



PEARL HORIZON PRE-SALE BUYERS CLASH WITH POLICE

P4



LESSONS FROM ANGELA LEONG

A profile of Angela Leong, who controls a 8.1pct stake in SJM Holdings, which owns 20 out of Macau's 36 casinos

P7



ST REGIS HOTEL OPENS

The five-star hotel made its debut on December 18, opening its doors with renewed hopes on the region's economic recovery

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Fourteen construction managers were sentenced yesterday to prison terms of three to six years for a deadly scaffolding collapse at one of Beijing's most prestigious schools, a court said. The accident in December last year killed 10 construction workers and injured four others at Tsinghua University High School in the city's northwest.



THAILAND's government says it is not ignoring the slavery and forced labor in its lucrative shrimp industry that was highlighted in an Associated Press investigation published last week. More on p13

INDONESIAN police say they have foiled a plot to kill government officials and Shiite followers by suspected Muslim militants who were arrested in weekend raids. Security was raised at foreign embassies, public places and churches across Indonesia.

JAPAN A festival focused on the art of the short film is offering a new award of nearly a million dollars to a director from anywhere in the world with a great pitch for a movie.

JAPAN Scandal-plagued Japanese manufacturer Toshiba Corp. is cutting 6,800 jobs after projecting a net loss of 550 billion yen (\$4.5 billion) for the fiscal year through March 2016.

INDIA A man convicted as a juvenile in the fatal 2012 gang rape of a young woman aboard a moving bus in New Delhi ended his three-year term in a reform home Sunday, as angry protesters demanded that he remain in detention.

More on backpage

85 missing after massive landslide in Shenzhen

P11



Packer fans speculation of Crown bid by resigning from board

P9 GAMING

OVER 1,400 Pearl Horizon flat-owners gathered outside the Polytec Asset's headquarters on Sunday. The group froze traffic around a nearby roundabout in a desperate attempt to protest against the authorities' decision to recover the land.

The chaos unfolded at around noon on the day marking the 16th year since the region's return to Chinese sovereignty. "2018, I want my flat ready. 2018, I want my flat ready," chanted the protesters en masse, holding placards bearing various slogans. Aside from expressing opposition against the revocation of the land concession, they demanded a direct dialogue with the relevant high-level government officials.

Shortly later, the crowd of protesters forced a shutdown of the area after some of them spilled onto the road. At least 25 vehicles were seen driving slowly around the roundabout to assist with the paralyzing effort.

Pearl Horizon pre-sale buyers freeze traffic, clash with police

The police immediately formed human walls blocking the protesters' advance towards the Amizade Bridge. The chaos escalated into a scuffle between the security forces and protesters around half an hour into the assembly, as the latter demanded the release of a protester who was taken in a police vehicle.

An online video shows that the mass scrambled to pull open a police van's door, and one man allegedly reached his hand out for the upper torso of the female police officer seated in the front.

Their deranged actions prompted the police to disperse the crowd surrounding the car using



Flat-owners invaded the road

pepper spray. The road reopened to traffic at around two thirty after the mass had retreated to the pavement.

According to the Public Security Police Force, two men were taken to the police station and discharged later on the same day. It was also said that no charge has yet been made.

In the afternoon on the same day, hundreds of people collectively hailing from six organizations, marched in the rain from the Iao Han garden to the government's headquarters, where representatives of each organization voiced respective pleas to the authorities.

Among the groups were pro-de-



Protesters outside the Polytec Asset's headquarters

PROTESTERS UNHAPPY WITH COVERAGE

SOME OF the protesters clashed with local journalists as they accused their media coverage as unfavorable to them, according to the Macau Journalists Association. A camera-wielding plain-clothes

officer allegedly suffered a kick from protesters who mistook him as a journalist. It was also said that some journalists were pressured to delete video clips in earlier assemblies.

mocracy groups New Macau Association and Macau Community Development Initiative, which urged for the following: implementation of universal suffrage in electing the region's governor; better policymaking for public housing; and the introduction of directly elected seats in the legislature.

Some elderly marchers sought

to reunite with their sons and daughters from across the border, who had been long denied permanent local residence by the government.

The police authorities claimed that roughly 330 officers in total were deployed to respond to all the demonstrations and assemblies on Sunday. **AU**

HK JOURNALISTS REJECTED ACCESS TO MACAU

JOURNALISTS FROM Hong Kong's outspoken media outlet Apple Daily were denied entry into Macau on Sunday, according to the paper's online coverage. Upon arriving at the ferry terminal checkpoint, the journalists were turned back by local customs authorities, who claimed that they

would pose threats to internal security. This is not the first time the region has rejected the presence of the media outlet's personnel on sensitive occasions. The newspaper was similarly denied entry ahead of Labor Day this year, and for the Chinese president Xi Jinping's visit to the region last year.

MSAR'S 16TH ANNIVERSARY

CE vows to further diversify the region's economy

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On has pledged to push forward with efforts to combine the gaming and non-gaming industries at a time when diversified economic and regional collaboration is highly emphasized.

The CE's pledge came at a reception on Sunday marking the 16th year after Macau's return to China, which he was attending prior to a trip to Beijing on Monday.

"In the coming year, the development of Macau will still be affected by the complicated and ever-changing external environment. We believe opportunities always come with challenges," he said in an address.

"We are pleased that China's Thirteenth Five-Year Plan clearly states the aim

The development of Macau will still be affected by the complicated and ever-changing external environment.

CHUI SAI ON

of fully leveraging Macau's unique advantages, coupled with elevating Macau's posi-



tion and functions in national economic development, and opening up policy," he continued.

The Chief Executive believes that the local government's own version of the five-year plan, which was announced last month, would complement the central government's blueprint in highlighting its strategy of "one belt, one road."

"Through top-level planning and supportive coordination, it helps Macau to realize better growth and integrate with the coun-

try's overall development," he expressed.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Chui told media it was evident that, over the past two years, the "added values of the non-gaming elements in sever major industries were undeniably encouraging."

His statement points to the industries of architecture, finance, hotels, retail and catering.

Furthermore, he stressed that the offerings at the resort complexes that should emerge in the future must

be predominantly non-gaming. "We also have applied a ratio of nine to one [of non-gaming to gaming elements] for the new integrated resorts. Ninety percent has to be non-gaming elements," he said.

Chui also said that, in the next two years, the authorities would continue their commitment to pushing for a more diversified economy.

He said: "We're also confident that given the integration of the two sides, the government would be inclined to support adequate diversity, and small and medium-sized enterprises."

Speaking of the gaming earnings in the next year, Chu remained confident about the outlook of the casinos and stressed that "there would be a surplus."

RAYMOND TAM REINSTATED

THE SECRETARY for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, disclosed on the sidelines of the reception that she would reinstate Raymond Tam as a senior technician in the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, given that the presidential post has been

granted to Alex Vong. Tam is the former bureau head and was embroiled in the cemetery corruption scandal. Another official involved, Lei Vai Long, is expected to return to the bureau's administrative committee as the vice-president.

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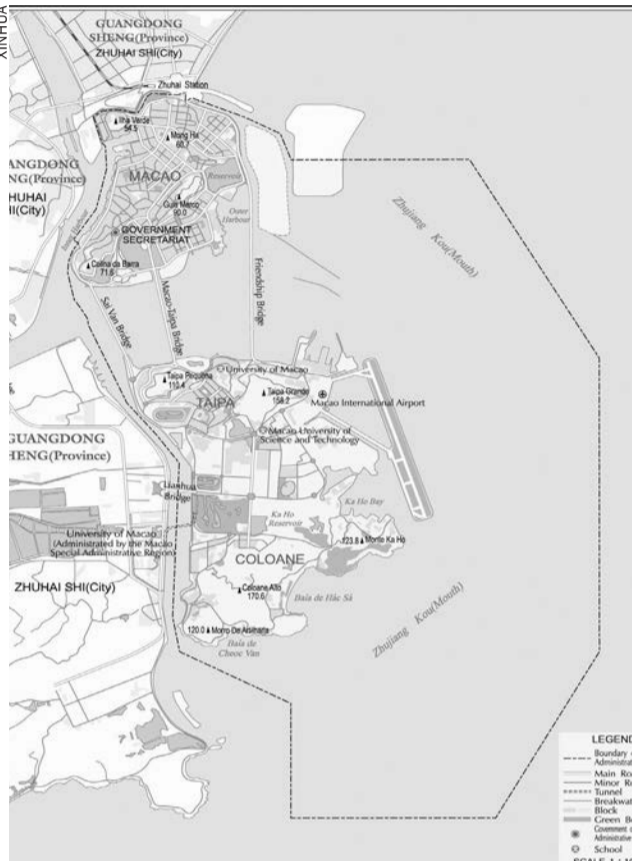
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Authorities well prepared for new maritime sovereignty rule

THE Macau Customs Service (SA) has started to enforce new measures after the central government granted the region sovereignty over the 85-square-kilometer nautical area off the region's coast.

Beijing's bestowal officially came into effect on Sunday, and Chief Executive Chui Sai On highlighted the importance of the measure during his speech at the ceremonies marking the 16th anniversary of the MSAR's establishment.

"Given the significance of the central government's supportive measures, we must ensure that the waters under the Macau SAR's jurisdiction can be properly administered and appropriately used to effectively expedite adequate economic diversification and facilitate Macau's sustainable development," Chui claimed in his address.



med in his address.

However, the local government still has to

seek confirmation from Beijing over any future reclamation. It was made

clear that no gaming-related establishment would be allowed to be built on reclaimed land in the future.

Under the new rule, the parcel of land connecting the northern checkpoint and Zhuhai goes to the local authorities' administrative sovereignty. Furthermore, part of the Canal Dos Patos, a waterway separating the mainland from the north of the Macau Peninsula, would also come under local control.

The administrable water area stretches down part of the waterway lying to the west of the Macau Peninsula's inner harbor, all the way down alongside Taipa and Coloane before it turns eastwards, covering a large portion of the sea off the region's eastern coast.

In a bid to make a prompt response within half an hour possible in

the waters surrounding the region, the SA has activated its new command center and three operation bases.

According to an SA statement issued yesterday, officers have also been briefed about the add-on equipment and gear inside the center before they set out for patrol on Sunday.

The new facility takes in audio, video and radar signals from along the coastal areas of the region and nearby waters around the clock. The customs' patrol vessels will also perform duties at the behest of the personnel from the center.

Together with the other three bases, the Customs personnel are reportedly capable of responding in 30 minutes to any contingency within the waters that is being managed by local authorities, the statement said. **AU**

CCAC to release report on 16 idle land parcels

Commission Against Corruption (CCAC)

Commissioner André Cheong Weng Chon has hinted that the report of an inquiry into the 16 land parcels that are exempt from recovery by authorities would be made public next week, following half a year of work. The report has already reached the region's leader for his consideration, he revealed. The official decision to let go of the land parcels, which had previously been slated for reclamation by authorities, came last June. However, it shortly triggered public opposition, which prompted the chief executive's order of an inquiry. The report was scheduled to be ready last month, but the commissioner apologized for the belated release, citing the substantial amount of information being considered as a reason. Meanwhile, to the CCAC head revealed that the probe into the defunct cracker factory, which was embroiled in a land swap scandal, is expected to be completed after next year's Chinese Lunar New Year.

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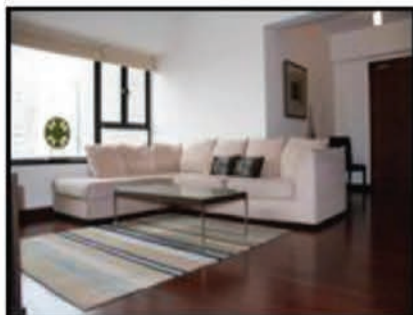


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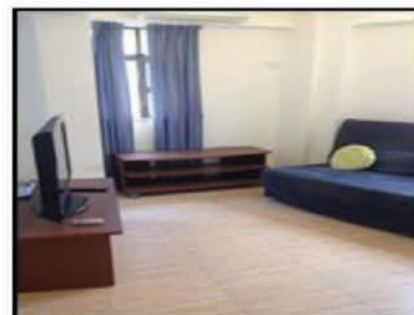


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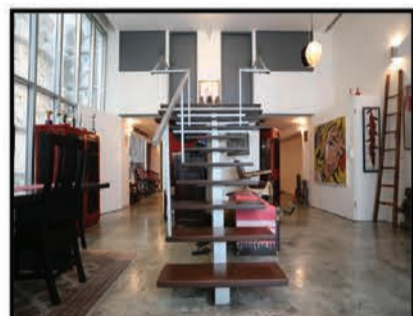


Car Park Space in Chun Leong - Taipa

(Ref: 15050514)

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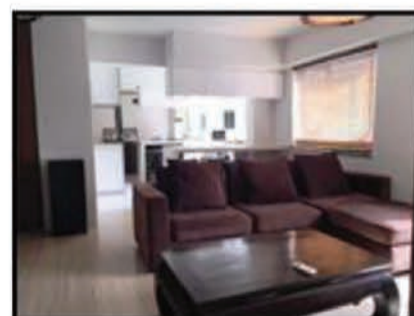


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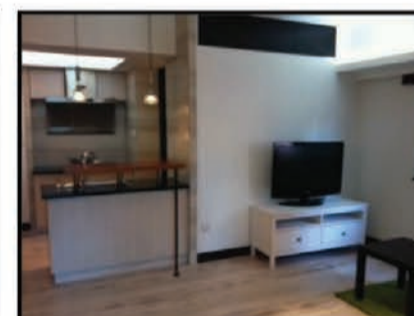


Rent Houston Court

(Ref: 15110549)

740sq. ft. HKD13,500

Situated in the heart of the village. The apartment has a modern open plan kitchen, dining & living area, good size master bedroom with built in storage, separate walk in shower room, second bedroom has built in cabinets could be a large office or small double bedroom.



Tou Un, Tower 2 - Taipa

(Ref: 15080521)

690sq. ft. HKD 10,500

This furnished 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms apartment is bright and spacious with a large open planned living room/dining room. Amazing views overlooking Taipa and the Macau Tower. One Central offers a magnificent 5-level indoor and outdoor leisure and recreational space. A great location within walking distance to MGM, Wynn and Mandarin Oriental. Directly linked to the shopping centre.

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PROFILE | ANGELA LEONG

Lessons from Leong on surviving Macau's gambling downturn

Stephanie Wong

THE Las Vegas Strip has characters like billionaire tycoons Sheldon Adelson and Steve Wynn. In the world's largest gambling market of Macau, there's Angela Leong.

A lawmaker, business executive and mother-of-five, Leong has been a prominent figure in the former Portuguese colony since meeting her spouse, 94-year-old casino baron Stanley Ho, about three decades ago. In a recent interview, the 54-year-old shared her approach to adversities, the most recent of which is a 18-month-long slump in Macau's gaming revenue that, she says, must be met by the government with faster infrastructure completion.

Her motto, which she learned from Ho: "pee with eyes wide open." Speaking in her native Cantonese, Leong repeats a saying that's not in regular use in the southern Chinese dialect, let alone easily translated into English. "It means, you know someone is going to trip you up, and you pretend you don't notice and let it go," says Leong, who is executive director of SJM Holdings Ltd., Asia's largest casino company.

"Let's be very direct," she continues, her voice raspy from a respiratory infection. "You come and interview me today. If your article isn't in line with my views, I'll let it go." But there won't be another interview, she said on Oct. 26.

Success for Leong, the mother of the youngest five of Ho's 17 children, hasn't come easily. The former dancer successfully fended off a messy family dispute in 2011 that was mounted by women Ho also regards as wives, and his children.

"She can be quite feisty," says Allan Zeman, a Hong Kong-based businessman and vice chairman of Wynn Macau Ltd., who has known Leong socially for 20 years. "She absolutely says what's on her mind, no matter who she's with, no matter where she is. That's what gains her respect from most people. She's not afraid."

That forthrightness comes through when outlining the changes Leong says Macau's government needs to make to facilitate the city's economic recovery: faster decision-making and better infrastructure planning.

"I'm not afraid of criticism," she said. "I do what I believe

BLOOMBERG



Angela Leong

Leong, whom Ho called his 'fourth wife,' emerged as a winner when the elderly Ho split his fortune among his family members

is right." Leong joined a dance troupe in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong and traveled in 1982 to Macau, where she met Ho four years later through his brother, then taking a dance class she was teaching at the time. By then, the daughter of a Chinese army officer already owned several apartments, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal in April 2011. And by the early 1990s, Leong was spearheading property deals for Ho's business in Guangdong, according to the report.

"Ho got her started, but she was able to take it to another level," Zeman said. "She's a very good entrepreneur. She's done

a lot of things on her own."

Today, she owns more than 30 apartments in Macau, according to a document filed in 2013 by Leong, who reported her assets as required as a legislator there.

In Hong Kong, Leong is chairwoman of Master Land (HK) Ltd., owner of the 21-story BOC Group Life Assurance Tower whose value more than doubled to HK\$2 billion since its purchase seven years ago, according to data from Centaline Property Agency Ltd. Local newspaper Ming Pao reported that Leong also owns the retail and office development Entertainment Building in the heart of the city's financial district whose value has appreciated more than five-fold to as much as HK\$14 billion since it was bought in 2005, Centaline said. Leong's office declined to comment on her assets.

Her investments also span from a local canidrome operator to massage services. She's also a vice chairwoman of Macau Jockey Club, head of a gaming promoter association, chairs a local dance and sports association, and is involved in local charities.

Leong, whom Ho called his "fourth wife," emerged as a win-

ner when the elderly Ho split his fortune among his family members. Today, she controls a \$315 million interest with a 8.1 percent stake in SJM Holdings, which owns 20 out of Macau's 36 casinos, the most for one company in the city.

SJM shares have fallen 57 percent in Hong Kong trading this year, compared with the 7.8

She absolutely says what's on her mind, no matter who she's with, no matter where she is.

ALLAN ZEMAN
HK BASED BUSINESSMAN

percent decline in benchmark Hang Seng Index.

A member of China's top political advisory body, she also owns a 6.86 percent stake in SJM's unlisted parent, Sociedade de Turismo e Diversoes de Macau SA, a company whose

assets include hotels, real estate, financial services and infrastructure development.

That fortune is being shaken by President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption crackdown and a slowing Chinese economy, which are keeping away the high rollers whose wagers generate more than half Macau's casino revenue. It's the city's worst downturn since authorities in the Special Administrative Region ended Ho's four decade-old gambling monopoly in 2001 by opening up the market to competitors such as Wynn Resorts Ltd. and Adelson's Las Vegas Sands Corp.

Not dismayed, Leong says she continues to enjoy the support and advice of wheelchair-bound Ho, whom she describes as an "enlightener, friend and a mentor" and who has said that Macau's casinos have been developing too fast. "I wouldn't be where I am today without his help," she said.

Before dashing to her next appointment, Leong reflects on her busy schedule that she says has meant wearing the same pair of dark blue, loose-fitting trousers two days in a row.

"You have to manage your time well, you have to work hard," Leong says. **Bloomberg**

Renato Marques

St Regis Hotel opens with hopes on HK-Macau-Zhuhai bridge

THE St Regis Macao Hotel is the newest addition to the Cotai landscape panorama. The five-star hotel made its debut on December 18, opening its doors with renewed hopes that the economy has reached its lowest point already and that 2016 will be a year of recovery. The new unit, comprising 400 rooms and suites, is the last to open its doors from the "Cotai Central" project.

At the press conference, held at Sheraton Macau's function rooms, the Chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands, Sheldon Adelson, revealed that with the completion of this project, he is one step away from completing his "vision" for what the "Cotai Strip" should be. "When it opens, in eight or ten months time, the Parisian will complete the plan, making it possible for our visitors to walk around all our premises in a controlled environment where they can have different experiences and 1000

retail shops," he said (see more on page 20).

At the same event, the President and COO of Sands China, Dr Wilfred Wong, also expressed his hope that 2016 will bring "slow and steady" growth for Macau, sharing the hopes of the company's CEO.

For Stephen Ho, who heads Asia Pacific Starwood Hotels & Resorts, the new unit is an important milestone for the company in this region. According to him, it is expected that more "business travelers" will soon come to Macau.

The idea is also shared by Mr Adelson, who said that the upcoming HK-Macau-Zhuhai bridge will be an "important boost" for the local economy. He said



RENATO MARQUES

it will also mark an important step in the internationalization of the territory regarding the MICE sector. "When completed, the bridge will make it faster to come from the HK airport to Macau, then to reach Central [district in HK]. It will be like having an extra airport in Macau," Mr Adelson said, adding that MICE will be an important

sector for the future.

Besides the retail area, which will continue to have a strong focus on luxury items and brands, entertainment has not been put aside, with a new theatrical acrobatic show named "The Monkey King" announced to debut soon.

"The luxury market is the kind of market that is always going to be there, no matter what," Sheldon Adelson said. He justified his idea of recreating several iconic world locations in Macau with the fact, "That's what Asians want to see: iconic places and replicas of the most famous places of the world."

NO CANDIDATE PICKED

QUESTIONED BY the media on the sidelines of the grand debut of St Regis Hotel about which candidate he would support in the run for US presidency, Mr Sheldon said: "We do not know yet which candidate we are

going to support. There are several good candidates and we are still discussing that matter inside the Adelson family." He concluded by saying that "any candidate is better than the one we have today as president."

'ST REGIS' PROPERTY TO SELL SERVICED APARTMENTS

SHELDON ADELSON has said that, similar to what has happened elsewhere, the St Regis project in Macau will also include a number of serviced apartments for sale. He stated that he has the "word" of the MSAR's Chief Executive that this will be possible and he fully trusts

that verbal agreement. Questioned about the same topic but regarding another premises in the Four Season's property, which presents a similar situation, Mr Adelson said he expects that the problem will also be resolved although it is "a little more complex."

AD



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corporate bits

300 COMPLETE SANDS CAREER PROGRAM



Sands China held graduation ceremonies last week for 300 team members who have completed the casino's career development program.

The six-month course, titled the "Integrated Resort Career Development Program," aims to expand the workers' skill sets by enabling employees to gain experience working across the non-gaming departments of Sands China's properties.

Last week's graduates included 100 team members from the food and beverage department, and another 200 who work across the hotel operations, front office, concierge, recreation, housekeeping, guest services and retail teams.

"To me, it's a great opportunity," said Candy Tam, an employee from the table games department who graduated last week. "I managed to identify and build on my strengths through working with, and learning from these new challenges."

Sands China said in a press statement that additional programs are currently in progress in departments such as entertainment, finance, information technology, and convention and exhibition.

GAMING

Packer fans speculation of Crown bid by resigning from board

Angus Whitley

JAMES Packer stepped down as a director of Crown Resorts Ltd., intensifying speculation he's closer to bidding for the company or some of its assets.

The billionaire's closely held investment vehicle, which controls Crown, has talked to private-equity firms and pension funds about a possible joint offer for some Crown assets, Bloomberg News reported last week. Packer is considering teaming up with a partner to take Crown private, the Australian newspaper reported yesterday.

Standing aside at Crown, just months after he stepped down as chairman, gives Packer the freedom to mount a bid while distancing himself from the board's response. Following last week's reports, his investment company said it had held talks with third parties about its stake in Crown.

"He's giving himself the op-



James Packer

tion to do something," said Sam Fimis, a wealth adviser at Patersons Securities Ltd. in Melbourne. "Whether it's his intention or not, he's sending a clear message to the market."

Crown shares advanced as much as 6.4 percent in Sydney trading as Packer said in a statement the company remains his "biggest professional prio-

riety." The shares ended 4.1 percent higher at A\$12.08, taking the company's market value to A\$8.8 billion (USD6.3 billion). Before news emerged of a potential deal involving Packer, the stock had fallen 33 percent from a February high.

"We have so much more to deliver for shareholders," Packer said in the statement released by Crown to the stock exchange. Crown "represents the vast majority of my net wealth," he said.

Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings Pty owns about 53 percent of Crown. In turn, Crown owns 34 percent of Nasdaq-listed Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd., which runs casinos in Macau.

Crown's earnings - and Packer's fortune - have been dented by a MSAR government crackdown on illicit money flows and a China-wide campaign against corruption that deterred VIP players.

Consolidated Press said last week that a deal "of the nature

speculated in the media" hadn't been proposed to Crown. A full buyout of Crown may be too costly, Deutsche Bank AG said in a report last week. Another option for Packer's investment company is to buy Crown's stake in Melco Crown for about A\$4.1 billion to make Crown's valuation more transparent, Deutsche Bank said.

Melco Crown in October opened the Hollywood-themed \$3.2 billion Studio City resort in Macau that features a giant Ferris wheel and virtual Batman ride. Packer will remain co-chairman of Melco Crown, as well as co-chairman of Alon, Crown's Las Vegas casino project.

In yesterday's statement, Packer said he'll focus on the casino projects in Sydney, Melbourne and Las Vegas, where Crown either owns or is building major resorts, Crown said in its statement. Crown already runs casinos in Melbourne and Perth. Bloomberg



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Spain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo wins Miss World title

SPAIN'S Mireia Lalaguna Royo was named the winner of the Miss World 2015 competition in the southern Chinese island resort of Sanya, an event dogged by controversy over China's refusal to allow Canada's entrant to attend.

Sofia Nikitchuk of Russia was the runner-up and Indonesia's Maria Harfanti took third place in the Saturday night final following a lengthy competition featuring 114 women.

Each had won the right to represent their country in a series of local and regional competitions.

The victory marked the first-ever win for a Spanish contestant. "I think this is a good decision, because Miss World is not looking for our body, they are looking for a soul," said Lalaguna, a 23-year-old model from Barcelona with a degree in pharmacology who plans to pursue a master's degree in nutrition. She placed first in the competition's top model contest and appeared to impress the judges with her public speaking.

"I think it's important that they don't want to see only our bodies, they are looking for moral things," she said.

Not present was Miss Canada, Chinese-born Anastasia Lin, who had been prevented from boarding her connecting flight



Winner of Miss World 2015 Mireia Lalaguna Royo (center) receives her crown

to Sanya from Hong Kong last month after China refused her a visa.

Lin is an outspoken critic of Chinese religious policy and a follower of the Falun Gong meditation practice, which was outlawed by China in 1999.

She said that after she won the Canadian title, Chinese security agents visited her father, who still lives in China, in an apparent attempt to intimidate her into silence.

China has hosted the competition seven times, starting in 2003, as part of its attempts

to project a more modern, outgoing image. However, the controversy over Lin's attendance illustrates the authoritarian

China refused a visa to Anastasia Lin, an outspoken critic of the country's religious policy

communist government's determination to do so on its own terms, regardless of the cost to the country's reputation.

Neither Beijing nor the London-based Miss World Organization has commented on the controversy.

It was the second consecutive year that outside events intruded on the competition. Last year's contest in London was marred by the murder the month before of Miss Honduras and her sister in that country.

The first Miss World contest was held 64 years ago in Britain. **AP**

BEIJING was enveloped in eye-watering, throat-irritating smog on Saturday as the second red alert of the month went into effect in the Chinese capital, forcing many cars off the roads and restricting factory production.

A wave of smog settled over the notoriously polluted city of 22.5 million overnight and is forecast to last into Tuesday because of a lack of strong winds.

Smog red alerts, the most serious in a four-tier warning system, are triggered when high pollution levels are forecast to last more than 72 hours.

Levels of PM2.5, the tiniest and deadliest airborne particles, rose to as high as 331 in some parts of Beijing on Saturday and are predicted to top 500 in the coming days — more than 20 times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization.

As a result of the red alert, schools were ordered closed and half the city's cars forced off the roads each day. Barbecue grills and other outdoor smoke sources have been banned and factory production restricted.

While some balked at the inconveniences, most Beijingers appeared to support the measures after a lengthy stretch when the government was seen as largely ignoring the smog problem.

"I think (the government) is doing a better job than before," Beijing resident Ma Yunan said. "In previous times, the government would not issue red alerts even

2nd smog red alert of the month goes into effect



Young tourists wear masks as they stand near a Chinese Paramilitary policeman in Tiananmen Square in Beijing

In previous times, the government would not issue red alerts even when the haze was very serious.

MA YUNAN
BEIJING RESIDENT

when the haze was very serious. Now they are publishing alerts beforehand for us to get ourselves prepared and the alerts are

accompanied with some measures."

Although the smog warning system was launched two years ago, Beijing had not issued a red alert until Dec. 7, drawing accusations that it was ignoring serious bouts of smog to avoid the economic costs.

The smog in Beijing is largely blamed on coal burning power plants, industrial pollution and the booming number of vehicles. The city's geography worsens the problem because mountains on three sides trap smog, and cold winter air presses down on it to keep it from clearing.

While waiting for promised plans to cut coal pollution to take effect, residents of Beijing and other polluted cities in northern China adapt by wearing face masks and equipping their homes with air filters.

China, the world's biggest carbon emitter, plans to reduce hazardous emissions from coal-fired power plants by 50 percent over the next five years, and says its overall emissions will peak by about 2030 before starting to decline.

Scientific studies attribute 1.4 million premature deaths per year to China's smog, or almost 4,000 per day. **AP**

Authority names and shames 5 tourists over bad behavior

CHINA'S tourism authority named and shamed another five tourists for bad behavior and says it is working with airlines on a possible flying ban. Those added to the list of "uncivilized behavior" by tourists include two women and a man who brawled after one woman's seat was bumped during boarding of a flight from Cambodia to the western city of Chengdu.

The three were forcibly removed from the plane under captain's orders and the flight was delayed for one hour, the China National Tourism Administration said.

Another man was listed after he was arrested in Japan for assaulting a convenience store clerk whom he accused of disrespecting his wife. The last was a woman who attacked her tour guide with hot tea after learning the price of her son's ticket to a western China scenic site was not included in the package.

Their names and a description of their alleged misbehavior were entered onto the administration's list and will remain there for one to three years.

Over that period, they can be refused service by travel agents, airlines, hotels and scenic sites.

In a further step, the administration said it was working with major Chinese airlines on "enacting definite restrictive measures" against those on the list, which currently includes 16 names in total.

The government has grown concerned about the negative impact on China's image stemming from numerous incidents of bad behavior by Chinese tourists at home and abroad, ranging from fighting with air crews to defacing cultural artifacts.

Social media platforms have spread descriptions and video clips of the incidents, prompting widespread derision among the public and occasional online campaigns to identify the perpetrators.

Rising incomes, relaxed regulations and cheap flights have permitted record numbers of Chinese to travel in recent years. Among other frequent complaints are line-cutting, smoking where banned, littering and fouling public toilets. **AP**

Paul Traynor, Shenzhen

RESCUERS searched yesterday for 85 missing people a day after the collapse of a mountain of excavated soil and construction waste that had been piled up over two years in China's manufacturing center of Shenzhen.

Authorities said the landslide buried or damaged 33 buildings in the industrial park in Shenzhen, a city near Hong Kong that makes products used around the world ranging from cellphones to cars.

Residents blamed the government while officials cited human error, with one ministry saying, "The pile was too big, the pile was too steep."

The landslide Sunday covered an area of 380,000 square meters (450,000 square yards) with silt 10 meters (33 feet) deep, authorities said. At least 16 people were hospitalized, including children, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The Shenzhen government said seven trapped people had been rescued and 85 others remained missing yesterday evening. Earlier in the day it had said 91 people were missing and seven rescued, but it gave no explanation for the change in the missing. No deaths had been reported.

The landslide is the fourth major disaster to strike China in a year following a deadly New Year's Eve stampede in Shanghai, the capsizing of a cruise ship in the Yangtze River and a massive explosion at a chemicals warehouse in Tianjin on the coast near Beijing.

Human error has been suspected or confirmed in all three previous disasters, pointing to an often callous attitude toward safety in China despite the threat of harsh penalties.

In Sunday's landslide, the Ministry of Land and Resources said a steep man-made mountain of dirt, cement chunks and other construction waste had been piled up against a 100-meter (330-foot)-high hill over the past two years.

Heavy rains in the region saturated the soil, making it heavy and unstable, and ultimately causing it to collapse with massive force.

"The pile was too big, the pile was too steep, leading to instability and collapse," the ministry



Rescuers search for potential survivors near collapsed buildings following a landslide in Shenzhen

85 missing from Shenzhen landslide; residents blame gov't

■ The landslide covered an area of 100,000 square meters with up to 6 meters of mud

said, adding that the original, natural hill remained intact.

Some residents blamed government negligence.

"If the government had taken proper measures in the first place, we would not have had this problem," said Chen Chengli.

Chen's neighbor, Yi Jimin, said the disaster wasn't an act of nature.

"Heavy rains and a collapse of a mountain are natural disas-

ters, but this wasn't a natural disaster, this was man-made," Yi said.

Aerial photos from the microblog of the Public Security Ministry's Firefighting Bureau showed the area awash in a sea of red mud, with buildings either knocked on their side or collapsed entirely.

Posts on the microblog said the mud had filled many of the buildings, leaving the "room of survival extremely small."

Cellphone camera video of the disaster on state broadcaster CCTV showed a massive wall of debris slamming into the buildings and sending up huge plumes of dust.

A man who runs a store selling cigarettes and alcohol less than a kilometer (a half mile) from the site said local residents had known that the pile of soil was

dangerous and feared something bad would happen.

"We heard a sound like an explosion and then all we saw was smoke," said the man, who gave only his surname, Dong. "We knew what had happened immediately."

The Ministry of Land and Resources said it had dispatched personnel to help guard against a second collapse.

The damaged buildings included 14 factories, two office buildings, one cafeteria, three dormitories and 13 sheds or workshops, Shenzhen Deputy Mayor Liu Qingsheng said at a news conference.

The Shenzhen government said 600 people had been relocated.

Nearly 3,000 people were involved in the rescue efforts, aided by 151 cranes, backhoes and other construction equipment, along

with rescue dogs and specialized life-detecting equipment.

CCTV said President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang issued orders to make rescuing those trapped the top priority.

The initial landslide sparked an explosion in a gas pipeline owned by PetroChina, the country's top oil and gas producer. By yesterday morning, the fire was extinguished and a temporary section of pipe was being laid.

Three decades of headlong economic growth have been catching up with China in terms of safety and damage to the environment. Many of the country's major cities suffer from chronic air pollution. A four-day smog red alert continued in Beijing yesterday, forcing schools to close, factories to curtail production and half the city's cars off the roads. **AP**

Wal-Mart looks to China for new US marketing chief

WAL-MART is turning to its marketing chief in China to shape how it relays its message to shoppers in the U.S. The world's largest retailer named Tony Rogers as chief marketing officer for the U.S. Friday.

He will report to Greg Foran, president and CEO of Wal-Mart's U.S. division starting in mid-January. Rogers, a 10-year-veteran at the company, has been the head of marketing and social media in China for two years.

Rogers succeeds longtime marketing chief Stephen Quinn, who retires next month. Wal-Mart has also beefed up its marketing muscle by hiring former Target marketing executive Michael Francis as consultant. Francis

is best known for his nearly 30-year career at Target, where he helped create the discounter's cheap-chic image through whimsical advertising. Wal-Mart Stores Inc., in a shift, is focusing on higher-income shoppers

where it sees more growth. But it's still a tricky feat. The Bentonville, Arkansas-based company announced in October that annual profit could fall as much as 12 percent for its fiscal 2017 as it invests heavily online and in

its stores. The retailer is facing increasing competition from online players like Amazon.com and from dollar-store chains.

Prior to moving to China, Rogers worked for eight years in the Wal-Mart's marketing division. Before joining Wal-Mart, Rogers spent several years with Pepsi-Co's Frito-Lay division. **AP**

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Nattasuda Anusonadisai, Bangkok

Thai government says it's not ignoring shrimp sheds slavery

THAILAND'S government said yesterday it is not ignoring the slavery and forced labor in its lucrative shrimp industry that was highlighted in an Associated Press investigation published last week.

Government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd, flanked by police, navy and other officials, held a news conference specifically to address issues raised by the AP story. The report has elicited widespread reactions around the world, including from major food companies in the U.S., Europe and Australia that buy Thai seafood.

Sansern said the government was already aware of slavery in the industry before the AP report was released Dec. 14.

"The report said that government officials ignore (this matter) ... This is not the truth," he said. "Authorities found it first," he said, adding that the Thai government wants the shrimp industry to have "proper working conditions according to international laws."

Thailand is one of the world's biggest shrimp providers and its seafood export industry is estimated to bring in about \$7 billion annually.

The AP report revealed the widespread use of undocumented migrant laborers, many from neighboring Myanmar. Many of these laborers end up being tricked or sold into shrimp-peeling sheds where they are forced to work 16-hour days with no time off and little or no pay for sometimes years at a time.

Many workers are held under debt bondage, forced to repay money the company gave to the agents who sold them. Some end up locked inside. Others are allowed to go out, but only if they leave their children or spouse behind as a guarantee against running away.



Burmese workers are escorted by soldiers and police officers as they leave a shrimp shed after a raid conducted by Thailand's Department of Special Investigation in Samut Sakhon, Thailand

At the news conference yesterday government officials did not deny the existence of forced labor. But they disputed parts of the story, especially the AP's assertion that police took bribes and turned a blind eye to the practices in the industry.

"This is not true," Sansern said without elaborating.

The AP stood by its report, part of a series of investigations this year into slavery in the fishing industry in the region. More than 2,000 trapped fishermen were freed earlier this year from an island in Indonesia as a result of the AP's work. The reports also have led to a dozen arrests, millions of dollars' worth of seizures and proposals for new federal laws.

"We stand firmly behind our reporters' coverage, which has been scrupulous, thorough and fair," said Paul Colford, an AP vice president and director of media relations. "Their stories exposing the enslavement of workers in the Southeast Asian fishing industry have been a source of great pride throughout The Associated Press."

The AP focused last week's story on a shrimp shed southwest of Bangkok in Samut Sakhon, the heart of the country's shrimp processing industry. The shed was raided last month after a worker escaped. But while several undocumented workers were detained, no one with the company was ar-

rested on human-trafficking charges, and the shed reopened days later.

Police in Bangkok have since ordered local authorities to re-investigate the shed for human trafficking. Arrests have been made, the shed has been closed and Samut Sakhon police have held a meeting to explain human-trafficking laws to shed owners.

The story noted that the government has recently passed laws to crack down on abusive employers, but also revealed gaps in those efforts, with some former slaves saying police sold them to agents to be trafficked again.

Sansern also took issue with the AP's statement that human

trafficking "has helped turn Thailand into one of the world's biggest shrimp providers."

The AP report also pinpointed the case of a man and his pregnant wife from Myanmar who had been trapped with nearly 100 other Burmese migrants, including children who worked alongside them. Among them was a girl so small she had to stand on a stool to reach the peeling tables.

Sansern said there might be five or 10 people like that couple, "but they don't represent all 3 million migrant workers that Thailand looks after."

Sansern said pictures showing children seated with parents at the work table reflects "Asian lifestyle" and not necessarily child labor. But he added that this needs to change and said authorities are now allocating space for children away from the work area.

Kornchai Klayklung, the head of the anti-human trafficking wing of the police, told the same news conference that "a number of things, including the report about debt-bound laborers, interest us, and we are looking into it and will prosecute" the culprits.

A day after the AP report, Thiraphong Chansiri, the president of Thai Union, one of the world's biggest seafood exporters, expressed frustration and promised change. He said the AP investigation should be a "wake-up call" to the industry. Many exporters have bought shrimp from, or outsourced peeling work to, smaller operators who have less oversight. **AP**

INDONESIA

80 missing, 3 dead as big waves sink boat

RESCUERS have pulled out 39 survivors and three dead from a passenger boat that sank in central Indonesia after being buffeted by high waves, and resumed efforts yesterday to reach scores of others still missing.

The fiberglass ferry was on its way from Kolaka in Southeast Sulawesi province crossing the Gulf of Bone to Siwa town in South Sulawesi province, when it was overwhelmed by waves more than 3 meters (10 feet) high during stormy wea-



A relative of a passenger of a ferry that sank off Sulawesi Island, inspects the list of passengers put up at the accident information center at the port in Siwa

ther Saturday, said Roki Asikin, head of the search and rescue agency in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi.

The boat was carrying 110 passengers and 12 crew members, Asikin said. The passengers included 14 children.

Operational chief of the local search rescue agency Ivan Ahmad Rizki Titus said the National Search and Rescue Agency was deploying a helicopter and boats, while the navy was sending in warships to join the rescue efforts. He added that a CN-235

aircraft of the air force joined the search Sunday.

Earlier, six rescue boats and ships were dispatched after they received a distress call from the crew, who reported that the vessel was starting to take on water about 21 kilometers southeast of Siwa port, Asikin said.

Fishermen found four people who had been on the boat, including a woman and a child. They told authorities that the boat sank hours after being hit by high waves.

Thirty-five other survivors and three bodies

were found later Sunday, said Transportation Ministry spokesman Julius Barata. He said all of the survivors were taken to hospitals.

The search for the 80 people still missing was called off at nightfall Sunday and resumed yesterday morning.

Television video showed dozens of family members anxiously waiting for their loved ones at the Siwa port.

The acting chief of the Kolaka port authority, Muhammad Yunus, said the Marina boat was seaworthy when it left for the estimated six-hour voyage. Indonesian boat accidents have killed hundreds of people in recent years. **AP**

Alan Clendenning, Harold Heckle, Madrid

GENERAL ELECTION

Spain ruling party could be out with big vote for upstarts

A strong showing Sunday by a pair of upstart parties in Spain's general election upended the country's traditional two-party system, with the ruling Popular Party winning the most votes but falling far short of a parliamentary majority and at risk of being booted from power.

Days or weeks of negotiations will be needed to determine who will govern Spain, with the new far-left Podemos and business-friendly Ciudadanos parties producing shockwaves because of strong support from voters weary of high unemployment, a seemingly endless string of official corruption cases and disgust over the country's political status quo.

If forced out of government, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and his Popular Party would become the third European victims this year of a voter backlash against austerity — following elections in Greece and Portugal seen as ballot box rebellions against unpopular tax hikes and spending cuts invoked during the eurozone's debt crisis.

In past Spanish elections, the Popular Party and the main opposition Socialists were the established powerhouses and only needed support from tiny parties to get a majority in parliament when they didn't win one from voters.

But Podemos came in a strong third place and Ciudadanos took fourth in their first election fielding national candidates — setting up a period of uncertainty as parties negotiate with each other to see which ones may be able to form a governing alliance.

"Spain is not going to be the same anymore and we are very happy," said a jubilant Pablo Iglesias, the pony-tailed leader of Podemos. With 99.9 percent of the vote counted, the Popular Party won 123 seats in the 350-member lower house of Parliament — far below the 186-seat majority it won four years ago after beating the Socialists in a landslide. The Socialist Party received 90 seats, while Podemos and allies won 69 and Ciudadanos got 40.

Analysts said the outcome will make it extremely difficult for the Popular Party to form a coalition or get voted into parliament as a minority government because it does not get enough seats by allying only with Ciudadanos, its closest possible ideological partner.

The Popular Party would also need support from parties that won 17 seats in the northeastern Catalonia region and are seeking independence from Spain or want more regional financial power and feel

AP PHOTO



Pablo Iglesias, leader of Podemos party, casts his vote for the national elections in Madrid

■ The outcome will make it extremely difficult for the Popular Party to form a coalition or get voted into parliament as a minority gov't

alienated by Rajoy's firm rejection of their causes.

And Spain has never had a so-called "grand coalition" that would bring the Popular Party and the Socialists together. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy told cheering supporters shortly after midnight yesterday that he would try to form a government but didn't provide any details of how he might accomplish that goal.

"This party is still the No. 1 force in Spain," Rajoy declared. But Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez said the result clearly shows "Spain wants a move to the left," adding that he and his party are ready for talks that could lead to a governing accord.

The Socialists could try to team up with Podemos and

Ciudadanos in a three-way "coalition of losers" similar to an electoral outcome that happened in neighboring Portugal last month. Also possible for the Socialists is a deal with Podemos plus smaller regional parties that won just a few seats each — not requiring the support of Ciudadanos.

"It looks like a Socialist government," said Federico Santi, a London-based analyst with the Eurasia Group political risk consultancy.

"Reaching a deal between the Socialists, Ciudadanos and Podemos is not going to be straightforward. ... But if the alternative is leaving the country without a government, the pressure will be on the parties."

Podemos and Ciudadanos both gained strength by portraying the Popular Party and the Socialists as out-of-touch behemoths run by politicians who care more about maintaining their own power than citizens' needs.

Miguel Redondo, a 19-year-old Madrid university student, said he voted for Podemos because "it's the party that best understands the difficulties that young people are going through" in a nation where joblessness for people under 25 is more than double the country's overall 21 percent unemployment rate.

Spain's 36.5 million registered voters elected representatives

to the lower house of parliament and to the Senate, which has less legislative power. Voting was brisk with lines outside some polling stations and voter participation of 73.2 percent, up from 68.9 percent in the 2011 election.

Francisco Herrera, a 43-year-old porter in Madrid, said he was disappointed with Rajoy's leadership, but voted for the Popular Party because it "defends the economy and the type of government that suits us right now."

The nation's devastating economic crisis, non-stop corruption scandals and a separatist drive in the northeastern region of Catalonia have dominated Spanish politics over the past four years. Rajoy has boasted about his handling of the economy, done his best to skirt the corruption minefield and has vowed to halt the independence push.

His administration's biggest success has been in pulling Spain back from an economic abyss in 2012 and returning the economy to steady growth, but the jobless rate has come down slowly and salaries for people entering the workforce are 30 percent lower than they were in 2008. This fueled claims by Ciudadanos and Podemos that the Socialists plunged Spain into an economic crisis and the Popular Party failed to fix the problem.

Rajoy's party adopted unpopular austerity measures and labor and financial reforms that are credited with creating jobs but blamed for damaging the country's social welfare system. Although Spain's economy is now one of the fastest-growing in the 28-nation European Union, its unemployment rate is the second-highest in the EU after Greece.

Rajoy's administration has also been hurt by his U-turn on a promise not to raise taxes and by cuts to national health care and public education. And many Spaniards are angry about what they perceive as the impunity of politicians and business leaders amid incessant corruption cases.

The question of independence for economically and politically powerful Catalonia has divided that region and soured political ties with the rest of Spain. Rajoy vowed to quash what is seen as the biggest threat to Spanish unity in recent decades. Other parties favor negotiations to devolve more power to Catalonia, and Podemos wants to let Catalan separatists hold a secession referendum.

Rajoy, 60, championed conservative social policies, siding with the Roman Catholic Church against abortion. But he raised questions about his future as the Popular Party leader by including his deputy, 44-year-old Soraya Saenz de Santamaria, on campaign posters.

Sanchez, a 43-year-old former university economics professor, was unknown to most Spaniards until he was elected leader last year of the Socialists.

Iglesias, 37, and his party want to break the mold of Spanish politics. Podemos, or We Can in English, was born from massive Madrid street protests in 2011 that drew mainly young Spaniards weary of corruption.

Ciudadanos, which means Citizens, has the media-savvy Albert Rivera as its leader. At 36, he was the youngest candidate, and his party featured moderate, business-friendly policies plus a pledge to crack down on corruption.

After voting in a Barcelona suburb, Rivera said the election marks the start of a new era — especially for young Spaniards like himself, born after the nation's 1939-1975 dictatorship.

"Those of us who didn't experience the first democratic transition are experiencing a second one," Rivera said. AP

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what's ON



MACAU PRINTMAKING TRIENNIAL

TIME: 10am-7pm

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

UNTIL: February 14, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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)

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OF TAIPA AND COLOANE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Museum of Taipa and Coloane History

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Group); Free (Under 12 or above 65)

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Offbeat

PRAGUE ZOO CLAIMS TO HAVE THE LONGEST SALAMANDER ON EARTH



Prague Zoo says it likely has the longest Chinese giant salamander now on Earth.

The critically endangered animal is the largest amphibian on the planet.

In a statement Sunday, the zoo says Karlo, a Chinese giant salamander it received 19 months ago from the State Museum of Natural History in Karlsruhe, Germany, is likely the biggest representative of its species. The zoo says, according to the latest measurements done Friday, that Karlo is 1.58 meters long.

Karlo's age is estimated at 37 to 38 years and weight is 35 kilograms.

The largest salamander on record was 1.8 meters long.

The zoo says its worldwide check didn't reveal any longer-living salamander.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Documentary
15:15	Publicity
15:30	Classic Music
16:15	Portuguese Movie
17:40	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:35	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Non-Daily Port. News
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

17 DEC - 30 DEC

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.15, 4.45, 9.45 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: J.J. Abrams

Starring: Teresa Palmer, Luke Bracey, Édgar Ramírez

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 135min

POINT BREAK

ROOM 2

(17 DEC) (2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Ericson Core

Starring: Teresa Palmer, Luke Bracey, Édgar Ramírez

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 113min

SNOOPY: THE PEANUTS MOVIE

ROOM 2

(19-23 DEC) (2D) 2.30, 4.30 pm

(18-23 DEC) (3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Steve Martino

Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 88min

IP MAN 3

ROOM 2

(19-20 DEC) 9.30 pm

(24-30 DEC) 5.45, 9.30, 11.30 pm

Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun

Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang

Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 110min

LOVE THE COOPERS

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Jessie Nelson

Starring: Aalan Arkin, John Goodman, Ed Helms,

Diane Keaton

Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 105min

YO-KAI WATCH THE MOVIE

ROOM 3

(24-30 DEC) 2.15, 5.50 pm

Director: Shigeharu Takahashi

Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 91min

THE LITTLE PRINCE

ROOM 3

(19-20 DEC) (2D) 4.30 pm

(23 DEC) (2D) 7.30 pm

(24-30 DEC) (2D) 2.00, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Mark Osborne

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 108min

MACAU TOWER

17 DEC - 6 JAN

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

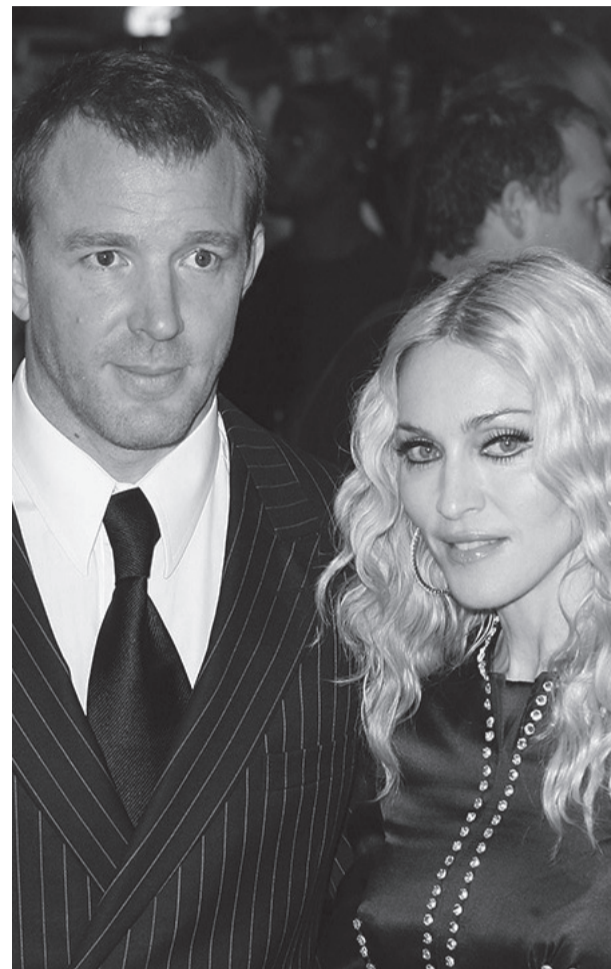
Director: J.J. Abrams

Starring: Teresa Palmer, Luke Bracey, Édgar Ramírez

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 135min

this day in history



2000 MADONNA WEDS HER GUY

The American superstar Madonna has married British movie director Guy Ritchie at an exclusive ceremony in the Scottish Highlands.

Journalists and members of the public were kept well away from the heavily guarded Skibo Castle near Dornoch in Sutherland. Among those on the star-studded guest list were Sting, dressed in a kilt, and his wife Trudie Styler. They introduced the couple two years ago.

The actress Gwyneth Paltrow was maid of honor and two best-men were nightclub owner Piers Adam and film producer Matthew Vaughn. Also invited were actor Rupert Everett and fashion designers Stella McCartney and Donatella Versace.

Madonna, aged 42, married Mr Ritchie, who is ten years her junior, in a ceremony steeped in the groom's Scottish heritage. Mr Ritchie wore a kilt in the Hunting Mackintosh tartan and his bride's white Gothic-style dress was adorned with a sash of the same tartan. The bride was given away by her father, Tony Ciccone, and watched by her four-year-old daughter Lourdes.

A Church of Scotland minister, the Rev Susan Brown, who had baptized the couple's four-month old son Rocco yesterday in Dornoch Cathedral, presided. Then guests were treated to a smoked salmon and haggis champagne reception followed by a ceilidh - a traditional party with singing, dancing and Scottish music. Mr and Mrs Ritchie are expected to spend their honeymoon in Sting's Grade 1 listed Tudor mansion in Wiltshire.

Yesterday hundreds of people came to Dornoch Cathedral to get a glimpse of Madonna and child as they arrived for the christening of Rocco. Some even climbed trees to get a better view of the celebrities. One fan, Sharon Sutherland from Inverness, was herself married at the cathedral seven years ago.

"I wanted to come here today because I have always been a fan of Madonna," she said. Two men were arrested at the cathedral and charged with various offences - one of them hid inside the building during the baptism.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Madonna is widely regarded as the most popular female pop music artist ever.

She made her name in the 1980s with hit singles such as "Like a Virgin", "Material Girl" and "Like a Prayer".

She also starred in various films in the 1990s including the critically acclaimed *Evita* in 1996.

The Ritchies made a film together - *Swept Away* - in 2002 which turned out to be a flop. Madonna has since published two children's books - *The English Roses* and *Mr Peabody's Apples*.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You need to deal with something real today — so make sure that you're ready and willing. Things could get pretty weird if you don't tackle it directly, so just ignore everything else.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Your people are at your side today — though some may have to phone it in. Don't worry about it, because your social energy should see you through any troubles that are likely to arise today.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Your career path seems clearer than ever before — though it still may feel somewhat daunting. Just keep on moving and see where it takes you, as things are sure to get better soon enough.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your personal energy feels just right today — and for good reason! You may find that you can handle almost anything without ruffling any feathers or causing more problems than you solve.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Keep your financial dealings within the family — or even closer — today. You need to be in charge as much as possible, and if you have to make joint decisions, you're better off waiting for a few days.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Avoid the temptation to be overly critical today — hard as it may be! People just aren't ready for your tough love, so try to get creative and show them how they can do better.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You need to relax and accept that your schedule is just going to be a little hectic today — and you might have to cancel or postpone some of the stuff you were looking forward to! It settles down soon enough.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Now is the time to make your move romantically. If you're already with someone, shower them with gifts and affection or just request some time alone today or tonight. You won't be sorry!

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You just can't seem to get yourself going today, try as you might. It's a good time to deal with domestic issues anyway, so maybe you should call in sick to whatever is going on around you.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You need to explore your creative side — especially in writing, though you should use any tools that feel right to you. It's easier than usual to tap into the wellspring of new ideas.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Money is even more precious today — so don't let go of any more than you absolutely must! Things look good in general, but you've got to avoid the temptation to make impulse purchases.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Focus your energy outward today — though there is so much of it, you may have a hard time focusing it! That's okay, because things are looking up for you and those around you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	4	foggy/smoggy
Harbin	-18	-6	foggy
Tianjin	0	7	foggy/smoggy
Urumqi	-16	-8	clear
Xi'an	-2	5	smoggy
Lhasa	-6	8	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	2	10	cloudy/clear
Chongqing	7	10	overcast
Kunming	4	16	clear
Nanjing	5	11	overcast
Shanghai	8	13	cloudy/drizzle
Wuhan	4	8	overcast/drizzle
Hangzhou	6	11	overcast/drizzle
Taipei	19	24	drizzle/overcast
Guangzhou	15	20	overcast/drizzle
Hong Kong	19	22	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	4	6	drizzle
Frankfurt	9	11	drizzle
Paris	10	12	drizzle
London	9	13	drizzle
New York	8	11	overcast/drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Actual; 5- Unit of computer memory; 9- Month of showers; 14- Prefix with present; 15- Bridle strap; 16- Starbucks order; 17- Hog sound; 18- Unfinished; 20- Spirited horses; 22- Artful; 23- Those, to Juan; 24- Weeps; 26- Env. notation; 28- Wide view of an extensive area; 32- Sacred place; 36- Toothpaste tube abbr.; 37- Fishhook line; 39- Yoga posture; 40- Mai ___; 42- Singer John; 44- Poses; 45- Fish with a net; 47- Hurt; 49- Boozehound; 50- Native of Hyderabad or Mumbai; 52- Study of correct pronunciation; 54- Bearing; 56- Divine Secrets of the ___ Sisterhood; 57- Iowa city; 60- Hunky-dory; 62- Woman's shoe style; 66- American wildcat; 69- I could ___ horse!; 70- Texas A&M player; 71- Adopted son of Claudius; 72- Circular band; 73- Mob scenes; 74- Visualized; 75- Gin flavoring;

DOWN: 1- Outback hoppers; 2- Send out; 3- Green Gables girl; 4- Thus; 5- Capital of Queensland Australia; 6- Desire; 7- Nervous twitches; 8- ___ Gay; 9- Mont Blanc, for one; 10- Whiteness; 11- AAA suggestions; 12- Sock ___ mel; 13- Wine sediment; 19- Legendary story; 21- Actress Diana; 25- Refine metal; 27- Acapulco aunt; 28- Singer LaBelle; 29- I don't give ___; 30- Water nymph; 31- Clipped conjunction; 33- Bluffer's ploy; 34- Dominant; 35- Beastly; 38- Motor truck; 41- Tankini, e.g.; 43- Short note; 46- Chou En-___; 48- Reasons; 51- Approach; 53- Westerns; 55- People and places, e.g.; 57- Cracked; 58- Biblical trio; 59- Breakfast brand; 61- Leg joint; 63- Racetrack boundary; 64- ___ time (never); 65- Leaf of a book; 67- DDE opponent; 68- Rapping Dr.;

Friday's solution

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

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David Hulmes, Yokohama

Barcelona beats River Plate 3-0 to take Club World Cup title

A double strike from Luis Suarez and a controversial opening goal from Lionel Messi fired Barcelona to its third Club World Cup title on Sunday as the European champion beat South American champion River Plate 3-0 in the final.

Messi scored from close range in the 36th minute but replays strongly suggested the ball hit his right arm before he shot home.

Suarez added to his semifinal hat trick against China's Guangzhou Evergrande, scoring just four minutes after the break against River Plate. He ran down the right flank onto a fine through ball from Sergio Busquets that exposed the Argentine team's defense.

Brazil striker Neymar, who overcame a recent groin injury, supplied the cross which Suarez headed home in the 68th for his second, making it five goals in two matches for the Uruguay forward.

Barcelona is the first club to lift the trophy in its modern format three times, following triumphs in 2009 and 2011.

"We came to be No. 1 in the world and we achieved our goal," said Suarez. "I felt very strong with Neymar and Messi and we were able to win quite easily."

It was the second time Messi had found himself at the center of controversy this week. He missed Thursday's 3-0 semi-



FC Barcelona's Neymar, center, celebrates with teammates during an award ceremony after defeating River Plate 3-0

final win over Guangzhou due to apparent renal colic, amid suspicions he had been simply rested for the final.

"Three days ago he was injured but he had a strong will to play in this match," Barcelona coach Luis Enrique said after watching his team lift the trophy.

"We had our game plan and that was something we achieved until the Messi goal," said River Plate coach Marcelo Gallardo. "We played against the great players of Barcelona — Messi,

Neymar and Suarez — and they are able to do what they want."

Earlier Sunday, Douglas came off the bench to score twice and inspire Japan's Sanfrecce Hiroshima to a comeback behind 2-1 win over Chinese rival Guangzhou in the third-place game at the Club World Cup.

The Brazilian striker scored 21 times this season for the Japanese champions but only came on midway through the second half for Hisato Sato, who squandered a hat trick of first-

half chances.

Douglas took only three minutes to get on the score sheet, nodding home a simple 70th-minute equalizer.

When teammate Takuma Asano headed against the bar in the 83rd, Douglas was quickest to react, rising high to head home the looped rebound.

Guangzhou opened the scoring with the fastest goal of the tournament — a third-minute header by former Tottenham midfielder Paulinho.

Guangzhou fans inside the

“We played against the great players of Barcelona — Messi, Neymar and Suarez — and they are able to do what they want.”

MARCELO GALLARDO
RIVER PLATE COACH

Nissan Stadium lit up their mobile phones after 25 minutes to show solidarity with Zou Zheng. The Chinese club's defender wears the No. 25 shirt, and remains hospitalized after being stretchered off with a broken leg in the 3-0 semifinal defeat to Barcelona on Thursday.

The annual tournament features the top clubs from FIFA's six continental confederations plus the champion of the host country. AP

FIFA ethics court bans Blatter, Platini for 8 years

Graham Dunbar

SEPP Blatter and Michel Platini were each banned for eight years by the FIFA ethics committee yesterday in a stunning removal of world soccer's most powerful leaders.

FIFA President Blatter and his one-time protégé Platini were kicked out of the sport for conflict of interest and disloyalty to FIFA in a USD2 million payment deal that is also the subject of a criminal investigation in Switzerland.

Blatter's FIFA career is ending in disgrace after more than 17 years as president and 40 years in total with the scandal-hit governing body.

Platini's bid to succeed his former mentor in the Feb. 26 presidential election is now likely over, though both are expected to appeal at the FIFA appeals committee and the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Blatter has suggested he could pursue a lengthier appeal to Switzerland's highest court, the federal tribunal, which can intervene if legal process was abused. Ethics judges decided that Blatter and Platini

Blatter and Platini both have strong motivation to fight the bans

broke FIFA Code of Ethics rules on conflicts of interest, breach of loyalty and offering or receiving gifts.

Both denied wrongdoing in 2011 when Platini took \$2 million of FIFA money approved by Blatter as uncontracted salary for work as a presidential adviser from 1999-2002.

Blatter was fined 50,000

Swiss francs (\$50,250) and Platini, a FIFA vice president and head of European soccer's governing body UEFA, was fined 80,000 Swiss francs (\$80,400).

"Neither in his written statement nor in his personal hearing was Mr. Blatter able to demonstrate another legal basis for this payment," the judges said. "By failing to place FIFA's interests first and abstain from doing anything which could be contrary to FIFA's interests, Mr. Blatter violated his fiduciary duty to FIFA."

"His (Blatter's) assertion of an oral agreement was determined as not convincing and was rejected by the chamber."

Platini, the judges said, "failed to act with complete credibility and integrity, showing unawareness of the importance of his duties and concomitant obligations and responsibilities."

Blatter and Platini both have strong motivation to fight the bans in fast-track appeal cases. Blatter, who turns 80 in March, wants a FIFA swansong by hosting the election congress in Zurich and being made honorary president by the 209 member federations.

The 60-year-old Platini wants to clear his name, pass a FIFA integrity check and be declared an official candidate in the election he had been favored to win. Platini's campaign has stalled since being quizzed on Sept. 25 in a Swiss federal investigation of suspected criminal mismanagement at FIFA.

Switzerland's attorney general has opened criminal proceedings against Blatter for the suspected "disloyal payment" of FIFA money to Platini and selling undervalued World Cup TV rights for the Caribbean.

Platini's status in the criminal case is "between a



witness and an accused person," attorney general Michael Lauber said in October.

In recent media interviews, both men have said Platini asked Blatter for a salary of 1 million Swiss francs. He got a contract for 300,000 Swiss francs annually, in line with FIFA's then-wage structure, plus a "gentleman's agreement" to get the rest later. Swiss law obliged FIFA only to pay the deferred money within five years.

Platini was paid in February 2011, just before

Blatter began campaigning for re-election against Mohamed bin Hammam of Qatar. Platini's UEFA urged its members weeks before the June 2011 poll to back Blatter, who was elected unopposed when Bin Hammam was implicated in bribery.

Few FIFA officials knew of the Platini payment which emerged during a wider Swiss probe of the governing body's business affairs, including suspected money laundering in the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding contests. AP

opinion

Our Desk
Renato Marques



Tourism! Which Tourism?

Last October, the government set up a committee to help advance the transformation of Macau into a "World Centre for Tourism and Leisure" (WCTL).

The information was released in an Executive Order published on October 28 in the territory's Official Gazette (BO).

The "task force" includes ten high-official representatives and is chaired by the Chief Executive himself. It was named the Committee for Development of the World Centre for Tourism and Leisure and, according to the same document, is "responsible for drafting a blueprint plan for tourism development for the next five years."

The Committee's "modus operandi" includes conducting research and advising on policies to help transform the territory into this "wanted" center.

It additionally stated that the new body would simultaneously set up a mechanism to review the plan annually.

The Executive Order also states that "the chairman of the Committee may invite experts in different fields, and representatives from the public and private sectors, to join the works of the Committee or its meetings whenever deemed necessary." It may also give powers to the CE's office to "provide administrative, technical and logistic support."

Even if these topics do not raise many questions or doubts, there are, in fact, two very big questions in my head: what does "World Centre for Tourism and Leisure" mean? And what is missing from Macau that would make it a WCTL?

I don't think I am shocking anyone by saying that I consider Macau to be a fully-fledged world city where residents mix with foreigners, with a name established and recognized worldwide, which also plays a significant role both in this area of the globe and in the world. Saying this, I think we have the "World Centre" part sorted out.

Let's focus on the missing bit: "Tourism and Leisure". So what is the biggest economic sector in Macau? I do not think that there is any doubt on that matter, with the gaming tourist-related activities having been responsible for a total contribution of 87.6 percent of the territory's GDP (MOP422,038 billion) in 2014, according to the annual report from the World Travel & Tourism Council titled Travel & Tourism Economic Impact, Macau 2015. The same report forecasts that this economic sector will grow by another 3.3 percent in 2015, and by 4 percent in 2025 to MOP643,131.0 million, by which time it will represent 89.6 percent of the GDP.

This takes me back to my second question, but with a different approach. If we are apparently already a WCTL, maybe what we want is not to be a WCTL but to be it in a different way. If this is the case, what kind of tourism are we talking about? Or more, what kind of tourism are we aiming for?

Honestly, I do not have any clear idea, or can even forecast, what kind of "blueprint plan drafted for the tourism development for the next five years" that this new Committee can make. And when will they be able to present it?

Based on my experiences in life and what nature shows us through what we call the "second law of thermodynamics", all things tend to entropy, to a kind of balance or even distribution. That law is also based on two premises: "dynamics" and "time".

So what, in my opinion, should be the role of a government? Simple, to be a kind of "catalyst" for this (physical and chemical) reaction.

Instead, the latest developments seem to put the Macau government in the role of "designer" of Macau society, trying to control all variables to play in our (their) favor.

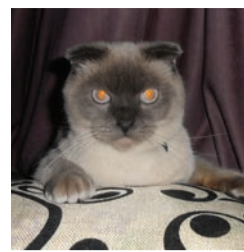
THE BUZZ SIBERIAN CITY BACKS CAT FOR MAYOR

Tired of the dog-eat-dog politics in their Russian city, the residents of Barnaul say they want a cat to be their next mayor.

The Siberian city of 650,000 people, which lies 2,900 kilometers east of Moscow, is to get a new mayor next week when a commission comprising the city council and the regional go-

vernor choose from among six candidates.

But none of the six appear to spark much affection among Barnaul's residents. An informal online poll asking residents to express their preferences among the six and a Siamese cat named Barsik showed the feline nabbing more than 90 percent of the vote.



Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

Adelson sees Macau 'at or near' bottom of gambling downturn

Stephanie Wong and Daniela Wei

Las Vegas casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson said he expects Macau's economy and hard-hit casino industry, in the midst of an 18-month downturn, to start recovering next year.

"I think we are either at the bottom or near the bottom and then will turn around in the near future, certainly within 2016," Adelson, the chairman of Sands China Ltd., said at a press conference in Macau where the casino operator is opening a 400-room St. Regis hotel.

Macau's casino industry has been on a downward spiral since mid-2014 as China's anti-corruption campaign keeps high rollers at bay and a slowing Chinese economy hurts mass-market gambling. Operators are bracing for an expected 32 percent decline in gross gaming revenue this year before the hoped-for rebound in 2016.

Sands China shares have plunged 32 percent so far this year, against the benchmark Hang Seng Index's 7.8 percent drop. "I do agree with him that the worst is probably behind us and we could see some moderate recovery in 2016," said Richard Huang, an analyst at Nomura Holdings Inc. "That said, the pace of recovery is likely to be moderate as the market still faces multiple macro



Sheldon Adelson attends a news conference for the opening of the St. Regis Macao Hotel

headwinds like decelerating growth in Chinese economy."

Sands China, the biggest foreign operator in Macau with four casinos, plans to open its fifth, the USD2.7 billion Parisian Macao, in nine to 10 months, Adelson said. The Cotai Strip project, featuring a half-size Eiffel Tower replica, is hoping to get government approval for 250 new gambling tables, he said.

"We should have enough tables - we have asked for 450 but nobody is getting what they hope for," said the 82-year-old tycoon. "We are hoping to get treated fairly which I'm quite confident the Macau government will do with us."

Adelson, who has an estimated net worth of USD22 billion according to the

Bloomberg Billionaires Index, added in an interview that he hopes Sands China will stand to benefit from its contributions to Macau when its 20-year gaming concession comes up for renewal after expiring in 2022.

"Right from the very beginning we've done exactly what the government wanted us to do - and people say we helped change the face of Macau," Adelson said. "If that's the case, we should be getting at least what everybody else is getting to be fair, and hopefully we get something extra."

The key is to building a relationship based on trust with the government, said Sands China president Wilfred Wong during the same interview. The casino operator hired the industry outsider on Nov. 1, breaking a tradition of having non-Chinese executives helm its operations as it braces for stricter policies and as gambling-concession renewals loom.

"No relationship is given, no relationship is forever," said Wong, a 15-year veteran of China's top lawmaking body the National People's Congress. "You just need to prove to another party that you're doing what you promised and create the trust among each other, I think that's the only way to cultivate relationships." Bloomberg

Former triad boss assaulted in HK

A businessman who is suspected of being a former triad boss was attacked and injured by another man in the lobby of the Peninsula Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui on Sunday. Alleged former triad boss Kwok Wing Hung, who is nicknamed "Shanghai Tsai [Boy]," was having afternoon tea at the Peninsula Hotel when a man punched him in the face, reports the South China Morning Post (SCMP).

According to Apple Daily, the attacker had been able to approach the mysterious businessman despite the presence of Kwok's four bodyguards. Kwok managed to evade the thrust of the attack, but suffered a minor injury to his eyelid.

Kwok Wing Hung is rumored to have been forced to exit the VIP gaming room business in Macau because of mounting gambling

debts, and has become a controversial figure in recent years since his alleged connections with lawmakers were scrutinized by Hong Kong media in the run-up to the SAR's 2012 Chief Executive elections.

Kwok was rushed to the Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital on Sunday while hotel security staff notified the police of the incident. The police investigators reviewing the video footage were able to identify the victim as the former leader of the Wo Shing Wo triad group.

Emerging from the hospital yesterday morning, Kwok told the media that he was not seriously injured.

The SCMP reports Kwok as having joked: "Someone said [I was] killed. You see - I'm in good shape [...] just bumped into a table corner. You see how handsome [I am]."

WORLD BRIEFS

U.S. The most polluted nuclear weapons production site is now the newest national park. Thousands of people are expected next year to tour the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, home of the world's first full-sized nuclear reactor.



U.S. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" brought in a galactic USD238m over the weekend, making it the biggest North American debut of all time according to studio estimates on Sunday. The Walt Disney Co. earnings destroy the previous opening record set by Universal's "Jurassic World," which drew USD208.8m this summer.

BELGIUM The European Union has renewed its economic sanctions against Russia for six months, after concluding that Moscow has failed to fully respect a peace agreement in eastern Ukraine. The sanctions target Russia's financial, energy and defense sectors as well as some dual-use goods.

FRANCE Air France's fourth bomb hoax since the Nov. 13 attacks on Paris led to the detention of a former police officer yesterday, the first arrest since a spate of scares began disrupting travel for thousands of its passengers. French authorities said the man, aged 58, was held after Air France Flight 463 completed its journey from the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius following a diversion to Kenya early Sunday prompted by the discovery of what turned out to be a fake device left in one of the Boeing Co. 777 jetliner's lavatories.



SPAIN A strong showing Sunday by a pair of upstart parties in the country's general election upended the country's traditional two-party system, with the ruling Popular Party winning the most votes but falling far short of a parliamentary majority and at risk of being booted from power. More on p14