IT only took Jack Ma half the time yesterday to sell the same amount of stuff as he did a year ago with his online channels.

Transactions through Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. during the annual Singles' Day shopping event passed 57.1 billion yuan (USD9 billion) before midday, eclipsing last year's record with another 12 hours still to go. By 4:30 p.m. Beijing time, they totaled almost 70 billion yuan. The top-selling items included baby-related and nutritional products and apparel by Nike and Levi's, the company said.

"This year's event is more global with international players joining in," said Fangting Sun, a senior research analyst with Euromonitor. "Alibaba aims to both attract more international players selling products to China and the domestic players to expand to the overseas markets."

China's biggest e-commerce emporium moved the base for its annual shopathon to the former Olympic aquatics center in Beijing as Ma tries to reverse the company's \$55 billion plunge in market value. Shifting from its Hangzhou home to the heart of Chinese power shows Alibaba's ambitions to maintain growth, penetrate the northern region where rival JD.com Inc. is based and answer the government's call for "national champions" in technology.

# Alibaba smashes Singles' Day sales record in half the time

The sales figures come as China's retail sales accelerated in October, overcoming a slowing economy. Retail sales climbed 11 percent, the quickest gain this year and beating the median economist projection, as the nation's leaders seek to rebalance the economy toward consumption and services.

Taking Singles' Day festivities to China's political, economic and media hub comes after Alibaba's roller-coaster first year as a public company. A record offering was followed by a record fall below the initial price, allegations the company wasn't doing enough to fight counterfeits on its platforms, and the replacement of its chief executive officer.

"The move is symbolically significant because it indicates that Alibaba, by moving to the capital, is China's indisputable e-commerce leader," said Cyrus Mewawalla, managing director of London-based CM Research. "Politically, it might be a tacit acknowledgment that Alibaba, a national champion, now has to

“This year's event is more global with international players joining in.”

FANGTING SUN  
SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYST,  
EUROMONITOR

be closer to China's authorities and more in tune with the government's strategic interests."

Ma kicked off the event with a four-hour variety show that included a performance by "American Idol" finalist Adam Lambert and an appearance by Daniel Craig, star of the James Bond films who helped sell Cadillacs. "House of Cards" star Kevin Spacey also made a YouTube video.

Alibaba estimates that 1.7 million deliverymen, 400,000 vehicles and 200 airplanes will be deployed to handle packages holding everything from iPhones to underwear.

"We're seeing more and more consumers shifting to mobile," CEO Daniel Zhang said Tuesday night. "That's why we've prepared special promotion sessions during peak commute hours, so people can shop on their phones."

That was underscored by data from Alibaba showing that 27 million people were shopping on mobile phones, fueling 72 percent of early sales.

The nation's per capita disposable income rose 7.7 percent in the first nine months from a year earlier - after adjusting for inflation - outpacing the 6.9 percent rise in gross domestic product. Participation and spending by consumers is expected to increase this year, with clothing and footwear being the most popular category, according to a survey by Nielsen Holdings Plc.

Alibaba's Singles' Day turnover may soar to 87 billion yuan, according to researcher IDC. The company has confidence in the resilience of the Chinese economy and is focusing on attracting U.S. retailers to China, President Michael Evans told Bloomberg TV. To that end, Alibaba is opening a third U.S. office in New York to go along with those in Washington and San Francisco, he said.

Singles' Day, a Chinese twist on Valentine's Day, was invented by students in the 1990s, according to the Communist Party-owned People's Daily. When written numerically, the Nov. 11 date is reminiscent of "bare branches," the Chinese expression for bachelors and spinsters.

The Singles' Day promotion started by Alibaba in 2009 has been copied by rivals and has

morphed into China's version of Cyber Monday. For the first six years, the results were tabulated during a ceremony held in Hangzhou, eastern China.

Alibaba said it decided to shift to the capital because of the city's influence.

"The globalization of Nov. 11 and of Alibaba has to start from Beijing," Alibaba wrote in an Oct. 13 post on its official Weibo account.

Moving the event also allows Alibaba to take advantage of the city's media machine, said Jeff Hao, a Hong Kong-based analyst at China Merchants Securities Holdings. The company said in September it was adding Beijing as another headquarters, with an eye toward the northern China market.

"Alibaba wants this event to be high profile - Beijing has the kind of media resources that it will need," Hao said. "Gaining exposure is a means to ensure growth this year." **Bloomberg**

## NEW SALES HIGH IN JUST 12 MINUTES

**ALIBABA HAD** recorded sales of 10 billion yuan (USD1.57 b) within 12 minutes and 28 seconds of midnight, smashing records again on this year's Singles' Day yesterday, China's online buying fiesta akin to America's Cyber Monday. Last

year, it took 38 minutes to hit the 10b yuan mark and the company is expected to easily break last year's one-day sales record of 57.1b yuan. As of 8:30 a.m., the figure stood at 44.2b yuan, according to the company's Zhejiang HQ.

**USD9b**

Total transactions before midday



Katy Daigle, Environment Writer,  
Ganora Sheikh Village

**K**AMLESH feeds the flames of a crude clay cookstove with kindling, kerosene and sunbaked discs of cow dung. She breathes in the billowing smoke, as she does for hours every day. Her eyes water and sting. Her throat feels scratchy and sore.

Kamlesh is one of hundreds of millions of Indian housewives who, with the simple act of cooking family meals, fill their homes every day with deadly airborne pollutants. The constant exposure to indoor air pollution kills some 4.3 million people every year across the world — 30 percent of them in India.

The menace of cookstove pollution, which contains high concentrations of tiny particles known as black carbon, does not stop in the home. It compounds many environmental problems as well, from glacial melt to falling crop yields.

India, the world's third largest climate polluting nation, has spent decades encouraging cleaner cooking technologies, with limited success. Such a shift would have little impact on India's emissions of climate-warming greenhouse gases, and many of the alternatives pollute as well.

But countries like India — far behind the industrialized world in economic and infrastructure development — argue that it's a crucial step in saving lives and ensuring energy justice for the poor.

Impoverished women like 40-year-old Kamlesh remain unconvinced. She and her neighbors in Ganora Sheikh, a north Indian village about 80 kilometers from New Delhi, aren't thinking about the climate, or about melting glaciers hundreds of kilometers away. They wonder why they should spend USD30 to \$60 on a cookstove when they can build a fire and find fuel in the forest for free.

Even as Kamlesh, who goes by one name, complained that cooking on her old stove "is very difficult ... the smoke, the heat, it makes my eyes burn," she doubted any of the smoke-free alternatives could do the job right.

The fire-roasted flatbreads called roti and naan that are a staple across northern India just don't have the same smoky flavor if cooked on a gas-fired or fuel-efficient stove. "If we can't make roti, then what will we eat? Nothing can replace roti."

Pure black carbon is a significant climate pollutant, with some studies suggesting it is responsible for up to 20 percent of climate change. It is also a major component of the tiny particulate matter known as PM2.5 that is now one of the most common measures for air pollution.



Indian woman Rekha Devi lights her new fuel-efficient cook stove next to her old clay stove in her house at a village near Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh

## CLIMATE CHANGE

# India sees clean cooking as climate action that saves lives

About a quarter of the world's black carbon pollution comes from cookstoves, with the rest released by car exhaust, forest fires, agricultural burning and other sources.

The soot is blackening glaciers and polar ice so that they absorb more solar radiation and melt more quickly. It's creating hazy layers in the atmosphere that block sunshine from reaching the Earth, a phenomenon called "global dimming" that can harm crops. And it messes with the weather by interacting with clouds in complex ways.

But black carbon, the product of incomplete combustion, is rarely released alone. It depends on what's being burnt, but it usually comes with a messy cocktail of other polluting compounds including organic carbon and sulfates, which can actually have the opposite effect on climate by limiting the rise in temperatures.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which compiles and analyzes climate-related research every four years, has so far left the topic of black carbon out of its assessments. It is a short-term pollutant, dissipating within days whereas greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane will linger for decades in the atmosphere. As of now, black carbon pollution is entirely unregulated,

poorly measured and unevenly distributed, pooling in the air above wherever it was released.

The climate-change benefits of replacing traditional cookstoves are even more muddled because common replacements also pollute. Gas stoves create more emissions of methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas. Emissions from electric stoves depend on how the electricity is generated; in India, it's largely from coal, another major contributor to global warming.

## India has listed cleaner cooking as part of its national climate action plan

"It can be politically incorrect to advocate for gas cooking, since it's not a renewable energy source," said Kirk R. Smith, professor of global environmental health at the University of California, Berkeley.

Still, he and other atmospheric health experts say the health benefits justify the change. According to his research, if all 2.8 billion people still cooking with old-world fuels suddenly

switched to gas, the increase in global emissions would equal just a half-a-percent change in the efficiency of the world's automobile fleet.

"You can't blame the poor for climate change," Smith said. "It's rather a strange idea to put the poor at the margin when we're not doing all that much ourselves" to cut electricity consumption or switch away from fossil fuels.

Despite the unknowns, India has listed cleaner cooking as part of its national climate action plan, submitted to the U.N. last month before the world's nations begin negotiating a new agreement to limit climate-warming greenhouse gases.

Unlike many countries, India is not promising any overall emissions cuts. It expects its emissions to continue to grow as its economy expands, but the increase relative to economic output will decline.

India has made no calculations to determine how much of an impact a cookstove transition could make, Renewable Energy Secretary Varsha Joshi said. "We are making the connection with indoor air pollution. It's not all about the emissions," she said.

India's new measures for promoting cleaner cooking include asking citizens to give up cooking gas subsidies so they

could instead be spent on extending cleaner-cooking options to the poor. Energy Minister Piyush Goyal said they're aimed at helping those "who've been deprived of clean energy sources for years." Already, 2 million Indians have waived the subsidy.

The problem is not limited to India. Countries from China and Ethiopia are also pushing cookstove programs. In Nigeria, where deforestation has become a major concern, the government said last year it would distribute some 750,000 clean cookstoves in order to keep people from harvesting so much wood.

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, a U.N. foundation working to develop a viable cookstove market, will have helped distribute 43 million cookstoves worldwide by the end of the year by linking manufacturers and developers with investors and other financial support mechanisms.

The potential market is at least 10 times that size, likely more given that many homes use more than one stove.

"When you multiply the effects by 500 million households," alliance CEO Radha Muthiah said, "it's clear that scaling it up can have a substantial impact for health and the environment." AP



MYANMAR

# Junta promises peaceful power transfer

Vijay Joshi and Esther Htusan, Yangon

**M**YANMAR'S transition to greater democracy after decades of military rule surged ahead yesterday as opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party continued its election sweep and the government promised a peaceful transition of power.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy said it received a message from Information Minister Ye Htut on behalf of President Thein Sein congratulating it for leading the race for parliamentary seats in Sunday's election.

Ye Htut said the government will pursue a peaceful transfer of power "in accordance with the legislated timeline." He was not immediately available for comment.

The message helps remove lingering concerns that the military, which has a large influence over the ruling party, may deny the NLD power, as it did after elections in 1990.

It also means that Myanmar is likely to soon have its first government in decades that isn't under the military's sway. But while an NLD victory virtually assures it of being able to elect the president as well, Suu Kyi



Police officers read a copy of the newspaper "Democracy Today" in Yangon

remains barred from becoming president by a constitutional provision inserted by the military before it transferred power to a quasi-civilian government in 2011.

Suu Kyi has declared, however, that she will become the country's de facto leader, acting "above the president," if her party forms the next go-

vernment.

She described that plan further in interview Tuesday with Singapore's Channel NewsAsia television.

"I make all the decisions because I'm the leader of the winning party. And the president will be one whom we will choose just in order to meet the requirements of the constitu-

tion," she said. "He (the president) will have to understand this perfectly well that he will have no authority. That he will act in accordance with the positions of the party."

The military, which took power in a 1962 coup and brutally suppressed several pro-democracy uprisings during its rule, gave way to a nominally civilian elected government in 2011 — with strings attached.

## ■ Suu Kyi won a seat from her constituency, Kawhmu, part of Yangon state

It installed retired senior officers in the ruling party to fill Cabinet posts and gave itself key powers in the constitution, including control of powerful ministries and a quarter of the seats in the 664-member two-chamber Parliament. In a state of emergency, a special military-led body can even assume state powers. Another provision bars Suu Kyi from the presidency because her sons hold foreign citizenship.

While Myanmar's people voted overwhelmingly Sunday

to remove the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party from power, it's clear that the army's involvement in politics won't end, and the NLD will need to convince it to cooperate.

The Union Election Commission has announced the results of 151 lower house races, of which 135 were won by the NLD. Suu Kyi won a seat from her constituency, Kawhmu, which is part of Yangon state. In the upper house, the NLD won 29 out of 33 announced races.

NLD co-founder Tin Oo told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the party expects to win about 80 percent of the votes — putting it on pace with the party's 1990 landslide that the military annulled.

If the NLD secures a two-thirds majority of the parliamentary seats at stake — a likely scenario now — it would gain 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. **AP**

Humayoon Babur and Amir Shah, Kabul

AFGHANISTAN

# Thousands march through capital to protest Hazara killings

**T**HOUSANDS of people marched through the Afghan capital yesterday, carrying the coffins of seven ethnic Hazaras who had been kidnapped and beheaded and calling for a new government that can ensure security in the country.

Protesters, holding banners with photos of the victims — who include a nine-year-old girl — rallied outside the Presidential Palace.

Holding up the green-draped coffins, they chanted "Death to the Taliban" and called on President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah to resign.

The four men, two women and child were found partially beheaded on Saturday in the southeastern province of Zabul, officials have said.

They had been kidnapped in neighboring Ghazni province up to six months earlier. Afghanis-



Hazara tribesmen carry the coffin of a beheaded Hazara victim during a ceremony in Kabul

tan's spy agency dismissed Taliban claims that affiliates of the Islamic State group were behind the killings. In the past five days, rival Taliban groups have been fighting each other in the region where the bodies were found.

Ghani sent a delegation

to Ghazni to investigate the killings and attend funerals, his office said. A statement described the kidnappers as "mainly non-local terrorists."

Civil society activist Zahra Sepehr, one of the protest organizers, estimated a turnout of about

10,000, which would make it the biggest demonstration in Kabul since the killing of a young woman, Farkhunda, by a mob in March. The demonstrators included members of all Afghanistan's ethnic groups.

"We want justice and we want this government, Ghani and Abdullah, to go so that we can have a government that protects all the people of the country and brings security to the whole country," Sepehr told The Associated Press.

She said the deaths of the seven were evidence of the lack of security across Afghanistan. This year, the Taliban has extended its reach across Afghanistan in its fight to topple the government, and the

Islamic State group is also believed to have a presence in Zabul, as well as in the southeastern Nangarhar province.

After gathering in the west of Kabul, the demonstrators walked about 10 kilometers through the rain to the gate of the Presidential Palace, where organizers said they intended to stage an open-ended sit-in.

Habibullah, the head of a local Kabul council, said the demonstration aimed to show the unity of the Afghan people, regardless of ethnicity or sect. "I'm Afghan only," he said. "Our voice wants justice, brotherhood, sanctity of life, peace and equality. No one can tolerate any longer the situation we have in the country."

He added that even during Afghanistan's 1992 to 1996 civil war, which killed up to 80,000 in Kabul alone, no one was beheaded.

Hazaras, who are predominantly Shiite, have been the targets of past atrocities and this year have been the victims in a number of large-scale kidnappings. The green cloth covering the coffins symbolized that they were Shia.

The bodies of the seven victims were brought 380 kilometers to Kabul from Zabul on Tuesday. Protesters held an overnight vigil before beginning their march early yesterday.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan condemned the killings and said they could constitute a war crime. Killing and kidnapping civilians are "serious violations of international humanitarian law," UNAMA chief Nicholas Haysom said in a statement, calling for the perpetrators to be held accountable. **AP**





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## PORTUGAL

# Gov't ousted amid austerity backlash

Barry Hatton, Lisbon

**A**NTI-AUSTERITY lawmakers forced Portugal's center-right government to resign Tuesday (early yesterday, Macau time) by rejecting its policy proposals at the start of what was supposed to be a second consecutive term in office — and four more years of cutbacks and economic reforms.

The government's dramatic collapse came less than two weeks after it was sworn in and raised questions about debt-heavy Portugal's commitment to the fiscal discipline demanded of countries sharing the euro currency.

The moderate Socialist Party forged an unprecedented alliance with the Communist Party and the radical Left Bloc to get a 122-seat majority in the 230-seat Parliament, which it used to vote down the proposals. The defeat brought the government's automatic resignation.

The government's fall was also a political setback for the 19-nation Eurozone's austerity strategy. The policy of cutbacks was demanded by Germany and the others as a

remedy for the bloc's recent financial crisis.

Eurozone leaders had pointed to Portugal, and Ireland, as examples of how austerity paid off as their economies improved. Now, the progress Portugal made is in doubt, and some fear the country could go down the same road as Greece, which has needed three bailouts since 2010.

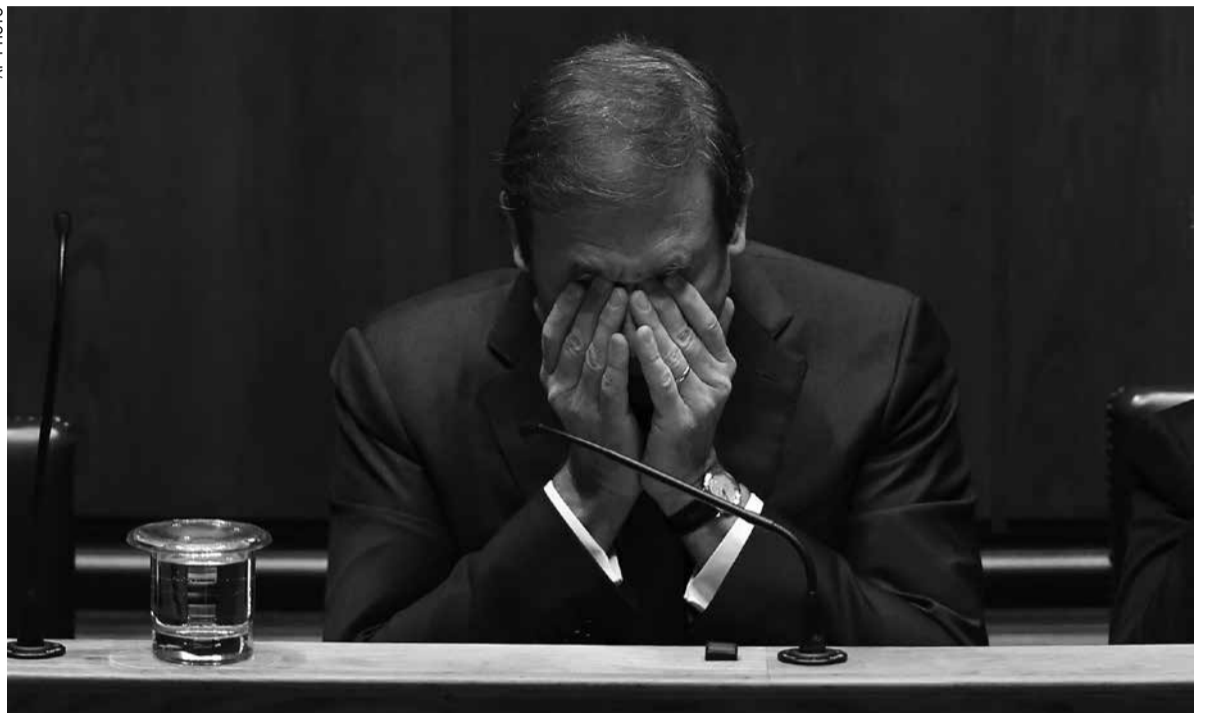
The triumph of the leftist alliance will likely give heart to anti-austerity forces in much bigger neighbor Spain, where a general election is scheduled for Dec. 20.

After four years in power the government lost its parliamentary majority in an Oct. 4 general election, which saw a public backlash against austerity measures adopted following a 78 billion-euro (USD84 billion) bailout in 2011.

Socialist leader Antonio Costa is expected to become prime minister in coming weeks, supported by the Communists and Left Bloc.

Costa criticized the government for being "submissive" in its dealings with the rest of Europe and making more cutbacks than those demanded by the bailout creditors. "The Por-

AP PHOTO



Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho rubs his eyes during the debate of the government's four-year policy program at the Parliament in Lisbon

tuguese want change," he said.

Outside Parliament, demonstrators at an anti-austerity protest by labor groups shouted "Victory!" as the news of the vote spread.

The leftist alliance intends to reverse cuts in pay, pensions and public services, as well as tax increases that have brought widespread hardship, street

protests and strikes in recent years. Some 400,000 Portuguese left to seek work abroad.

The three parties in the alliance have in the past had hostile relations, however, and will be watched closely for any signs of friction.

The speaker of Parliament was due to inform President Anibal Cavaco Silva of the vote

later Tuesday. The head of state, who has no executive power but oversees the government, then consults the political parties in coming days before deciding whether to invite Costa to form a government. Cavaco Silva could choose to appoint a caretaker government, but analysts believed that was unlikely. **AP**

Steve Peoples, Washington

## USA

**M**ARCO Rubio emerged unscathed. Ben Carson defended his integrity. Donald Trump flashed his dominant personality. And Jeb Bush avoided disaster.

Mission accomplished.

Aided by tentative questioning, the Republican Party's top presidential candidates executed their strategies with little resistance in Tuesday night's (yesterday in Macau) prime-time debate. Yet with no breakout moments — good or bad — the muddled status quo continues in the Republican Party's unruly 2016 contest, with time running out to change voters' minds heading into the holiday season.

That's good news for leading outsiders Trump and Carson, who have surprised the political world with remarkable staying power atop national polls. It's also good news for a surging Rubio, who entered the night with a target on his back and avoided any stumbles.

The status quo is not as good for Bush, the oneti-

## No breakouts in Republican hopefuls' debate



Republican presidential candidates John Kasich, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Donald Trump, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina and Rand Paul

me establishment favorite now clinging to his political life.

The former Florida governor lived to fight another day after Tuesday's performance. But he was overshadowed at times by another pragmatic-minded executive, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who stepped on Bush's opportunities and gave nervous supporters another reason to question Bush's New Hampshire-focused comeback attempt.

If Bush did well Tuesday night, however, Rubio did better.

Bush and the rest of the field completely ignored questions raised this week about Rubio's use of a Florida Republican Party credit card during his time in the state legislature. The Rubio campaign had released two years of spending reports just days earlier.

And none of the candidates — or moderators — engaged Rubio when

the discussion shifted to immigration, considered a key vulnerability among conservatives who oppose Rubio's plan to give immigrants in the country illegally a pathway to citizenship.

As the Rubio-Bush dynamic continued unchanged, so did the standing of Carson and Trump.

Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, entered the night with a plan to defend his record more aggressively. He had faced in-

tense questions about his personal story in recent days, but was given a free pass on the issue Tuesday night.

"People who know me know I'm an honest person," Carson told the debate audience, flashing humor as he thanked moderators for "not asking me what I said in the 10th grade."

But Carson struggled at times to demonstrate a command of policy — stating erroneously, for example, that Chinese troops are in Syria. But such mistakes have mattered little to conservative supporters who blamed the media for his recent challenges.

Trump, whose tell-it-like-it-is personality is perhaps his best asset, entered the night having been at or near the top of the polls for several months. He did little to change that, occasionally jabbing his rivals and appealing to hardline conservatives

who support his plan to deport millions of immigrants in the country illegally.

He also backed off his criticism of Bush and Rubio almost completely. On the eve of the debate, he called Rubio "a lightweight" on Twitter and attacked his immigration plan. Trump avoided both topics Tuesday night and instead endorsed Rubio's plan to strengthen the nation's military.

The absence of a game-changing moment deepens the sense of uncertainty over the Republican Party's 2016 field. With the next debate set for Dec. 15, the candidates won't have another prime-time opportunity to reach voters for more than a month.

And it will only get harder to get voters' attention with the holiday season rapidly approaching and television airwaves getting filled with conflicting campaign ads. **AP**



## what's ON



## "VOICE OF TEMPTATION MUSIC CONCERT"

- DREAM THEATER ASSOCIATION

TIME: 8pm

DATE: November 12-13, 2015

VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre

ADMISSION: MOP100, MOP120

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

FRINGE: PLAY GAMES - DRAMA

TIME: 8pm-9pm

VENUE: Old Court Building

ADMISSION: MOP50

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

MACAU HANDOVER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

DONATED BY LAU SIN PENG

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Multi-function Hall,

Handover Gifts Museum of Macao

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MACAU OLD SHOPS

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

PATH AND ADVENTURE

- WORKS BY MIO PANG FEI

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: November 22, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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ADMISSION: Free

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## Offbeat

## HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS SAY DUCK LIVER BEING SOLD AS GOOSE LIVER

Hungarian food inspectors say a company was selling packages marked as frozen goose liver that actually contained cheaper but similar looking duck liver.

The National Food Chain Safety Office said over 2 tons of the suspicious product were ordered off the shelves to be kept in storage until the inspection is completed.

A popular delicacy in Hungary, goose liver is traditionally linked to the Nov. 11 feast of St. Martin of Tours, who according to legend hid among geese to avoid being named bishop, but was given away by their squawking.

Officials said those responsible for the deception would be fined heavily.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:00	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:50	Montra do Lilau (Repeat)
19:25	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Television Film
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

12 Nov - 18 Nov



## 007 - SPECTRE\_

ROOM 1

2.00, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Sam Mendes

Starring: Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 148min

## SHE REMEMBERS, HE FORGETS\_

ROOM 1

7.30 pm

Director: Wong Say Ping

Starring: Miriam Yeung, Jan Lamb

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 110min

## RETURN OF THE CUCKOO\_

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Patrick Kong

Starring: Chi Lam Cheung, Chairmaine Sheh

Language: Cantonese (Chinese and English)

Duration: 86min

## ARE YOU HERE\_

ROOM 2

7.30 pm

Director: Jill Wong

Starring: Nina Paw, Helena Law, Susan Shaw

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 86min

## OUR TIMES\_

ROOM 3

4.15, 7.00 pm

Director: Ding Sheng

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

Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 134min

## GO AWAY MR. TUMOR\_

ROOM 3

4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Hang Yan

Starring: Fay Bai, Daniel Wu

Language: Mandarin (Cantonese and English)

Duration: 86min

## MACAU TOWER

05 Nov - 25 Nov

## 007 - SPECTRE\_

ROOM 3

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



## 1954 New York's ELLIS ISLAND CLOSES

New York's main immigration control centre, Ellis Island, has shut down after 62 years.

The site, which has admitted around 15 million people into America from overseas since it first opened in 1892, will no longer be used as an examination centre for those wanting to live in the United States.

The functions of the island will be transferred to the Immigration Service's headquarters in New York City. From now on, would-be US citizens will be free to enter the country without inspection on arrival.

The only exception to the rule will be those who have either been provisionally admitted on parole or sentenced to deportation for violation of US laws.

Over the years, Ellis Island has been the chief immigration centre for the US.

Many people from overseas had to spend a day or two at the site while their papers were being processed.

The US government originally bought the island from the New York state for \$10,000 (£5,500) in the early 19th century.

The site had previously belonged to Manhattan merchant Samuel Ellis and it was passed to his heirs in 1808.

For a while the island was used by the US government for arms storage but local residents objected.

Then it became an immigration centre and by the turn of the century up to 5,000 people a day came through its doors hoping for a better life in the US.

But following the introduction of new laws, wars and economic recessions, numbers have slowed considerably.

The authorities are currently in the process of deciding how best to preserve the historic site.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Once Ellis Island closed its doors, several proposals were put forward for its use - among them, an immigration museum, a home for the aged, drug addicts, advanced alcoholics and a theatre.

When it was put up for auction in 1961, no substantial offers came in for the abandoned site and four years later President Lyndon Johnson declared Ellis Island a national monument. It was opened to the public on a limited basis between 1976 and 1984.

An organisation called the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation then started a major restoration programme and it was eventually re-opened in September 1990 as an immigration museum.

It now receives almost two million visitors a year.

In 1998, sovereignty of the island changed from New York to New Jersey, following a US Supreme Court decision.



YOUR STARS

Mar. 21-Apr. 19
An email brings some strange - but welcome - news today...

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Today feels like a colossal waste of time, but still you need to make sure...

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
You need to sit down and talk things over with friends or family...

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
It's hard not to feel overwhelmed today - things aren't really going your way...

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Go to that party today, even if you were on the fence. Your energy should get better...

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
All you can do is try your best - so don't worry too much about what others are doing...

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Your life is incredibly busy today - so make sure that you're still energized when it's quitting time!

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You need to avoid temptation today - but it's everywhere! That may mean you need to withdraw...

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You aren't feeling the same level of ennui your peers are today - in fact, you may be the only one who isn't dying from boredom!

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You've got to get down to business today - and make sure that your people understand what's most important...

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Your love life heats up in a big way, thanks in large part to your amazing energy. Try not to worry about where this is all coming from...

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
If you find yourself at a loss for words - and that is likely - then you need to abandon all pretense of rationality and resort to poetry or performance art...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Member of genus Felis; 4- Chip dip; 9- "Puppy Love" singer; 13- Big brute; 14- Connection; 15- Bubbling; 16- Semiaquatic mink; 18- Street show; 19- French school; 20- Optional; 22- Make insane; 25- Coup d'...; 26- Tablets; 28- Lack of oxygen; 32- Bruins great Bobby; 35- Honda model; 37- Prepared to fire; 38- Thin stratum; 40- Small pulpy fruit; 42- Uncommon; 43- Ways to the pins; 45- Capital of South Korea; 47- D.C. VIP; 48- Church instruments; 50- Valleys; 52- \_\_\_ chance; 54- Diabetic condition; 58- Suspect; 62- Spoil; 63- Bay; 64- The day before this day; 67- Weeping; 68- Flavor; 69- Vane dir.; 70- Ballpark figs.; 71- Male deer; 72- DDE opponent; DOWN: 1- Gave a hoot; 2- Quickly; 3- Andrea Bocelli, for one; 4- Excitable; 5- Goal, intention; 6- Circle of flowers; 7- Trigonometric function; 8- Slender part of the leg; 9- Slaughterhouse; 10- Me neither; 11- Capital of the Ukraine; 12- Sheltered, nautically; 15- Secret stuff; 17- Give it up for a performer?; 21- Sorority letter; 23- Smooth-tongued; 24- Santa's aides; 27- Begat; 29- December day, briefly; 30- Able was \_\_\_; 31- Arabian Sea gulf; 32- Capital of Norway; 33- The back end of something; 34- Peeled; 36- Frog sound; 39- Doesn't stay on topic; 41- Christmas; 44- Condescending; 46- Correspondences; 49- Actor Erwin; 51- Skyrocket; 53- Bottomless pit; 55- Cassette half; 56- Mindlessly stupid; 57- Eye sores; 58- Microscopic arachnid; 59- Supermodel Sastre; 60- Bed support; 61- Milk source; 65- Mineral spring; 66- Dress (up); Yesterday's solution: A crossword puzzle grid with the previous day's solution filled in.

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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
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## opinion

## Extra Time

Rob Harris, AP

**RONALDO SAYS HE'S AFRAID OF NOTHING, BUT WON'T DISCUSS FIFA**

The most important date of the year for Cristiano Ronaldo has nothing to do with Real Madrid's big "clasico" games against Barcelona. Or crucial Champions League matches. Or representing Portugal on international duty.

According to Ronaldo, it's when he takes a private jet on the annual January trip to Zurich to discover if he will be crowned the world's top player at FIFA's Ballon D'Or extravaganza.

"It's a card inside an envelope that can change so much," Ronaldo says in a new documentary about his life that was premiered earlier this week in London.

"It's the climax of a year's work."

Ronaldo's obsession with winning football's top individual honor is a major theme in the 92-minute documentary, which opens with the 2014 gala and closes with the 2015 triumph.

What Ronaldo is less keen to talk about is the governing body behind the coveted golden ball or the president — Sepp Blatter — who has presented him with it three times.

Promoting his film in London, a news conference moderator initially tried to cut off question to Ronaldo about FIFA and what the star player expects from the scandal-battered organization which runs the game.

But Ronaldo, perhaps sensing he was being seen as weak, quickly cut in: "I am not afraid of nothing ... I answer what I think."

Only he didn't.

"Of course I'm not going to speak about that because when Cristiano says something it's creates like a huge thing," Ronaldo said, referring to himself in the third person. "I'm not going to be involved in these kinds of problems."

Pressed further on why players are seen afraid of speaking out on the state of FIFA, Ronaldo was no more revealing.

"What do you expect me to say? I'm so happy? Of course I'm a little bit sad because of yesterday [Monday]," he said, referring not to FIFA but Real Madrid's first loss of the season.

"I don't want to (think about it) on this day because it's such a special day for me. It is one of the most important days in my life."

For Ronaldo getting his own film premiere in London's Leicester Square seems to be an occasion on par with Champions League finals — and Ballon D'Or galas.

Already the player with one of the biggest egos in the game — justifiably given his goal scoring exploits at Manchester United and now Madrid — Ronaldo is elated at becoming a silver screen star thanks to the team behind movies about Formula One driver Ayrton Senna and troubled songstress Amy Winehouse.

This is a film, though, that's unlikely to win Ronaldo any cinematic honors to join the vast collection of football medals — unless awards are given for shots of footballers preening in the showers and shaving.

But there are touching scenes with Ronaldo seen as a doting father, playing with Cristiano Jr. in his Madrid home.

Recent media reports are used in the film to highlight the mystery over the identity of his son's mother. Ronaldo has full custody of Cristiano Jr. and says that when he is older "then I will tell him what I did."

Cristiano Jr. is seen living a closeted life, never mixing on camera with other children. His father lives a similar existence.

"In football I do not have a lot of friends ... most of the time I am alone," Ronaldo says. "I consider myself to be an isolated person ... disconnected from the world."

His father figure now is agent Jorge Mendes, whose fortune has been built by representing players like Ronaldo — including his then world-record 80 million-pound (then USD120 million) switch from United to Madrid in 2009. Much of the film morphs into a homage to Mendes, the super-agent in the sharp black suit, black tie and shades.

"If I didn't know you I'd ask for your autograph," Mendes says to Ronaldo at a celebratory dinner. "I live obsessed with him every day."

Ronaldo's biggest fan, though, seems to be himself.

"If we had two or three Cristiano Ronaldos in the (Portugal) team I would be more comfortable," he said, reflecting on last year's World Cup group-stage failure. "But we don't have."

AP PHOTO



NBA great Bill Walton, center, takes a tour with Pac-12 men's college basketball players during an event in Hangzhou

## BASKETBALL

**US colleges head to China to grow fan base**

Justin Bergman, Hangzhou

**F**ORTY years ago, former basketball star Bill Walton made a decision he still regrets today. His UCLA college team was invited to play an exhibition game in China in 1973, the year it won its second national title with Walton, and he decided not to go. The rest of the team then stayed home, too.

"I said I didn't want to come," he said. "I didn't know any better. I was wrong."

On Saturday, the men's basketball teams from the University of Washington and University of Texas will do what Walton chose not to: play a game in China, halfway around the world from their college campuses.

It won't just be an exhibition, either. They'll contest the first-ever regular season college basketball game in China, the first of perhaps many for U.S. university teams as they try to tap into a new market for their sports — and their schools — in the world's second-biggest economy.

"The opportunity that these young people have to come to this country ... (it's) an opportunity that I sadly turned down," said Walton, who will provide commentary for ESPN's live broadcast of Saturday's game in the U.S. "It was one of the biggest mistakes of my life."

Hopes are high on both sides that this opportunity will lead to a much deeper cooperation than anyone could have imagined just a decade ago, let alone in 1973.

In the Pac-12 Conference, which organized the game at Shanghai's Mercedes Benz Arena, officials have spent the past few years trying to find a way to build on the well-known academic reputations of their

schools in China, as well as the Chinese love of basketball, to build a fan base for their sports programs.

And on the Chinese side, the e-commerce giant Alibaba Group has jumped on board as a way of acquiring content for its brand new sports platform and, as founder Jack Ma put it at the company's headquarters in Hangzhou on Tuesday, to help young Chinese learn the value of playing — and working — on a team.

■ **It won't just be an exhibition, [the teams] will contest the first-ever regular season college basketball game in China**

"China is pretty good at the single sports. Ping pong is very good, but we think China should focus more on team sports — basketball, soccer and volleyball," Ma said. "The world is very connected and China needs to work like a team with the (rest of the) world. If we cannot make our kids focus on that, it'll be terrible in the future."

The curiosity was evident as young Alibaba employees took a break from their last-minute preparations for Singles Day — China's biggest online shopping day yesterday — to line the glass wall at the company's basketball court and watch the Texas basketball players sprint up and down the court in a spirited workout.

Still, the process will likely take

time. The NBA has had success bringing preseason games to China over the past 11 years, but it remains to be seen if Chinese fans will have the same passion for U.S. collegiate sports.

"NCAA is not known in China. Period," said Joe Tsai, Alibaba's executive vice chairman, referring to the National Collegiate Athletic Association. "That's because in China, when you go to college, have a normal college academic experience, they don't emphasize sports. If you're an athlete, they separate you when you are very young and you're on a separate track."

Part of Alibaba's motivation for joining forces with the Pac-12 Conference is to change this mentality in China.

"Sports is part of education," Tsai said. "You don't separate sports from your academics because you learn so much value from sports."

The Pac-12, meanwhile, is taking a long-term view on promoting its teams across the Pacific. The conference began taking men's and women's basketball teams to China for summer exhibitions several years ago and last year streamed 27 college basketball games in China through a partnership with LeTV, a Beijing-based online video company.

Last month, the conference announced a deal with LeTV to start streaming college football games in China this season, as well, along with Chinese commentary.

Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said it was actually retired Chinese NBA star Yao Ming who first suggested bringing a regular-season basketball game to China.

A second regular-season game is already planned for next November, also in partnership with Alibaba. **AP**



opinion

**HK Observer**  
 Robert Carroll



**WARM HEARTS, COLD JUSTICE**

The sad saga of Chow Siu-shuen, and that of her grandson, Xiao Youhuai – a woman prosecuted for caring for her grandson after his parents abandoned him – has taken a turn for the better. The old lady has not been jailed for keeping him in Hong Kong illegally. She received a suspended sentence, but as the child has no right of abode here she has been forced to leave the region and move to Shenzhen to look after him.

It's a cruel fate for Hong Kong Chinese residents who have close relatives over the border but cannot obtain permission for them to provide support in desperate cases like this one. The legacy of Hong Kong's colonial separation from China has caused the greater prosperity in the region to serve as a magnet for poor mainlanders, and has, inevitably, led to strict immigration controls. That Hong Kong would be swamped by unmanageable levels of immigrants if controls were dismantled is pretty much a given. The current agreement with China drastically limits the number of people allowed to join their relatives in Hong Kong, leading to many years of waiting for eligible applicants, and shuts the door firmly on those who do not meet the criteria. However, in law, shouldn't there always be room for discretion, and the ability to be flexible in exceptional cases?

This was surely an exceptional case where a basic sense of humanity should have come into play. Apparently, the boy's parents abandoned him as a baby out of superstition, dumping him in a cardboard box. They also did not want to have the boy returned to them when it became clear that his deportation to the mainland was imminent. Clearly any responsible social worker would have ruled that the parents' neglect and attitude towards the boy made them unfit to take care of their child. It seems clear that there would have been no other option for the grandmother but to leave him in an orphanage on the mainland: hardly a desirable option, in China or anywhere else, when there is a loving caregiver willing to look after him.

How much better would it have been if the child was allowed to come here legally; or allowed to stay for compassionate reasons? As it turned out, the boy was home-schooled and spent little time outside of his grandparents' home for fear of being discovered. His escape from life in an orphanage turned into one of virtual imprisonment and social exclusion. With poorly educated grandparents as his only teachers, his education level is years below that of his contemporaries. His predicament, which aroused a blaze of news coverage, brought out the best and the worst in local residents.

As the judge pointed out in court, referring to letters of mitigation when sentencing Chou, Hong Kongers had reached out to the child and old lady with empathy and offers of assistance. One foreigner offered financial support; another, a local Hong Konger, travelled across the border three times a week to help Youhuai with his studies. Earlier in the year, a local school invited the boy to see their facilities and told him that he was welcome to study there. On the other hand, unfortunately, some locals tried to intimidate the poor old lady and Youhuai, who is only twelve, by rattling the security screen of their flat and shouting curses at them.

The immigration department was stuck in a quandary because they had to follow procedure and deport the boy, but if the system has not, and will not allow him back in the future, is that not very cold justice?

**THE BUZZ** **ECONOMISTS: TRUMP'S CHARGES AGAINST CHINA ARE OBSOLETE**

Donald Trump's latest attack on China is about three years too old.

In a column in The Wall Street Journal, the Republican presidential candidate writes that "the worst of China's sins" is manipulating its currency, the yuan, to gain an economic advantage. Citing unidentified economists, Trump declares that the yuan is undervalued anywhere from 15 percent to 40 percent.

But the charge appears outdated. The yuan

has risen against the U.S. dollar over the past five years. In May, the IMF declared the yuan "no longer undervalued."

The Peterson Institute for International Economics says the yuan was "significantly undervalued" until mid-2012 and reached fair value last year. Peterson's William Cline says Trump's charge of currency manipulation is a "good talking point" but "out of date."



Tony Serra, right, an attorney for Raymond "Shrimp Boy" Chow, pictured at left

**ORGANIZED CRIME**

**Lawyer: Chinatown racketeering defendant changed his life**

**Sudhin Thanawala, San Francisco**

A prime defendant in a San Francisco racketeering case ordered the killing of a rival before taking over his organization in Chinatown and engaging in money laundering and trafficking in guns and drugs, a prosecutor said during his opening statement this week at the high-profile trial.

The 2006 slaying of Allen Leung was a "cold-blooded, gangland-style hit" ordered by defendant Raymond "Shrimp Boy" Chow, federal prosecutor Waqar Hasib told jurors as he described the killing.

Defense attorney Tony Serra countered in his opening statement that Chow did not participate in any killings or other criminal activity detailed in the investigation that led to the conviction of former state Sen. Leland Yee on a racketeering charge.

Chow pleaded guilty to racketeering in 2000 amid accusations that included heroin and cocaine trafficking, attempted murder and robbery, according to an FBI affidavit in Chow's current case.

But Serra said Chow, who will testify in his own defense, reformed and was looking forward to a lucrative book deal about his life.

"My client is not, and they will never show he is anything analogous to a godfather," Serra said.

Chow was the focus of a lengthy investigation that inclu-

ded an FBI agent posing as a member of the mafia who plied his targets in Chinatown — one of San Francisco's most popular tourist attractions — with fancy meals, liquor and cash. More than two dozen people were indicted last year as part of the probe.

Hasib called Chow the sun at the center of a criminal universe and accused him of repeatedly accepting money from the undercover FBI agent.

**The slaying of Allen Leung was a 'cold blooded, gangland style hit' ordered by defendant 'Shrimp Boy' Chow, Fed prosecutor told jurors**

Serra said the FBI agent instigated the crimes for which people were later arrested. He said his client was broke after leaving prison, and the agent forced money on him, often when Chow was drunk.

Hasib said a co-defendant will testify that Chow orde-

red the killing of Leung, who was then head of a fraternal organization known as the Ghee Kung Tong, the prosecutor said.

Federal investigators say Chow took over the Ghee Kung Tong after having Leung killed.

"This case is about this group of people engaging in this pattern of criminal activity," Hasib said. "But most importantly, this case is about the person who is at the center of that, around whom all of that criminal activity revolved, around whom all those people revolved."

Serra said Chow's co-defendants would say anything to get a lighter sentence.

Federal agents say one of Chow's associates was Keith Jackson, a former San Francisco school board president who raised money for Yee's campaigns for San Francisco mayor and secretary of state.

Jackson led investigators to Yee, who acknowledged as part of his plea deal that he accepted thousands of dollars in exchange for favors and discussed helping an undercover FBI agent buy automatic weapons from the Philippines.

Yee is scheduled to be sentenced in December and faces a maximum of 20 years in prison. Jackson pleaded guilty to the same racketeering charge as Yee and is also scheduled to be sentenced next month.

Judge Charles Breyer said Chow's trial could last until February. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	60-80 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**FRANCE** Officials and citizens are gathering at memorials across Europe to pay tribute to the millions of soldiers killed during World War I on the 97th anniversary of the war's end. Thousands of people lined Paris' Champs Elysees boulevard to see President Francois Hollande lay a wreath at the Arc de Triomphe, where an eternal flame marks France's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

**ISRAEL** Two Palestinian boys, aged 11 and 14, stab and wound an Israeli guard on a train who responds by firing and wounding one of them. Meanwhile, Israeli security forces kill two other Palestinians who carried out knife attacks, police say, as violence returns to Jerusalem after a two-week lull.



**ISRAEL-EU** Relations between the European Union and Israel took a dive yesterday after Israel derided a decision by the 28-nation bloc to specially label products made in Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said the EU has taken an "exceptional and discriminatory step" for "political reasons." The EU move, which came after months of procrastinating, underscores the bloc's unhappiness over Israel's continued expansion of settlements on territory that Palestinians seek for their future state.

**EGYPT-RUSSIA** Moscow's ban on all flights to Egypt in the wake of a Russian plane crash will last for at least several months, the Kremlin says, dealing a severe blow to Egypt's struggling tourism industry.