

STUDY PATRIOTIC EDUCATION UNDERMINES 'ACTIVE DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP'

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SECOND DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN UN BRIBERY CASE
A US citizen became the second person to plead guilty in connection with a bribery scandal at the UN involving Ng Lap Seng

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PUTIN PROBABLY APPROVED PLAN TO POISON EX-SPY
Vladimir Putin probably approved a plan by Russia's security service to kill Alexander Litvinenko, a British judge said yesterday

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Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A magnitude-6.4 earthquake struck a remote region of northwest China early yesterday, damaging a few dozen homes but causing no casualties. Xinhua News Agency said the epicenter of the 1:13 a.m. quake was in an unpopulated area about 33 kilometers from the county seat of Menyuan in Qinghai province. The quake caused cracks in about 20 homes and other damage in more than 30 others.



CHINA Now that China has abandoned its decades-long one-child policy, demand for maternity services is expected to grow as women take advantage of the chance to have a second child. A school in Beijing is anticipating this trend by offering new training for high-end maternity matron services. *More on p11*



INDONESIA breaks ground on a joint project with China to build Southeast Asia's first high speed rail service, linking the Indonesian capital Jakarta with Bandung in western Java.



CAMBODIA The head of a 7th century statue of a Hindu deity was returned by France and reattached to its body for display at a Cambodian museum, more than 130 years after it was spirited away. The stone sculpture depicts Harihara, a deity that combines aspects of Vishnu and Shiva, the most important gods in the Hindu pantheon who represent the creation of the universe and its destruction.

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COMMISSION OF AUDIT

Gov't often illegally hires consultancy services

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AP PHOTO



CYBERWAR

Young Chinese scale Great Firewall to flood Taiwan media

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INSIDE

SONIA CHAN, SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION AND JUSTICE

Macau needs to amend and abolish 1,200 laws, regulations

THE Secretary for Administration and Justice said that Macau needs to abolish half of the 1,200 laws and regulations inherited from the Portuguese era that are no longer suitable to the international city the SAR has become.

In a recent interview with Exmoo News, Sonia Chan Hoi Fan said that the co-ordination and revision of administration and law is a very heavy responsibility. Society is developing very quickly; so old laws must be revised to keep pace with the changing times. The problem concerns 1,200 regulations that have been passed on.

“One cannot be impatient [in resolving them]; it won't help. One needs to consider the long-term interests in Macau. Even while we are dealing with urgent issues, we have to consider carefully and cannot rush through [changes] for



the sake of speed.” She added that the Legislative Assembly has a limit of how many revised bills it can handle in a year.

During the colonial period, in accordance with Portuguese law, major codes of law were established – criminal, civil and business – into a comprehensive legal system. But, with the opening of the casino licences and very rapid development of society, Macao has become an international city. But a large number of old laws

and regulations remain that have no relation to society today.

Analysts say that, when times were good, social problems were not hard to resolve. But, since the fall of gambling revenue for 18 consecutive months, people get angry even over small disputes; more social conflicts have appeared. Revision of out-dated laws in this period of economic adjustment has become more urgent.

“The issue of the legal system

is really an enormous challenge,” she said. Already more than 600 laws and regulations from the Portuguese period have been abolished. The government will agree a system with the Legislative Assembly and gradually cancel the laws. This will lighten the burden on the system, she said.”

The remaining 600 laws and regulations are in different sectors, including fire safety, civil affairs, building regulations, consumer rights and public purchasing. The gover-

ment will analyse and prioritize them and make amendments accordingly.

There are two major reasons why the legal situation has lagged behind society. One is that there are legal vacuums in some areas. The second is that society has developed too fast. Enforcement has become a problem, such as the regulations on city government. “Some were written in the 1960s, others in the 1990s. At that time, there was no problem. But now, if they are not revised, they will not match reality.”

There has been strong public reaction to some laws that urgently need revision. These include laws relating to illegal hotels, administrative licences and eating and drinking licences.

A law graduate, Chan said that revision of the legal system involved the interests of many parties. The government must listen to the opinions of people from different circles and make a balance between them. This is not an easy process and it cannot satisfy entirely the needs of different people, she said.

One of the challenges Chan faces is a shortage of people experienced in legal work in both Chinese and Portuguese. In the legal drafting work, the first draft is in Chinese and then it is translated this into Portuguese and then give it to Portuguese-language experts to review. She believes that the problem of translation can gradually be resolved.

After the merger of the legal reform and legal work departments, there are a certain number of bilingual specialists; but, less than ten of them are experienced Portuguese specialists. **MDT/Macauhub/Exmoo**

Society is developing very quickly; so old laws must be revised to keep pace with the changing times

COURTS

New owners can't evict seller's wife, TUI rules

A long court battle, triggered by a man who sold a residential unit without the consent of his ex-wife, has now reached a final resolution in the Court of Final Appeal (TUI).

The decision comes after an appeal was lodged by the apartment's new owners to get an eviction notice for the ex-owner's ex-wife, who, in their

view, was occupying the apartment illegally.

The collective of judges presiding over the case in the Court of Second Instance (TSI) decided that the central point of the case involved determining whether the defendant continues to enjoy legal guarantees, under which she is able to occupy the unit as the dispute

unfolds, even though she does not have the exclusive ownership rights over the apartment.

Facing these facts, the TUI discovered that, at the time of the sale (in December 2012), the woman was still married to the man who sold the house, which was owned by a company for which she was a stakeholder.

Since the couple's matrimonial contract means joint ownership of all goods, it was ruled that the woman enjoys an effective right to half of her ex-husband's shares in the company. This, according to the decision made by the TUI, grants her the right to continue to live in the residential unit, dismissing the charges tab-

led against her.

The story goes back to 1993, when a company for which the man was a stakeholder bought the residential unit. The man, his wife and son lived in it for four years up until 2010, when the same man left that house. However, the wife and son continued to live in the apartment un-

til the company (in September 2012) decided to sell the house.

The new owners tried several times to evict the man's ex-wife and son by filing a complaint to the Judiciary Police, which caused the Public Prosecutors Office to accuse the woman of usurpation, accusing her of staying illegally in a home that they own. **RM**

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Paulo Barbosa

Surveys and consultancy services often granted illegally, CA says

THE Commission of Audit (CA) has accused public departments of “lacking the necessary knowledge of the legal framework” when awarding services to companies.

The report issued yesterday indicates that the government issued 1,514 studies, surveys and consultancy services between 2010 and June 2013, totaling MOP1.4 billion globally.

The CA found several “problematic” cases when analyzing the rationale behind some of the grants; including seven contracts adjudicated by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), nine by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and 14 by the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA). Despite those public service contracts being worth over MOP750,000, they were directly awarded to one company without public tender.

Irregularities were also found in 18 contracts awarded by the Macau Foundation that were granted without a written contract. Among other cases, the

■ The gov't issued 1,514 studies, surveys and consultancy services between 2010 and June 2013

Panda Fund directly awarded three contracts budgeted between MOP325,000 and MOP470,000 in 2011 and 2012. One of the contracts was related to the organization of a contest in which people voted on the names for two giant pandas offered to the MSAR by



The Panda Fund directly awarded three contracts budgeted between MOP325,000 and MOP470,000 in 2011 and 2012

mainland China.

The CA stresses that, according to the law, the public tender is only expendable if the direct awarding of public service contracts is preceded by consultation with at least three companies offering relevant services.

Those consultations must be registered in writing if the cost exceeds the parameters of between MOP15,000 and MOP150,000, depending on whether it is an acquisition of goods or expenses related to construction work.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, commented on the CA report, stating that the services under his watch must try to have a better knowledge of the laws to acquire goods and services as well as strengthening supervision efforts.

Macau-registered vehicles in Hengqin under discussion

THERE is still no schedule for when Macau-registered vehicles will be allowed to enter Hengqin.

According to a press statement issued yesterday by the Government Information Bureau (GCS), an announcement will be made “at an appropriate time [about] any news on whether or when Macau-registered vehicles would be allowed to enter neighboring Hengqin Island, part of the mainland’s Zhuhai Prefecture in Guangdong Province.”

The statement adds that the MSAR has recently submitted proposals to Guangdong authorities on managing issues relating to the entry of Macau-registered vehicles. The region’s authorities are waiting for a response regarding the proposals.

The government is also studying possible adjustments to the transport network to accommodate possible increases in traffic, including the area around the Lotus Bridge checkpoints linking Macau to Hengqin.

The Macau and Guangdong authorities have been discussing the matter based on the principles of the Framework Agreement on Cooperation between Guangdong and Macau.



Last month, the director-general of the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee, Niu Jing, confirmed that cars from Macau could soon access the island, as Hengqin prepares to trial a one-stop customs clearance policy.

“We hope to announce as early as possible the measures for vehicles with a single-license permit to

enter and exit Hengqin and the date for the implementation of these measures,” said the director-general.

According to Niu, the successful implementation of the measure will mean that Hengqin Island will be able to cooperate with Macau Customs, holding only one inspection before transit clearance. **Staff reporter**

PATACA IN HENGQIN

MAINLAND AUTHORITIES are currently working to draw up a scheme that would allow the Macau currency to be used in Hengqin. The plan needs approval from the Chinese central bank.

STUDY

Patriotic education undermines ‘active democratic citizenship’

Renato Marques

A scholar has found that the ideas raised under the “patriotic education” plan are most likely to be incompatible with the concept of “active democratic citizenship.”

Those assessments are included in a study undertaken in the context of “moral and civic education policy” by Teresa Vong, an associate professor of the University of Macau’s Faculty of Education. It was published in the academic journal Emerald Insight on the issue dedicated to Asian Education and Development Studies.

Under the title “Harmonizing a melody?!: A critical study of moral and civic education policy on the non-tertiary education system in Macau,” the author critically analyses the policy of moral and civic education in the territory’s non-tertiary education, in order to assess the consequences of such a curriculum.

Ms Vong says Macau’s moral and civic education policy is made possible by strategies like the governmentalization of all public affairs, and the “creation of social harmony as a new form of civic virtue.”

The scholar’s study stresses that strategies like these lead to attempts to “normalize the school system,” and “disciplining the scapegoats.” These are attitudes that, in Vong’s opinion, create clear tension between the discourses of “active democratic citizenship” and “patriotic education.”

“The government should have a broader sense of citizenship. Their notions of it are too narrow,” Ms Vong



■ The government should have a broader sense of citizenship.

TERESA VONG

added, recalling that we are living in a global world and that schools should be preparing citizens for that world.

The scholar suggests that the government “enrich the meaning of moral and civic education and inculcate real measures to promote the active participation of the citizens.”

In another example, Ms Vong examines a recent list of associations and organizations visited by government officials that “prove how rigid the government mindset [is] regarding what kind of citizen associations are important for them.”

The author concludes that the “self-initiated study aims to contribute to the local discussion of a possible rewrite of the meanings of citizenship.”

PJ says Lisboa arrests began with anonymous tip-off

The trial of Alan Ho continued yesterday as a new session heard a testimony from a lead Judiciary Police (PJ) investigator that explained how an anonymous tip-off had initially raised the alarm back in 2014 over the illicit activities. The investigator told the session that an anonymous tip-off had led the PJ to undertake a wiretapping operation involving the main suspects believed to have had a role in prostitution ring that allegedly operated inside the hotel. The most prominent figure involved in the case is Alan Ho, a nephew of Stanley Ho and the executive director of the Hotel Lisboa at the time of the arrests in January 2015. The trial resumes today.

Second defendant, US citizen, pleads guilty in UN bribery case

Larry Neumeister, New York

A U.S. citizen became the second person to plead guilty in connection with a bribery scandal at the United Nations, tearfully admitting that she bribed a former president of the U.N. General Assembly to gain his support for business ventures.

Sheri Yan, 60, entered the plea to a bribery charge in Manhattan federal court in a deal with prosecutors that recommended she be sentenced to between roughly six and seven years in prison. The charge carries a maximum potential penalty of 10 years in prison. Her lawyers said she was not cooperating. Judge Vernon Broderick set sentencing for April 29.

Yan, speaking through a Mandarin interpreter, wiped away tears several times during the plea hearing as she admitted that she agreed with others to pay bribes to John Ashe so he could use his position as president of the U.N. General Assembly and as an ambassador from Antigua and Bar-



Sheri Yan, CEO of Global Sustainability Foundation, arrives at federal court in New York

buda to promote business ventures from which Yan and others could profit.

Defense attorney Christine Chung rested her hand on Yan's back as Yan described her crime by reading from a prepared statement. Earlier, Yan said her formal education ended in the first year of junior high school.

Ashe, who served in the largely ceremonial post as head of the

193-nation assembly from September 2013 to September 2014, has pleaded not guilty to tax fraud charges and is free on bail.

There was no mention at the hearing of Macau billionaire Ng Lap Seng, who is charged with funneling hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to Ashe to gain his support for a Macau conference center that authorities say Ng hoped would be his legacy. Ng has pleaded not guilty and has asked for a speedy trial, saying his businesses are being damaged.

Authorities say Yan and a co-defendant had arranged for more than USD800,000 in payments to Ashe in exchange for official favors by Ashe and other Antiguan officials for various Chinese businessmen.

The initial payment Yan helped to arrange was \$300,000 on behalf of a Chinese media executive, prosecutors have said. In court papers, the government said Ashe went to Antigua to meet with key decision makers to discuss the media executive's plans after Ashe

received the \$300,000 payment. Prosecutors say financial records reflect that Ashe sent \$100,000 of the bribe to Antigua's prime minister and more funds to other Antiguan political interests.

According to court papers, Yan began paying Ashe \$20,000 monthly in August 2013 to be honorary chairman of a New York-based non-governmental organization whose chief executive officer was Yan. The organization, prosecutors said, was purportedly formed to promote the U.N.'s sustainable development goals.

As part of her plea, Yan agreed to forfeit \$300,000.

Yan's plea comes a week after a Chinese businesswoman pleaded guilty in the case, agreeing to testify if necessary against others.

At a hearing scheduled for Thursday, lawyers for Francis Lorenzo, a deputy U.N. ambassador from the Dominican Republic who lives in the Bronx, plan to argue that he is entitled to diplomatic immunity. Lorenzo has pleaded not guilty to charges and is free on bail. AP

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Inflation continues to ease, totaling 4.5 percent last year



THE Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI), which reflects the impact of price changes as a measure of inflation, continued to ease slightly year-on-year in December to 3.73 percent, and was also down from 3.77 percent in November, information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed.

The growth in Composite CPI in December 2015 was led by the price indexes of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco, Education, and Household Goods & Furnishings, which saw year-on-year rises of 37.85 percent, 8.93 percent and 6.31 percent, respectively.

DSEC attributes this rise to an increase in tobacco tax, higher tuition fees and higher wages for domestic helpers.

At the same time, the price indexes of Clothing & Footwear and Communication registered declines of 2.99 percent and 0.79 percent, respectively.

The inflation rate for 2015, measured by Composite CPI, was 4.56 percent, markedly down from 2014 as it came off a 6.05 percent year-on-year rise. Higher rentals for dwellings and parking spaces, as well as increased charges for dining out, have been attributed as causes for the rate.

For the entire year, the same upward pressures in the price indexes of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+17.33 percent) and Housing & Fuels (+8.06 percent) contributed to the rise.

On the other hand, falling prices of gasoline and petroleum helped to alleviate inflationary pressures, DSEC says.

JAPAN

Local police officer dies in car crash

TWO Macau residents were involved in a serious car accident yesterday morning in Nakatsugawa, Japan.

The Consulate-General of China in Nagoya confirmed that one male local citizen, aged 25, a current traffic police officer surnamed Kam passed away during the accident, while another Macau female resident, aged 25 and surnamed Chui, was seriously injured and brought to the hospital for treatment.

According to the information released by the Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT), the woman is "in serious condition."

The family and friends of the victims have been in contact with the GGCT.

EDUCATION

Most students opt to start working after graduation

A survey released by the Tertiary Education Services Office shows that most new university graduates prefer to start their working career rather than enroll in further education.

Among the 2,446 respondents, 70.9 percent said that they would prefer to get a job, while 11.8 percent intended to obtain a master's degree and work simultaneously. The remaining respondents aimed for postgraduate studies.

The survey discloses 2014 data on the employment situation of 1,812 graduates: 85.4 percent had been working for one year, and 3.4 percent were studying for another degree.

Education, administration, banking, finance and insurance industries are still relatively popular for their regular working hours.

Regarding monthly salaries, the survey reveals that 29 percent of the respondents are paid between MOP10,000 and MOP14,000, 25 percent have an income of between MOP14,000 and MOP18,000,

and the average salary of the likely top earners (amounting to 15 percent of the interviewees) ranges between MOP18,000 and MOP22,000. Ninety percent of the respondents work in Macau.

Separately, it was announced this week that the government is aiming to attract tertiary education students from the "Belt and Road" countries and other regions in order to turn Macau into an educational hub and a cultural exchange platform.

The initial proposal for this education policy was made by representatives of the MSAR government to the mainland's ministry of Education.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam told reporters that Macau could play a vital role in the city's development of the "21st Century Silk Road," particularly in fields such as science and technology, education, culture, tourism and commerce.

A press release issued by the Government Information Bureau stated that one of the government's ideas is to increase the quota for main-



land students in higher education programs in Macau. Currently, the University of Macau offers scholarships at a postgraduate level to mainland students.

The creation of policies to enable higher education students from Portuguese-speaking countries to study courses such as tourism and Mandarin language in Macau is also being con-

sidered by the government, as a means of enhancing Macau's role as an intermediary for developing commerce and trade between China and Lusophone countries..

Mr Tam added that the idea also involved an expansion in the present educational cooperation network between Macau and institutions in the mainland. **Staff reporters**

'The Script Road' enters its fifth edition with a longer festival

Renato Marques

THE Macau literary festival "The Script Road" celebrates its fifth anniversary this year. The festival runs from March 5 to 19 and will offer more activities for a longer period, the organization said yesterday in a press conference at the IACM Building Library.

As the organizers explained, the "big difference" of extending the festival for three days is that it allows the events to span three weekends, when more people are available to attend events.

"It will be a longer, bigger and hopefully better edition," said co-organizer Helder Beja, who highlighted the presence of an "important" and "interesting" guest, referring to politician and historian José Pacheco Pereira, from Portugal.

The 2016 edition celebrates two major authors, Camilo Pessanha (a Portuguese who resided in Macau for a long period) and Chinese Tang Xianzu. The festival aims to be "more international" by featuring authors from a wide range of countries, and has emphasized a special highlight in the form of a couple of poets from the Phillipines, a country that one of the organizers, Helder Beja,



Ricardo Pinto (left) and Helder Beja

described as "very important due its big community and high representation in the territory."

Although the event will adopt the same model as last year, one of the novelties of this year's event is the fact that all concerts will be held in the Macau Cultural Center's (CCM) Grand Auditorium which, in the words of Ricardo Pinto, is a "more appropriate venue for the concerts and for the ambience we wanted."

This is a change from previous editions of the festival, where most of the concerts were held at the Venetian Arena in Cotai.

Another organizer Yao Jingming mentioned the importance of this festival,

saying that, in his opinion, it has become a "name card of Macau and something we use to face the world." Yao also highlighted the festival's local component, which will feature two great authors who each have an intimate relationship with Macau.

Also on the local side, the presence of guests such as Mu Xinxin, Carlos Moraes José, Un Sio San and Carlos André, among others, ensures that Macau will be well represented.

This local representation extends to the visual arts and to cinema, with local filmmakers Tracy Choi, Emily Chan and Cheong Kin Man joining the festival to screen some of their latest creations.

Two of the most acclaimed public speakers in previous editions, Portuguese Rui Zink and Taiwan's Lolita Hu, will return to Macau this year, together with debut guests such as Ernesto Dabo from Guinea-Bissau.

What remains unchanged is the MOP2.3 million festival budget, MOP1.4 million of which was granted through public financing.

The final version of the program will be made known about one month before the festival.



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Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

Hong Kong bourse boss not fan of China's market intervention

THE head of Hong Kong's stock exchange said yesterday that he wasn't a fan of recent moves by Beijing to prop up sagging share prices but it won't stop the exchange from expanding ties with mainland Chinese counterparts.

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing CEO Charles Li said that Beijing would probably intervene again in the markets but hoped officials would do a better job.

The emergency measures were aimed at stemming a painful decline on China's stock markets that also contributed to a global slump in shares. The measures included curbs on stock sales by major shareholders and a botched "circuit breaker" mechanism on the Shanghai market intended to prevent big share price swings but which traders said added to turmoil. They failed to stop the rout, with the Shanghai Composite down about 19 percent since the start of the year.

"What do you think of the Chinese obnoxious intervention policy? That's what you're asking," Li said in a reply to a reporter's questions. "I don't like it. I don't think you like it.



A man walks past an electronic board showing the Hang Seng index outside a local bank in Hong Kong

I don't think anybody likes it. I don't think they even like it but that's what they did. That's what they think they have to do, they probably will do it again."

The comments highlight how the Chinese government's clumsy meddling in markets has eroded confidence in

its ability to steer the country through economic and financial reforms.

Li was speaking at a media event to outline the bourse's strategy over the next three years, which is focused on expanding direct trading links with mainland Chinese equity,

■ The central gov't's clumsy meddling in markets has eroded confidence in its ability to steer the country through economic and financial reforms

commodity and bond markets. In late 2014, the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect trading link was launched giving international investors wider access to China's main stock

market, which had been largely closed off to outsiders. It also gives wealthy Chinese investors access to a market outside the mainland for the first time. A similar link between Hong Kong and the smaller Shenzhen stock market is planned but Chinese regulatory approval has been delayed amid the market turmoil.

He said the volatility would not prevent Hong Kong Exchanges from working to become a bigger platform for Chinese and international investors to access each other's markets.

"We're not going to say: there's bad stuff over there so I decided to not build a bridge," Li said. "So we build the bridge. If something's happening there that you don't like, you don't have to cross it."

Hong Kong has been a specially administered region of China since 1997 but it has a separate financial system and its own currency. **AP**

Macau Legend bought 3.35 million shares of its own stock this week

HONG-KONG listed Macau Legend Development has increased the pace of its share buy-backs, purchasing 39.91 million units of its own stock so far. The firm this week bought 3.35 million shares of its own stock for about HKD3.39 million (USD433,612), GGRAsia reported.

Billionaire David Chow's firm posted a 65.2 per-

cent annual decline in share price in 2015, show data compiled by GGRAsia. Its stock was worth HKD2.93 per unit at the beginning of 2015. The stock ended the year at HKD1.02.

The latest announcement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on Wednesday concerning a small tranche of common shares is part of an



David Chow's firm has increased the pace of its share buy-backs

exercise that began in late August. Between August and late December, the firm bought about 97 million of its own shares, for an aggregate value of approximately HKD110.2 million, according to several regulatory filings.

The online source calculated that the company has spent more than HKD150 million buying its own shares

since August.

The buy-back process started in August after the company reported it had slipped into the red in the first half of 2015. Macau Legend on August 19 reported a loss of HKD68.4 million for the first six months of 2015. It made a profit of HKD226.4 million in the prior-year period, the source added.

corporate bits

CEM AWARDS ENERGY-SAVING BUILDINGS



CEM's "Macau Energy Saving Contest 2015," re-launched in 2015 for the seventh time between May and October, yesterday held its award ceremony to commend the

winning buildings and hotels. The company partnered with the Office for the Development of Energy Sector (GDSE) to fulfil its corporate social responsibility of protecting the en-

vironment, as per government policy.

The "Macau Energy Saving Contest" includes two categories: the Public Building Facilities Group and the Hotel Group. The contest's seven editions have saved a total of 116.4 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. Last year, 43 hotels and 393 buildings participated in the contest, collectively saving up to 48 million kWh of energy.

The power consumption in Macau has hit record highs in recent years amid the booming hotel industry, leading buildings and hotels to map out environmental policies based on their unique operating conditions.

The contest will resume from May to October in 2016, and enrollment opens in April.

WYNN'S MIZUMI FEATURES THREE MICHELIN-STARRED CHEFS

Wynn's Japanese restaurant, Mizumi, has launched signature dishes in collaboration with three Michelin-starred chefs from Japan.

The chefs serve customers authentic Japanese food at the counter. In addition to this traditional feature, Mizumi has also allocated a main dining area for larger parties, a new benchmark in the Japanese dining experience. The restaurant promises to serve the finest seasonal ingredients from Japan and around the world to create sushi,

tempura, teppanyaki and kyodo (regional) cuisines. Sea urchin from Hokkaido, tuna from Aomori, and marbled beef from Ishigaki Island will be specially served by Mizumi.

The restaurant's setting complements the pleasures on the plate. Upon entry, guests are welcomed by artist Gerardo Hacer's steel yellow dogami sculpture. Japan's national colors of white and red can be seen throughout the restaurant, which is decorated with custom artwork by renowned artist Sush Mashida.



Master of Sushi - Tsutomu Shimamiya

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

What Will Influence Property Prices In 2016?

This three part article explores the different factors that affecting the market

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



JULIET RISDON

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Last year we published an article in January looking at 'What will influence Macau property prices in 2015'? The leading influences were supply and demand, the development of the gaming business and government policy. These influential factors have not really changed, but we can of course speculate about what might happen in the coming year. Don't forget, one of the obstacles in making accurate predications about the future is the number of variables involved. The more variables there are, the more complex the equation. The more complex the equation, the higher the chance of inaccuracy. It is important to remember that prices are rarely affected by a single factor. When this does occasionally happen, it is the neutrality of the other factors that make it appear as though the single factor is the only thing that matters, when in reality all elements are still influencing the outcome, albeit in a neutral manner. This can of course give the illusion that a particular program or scheme is successful when in fact an outcome may be heavily influenced by what has NOT been done, rather than what HAS. So, having laid the groundwork with

absolutely no certainty whatsoever, let's have a look at what will influence 2016 property prices and what might lay ahead.

In no particular order:

Supply and Demand

We are familiar with the basic economic principle of supply and demand, and saw the effect it had on the rental market when hundreds of apartments in the One Oasis development came on to the market at the same time last year.

This temporary over-supply created a competitive environment amongst landlords eager to fill their apartments with tenants, and prices were driven down. It wasn't long before the ripples reached other properties in Taipa and Macau, and prices started to drop in order to compete with those at One Oasis.

Whilst the economic climate had already taken a downturn, rents did not decrease with any significance until there was an over-supply of apartments. The combination of the two factors was enough to drive prices down.

Over the last 10 years the population of Macau has grown by more than 30% to around 645,000 according to government statistics. They all need housing, and the pipeline of new property has to keep up with

the demand. As we pointed out last year, the numbers themselves may not look dramatic in percentage terms, but when you consider the exponential problem of supply and demand, the enormity of the situation starts to hit home.

To illustrate the point; If there are 10 apartments available and nine people looking for housing, it is a buyers / tenants market.

However, if there are 10 apartments available and 11 people looking for housing, the market swings in favour of the owners and prices start to rise.

The difference in this seemingly minor increase cannot be over emphasized.

Its not an easy job, but one of the major factors affecting property prices will be the governments ability to enable a sufficient pipeline of property is available.

Next Week: Three More factors that will influence what you pay for your apartment in 2016.

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Joao Lima

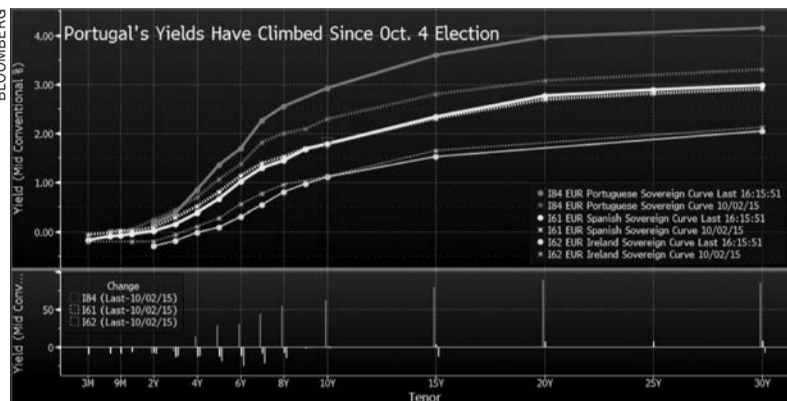
Even the ECB's cash can't stop investors worrying about Portugal

AS bonds tumble across southern Europe, it's beginning to look like the European Central Bank's market stimulus never existed for Portugal.

The country's bonds have slid since an inconclusive election on Oct. 4 led to weeks of political wrangling and a minority Socialist government promising to ease austerity. Yields on 10-year securities have climbed more than 60 basis points since then to 2.93 percent. They're higher than when ECB President Mario Draghi unveiled his bond-buying program, or quantitative easing, last January.

While declines in higher-yielding government bonds in riskier parts of the euro region have shown this week the limits of the ECB's impact, Portugal and Greece are the only countries in the 19-member currency bloc to have lost investors money over the past three months, returns compiled by Bloomberg show.

"For investors to keep Portuguese paper they need to see that the new government is following a path of fiscal responsibility," said Ciaran O'Hagan, a strategist at Societe Generale SA. "The ECB's QE is having an impact. It's a tap



that's constantly flowing, but it can't stop a tsunami."

Central to the concern over Portugal is whether the government is shifting tack as it prepares to temper the austerity measures that won favor with investors, if not voters.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa's government, sworn in at the end of November, is due to deliver a draft of its 2016 budget to European authorities this week. Plans include reversing state salary cuts and bolstering family incomes, policies he needs to ensure the support from the Communists and Left

Bloc to have a majority in parliament.

The government already increased the minimum wage and plans to reinstate four holidays and reduce the working week for state workers to 35 hours, abandoning some measures introduced during Portugal's three-year international bailout program that ended in 2014.

Portugal still attracted foreign investors to a sale of 4 billion euros (USD4.4 billion) of 10-year government bonds via banks last week. Finance Minister Mario Centeno said

maintaining confidence in the country is crucial and it would be reflected in the budget. Bond yields peaked at 18 percent during the debt crisis.

Costa, 54, says he can still keep the budget deficit within the European Union limit of 3 percent of gross domestic product through 2019 as the country tries to deal with its 223 billion-euro debt pile.

Investors are taking more

convincing after some bondholders in what remains of failed lender Banco Espirito Santo SA were forced to take losses. Costa has said he was concerned by the central bank's treatment of those investors.

The extra yield on Portuguese 10-year bonds compared with German securities widened to the most since July on Monday. The spread has widened more quickly than Spain, which is going through its own post-election turmoil, and Ireland, where voters are expected to choose the next government as early as February.

"If we look at the reaction thus far year-to-date in the peripheral markets, the one market that stands out as under-performing is Portugal," Scott Thiel, BlackRock Inc.'s deputy chief investment officer for fundamental fixed income, said in a Bloomberg Television interview on Jan. 18. "The political situation there, the market obviously has taken relatively negatively." **Bloomberg**

For investors to keep Portuguese paper they need to see the new gov't is on a path of fiscal responsibility

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Young Chinese scale Great Firewall to flood Taiwan media

Didi Tang, Beijing

THE Facebook page of Taiwan's president-elect was flooded yesterday with tens of thousands of pro-China comments following a campaign by young mainlanders to jump the country's "Great Firewall" into normally forbidden overseas social media to express displeasure over the recent election.

President-elect Tsai Ing-wen is from a party that less friendly toward Beijing and the notion of eventual reunification than the previous one, angering many residents in China, which considers Taiwan part of its territory.

A youth-dominated online forum on the mainland with millions of members launched the crusade late Wednesday to flood Tsai's Facebook page as well as news sites, including Taiwan's SETN.com and Hong Kong-based Apple Daily, with comments and conversation. Thousands of mainland Web users appear to have answered the call.

One of Tsai's Facebook posts drew 42,000 comments, with most warning that China "firmly opposes any independence." Some taunted the island to declare formal independence so Beijing has an "excuse to annihilate the bandits."

Though some Chinese have long chafed at Internet restrictions aimed at insulating residents from forbidden, harmony-eroding ideas from outside, this is the first major public



People walk past a mock-train on display at Taiwan's Alishan Square, a commercial area set up by the Taiwanese government near Qianmen Street in Beijing

Thousands of mainland Web users appear to have answered the call [to the crusade]

groundswell to scale the wall in the opposite direction, for Chinese Internet users who want to flaunt their unswerving nationalism abroad.

Though Chinese authorities tolerate eruptions of nationalist sentiment, they also do not like to see them spiral out of control.

Beijing is wary of efforts to break out of the confines of the Chinese cyberspace and has hinted that the use of virtual private networks, or VPNs, to access banned websites could be considered illegal.

Beijing-based journalist Zhang Heng said the outpouring among young Chinese was the result of youthful exuberance and being "brainwashed for more than a dozen years by thought and politics courses" in school.

The crusade's silver lining was that many young people are learning how to access the global Internet, he said.

"I think that's a good skill to have," Zhang said. "At least some of the young people will see a

more colorful world on the other side of the wall. When they are exposed to more information, they won't be easily manipulated by a single political thought."

The campaign was organized by an online forum named after former Chinese football player Li Yi that has bred some of the most popular expressions in China's Web culture. Forum members planned further forays over the Great Firewall into Taiwan's cyberspace later this week.

Supporters in China have cheered the online aggression as a spontaneous manifestation of the will of China's young generation, while critics there have derided the crusaders as "little pinkos" who blindly follow the

propaganda of the "red" Communist Party.

On Tsai's Facebook page, the Taiwanese president-elect did not directly address the storm of comments but posted a picture with the line: "The greatness of this country lies in that everyone has the right to be oneself."

On the Facebook page for the news site SETN.com, the web administrator for its entertainment page engaged with the "crusaders." When some of them inquired if they were on the right page, the web administrator helpfully provided the link to the site's political news page.

When a crusader posted a long list of the yummy Chinese delicacies as an enticement for fellow youth in Taiwan to look toward the joining with the mainland, the administrator replied: "You are quite a cook."

In an interview with PingWest, a website devoted to tech news in China, a person who described himself as a backroom staffer for the crusade detailed how the action was organized. He said he was responsible for translating replies in foreign languages. PingWest said it withheld the man's name because he feared his own Facebook page would be attacked if he were identified.

The man said others were tasked with "liking" the comments by team members, or engaging outsiders in conversation.

"We pretended to be picking fights, but then we found what we brought to the battle was bread and not bricks," the unnamed participant told PingWest. "In the end we were talking about food, and scenic sites."

"The purpose of the Facebook battle is not to convince one side but let the two sides know we are all living beings instead of enemies with labels." AP

CHINESE forces recently held live-fire landing exercises along the coast opposite Taiwan, the military's official television channel said Thursday, days after the self-governing island elected an independence-leaning president.

CCTV7 said the drills were staged by the 31st Group Army based in Xiamen near the Taiwanese-held island of Kinmen, considered one of the People's Liberation Army's "frontline" units for any action regarding Taiwan. It said only that the exercises were held "recently" without giving an exact date.

Equipment used in the drills included long-range rockets, self-propelled howitzers, amphibious tanks and helicopters, the channel said.

Military publicizes landing drills near Taiwan after elections



Chinese People's Liberation Army cadets take part in a bayonet drills at the PLA's Armoured Forces Engineering Academy Base, in the outskirts of Beijing

No details on the numbers of troops or equipment were given.

The Defense Ministry did not immediately say whether the drills were

related to Saturday's election that was won by Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party.

China routinely says its exercises are planned well in advance and not timed to respond to specific events.

However, noting the units involved and the physical similarity of the exercise area to parts of Taiwan's coastline, the popular Sina Military website said that "given the certain amount of risk the two sides are facing today, the hypothetical target of the 31st Group Army's exercises

might be those 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces."

The 31st Group Army is one of three army groups within the Nanjing Military District that has primary responsibility for eventualities involving Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province to be reunited with by force if necessary.

During the 1950s, sections of the army took part in the shelling of forces on Kinmen in a continuation of the Chinese civil war that forced Chiang Kai-shek's forces to shift his Nationalist

government to Taiwan in 1949. Units of the army also joined in military drills and missile tests in 1995 and 1996 aimed at intimidating Taiwanese into voting for pro-unification candidates in the island's first direct presidential election.

That attempt at intimidation ultimately backfired as defiant voters re-elected Lee Teng-hui and the U.S. Navy stationed two aircraft battle groups into waters near Taiwan.

Tsai has refused to endorse Beijing's "one-China principle," which states that the island and the mainland are part of the same Chinese nation. However, she has also pledged to maintain the status-quo, keep open channels of communication and not to provoke China. AP

SO long, People's Frontline. Adios, Comrade in Arms. China's armed forces have shut down newspapers published by the country's seven military regions as part of a program to downsize and streamline the world's largest standing military.

The papers, also including War Flag, Vanguard and People's Armed Forces, have been gradually superseded by official news and propaganda television and websites for soldiers whose access to the Internet and smart phones is restricted.

The military's People's Liberation Army Daily said all the publications ceased publishing last week. The oldest, Soldiers News, dated from 1930.

The closures leave the storied PLA Daily as the military's sole remaining daily publication, although state broadcaster CCTV also devotes an entire channel to the armed forces staffed by uniformed officers.

China is in the process of cutting 300,000 personnel from the 2.3 million-member military, reorganizing its command structure and jettisoning non-essential functions such as arts troupes.

The reforms also aim to strengthen the Communist Party's ultimate control over the military, preventing any attempts to make it loyal instead to the people and nation rather than the ruling party.

They also come as China has become more assertive in pressing its claims to territory in the East China Sea and South China Sea, increasing tensions with its neighbors. **AP**

PLA closes military newspapers as part of reform program



People walk past a poster of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers on display in Beijing

Ex-drug buster, Chinese citizen arrested in Manila drug raid

A former anti-narcotics officer and a Chinese citizen were arrested yesterday during a drug raid in the Philippine capital that yielded USD6.7 million worth of high-grade crystal methamphetamine, officials said.

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and police officials said they confiscated 64 kilograms of crystal meth, also known as "shabu," during the raid on a Manila town house that turned out to be a clandestine drug laboratory.

Both suspects were in the house when it was raided. One, ma-

rine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino, had led several large drug busts as former head of the drug enforcement agency's special enforcement service. He denied any links to drug syndicates, telling reporters he was on a legitimate intelligence mission.

The Chinese suspect, identified as Yan Yi Shou, said he worked as an interpreter for the special enforcement service when it was headed by Marcelino, officials said.

PDEA chairman Arturo G. Cacedac Jr. ordered a full investigation of Marcelino, who he said "was not really on our radar."

Agency operatives said they were surprised to find Marcelino inside the raided house.

Marcelino, who had assumed a job as superintendent of a navy officer training school only on Monday, previously worked with the armed forces' intelligence service.

Cacedac said 64 wooden drums containing an unknown substance presumed to be illegal drugs were confiscated and five people including another Chinese citizen were taken into custody during a follow-up raid at a compound in suburban Valenzuela city. **AP**

China's maternity matrons gird for mini-baby boom

Now that China has abandoned its decades-long one-child policy, demand for maternity services is expected to grow as women take advantage of the chance to have a second child. Some of those women will be older than average and will have special health needs.

A school in Beijing, the Li Ming Maternity Service Company, is anticipating this trend by offering new training for high-end maternity matron services.

It is common practice in China for women to spend a month in bed after giving birth. During this time, middle- and upper-class families often use maternity matrons to help out, caring for both mother and baby and arranging meals up to six times a day.

The maternity service company's general manager, Cui Jingwen, says an experienced maternity matron can earn up to 15,000 yuan (about USD2,300) a month.

For 35 years, China's family planning policy limited most urban couples to one child and rural couples to two if their first was a girl — until the policy



Dolls are used as maternity matrons learn to take care of babies during training classes run by Li Ming Maternity Service Company in Beijing

was relaxed in October to allow parents to have two children.

Due to that change, demographics expert Huang Wenzheng says China may see more than 2 million extra births next year. **AP**

VIETNAM

Communists meet in secrecy to pick nation's leaders

Yves Dam Van, Hanoi

VIETNAM'S ruling Communist Party began an eight-day congress yesterday that starts an orchestrated transfer of power to new leaders who will face myriad challenges including economic reforms, corruption and maritime aggression from China.

Despite the veneer of renewal, the new leadership will be drawn from a limited pool of officials within party ranks and is expected to be led by the same man who has been at the top for the last five years, General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong (pronounced New-yen Foo Chong).

"Corruption and wastefulness remain serious problems ... causing discontent in the public, affecting people's trust in the party and the state," Trong warned in his speech to open the congress of 1,510 delegates, representing Vietnam's 63 provinces, ministries, and other party organizations.

In a reference to China, which has been expanding its influence in South China Sea to the dismay of its neighbors, Trong said the "complicated developments in the East Sea" and other economic problems have "negatively affected our country."

Vietnam is one of the last remaining communist nations in the world, with a party membership of 4.5 million, but like its ideological ally China, the government believes in a quasi-free market economy alongside a strictly controlled society that places several restrictions



Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam delivers a speech during the opening ceremony of the Communist Party of Vietnam's 12th Congress in Hanoi

on its 93 million people.

Delegates stood and clapped when Trong and 15 other Politburo members walked into the conference hall at the National Convention Center near the city center. The stage was set against the backdrop of a bust of the country's revolutionary leader, Ho Chi Minh, portraits of Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, and the national flag and the hammer-and-sickle red flag for the party.

Delegates also sang the national anthem and "L'Internationale," the official song of communism.

The Communist Party is constitutionally empowered to run the country. It names a new crop of leaders every five years, but the process is shrouded in secrecy. The congress will end Jan. 28 when the names of the general secretary, the prime

minister, the president, the chairman of the National Assembly and other top functionaries will be announced.

Their appointments would have been already decided, and the delegates would simply endorse them. The most crucial position is general secretary, the de facto No. 1 leader of the country, although Vietnam professes a collective leadership through a Politburo that handles day to day affairs, and a larger Central Committee that meets twice a year to decide policy.

Although the entire process is stage-managed, Trong had faced a challenge this time from Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, who has spearheaded economic reforms with mixed success. Although he is seen as pro-business and reform minded, he was also accused of

economic mismanagement, nepotism and promoting patronage politics by favoring party members in return for political support.

However, it became clear on Wednesday that Trong had sidelined Dung when a preparatory meeting agreed to continue with a controversial 2014 rule barring all but officially nominated candidates from consideration, with no new nominations allowed from the congress floor. Trong was endorsed as the general secretary candidate earlier this month.

But the two camps are believed to have reached a compromise under which Trong would stay as general secretary for two years instead of five, and a Dung supporter would become the chairman of the National Assembly. The prime minister's post would go to a neutral person and the president would be a Trong loyalist.

This configuration "would be a demonstrable loss for Dung" but it should not be "confused with an outright win by Trong," said Christian Lewis, a Vietnam expert at the New York-based Eurasia Group think tank. "It is instead a composition that reflects a desire for a balance and more consensus-driven decision-making at the very top," he wrote in a commentary.

Dung's apparent ouster "represents a clear vote by the top leaders in favor of balance over strong personalities in the make-up of the Politburo," Lewis wrote.

The development raises questions about the direction of economic reforms Dung had been backing. The reforms

have brought a flood of foreign investment, created a fledgling stock market and helped triple per capita GDP to \$2,100 over the past 10 years, but his rivals accuse him of economic mismanagement and failing to control massive public debt and non-performing loans of state-owned banks.

But, Lewis said, the new set of leaders will support the current economic reforms and trade policy. Notably they remain committed to the Trans-Pacific Partnership with the United States and other key trade deals including the free trade agreement with the European Union.

"Vietnam wants to diversify its economic partners to avoid becoming excessively dependent on China," Lewis said.

Vietnam has an ambivalent relationship with China. Despite being its largest trading partner, China is also a security challenge. Beijing has been expanding its territorial assertions in the South China Sea, but Vietnam has pushed back against those claims. Dung has been seen as standing up to Beijing, not afraid to criticize it, while Trong was seen as being soft on China.

Still, the new leaders will be particularly positive for U.S.-Vietnam relations, said Lewis, pointing out that Trong's visit to the U.S. in July 2015 was well received.

Over the next week, the congress will review and set national and party policies, and select a Central Committee. On one of the last days of the congress, the new Central Committee will meet to select a Politburo from among its ranks and pick one of them as party general secretary.

The country's three other top leaders — prime minister, president and National Assembly chairman — would be named at the congress, but their actual selection will be done by the National Assembly, which itself is elected about six months after the Congress. AP

THAILAND

Authorities arrest students opposed to military rule

AUTHORITIES in Thailand have arrested members of a student group opposed to military rule, including one snatched off the street at night and bundled into a vehicle, in the latest jousting between the government and its most active opponents.

Four members of the New Democracy Movement were taken to military court yesterday to be charged with violating an order banning groups of five or more people from gathering publicly for political purposes.

Last month, the students were blocked en route to a protest at a park built under army patronage to honor past kings. The students sought to bring attention

to corruption allegations in the park's construction. They had refused to surrender themselves after warrants for their arrest were issued.

Siriwich Serithiwat, also known as "Ja New," was detained Wednesday night by unidentified men — thought to be army officers — who seized him at a busy street corner and took him into a waiting SUV. The student group released video footage purportedly of the incident, which circulated widely on social media.

Three of his colleagues were arrested when they went to the police station to lend their support. All were released later yesterday pending a court appearance. Thai media reported another mem-



Sirawich Serithiwat, also known as "Ja New" (center) arrives at military court in Bangkok, Thailand

ber of the group was separately arrested.

Ja New, who was allowed to keep his mobile phone after his arrest, said in a posting on his group's Facebook page

that he was seized by masked men, blindfolded, roughed up and threatened before being taken to a police station.

The case recalled the 2004 disappearance of Somchai Neelapaijit, a Muslim human rights lawyer, who is widely believed to have been kidnapped and killed by police officers. His remains were never found. Last month, Thailand's Supreme Court upheld the acquittal of five officers who had been found guilty of coercion and robbery in connection with the disappearance. The ruling, which hinged in part on the failure to find Somchai's body, sparked fresh calls for Thailand to pass laws to prosecute enforced disappearances. AP


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LITVINENKO

UK judge: Putin probably approved plan to poison ex-spy

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin probably approved a plan by Russia's FSB security service to kill a former agent-turned-Kremlin critic who died after drinking tea laced with radioactive poison, a British judge said yesterday in a strongly worded report that led Moscow to accuse Britain of a politically motivated attack.

Judge Robert Owen, who led a public inquiry into the 2006 killing of Alexander Litvinenko, said he was certain that two Russian men had given Litvinenko tea containing a fatal dose of polonium-210 during a meeting at a London hotel.

He said there was a "strong probability" that Russia's FSB, successor to the Soviet Union's KGB spy agency, directed the killing and that the operation was "probably approved" by Putin, then as now the president of Russia.

On his deathbed, Litvinenko accused Putin of ordering his killing, but this is the first public official statement linking the Russian president to the crime, and it sent a chilling jolt through U.K.-Russia relations.

Britain summoned the Russian ambassador for a dressing-down and imposed an asset freeze on the two main Russian suspects: Andrei Lugovoi, now a Russian lawmaker, and Dmitry Kovtun.

Moscow has always strongly denied being involved in Litvinenko's death, and Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zhakarova said the Russian government did not consider Owen's conclusions objective or impartial.

"There was one goal from the beginning: slander Russia and slander its officials," Zhakarova told journalists Thursday in Moscow. She repeated several times that the Litvinenko inquiry was neither public nor transparent, claiming it had turned into a "shadow puppet theater."

Litvinenko, a former FSB agent, fled to Britain in 2000 and became a vocal critic of

AP PHOTO



Marina Litvinenko, widow of former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko

[Suspect] Lugovoi is now a member of the Russian parliament, which means he is immune from prosecution in his country

Russia's security service and of Putin, whom he accused of links to organized crime. Owen said Litvinenko "was regarded as having betrayed the FSB" with his actions, and said "there were powerful motives for organizations and individuals within the Russian state" to kill him.

Marina Litvinenko, the spy's widow, said she was "very pleased that the words my husband spoke on his deathbed when he accused Mr. Putin have been proved by an English court."

She also called for tougher action, urging British Prime Minister David Cameron to expel Russian intelligence agents operating in Britain and impose economic sanctions and travel bans on Putin and other officials linked to what her lawyer, Ben Emmerson, called "a mini-act of nuclear terrorism on the streets of London."

"It's unthinkable that the prime minister would do nothing in the face of the damning findings," Marina Litvinenko told reporters.

Britain responded to the report with strong words — though its scope for strong action is limited.

U.K.-Russian relations have remained chilly since the killing of Litvinenko, who was granted

British citizenship shortly before his death, and worsened with Russia's involvement in the separatist fighting in Ukraine. But the inquiry's report comes as the two countries are cautiously trying to work together against the Islamic State group in Syria, and neither wants a major new rift.

British Home Secretary Theresa May said the involvement of the Russian state was "a blatant and unacceptable breach of the most fundamental tenets of international law and civilized behavior" — but not a surprise. She announced asset freezes against suspects Lugovoi and Kovtun, and said Interpol had issued notices calling for their arrest if they traveled abroad. Russia refuses to extradite the two men.

Lugovoi is now a member of the Russian parliament, which means he is immune from prosecution in his country. In an interview yesterday with the

Associated Press, he called the British investigation a "spectacle."

"I think that — yet again — Great Britain has shown that anything that involves their political interests, they'll make a top priority," he said. "These announcements from the British Parliament completely discredit the British legal system — completely — in the eyes of any sensible, normal person."

Lugovoi also claimed he would have liked to testify at the inquiry but "was not allowed." The judge said both Lugovoi and Kovtun declined to give evidence.

Kovtun, now described as a businessman, said the conclusions were based on "false evidence" presented in closed hearings.

"The crazy evidence is easily refuted," the Tass news agency reported him as saying.

Owen — a retired High Court judge appointed by the government to head a public inquiry into the slaying — heard from dozens of witnesses during months of public hearings last year and also saw secret British intelligence evidence.

Announcing his findings at London's Royal Courts of Justice, Owen said "there can be no doubt that Alexander Litvinenko was poisoned by Mr. Lugovoi and Mr. Kovtun" in the Pine Bar of London's luxury Millennium Hotel on Nov. 1, 2006. He died three weeks later of acute radiation syndrome.

In his 326-page report, Owen said based on the evidence he had seen, the operation to kill Litvinenko was "probably" approved by then-FSB head Nikolai Patrushev, now head of Putin's security council, and by Putin. **AP**

USA

5 charged in alleged scheme to steal drug secrets

FIVE people were indicted in federal court on charges they took part in an alleged scheme to steal biopharmaceutical trade secrets from GlaxoSmithKline and sell them to competitors in China.

The indictment, which includes charges such as conspiracy to steal trade secrets and conspiracy

to commit wire fraud and money laundering, said many of the products allegedly targeted were designed to treat cancer or other serious diseases.

The U.S. attorney's office alleges that GlaxoSmithKline scientist Yu Xue emailed and downloaded confidential information and worked

with other defendants to set up three corporations to sell the stolen intellectual property. They also allege that former company scientist Lucy Xi also emailed confidential information.

Prosecutors said Xue, 45, — who they said "is regarded as one of the top protein biochemists

in the world" — worked primarily to develop anti-cancer drugs using proteins to target receptor sites on cancer cells.

"These types of anti-cancer drugs ... typically cost pharmaceutical corporations more than USD1 billion and many years to develop before they can be turned into a commercially successful

product," prosecutors said in the indictment. Authorities alleged that Xue "stole more than a dozen specific products, even products she was not directly researching and developing."

Attorney Peter Zeidenberg said yesterday that Xue had pleaded not guilty and would contest the charges; he said the

defense believes "that at the end of the day she'll be exonerated."

Attorneys for 42-year-old Tao Li, of Nanjing, China; 45-year-old Tian Xue, of North Carolina; and 38-year-old Lucy Xi, of California, declined comment. An attorney for 36-year-old Yan Mei, of Nanjing, China couldn't be found yesterday. **AP**



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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:50	Criminal Minds S.7
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Documentary Serie
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie
01:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

10:30	Boonie Bears - Sr.2
11:35	Young Adult
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
18:30	Contest
19:20	Miscellaneous
19:55	Documentary Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Drama
21:50	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Herbal Tea
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:15	Young Adult
17:40	Miscellaneous
18:50	Action
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Contraponto
22:00	Every Breath We Take - Understanding our Atmosphere
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report

offbeat

SPANISH TOWN CELEBRATES BIZARRE, TURNIP-THROWING FESTIVAL



Hundreds of people have been running through the streets of a tiny town in southwestern Spain, chasing a fancy-dressed, beast-like figure and pelting it with turnips.

The event was part of the bizarre 'Jarramplas' festival which is held in Piornal each Jan 19-20.

Following the yearly tradition, a town volunteer donned a costume of multicolored ribbons and a protective devilish mask with horns. He then charged through the streets, beating a drum until he couldn't stand the punishment anymore.

Local farmers supplied some 18 tons of turnips for the festival. Its origins are uncertain but the local tourism office says the 'Jarramplas' figure represents a cattle thief. Others say it has religious roots.

The festival finished yesterday (Macau time) with musical and gastronomic celebrations.

cinema



CINETEATRO

21 JAN - 27 JAN

THE 5H WAVE_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J Blakeson

Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson, Maika Monroe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min

STEVE JOBS_

ROOM 2

2.30, 7.15 pm

Director: Danny Boyle

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet, Seth Rogene

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min



THE BIG SHORT_

ROOM 2

4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Adam McKay

Starring: Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 130min



THE BIG BEE_

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Yukihiko Tsutsumi

Starring: Yosoke Eguchi, Masahiro Motoki, Yukie Nakama

Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 139min

IP MAN 3_

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun

Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang

Language: Cantonese (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 110min

MACAU TOWER

14 JAN - 10 FEB

THE 5H WAVE_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J Blakeson

Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson, Maika Monroe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min

this day in history



1979 PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKE PARALYZES UK

Tens of thousands of public sector workers have taken part in a day of action - the biggest mass stoppage since 1926 - in support of a claim for more pay.

The four major public service unions angry at the government's attempt to impose a 5% pay ceiling called out their 1.5 million members.

They included hospital workers, rubbish collectors, school caretakers, grave diggers and airport staff.

Mass demonstrations have been held in London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast, bringing many services to a standstill. Services in the North East of England have also been badly affected.

The unions are demanding a £60 minimum wage for manual workers and a 35-hour week. They say their pay is falling behind that of their private sector counterparts.

Tonight, the union leaders called for an indefinite programme of selective industrial action in pursuit of their pay claim.

The four unions involved are the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE), General and Municipal Workers Union (GMWU) and the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU).

The march through London was the biggest street demonstration by trade unionists in Britain since the unofficial 1971 stoppage against the Industrial Relations Act, when 140,000 took part.

General secretary of the GMWU David Basnett said those taking part were the people who "literally care for us from the cradle to the grave".

Hundreds of schools were closed because they had no caretakers, crossing patrols or meals staff; hospitals were without cleaners, cooks, porters and theatre orderlies and airports had to operate without many of their manual workers.

Ambulance staff also took part in the action - although in some areas, like London, they were still providing emergency cover. In other areas, army ambulances were on standby.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

This was the first of a series of strikes by public sector workers and marked the beginning of what became known as "the winter of discontent".

As the rubbish began to pile up on the streets, the opposition, led by Margaret Thatcher, attacked the Labour Government over its refusal to call a state of emergency.

Earlier in the month the Prime Minister, James Callaghan, had been ridiculed by press and politicians alike for denying the country was in chaos.

The strikes continued until February 14 when the government sealed an uneasy pact with the unions, aimed at reducing inflation without insisting on any "norm" for pay rises.

On March 28, Mr Callaghan and his government lost a confidence motion by one vote. He was obliged to call a general election which was won by the Conservatives.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Sometimes less really is more. If you want to help others, do as little as possible. If they can't figure out what's causing their frustration, then you certainly can't. They'll have to work on their own problems.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
It's a good time to try something new – exposing your private life to coworkers. If you share work goals, maybe you have other things in common, too. That's not as way-out an idea as you might imagine.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
If you're frustrated with your career, don't share the news with coworkers. Keep it to yourself. Daydreaming about change is one thing, but talking about it will only get in the way of making it happen.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You have plenty of energy, but don't spend it on the particulars. Daydreaming about the big picture is exactly how you should be spending the day, because details will just slip out of your grasp.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
When others get emotional, your first reaction is to say, right back at you. But flying off the handle is the last thing you should do. Keep your composure, even if you have to get creative to do it.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
The details get more and more confusing, through no fault of your own. You'll have to put up with someone else's disorganization. And the best way to do that is to accept that not a lot will get done.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Your boss is learning to appreciate the smaller things in life, and your flexibility is one of them. Your routine may be disrupted, but that won't stop you from accomplishing your tasks. Ask for more than a pat on the back.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Why is it that some don't like work but for you it's an eight-hour-a-day romance? The answer is a mystery. Use your hidden talents to illuminate for coworkers just what's so wonderful about the office.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Life is teaching you a lesson, in an indirect way. Listen to others talking about their pasts. You'll hear something you can apply to your own life, if you think of it as a metaphor.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
If someone is impressed with your proposal, then they should show it with their checkbook. Ask for an advance before starting a project to ensure an excellent result.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Everyone lives partly in reality, and partly in a mystical realm, no small thanks to advertising. Be clear about which is which. Some good marketing could blur the lines and encourage you to overspend.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Dreams of glory may make you want to tackle all responsibilities on your own, but that's unrealistic. Join others or let them join you if you want to maximize effectiveness.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-10	-6	overcast/cloudy
Harbin	-33	-20	clear
Tianjin	-7	-6	flurry/moderate snow
Urumqi	-20	-13	clear/foggy
Xi'an	-2	3	flurry/overcast
Lhasa	-9	8	cloudy/clear
Chengdu	1	6	drizzle/overcast
Chongqing	4	6	drizzle
Kunming	6	16	shower
Nanjing	-1	1	flurry/moderate snow
Shanghai	2	4	drizzle
Wuhan	-2	2	moderate snow/flurry
Hangzhou	0	1	moderate to heavy snow
Taipei	15	19	drizzle/moderate rain
Guangzhou	9	13	drizzle/moderate rain
Hong Kong	11	16	cloudy/drizzle
WORLD			
Moscow	-12	-8	flurry
Frankfurt	-6	1	overcast/clear
Paris	-2	3	cloudy/drizzle
London	5	7	drizzle/moderate rain
New York	-6	0	clear

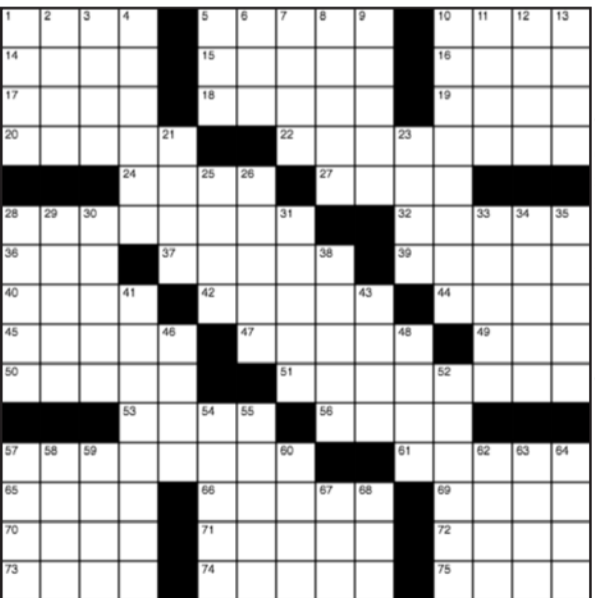
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Campus mil. group; 5- Tiffs; 10- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo; 14- Draft classification; 15- California-Nevada lake; 16- JFK postings; 17- Muscat's land; 18- Belle or Bart; 19- Oodles; 20- Paris "thanks"; 22- Adult male horse; 24- Make ___ for it; 27- Former name of Thailand; 28- Capital of Manitoba; 32- Claw; 36- "à la Carte seven years ___"; 37- Wise ones; 39- Chopin composition; 40- Animate existence; 42- Grand ___ National Park; 44- Concludes; 45- Not odds; 47- Worth; 49- Receive; 50- Actress Witherspoon; 51- Young children; 53- Morays; 56- Linebacker Junior; 57- One on the same side; 61- Windows predecessor; 65- Aromatic plant; 66- Angry; 69- Garr or Hatcher; 70- Blue dye source; 71- Showed again; 72- Figure skater Lysacek; 73- Noah of "ER"; 74- Cleft; 75- Acting part;

DOWN: 1- Chamber; 2- Treater's words; 3- Eye drop; 4- High-kicking dance; 5- Ave. crossers; 6- Bit of butter; 7- Cries of discovery; 8- Legal wrongs; 9- Caravansary; 10- Fellow inmate; 11- Yours, in Tours; 12- Western pact; 13- Org.; 21- Coloured part of the eye; 23- After the bell; 25- ___ the crack of dawn; 26- Israeli desert region; 28- Strong Australian horse; 29- Uncle; 30- Like some checking accounts; 31- Insinuate; 33- Sudden forward thrust; 34- More peculiar; 35- Bird homes; 38- Flies alone; 41- Costume; 43- Unclothed; 46- Appear to be; 48- Dutch export; 52- Gloss; 54- Dens; 55- Throat bug; 57- Melt; 58- Start of a counting rhyme; 59- Nutmeg coat; 60- Countess's husband; 62- "Whip It" band; 63- Vocal; 64- Coscant's reciprocal; 67- Mai ___; 68- Tolkien creature

Yesterday's solution

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



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



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<p>Houston Court, Coloane Village Coloane 1 Bedroom Apartment Upgraded in Sept 2015 HKD 13,500 / 800 sq ft Ref: 15090532</p>	<p>Lakeview Macau 3 Bedroom Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 25,000 / 3,430 sq ft Ref: 15080524</p>	<p>Car Park Space in The Manhattan Taipa Car Parking Manhattan Car Park HKD 2,000 / 00 sq ft Ref: 1505507</p>
		<p>Manhattan F Unit, Taipa 3 Bedroom Apartment Large Master Bedroom HKD 21,500 / 1,720 sq ft Ref: 15090534</p>

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SKIING

Italians Casse, Innerhofer lead final WCup downhill training

Eric Willemsen, Kitzbuehel

CHRISTOF Innerhofer has been among the favorites for the classic men's World Cup downhill race on the Streif course many times in his career, but he is yet to win it.

After yesterday's training, Innerhofer was again regarded by many of his rivals as a potential winner after he was second fastest behind Italian teammate Mattia Casse in final training.

"What Innerhofer just did, we have to analyze it," said Hannes Reichelt, the last Austrian winner of the race in 2014. "I wanted to ski more on the limit also but I didn't manage to do that."

Innerhofer, whose best result here was fifth two years ago, said others won't learn much from studying TV footage of his run.

"I didn't do anything special. Just a normal training run," he said.

Innerhofer and Casse led the final practice session ahead of



Innerhofer battles gate in wild downhill

Saturday's race by more than a second.

A late starter wearing bib No. 47, Casse timed 1 minute, 56.85 seconds on the 3.3 kilometer course to lead Innerhofer by 0.34. Vincent Kriechmayr

came 1.03 behind in third but the Austrian missed a gate and would have been disqualified in a race.

Casse had a career best downhill result by placing 15th in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Ger-

many, last season, but Innerhofer is a seasoned winner on the World Cup with six victories, including four downhills.

Whether others see him as a favorite for one of the season's marquee events, doesn't matter to Innerhofer.

"I am too old for that," said the 31-year-old skier, who won the super-G here three years ago. "I have been racing for nine years and I have been a favorite so many times. I was in the top three of training at least 20 times and people thought I was going to win the race. That's fine with me."

Usually mentioned in the circle of potential Streif winners, Innerhofer still has to live up to that billing. Despite consistent good training results, his fifth place two years ago has been his best showing in the race.

"I am feeling well now," Innerhofer said. "I've learned that I just need to have fun out there. When I wake up on Saturday, I can't wait for the race to start."

Adrien Theaux of France, who was fastest in Tuesday's first training, was 1.07 back in fourth, followed by Steven Nyman of the United States with a 1.16 second deficit.

"You get bumped around a lot but the snow is really positive this year," Nyman said. "In some sections it's icier but for the most part it's like grippy ice, which is what we really like. I messed up the lower part Tuesday so that was my big focus and I skied that much better today."

Overall World Cup leader Aksel Lund Svindal finished 1.29 behind Casse, while his Norwegian teammate and last year's winner, Kjetil Jansrud, came 1.41 off the lead.

Florian Scheiber of Austria crashed and was airlifted to hospital. The Austrian ski federation said Scheiber needed surgery on torn ligaments and a damaged meniscus in his right knee. The incident came two days after Scheiber's teammate Max Franz was ruled out for the season after also crashing and damaging his left ankle, knee and wrist.

The 76th edition of the Hahnenkamm races opens with a super-G on Friday. The results will also count as the first leg of a combined event, with one slalom run to follow five hours later. AP

AD

MPPA

2015 TEAM EVENT POOL TOURNAMENT

8-9 & 10 BALL

RESULTS AFTER ROUND THREE

GROUP A				
Team No.	Team Name	Games Played	Games Won	Points
A3	SUPREME	3	57	23
A2	JACKASS	3	46	18
A4	TEAM OF BEER	3	40	15
A1	ROCKET	3	22	4

GROUP B				
Team No.	Team Name	Games Played	Games Won	Points
B2	NOYPI	3	55	22
B4	THE HEROES	3	42	15
B1	THE ALL BLANKS	3	46	14
B3	THE POOLISSONS	3	36	9

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H 2.06, D 3.62, A 3.94

FOOTBALL | EPL PREVIEW

Arsenal looks to boost title hopes with win over Chelsea

CHELSEA will make the short journey across London to the Emirates Stadium to face an Arsenal side looking to end its 12-year wait for the league title.

While the defending champion has endured a disastrous season culminating in Jose Mourinho's dismissal, the Gunners are level at the top of the standings.

In the most unpredictable of seasons, Leicester, a side that was bottom of the table at the start of the calendar year, shares the lead with the Gunners, while Manchester City is a point adrift in third.

The onus is on Arsenal to win the title, with several rivals struggling for form. And with Bayern Munich head coach Pep Guardiola available at the end of the season, manager Arsene Wenger will be hoping his side capitalizes on its chance or face the insurmountable criticism and calls for his departure that will likely ensue.

Here are some of the talking points ahead of Saturday's Premier League matches:

Fixtures between Arsenal and Chelsea have been notorious for the regularity with which Mourinho would taunt Wenger.

The Portuguese coach would often remind his counterpart of his trophy drought and branded Wenger a "specialist in failure" back in February 2014.

It will undoubtedly come as a relief to the Frenchman to see a different man standing alongside him on the touchline on Sunday (Monday, midnight), given his atrocious record against Mourinho.

Just one win in 15 attempts against the former Blues boss, a

FILE PHOTO



narrow 1-0 win in the Community Shield, highlighted the superiority Mourinho had in matches that ultimately mattered.

Indeed, a 2-0 home win at Stamford Bridge, while Mourinho was still in charge, saw the visitors finish the game with nine men after Gabriel and Santi Cazorla were dismissed.

Guus Hiddink, who is back at Chelsea for the second time in his managerial career, has been tasked with salvaging its miserable campaign.

However, so far he has guided the Blues to four draws and one win in his first five league games. The squad is largely void of the confidence that it exuded last season as it won the title at a canter.

Last season's player of the year Eden Hazard has yet to score and misses out through injury, and while striker Diego Costa has struggled for consistency this season, three goals in his last four appearances will be of some concern to the Gunners

defense.

A win for Tottenham away to Crystal Palace tomorrow could provisionally lift Mauricio Pochettino's side to within two points of the summit.

Spurs responded to losing at home to Leicester with a 4-1 thrashing of relegation-threatened Sunderland before exacting some revenge over the Foxes by beating Claudio Ranieri's side 2-0 in an FA Cup third-round replay on Wednesday.

Another London derby pits

the North Londoners against Alan Pardew's side, without a win in five league matches.

Three consecutive defeats has seen Palace slip to eighth in the table, and barring favorable results the Eagles could find itself in the bottom half at the end of play on Sunday.

Sergio Aguero scored twice for Manchester City at home to Crystal Palace last Saturday as they closed the gap at the top of the table.

Despite the striker having suffered with injuries this term, his double against Palace took him onto 10 goals in just 15 appearances this term.

If City is to claim the title for the third time in five seasons, they will need to ensure a clean bill of health for its first-choice striker, who finished top scorer last year with 26 goals.

West Ham caused an upset in the reverse fixture, winning 2-1 at the Etihad in September. That result saw City miss the chance to move six points clear at the top of the table and another defeat would hand Slaven Bilic's side a memorable double and boost its own chances of a top-six finish and European football next season.

Also tomorrow, it's: Norwich vs. Liverpool; Leicester vs. Stoke, Manchester United vs. Southampton, Sunderland vs. Bournemouth, Watford vs. Newcastle and West Bromwich Albion vs. Aston Villa. On Sunday, it's: Everton vs. Swansea. **AP / Oddschecker.com**

OLYMPICS

Paris 2024 bid secures USD2 million sponsorship deal

LEADERS of the Paris bid for the 2024 Olympics secured a 2 million euros (USD2.2 million) sponsorship deal yesterday with the operator of France's national lottery.

Francaise des Jeux became the first company to support the bid, which is competing with Budapest, Rome and Los Angeles for the games. The International Olympic Committee will choose the host city in September 2017.

Paris bid co-president

Bernard Lapasset said the agreement with the lottery operator is the first of a series of deals to be announced in the coming months.

"We are very proud today to take part to this extraordinary campaign which is about to start thanks to the support of the first Paris 2024 sponsor," Lapasset said at a news conference. "That gives us appetite and desire."

The cost of the bid has been estimated at about 60 million euros (\$65

million), with the major part of the budget to be raised through private funding. If Paris is awarded the Olympics, the infrastructure budget for hosting the games is expected to reach 3 billion euros (\$4.5 billion), with operational costs of 3.2 billion euros (\$4.8 billion).

Paris last hosted the Olympics in 1924.

FDJ CEO Stephane Pallez said a lottery scratch card game promoting the bid will be launched in 2017 by

and could help fund the candidacy.

"If it works well, we will donate part of the game's income to the bid," she said. "It's not included in the 2 million and could help us make more than 2 million."

To help finance the Paris bid, the French national Olympic committee also devised a crowd funding scheme dubbed "Je reve des Jeux" (I dream of the games) that has so far produced limited re-

sults, raising 630,314 euros (\$680,000) since its launch last September.

Lapasset said the French committee is looking at ways of improving the promotion campaign that includes the sale of 2 euro (\$2.25) wristbands, but insisted the bid is not relying on the money raised from that effort.

"This is not an element that has been included in the budget," Lapasset said. "It's just a little extra." **AP**



THE BUZZ GM's CADILLAC OPENS CHINA FACTORY TO TARGET LUXURY MARKET

General Motors Co. opened a Cadillac factory in China yesterday to target the country's growing but crowded luxury car market.

The 8b yuan (USD1.2b) factory operated with its main Chinese partner, Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp., will have an annual

production capacity of 160,000 vehicles.

Cadillac began selling in China in 2004, coming late to a luxury market dominated by BMW, Mercedes Benz and Volkswagen's Audi. China is the biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold.



Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-80 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	60-80 Moderate

opinion



Bizcuits
Leanda Lee

MID-TERM REVIEW RIGOR

The Mid-term Review and the independence of the research process: How can you have a researcher with known political aspirations be involved in a review of the industry that will influence and potentially determine the wealth of the nation, and who wins and who loses in the concessionaire game? I am talking of the mid-term review of the gaming industry commissioned by the government currently in process and, in fact, being extended. Although the government goal was for the review to be objective and scientific, I focus on the lack of face-value independence in a report that reviews a political hot-potato industry: local and international allegations of insufficient governance (note the recent chop to junket numbers for not meeting recently imposed stricter reporting demands, community concerns for foreign investor repatriation of significant funds (even though the bi-product is 76% of budgeted government revenue), local employment rate (non-)concerns (don't get me started on that effectively zero level of structural unemployment), crowding out the local population (and the bet is on mass market?), influence on continuing hikes to property rentals (with vacillation and inertia on whether big government regulatory controls or market forces should hold sway). There is more; we live the story here. Fourteen years of liberalisation and growth have brought with it problems even the most experienced of statesmen and experts would have sleepless nights over, although maybe with such people at the helm many of these issues would have been resolved by now at the practical rather than merely rhetorical or policy level.

Returning to the study/review/scientific report, what are the guarantees offered for independence? And even if, in fact, the research is conducted with the all the rigours of independence and objectivity with no survey question posed, or choice of analytical process or interpretation possibly biased by personal, institutional or political agenda, what of the perception that it isn't independent? What if stakeholders believe that it is serving a particular interest, or is influenced by 'knowing which side your bread is buttered on'?

But who cares about procedural rigor? Investors in Macau are not naïve. We know what to expect. We know that criticism, complaint and raised eyebrows achieve little. Whatever the findings, and regardless of any self-perceived lobbying efficacy, concessionaires just have to 'suck it up' as they do when policy decisions are thrown at them. They do so for the fabulous returns on investment; assuming those returns continue.

The nimbleness of operations and HR management (in particular) in achieving performance outcomes is such that these executives could ply their wares in any normal country with impressive stories of their adaptability facilitated by their incredible skills in managing uncertainty, irrationality, and institutional imposition of fundamental game-changing adjustments to legislation and policy. They are the super-men and women of the business world - hats off to them. Elsewhere, these working heroes would not ordinarily put up with such government reactivity, not in a pink fit. It's the money talking or, for some, the belief that they are making a difference in some humanist, developmental way. It's amazing what abuse we take when there are other benefits that match our values. Macau's about choosing your battles.

Gaming management teams lay themselves prostrate before the ROI imperatives dictated by the operators and junkets. The local government powerbrokers remain acquiescent to the plutocrats and the powerbrokers. And Beijing plies its concern for morality and disfranchised elements of the community left out of the deal - except for the afterthought doggy-bag of the wealth partaking scheme. Within this version of Macau's gaming industry environment, we have a potential lack of independence in the review; from an academic institution supported by the major beneficiaries of the system. Without better transparency it doesn't pass academic principles of arms-length independence and objectivity. But here, in Macau, this will pass muster and will provide the anticipated evidence, and mother-hood statements to echo high-level policy speeches. It's doubtful the findings will offer anything we don't already know. What will be interesting is how it is to be used.

Grisly fossils from Kenya reveal a 10,000-year-old massacre

AP PHOTO



In this August 2012 photo provided by Marta Mirazon Lahr, researcher Frances Rivera (right), Michael Emsugut (left), and Tot Ekulukum excavate a human skeleton at the site of Nataruk, Kenya

Malcolm Ritter
Science Writer

SCIENTISTS have found grisly evidence of a massacre in Kenya about 10,000 years ago, providing rare evidence of violence between groups in ancient hunter-gatherer societies.

Researchers said the discovery casts light on the poorly understood roots of warfare.

Evidence of violence appeared in 10 of 12 relatively complete fossil skeletons the scientists found by what used to be the edge of a lagoon. That included five or six cases of apparent ar-

row wounds to the head or neck, and five cases where the head was smashed with something like a club. One skull had a sharpened stone still embedded.

The researchers said the wounds would have been fatal immediately or soon thereafter.

Two skeletons didn't show evidence of violence but the position of the hands suggested they might have been tied up at the time of death. One was a woman who was pregnant or had recently given birth.

The 12 bodies were adults, and at least four were female. The site also revealed partial remains of at least 15 other people.

The 2012 discovery, made west of Lake Turkana, was reported by scientists at Cambridge University and elsewhere. Writing in a paper released this week by the journal Nature, they said it's one of the clearest cases of violence between groups among prehistoric hunter-gatherers.

The reason for the violence is not clear. The victims may have been raided for resources, like territory or food stored in pots, the researchers said. Or the violence may have resulted from antagonism between two groups, they said. **AP**

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA-FRANCE India is tightening security with extra paramilitary soldiers and police deployed across the capital after a French consulate in southern India received a letter warning against the visit of French President Francois Hollande.

INDIA The media say a millionaire has been sentenced to life in prison for killing his security guard last year by mowing him down with his luxury SUV in a rage.

AFGHANISTAN A deadly Taliban attack on a bus carrying employees of Afghanistan's biggest TV station draws widespread condemnation, with activists denouncing it as an attack on freedom of speech and the country's young and fragile media sector.

PAKISTAN People bury their dead and observe a day of nationwide mourning following a brazen attack by Islamic militants who stormed a northwestern university on Wednesday, gunning down students and teachers and spreading terror.

AUSTRALIA An animal handler is injured when a Sumatran tiger swipes him with claws at an Australian zoo owned by the family of "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin.



USA Drivers in the Washington area spent hours in icy gridlock ahead of heavy snowfall that's predicted to arrive by the weekend from the Appalachian Mountains to Philadelphia and maybe farther north. Yesterday, Virginia governor issued a state of emergency and said people should "take the threat of this storm seriously."



KENYA Police say they have killed four men described as most-wanted extremist suspects whose names were released to the public in December. The shootout happened in the coastal town of Malindi. One of the victims is Suleiman Mohammed Awadh, who was wanted for his alleged role in several Islamic extremist attacks, including the mass killings on a college campus in Garissa in April.

BAHRAIN State-run Gulf Air announced yesterday it will purchase 19 new Airbus aircraft worth a listed value of USD2.35 billion, part of its effort to compete in the region's race between carriers.

times square by rodrigo



2015 WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD FOR MACAU

YEAH, IT DOES LOOK LIKE A RADIATOR!!