



SEXUAL HARASSMENT BILL PROPOSALS
The New Macau Association submitted proposals to include verbal sexual harassment in the government's proposed bill

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VONG: COASTAL WATERS ARE PRIORITY
Alex Vong was inaugurated yesterday as the new Customs Service Director-General at the government headquarters

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SPOKESMAN FOR HK 'SEPARATIST' GROUP CHARGED

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA HSBC warns of a "bumpier" global financial outlook thanks to China's slowing economy, as it reports that its profit dipped slightly last year. [More on p8](#)



USA Hillary Clinton acknowledged she has work to do in convincing voters that she has their best interests at heart, even as the former U.S. secretary of state savored her weekend win over rival Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders in the Nevada caucuses.



FIJI The death toll from a ferocious cyclone which tore through Fiji over the weekend rises to 18 as authorities begin to get a grasp on the scale of the disaster and deploy aid to hard-hit outer islands. [More on p12](#)

UK A vote by Britain to leave the European Union would be a "final decision" with unknown consequences, Prime Minister David Cameron warned yesterday, as uncertainty over Britain's future in the bloc sent the pound plunging on currency markets.

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TELECOM

Data centers in Zhuhai may breach privacy act

P2 MDT REPORT



WONG SIO CHAK RELEASES 2015 CRIME FIGURES

Gaming-related criminal cases surged 38 percent last year

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Passenger agitated after rejection for seat upgrade

A flight from Chengdu to Macau last Saturday was delayed after a female passenger began to display disorderly behavior upon having her request for a seat upgrade rejected, mainland media reported. The aircraft was on the runway preparing to taxi when the woman suddenly got agitated, requiring the crew to attend to her. Passengers said that the captain promptly issued a plane-wide announcement regarding the incident and called the police to escort the woman off the plane. The aircraft, an Airbus A321, was delayed for about two hours.

Police arrest 19 illegal entrants

According to a joint statement on Sunday by the Customs and the Judiciary Police, 19 illegal entrants were arrested in three joint operations run over two days. Six of the lawbreakers hold Vietnamese passports, while the others are mainland residents. One male and three females have also been accused of attempted illegal departure. Two others were able to escape. The illegal entrants, aged between 24 and 51 years, were reportedly secreting their way into Macau to find jobs and new sources of entertainment. Two boat drivers will be charged with complicity. Customs will also prosecute another two people for illegal re-entry and providing shelter and harboring illegal entrants.

Three local comic books launched

The Association of Promoting Macau Comics and Animation Cultural Exchange has launched three comic books by local artists, which address themes ranging from architecture to boxing. "The Art of Zou Shiming" is based on the true story of Zou Shiming, the first Chinese boxer to be crowned an Olympic champion. The writer hopes to inspire young people to be courageous in the face of adversity. Comic writer Sunny Cheong's animal protagonist, a cat named "Ah Bao", takes readers on a journey through a small town to rediscover the beauty of traditional architecture. The third story, which depicts an alien's arrival on Earth, focuses on the spiritual conflict between good and evil. The three books are available in stores across Hong Kong and Macau.

MTEL data centers in Zhuhai may clash with Personal Data Protection Act

Renato Marques

THE setting up of data centers by MTEL Telecommunication Company Ltd. in Zhuhai may conflict with MSAR's Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), since the transfer of data abroad is subject to the authorization of the Office for Personal Data Protection and might even require consent from clients.

The Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP) admitted to the Times that MTEL's plans for establishing new data centers outside of the Macau Special Administrative Region, as reported by Business Daily early this month, require prior approval: "Pursuant to the provisions of the PDPA, such data is lawfully collected and processed in the territory of the Macau SAR, the transfer of the personal data to centers located outside Macau falls under the provisions of Articles 19 and 20 of the PDPA," the office revealed.

Article 19 states that "the data controller should apply to the GPDP regarding the personal data

transfer outside the MSAR, in order to assess whether the legal system of the intended destination for the data ensures an adequate level of personal data protection."

Moreover, article 20 states that "in the case of an inadequate level of protection by that legal system, explicit and unambiguous consent of the data subjects may be enough for compliance with the law."

In case there is no consent, the act also provides for "a set of conditions that, if met, may enable the GPDP to authorize the personal data transfer."

The GPDP also informed the Times that the situation described is hypothetical, since "no such case has yet been filed next to this Office."

The office recalled that the Telecommunications Regulator (DSRT) is still assessing MTEL's plans, which include letting in a new shareholder.

The DSRT told the Times, "According to the Fixed Public Telecommunications Network licensing, the transfer of share capital of 15 percent or above is subject to



the government's approval."

The regulator specified that MTEL's licensing includes the provision of "data center services." The fixed network operator then still "has to comply with the existing legislation in Macau including law no. 8/2005" (Personal Data Protection Act).

Business Daily cited the chairman of Elegant Way International Holdings Ltd., Cao Xue Di, who said, "Our ownership in MTEL will be in the range of 20 to 30 per

cent." The newspaper reported on February 2 that Elegant Way, besides providing monetary support to MTEL, intends to be "a strategic partner in terms of technical support for MTEL's initiative to develop the business segments of big data, cloud computing and even Internet in vehicles."

The Chinese company also intends to support MTEL's data centre business.

"We have two properties in Zhuhai: one in the west of Doumen district and another in Hengqin," Cao Xue Di stated in the above-mentioned report. "The combined site area will be around 100,000 square meters. And if we use up the plot ratio, we will have an area of 200,000 square meters for building data centers."

The DSRT did not confirm whether it was running any request from MTEL to let in a new shareholder, as per the referred conditions.

The Times also contacted MTEL for an explanation of the company strategy and status, but received no reply by press time.

Chinese banks freeze North Korean accounts



Macau-based Banco Delta Asia

CHINESE banks near the North Korean border have reportedly started to freeze accounts held by North Koreans. According

to South Korean news agency Yonhap, the move is a response to the North's latest nuclear missile test.

"The North is thought to directly deliver cash or use borrowed-name bank accounts when it comes to its external trade [with China]," said ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-hee at a press briefing.

The U.S. had previously blacklisted Macau-based Banco Delta Asia (BDA) for alleged counterfeiting and money laundering to North Korea, and froze around USD24

million worth of funds in North Korea's BDA accounts.

In 2013, the U.S. accused the Bank of China of providing financial support to the North's nuclear weapons program, leading to the closure of several accounts at North Korea's Foreign Trade Bank.

China is reportedly under pressure to collaborate with U.S.-led efforts to impose sanctions on North Korea. The North launched its fourth nuclear test in January, followed by its long-range rocket launch earlier this month.

HEALTH

Autism cases in need of help rise

THE Macau Autism Association (MAA) held the Autism Carnival 2016 on Saturday, an event where parents from Hong Kong and Taiwan shared with each other their experiences of taking care of children with autism.

The MAA indicated that an increasing number of families are seeking the association's help. Since 2012, the organization

has received more than 30 requests for assistance.

Chan Sio Man, director of the MAA, told the Times that parents normally noticed their children acting differently when they were about to enroll in schools, noting that "[this occurs] mostly during January and February, when the kids need to take the kindergarten entrance tests. They are typi-

cally aged two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half years old." Chan also mentioned that some kids are reported to experience learning difficulties, or with abnormal crying and speech impediments when they get to primary school.

Chan informed the Times that there are three experts in autism, as well as in mental health and physical therapy, currently

volunteering with the association to provide consultation and assistance.

The MAA has established various programs, including musical training and art classes, to help children with these special needs. "We have developed chat groups to give suggestions to the parents. Moreover, we organize activities where they can learn special communication skills and be given information on the latest worldwide autism-related developments," Chan explained. **Staff reporter**

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

DESIGN EDITOR_João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alberto Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitter, Emille Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Viviana Seguí | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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ENTERTAINMENT

Madonna departs Macau to play two gigs in Manila

MADONNA arrived in the Philippines yesterday for the next leg of her "Rebel Heart Tour," after performing for two nights in Macau at the Studio City Event Center.

The 57-year-old 'Queen of Pop' will perform tomorrow and Thursday at the Mall of Asia Arena, an indoor arena with a standing capacity of 20,000. Several famous artists have also staged concerts in the arena.

According to a representative of Music Management International, the stage is "almost as long as the entire floor area" of the venue.

The "Rebel Heart" concert has a set list of around 20 songs. At her Saturday concert in Macau, Madonna belted out hits like "True Blue," "Like A Virgin," "La Isla Bonita," "Material Girl" and "Holiday."

The "Rebel Heart" tour will end on March 20 in Sydney after 82 shows: 36 in North America, 25 in Europe, eight in Oceania, and 13 in Asia.

Madonna's tour has been ci-



U.S. singer Madonna performs on her Rebel Heart Tour in Macau

ted by Forbes Magazine as the "most expensive" of 2015, according to a report yesterday in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

A staggering two million Swarovski crystals adorn Madonna's costumes, all of which are custom-made by high-end designers. The concert also features over 1,000 different war-

drobe pieces for the stage performers, as well as 500 customized pairs of shoes. Some two million LED pixels light the rear screens on stage. Every performance is powered by 63,500 kg of lights, sound and video equipment, not to mention a movable stage ramp weighing in at a whopping 24,970 kg.

Magician tours Asia after 4 months of shows in town

PORTUGUESE magician Luís de Matos is ready to return to Asia in April and May.

The illusionist, who recently left the territory after his feature in the "House of Magic" in Studio City – where he performed 395 shows over four months for around 60,000 people – is now set for a new journey in Asia. His planned tour, "The Illusionists – Live from Broadway" includes shows in Bangkok, Hong Kong and Singapore and features prominent illusionists such as Charlie Frye, Thommy Ten, Sam Powers, Krendl and Hyunjoon Kim, among others.

Speaking to Lusa news agency about the shows in Macau, de Matos said "the reaction of the people was absolutely amazing" and "magic is a universal language" that can reach the public anywhere in the world.

For his performances in Macau, de Matos has chosen "acts that do not make use [of] words, since most of the local public does not have good English language skills."

About the audience, the illu-



Luís de Matos performing in Macau

sionist added, "the Chinese public is contained [in expressing their feelings], but they like to watch shows."

He recalls the experience as an "overdose of emotions and surprise that, fortunately, [met with] great acceptance among the thousands of people who watched the show."

This was the magician's second tour of the territory, after a set of four shows at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in 1999 to celebrate the SAR's administrative handover.

Luís de Matos has accumulated several awards over the course of his 28-year career, including one from "The Magic Circle" in the UK, one of the most prestigious clubs in the field. **RM**

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THE New Macau Association (ANM) yesterday submitted proposals to include verbal sexual harassment in the government's proposed bill, as the public consultation period for the revision of sex crimes ends.

In response to the government's legal measure to discourage harassment by criminalizing physical contact of a sexual nature, ANM vice president Jason Chao said that the measure "is not enough."

"Sexual harassment is not limited to physical contact but may also be carried out verbally," Chao said, before adding that "verbal [sexual] harassment is actually more common in the workplace or at educational institutions where power relations often come into play."

The vice president cited recent requests from United Nations bodies that Macau step up its efforts to respond to harassment.

In reference to the proposal of making prostitution of young people between the ages of 14 and 18 a public crime, ANM has suggested realigning the upper bound of the age limit to 16, in order to protect

ANM proposes inclusion of verbal sexual harassment



Jason Chao (center)

the "sexual liberties" of young people and to be consistent with Article 168 of the Penal Code.

"I fear the introduction of child prostitution will criminalize young couples involved in sexual relationships," warned Chao.

"The law [criminalizing child prostitution] could be confused with the usual sexual activities [of young people] ... like they may see a movie, exchange gifts, and have sexual intercourse," added Jason Chao. "It does not distin-

guish between romantic relationships and prostitution."

He says the same principle applies to the proposed section of the new bill that details the criminalization of child pornography, which in its broad sense could

incriminate the activities of teenagers in romantic relationships.

ANM has therefore suggested that child pornography refer to pornographic material that results in the exploitation of minors, in the same manner as outli-

Sexual harassment is not limited to physical contact but may also be carried out verbally

JASON CHAO

ned in Article 176 of the Portuguese Penal Code.

"The introduction of this crime should leave the private lives of consenting teenagers unaffected," Chao said.

For the most part, ANM has welcomed the government's proposals as "very progressive." Chao also praised the gender-neutralization present in references to victims of rape. **Staff reporter**

Taiwan foreign investment nosedives, to just above MSAR

TAIWAN'S annual foreign investment has dropped steadily over the last decade, placing the island state just above Macau in the list of main Asian economies that attract foreign investment, reports the Taipei Times.

Annual foreign investment in Taiwan averaged USD4.3 billion annually between 2008 and 2014. According to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) Macau's inward flow of foreign investment amounted to MOP26.31 billion (USD3.29 billion) in 2014.

While Macau's investment has dipped over the last few years, it has steadily risen on aggregate over the last 15 years, with a notable increase in 2010 when it more than tripled from the previous year.

In contrast, Taiwan's foreign investment trends indicate a structural issue with the island's economy. Between 2001 and 2007, annual foreign investment in Taiwan totaled around USD5.6 billion, but then fell to an annual USD4.3 billion between 2008 and 2014.

Foreign investment in Taiwan reached a low point in 2011, when the annual figure was the



Traffic drives along a road in Taipei

second lowest of any nation in the world, according to the Taipei Times. In 2014, it was the fifth lowest.

Taiwan's economic woes are compounded by new fiscal data. Last year the economy grew by only 0.85 percent, suppressed by a 10.8 percent contraction in exports. Exports fell by 13 percent in January, reminiscent of the country's exceptionally poor performance during the 2008 financial crisis, when exports declined for 14 consecutive months.

According to the Taipei Times, this dwindling interna-

tional investment is a result of Taiwan's inability to compete on a global playing field, which has resulted in long-term capital outflows from the country.

However, while investment has nosedived, Taiwan maintains a relatively large capital surplus. According to a December 31, 2014 estimate by the CIA World Factbook, the island state retained around USD66.29 billion in stock of foreign investment, compared to Macau's MOP218.87 billion (USD27.35 billion) in stock by end-2014. **Staff reporter**

Airport announces security strategy for 2016

THREE subsidiaries of the Macau International Airport Company Ltd. (CAM) held a "2015 Result Evaluation" meeting and a "2016 Work Plan Presentation" earlier this month at the CAM Office Building.

Upholding the principle of "Safety, Efficiency, Effectiveness," the Administration of Airports Ltd. (ADA), Airport Information Management Solutions (AIMS), and Macau International Airport Security (SEMAC) have all enhanced the overall service standards of the airport, claims a press statement from their parent company, CAM.

Patrick Ong, Chief Executive Officer of ADA, said at the administration subsidiary held four security drills in 2015 to promote awareness of safety and security, and had conducted four investigations in cooperation with IACM to assess the impact of local wildlife – such as birds – on aircraft movements.

He said that ADA will continue to strengthen the efficiency of management and assist CAM in front line operations.

Managing Director of AIMS, Sharon Wang, highlighted that the information technology subsidiary was committed to the construction of the "Virtual Airport".



Wang announced plans to further promote the use of smart phone apps and the usage of the business website of the airport. She added that AIMS will be working toward a Data Center Network and the implementation of cloud solutions during 2016.

The Deputy General Manager of Macau Security Company, Tai Peng Fong, told representatives at the meeting that SEMAC was committed to ensuring the security of over 55,000 flights and 5.83 million passengers.

From this year, SEMAC plans to implement a series of optimization works for hardware and in operations to improve emergency management mechanisms.

The meeting was well-attended by representatives of CAM and the three subsidiary companies, said a statement from the airport company.

Alex Vong: Coastal waters are priority



Chief Executive Chui Sai On administers an oath taken by the Director-General of the Customs Service, Alex Vong (left)

Paulo Barbosa

ALEX Vong was inaugurated yesterday as the new Customs Service (SA) Direc-

tor-General at the government headquarters. The MSAR's top officials and representatives from Beijing – including Li Gang, director of the Central

Liaison Office in the MSAR – attended the ceremony.

Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the event, Vong said that he and his team would together be able to face the challenge of heading the SA.

Vong, 49, said the MSAR's administration of 85 square kilometers of sea east and south of Macau means that more resources are needed in terms of workforce and equipment. He added that his priority is now to oversee all works related to the coastal waters, which are now under local jurisdiction. Vong downplayed questions of whether his performance would be hindered by the fact that he is not a member of the local security forces.

The new SA head was born in Macau and has served in leading positions at the IACM and the Macau Sport Development Board. He joined the public administration in 1994.

The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, was appointed as SA's acting director at the end of October, following the death of former director Lai Man Wa in a case that was classified by the authorities as a suicide.

The Director-General of the SA is one of the principal officials of the MSAR and, according to the Basic Law, is appointed by the Chief Executive.

IC announces fire prevention guidelines for heritage sites



Firemen fight A-Ma Temple blaze

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has issued a set of advisory guidelines regarding the prevention of fires at heritage sites after an incident at the A-Ma Temple earlier this month.

Leong Wai Man, head of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the IC, said that according to reports by the temple management, all electrical devices were turned off and no incense was burning after the temple was closed. She believes that further investigations are called for.

"These are only advisory guidelines. Regarding the incident at the temple, we have spoken to the management and they said that [the] electricity was not on that night, yet a fire still occurred. Surely that justifies an investigation."

A representative from the Association for Macau Historical and Cultural Heritage Protection, Manuel Iok Pui Ferreira, also expressed his concern over the incident at the past weekend's TDM Forum debate, saying that the A-Ma Temple's original structure had been damaged.

"As far as protecting cultural relics goes, it's a voluntary contribution since there's no legal basis to enforce safety guidelines [for monuments]. We hope to see such guidelines in the law and make temples responsible for preventing unnecessary fires," he added.

The fire broke out in the UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site on February 10, damaging the interior of the temple's main hall.

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Gaming-related crimes surge

SECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak announced yesterday that the local police had tackled 13, 653 criminal investigation cases throughout 2015, down 2.6 percent from the year before. However, gaming-related crimes surged.

According to Wong, the public security situation has steadily improved. No serious violent crimes of murder, kidnapping or serious assault were registered over 2015.

A total of 2,721 cases involving crimes against individuals were reported over the past year, edging up 0.1 percent. Illegal detentions saw a sharp rise of 86.4 percent, while other crimes of rape, intimidati-



Wong Sio Chak, pictured yesterday during a press briefing

tion and slander in this category decreased. Crimes against property amounted to 7,584 last year, a decline of 3.3 percent year-on-year. Usury cases increased by

48.1 percent to 354 from the previous period, but extortion and fraud saw a significant drop.

Driven by the sharp rise of illegal detentions and usury, gaming-related criminal cases surged by 38 percent to 1,553 cases last year, said Wong, adding that the police focused more of its law enforcement efforts on casinos as the gaming industry undergoes an adjustment period.

Statistics showed that drug-related crimes dropped significantly in 2015, with drug abuse

and drug-dealing down by 39.5 percent and 24 percent respectively. Wong added that the authorities were still on high alert and have closely monitored all crimes concerning drugs. The police will intensify their efforts to enforce the law and collect information, as well as engage in cross-regional police cooperation, to prevent further crime.

The statistics also indicated a drop in cases of juvenile delinquency, drink driving, illegal entry and the over-staying of visas. **MDT/Xinhua**

Guangzhou's development plan green-lighted

LAST week, Beijing approved Guangzhou's ambitious plans to become an international trade center and regional transportation hub by 2020, but urged Guangzhou authorities to pursue closer economic integration with Macau and Hong Kong.

China's State Council urged authorities to focus on improving infrastruc-

ture in the Pearl River Delta by integrating road, port, rail and air links with that of South China's Special Administrative Regions. These improvements will establish Guangzhou as a key hub in Beijing's 'One Belt, One Road' national initiative.

Guangzhou should also use its pilot free-trade zone in Nansha to establish deeper cooperati-

ve ties with Macau and Hong Kong, the State Council added.

According to the South China Morning Post, Beijing had not supported Guangzhou's previous attempts to develop its port and aviation capabilities, as the Central Government was concerned about the potential impact on Hong Kong.

Peng Peng, a researcher

at Guangzhou Society of Social Sciences, told SCMP that "in future, the Hong Kong factor will become less significant" in deciding Guangzhou's growth.

Professor Priscilla Lau, a Hong Kong deputy to the National People's Congress, told the newspaper that the plans are a reminder to Hong Kong that the SAR would beco-

me an "isolated island" if it avoided cooperation with other cities in the Pearl River Delta.

The Central Government also approved Guangzhou's population target of 18 million by 2020. Guangzhou recorded around 13 million residents in 2014, and has proposed dramatic urbanization and migration to meet its new target.

"If going only [by] natural growth, Guangzhou would not have that many



A man on a bicycle rides past cranes operating at a residential construction development in Guangzhou

residents by 2020," Yuan Qifeng, a city planning professor at Sun Yat-Sen University, told the Guangzhou Daily.

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HSBC 2015 profit dips as it warns of bumpy financial outlook

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HSBBC warned of a “bumpier” global financial outlook thanks to China’s slowing economy, as it reported yesterday that profit dipped slightly last year.

Europe’s biggest bank posted a net profit of USD13.5 billion for 2015, down 1.2 percent from the year before and below analysts’ forecasts.

The bank also unexpectedly announced a \$1.3 billion loss for the final quarter, compared with a \$511 million profit in the same period the previous year.

Chairman Douglas Flint said the results were “broadly satisfactory.” He said in a statement that last year was marked by “seismic shifts in global economic conditions,” notably sharp falls in prices for oil and other commodities, partly stemming from slowing growth in China.

The London-based bank has been steadily trimming back its global operations as part of a sweeping reorganization announced last June in order to focus on Asia, where it expects the region’s growing affluence to drive profits. Asia accounted for 83.5 percent of HSBC’s pre-tax profits last year. It’s slashing thousands

of jobs and selling off businesses in countries like Brazil while expanding in China, particularly the wealthy Pearl River Delta manufacturing region in the country’s south.

HSBC said that cost cutting measures were already having an impact and it’s now a “leaner business” than it was half a year ago.

However, Flint said challenges remain as growth ebbs in China, where the economy grew last year at its slowest rate in a quarter-century.

“China’s slower economic growth will undoubtedly contribute to a bumpier financial environment, but it is still expected to be the lar-



AP PHOTO
People walk past a branch of HSBC bank in London

gest contributor to global growth as its economy transitions to higher added value manufacturing and services and becomes more consumer driven,” he said.

Growth in China’s economy, the world’s second biggest, dipped to 6.9 percent last year as policymakers sought to shift away from growth based mainly on export-led manufacturing and investment toward greater reliance on consumer demand. Officials are forecasting growth of between 6.5-7 percent this year.

Despite its focus on Asia, last month HSBC decided to keep its

headquarters in London rather than moving it to Hong Kong, ending a 10-month review prompted by new U.K. regulatory and tax changes. The bank said keeping its base in London gave it the “best of both worlds.” HSBC has a sizeable presence in Hong Kong, where it was founded to finance trade between China and Europe more than a century ago, when the city was still a British colony.

CEO Stuart Gulliver said HSBC gave up on plans to sell its Turkey business because it didn’t get a good enough offer. It will restructure it instead. **AP**

Pacific Northwest could become hub for methanol production

Phuong Le, Seattle

THE Pacific Northwest could become a major hub for methanol production if three proposed refineries are built along the Columbia River and Puget Sound.

A China-backed consortium, Northwest Innovation Works, has proposed two plants in Washington state and a third in Oregon to convert natural gas to methanol, which would be shipped to China to make plastics and other consumer goods.

But those plans are running into opposition. On Friday, the company



AP PHOTO
Protestors hold a sign that reads “No Methanol,” as they protest in Tacoma, Wash., outside a public meeting to gather opinion on a proposed methanol plant

temporarily put its project in Tacoma on hold, saying it has been “surprised by the tone and substance of vocal opposition.”

Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee has embraced the projects as a boost to the state’s clean energy future.

He has said the investments — about USD7 billion for the three plants — would be one of the largest foreign investments in the U.S. by a Chinese company.

Supporters say the projects would create hundreds of jobs and infuse billions to

the region. Opponents are concerned about environmental and health impacts.

More than 1,000 people attended a hearing this month on the Tacoma project, which would produce 20,000 metric tons a day and dwarf other methanol plants planned or being built in the U.S. A citizens group is sponsoring an initiative to require voter approval for water permits exceeding 3.8 million liters a day. The city of Federal Way passed a resolution opposing the project.

“We’re talking about building enormous petrochemical refineries on the shorelines of our most

important water bodies. That’s dangerous,” said Eric de Place, policy director for Sightline Institute, a progressive think tank.

Company president Murray Godley said in a statement Friday that the project “provides an exciting opportunity for Washington and Oregon to become world leaders in addressing climate change through innovation by producing methanol and the products we use every day in more environmentally responsible way.”

Methanol, a wood alcohol, is used to make olefins, a component in everyday products such as

eyeglasses, insulin pumps and fleece jackets, said Mandy Putney, a company spokeswoman.

Most methanol in China is produced using coal, but the Northwest plants would use natural gas, which is cleaner, she said.

As prices have dropped, natural gas has attracted industrial consumers who use methanol as a feedstock, said Katie Teller, an economist with the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Several methanol plants have been proposed recently, a few have come on line and more are expected in the next few years, she said. **AP**

corporate bits

CELEBRITY FOODIES GATHERED AT THE VENETIAN FOR CNY

A group of celebrity foodies came together at “North,” the signature Chinese restaurant at The Venetian Macao last week to welcome the Year of the Monkey with a feast of regional dishes, according to a press release.

Renowned food critic Chua Lam; Raymond Guo, president of Rimowa China; professional boxer Zou Shiming and his wife Ran Yingying, a former CCTV TV host; Weijia Li, celebrity TV host on Hunan TV and other celebrity guests attended the gathering.

The senior chef of “North,” Ken Xu, prepared the range of decadent dishes from the Gongbei region of China.

“North” features a variety of traditional cuisines from Dongbei and Sichuan and features live preparation and cooking of numerous dishes.

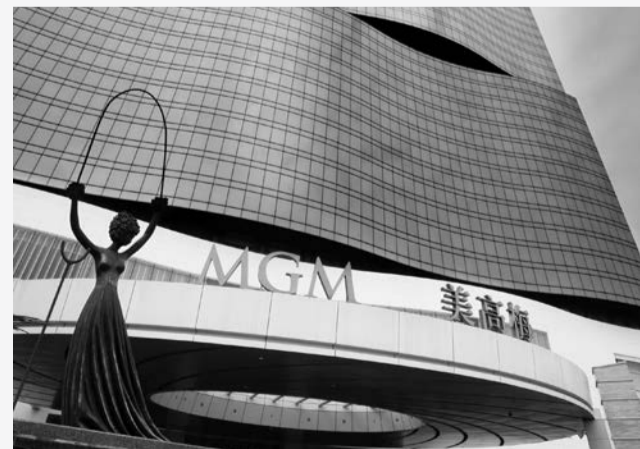


MGM NAMED ‘FIVE-STAR RECOMMENDED HOTEL’ BY FORBES

Forbes Travel Guide has named MGM Macau as a Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Recommended Hotel yesterday.

Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited congratulated the recognition: “We are much delighted to receive the recognition by Forbes Travel Guide. Its stringent standards in the hospitality industry reaffirm MGM’s excellence in our quality of service and product offerings,” he said, cited by a press release issued by the gaming operator.

“Our Star Ratings recognize the finest hotels, restaurants and spas in the world. These ratings serve as the most



authoritative guideposts for guests seeking exceptional travel experiences. Our primary mission is to contribute to excellence in hospitality,

servicing the global tourism industry as well as the guest,” said Gerard J. Inzerillo, Chief Executive Officer of Forbes Travel Guide.

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Business Luncheon
with
Guest Speaker: Prof. Keshi Chen
*Doctoral Tutor and VP of School of Urban Planning and Design,
Peking University*

An Opera House of Fantasy
Zhuhai Opera House Architectural Design
珠海歌剧院建筑设计

Wednesday, 9th March 2016



Venue: Amber Room, 5/F
The St. Regis Macao, Cotai
12.30: Drinks
12.55 pm: Lunch
1.30 pm: Presentation by Prof. Keshi Chen
2.30 pm: Close

Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation Policy applies for this event

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澳門馬場東大馬路25-69號福泰工業大廈12樓B座

Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69, Edif. Industrial Fok Tai, 12 Floor "B", Macau

TEL: + (853) 2822 1341

FAX: + (853) 2822 0824

www.rcr-macau.com

email: contact@rcr-macau.com

Spokesman for HK 'separatist' group charged over riot

Alfred Liu

A spokesman for a pro-independence Hong Kong group dubbed "radical separatists" by the Chinese government has been arrested in connection with riots during the Lunar New Year holiday that left more than 100 people injured.

Ray Wong Toi-yeung, a 22-year-old spokesman for Hong Kong Indigenous, was one of two men arrested during a raid Sunday at an apartment in the city's northwestern area of Tin Shui Wai, according to police and a posting on the group's Facebook page. Wong was charged with inciting others to take part in a riot and possession of a prohibited weapon and controlled substances, police said.

Police said they seized HKD530,000 (USD68,000) in cash, 100 pills, an extendable baton and a device described as an "electromagnetic gun." Several local newspapers published photographs of police holding the confiscated goods, including prescription-only Viagra, body armor and a Guy Fawkes mask popular among protesters.

"Spokesperson Wong Toi-yeung has confirmed that he



Rioters lit fires on streets in Mongkok district of Hong Kong on Feb. 9

was arrested at noon today by police at an apartment," Hong Kong Indigenous said Sunday on Facebook. "He is now in Tin Shui Wai police station. We have contacted a lawyer to follow up and some members of our group are on the way to

the police station to get more details."

Hong Kong Indigenous is among several pro-independence "localist" groups that have proliferated amid debate over China's control over the former British colony. The

group - formed after largely peaceful protests in 2014 failed to bring about compromise from Beijing - favors more aggressive action and called members to the crowded shopping district of Mong Kok on Feb. 15 to support local food

vendors. The protest descended into a riot involving more than 700 people and leaving more than 90 police injured.

Wong, who was filmed during the unrest standing on a vehicle and holding a megaphone, was the latest of 72 people arrested in connection with the incident. China's top official in Hong Kong, Zhang Xiaoming, blamed the riots on "radical separatists" who were "inclined toward terrorism," harsh language that the ruling Communist Party usually reserves for dissidents in the country's restive regions of Tibet and Xinjiang.

■ Wong was filmed during the unrest standing on a vehicle and holding a megaphone

Hong Kong Police also arrested another 28-year-old man surnamed Cheung in the raid and charged him with participating in a riot and assisting an offender.

Wong hadn't been seen in public since posting a cryptic "final message to the people of Hong Kong" on his Facebook page 12 days earlier. In it, he said he would rather be a "shattered vessel of jade than live in shame." **Bloomberg**

U.S. NAVY COMMANDER

South China Sea not a US-versus-China battle

Kristen Gelineau, Sidney

THE commander of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said yesterday that he is wary of the situation in the South China Sea being painted as a battle between the United States and China, but added the presence of a Chinese missile system on a disputed island will not stop the U.S. military from flying over the region.

U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin's comments come a week after it was revealed that Beijing had deployed surface-to-air missiles on an island in the fiercely contested region. The U.S. said the presence of missiles provided increasing evidence of militarization of the area by China.

China subsequently accused the U.S. of militarizing the region, saying

patrols by U.S. Navy vessels and military aircraft had escalated tensions and raised concerns about stability in the area.

Last month, a U.S. warship deliberately sailed near one of the Beijing-controlled islands in the Paracel chain in a so-called freedom of navigation exercise. China, Taiwan and Vietnam have overlapping claims in the Paracels.

“We will fly, sail, operate wherever international law allows, including those areas.”

JOSEPH AUCOIN



Joseph Aucoin

Aucoin, whose Japan-based fleet covers a region from India to the

international dateline in the Pacific Ocean, said the U.S. is not making

such maneuvers to single out any country, and wants all nations that are reclaiming land to stop.

"I wish it wasn't portrayed as U.S. versus China," Aucoin told reporters in Sydney, one of his stops on a visit to Australia to meet with defense officials. "This shouldn't seem provocative. What we're trying to ensure is that all countries, no matter size or strength, can pursue their interests based on the law of the sea and not have that endangered by some of these actions."

Last week, U.S. and Taiwanese officials confirmed commercial satellite images showed anti-aircraft missiles had been placed on Woody Island in the Paracel chain. China has not denied the appearance of the missiles, but says it is entitled to defend its territory.

Aucoin said the missiles had provided a "destabilizing effect" across the region, and urged China to be transparent about its intentions. Asked whether the presence of the missile system would affect U.S. preparedness to fly over the area, Aucoin said no.

"We will fly, sail, operate wherever international law allows, including those areas," he said.

Aucoin also expressed concerns about North Korea's recent nuclear test and rocket launch.

"They should immediately abandon their nuclear weapons," Aucoin said. "We want them to do this in a comprehensive, verifiable, irreversible way, to stop their nuclear programs and abide by their commitments, their obligations, to stabilize that area of the world." **AP**

Benjamin Purvis and Narayanan Somasundaram

Aussie banks' debt is ugliest in more than a decade versus U.S.

AUSTRALIAN bank bonds haven't been this expensive to insure compared to U.S. financial debt in more than a decade.

As the prospects for world growth have dimmed and global markets have been thrown into turmoil, Australia's banks face additional risks including a reliance on offshore wholesale funding. They are also being buffeted by a housing market that's showing signs of stuttering, the end of a decade-long mining bonanza and an economy that's trying to adapt to slowing demand from China.

The average cost of protecting the bonds issued by the four largest lenders in Australia last week climbed to 29 basis points more than the mean for the current four biggest American banks, the widest gap on record in credit default swap prices stretching back to 2004, data compiled by Bloomberg show. This comes at a time when the Aussie institutions are paying more than they were previously to borrow in the primary market.

Australian banks are underperforming on the "expectation of high issuance this year," said Gus Medeiros, a Sydney-based analyst at Deutsche Bank AG. "Some of the banks have issued paper at higher spreads than before, contributing to wider CDS spreads."

The rout in global credit drove the cost of protecting Australian bank bonds to a more than three-year high of 139 ba-

Australia's banks face additional risks including a reliance on offshore wholesale funding

sis points on Feb. 11, CDS data show. It was at 126 on Friday. In the meantime, the average CDS cost on the biggest American lenders has retreated from its Feb. 11 high of 122 basis points to 104 at the end of last week.

There has been a concerted effort by Aussie banks to boost the use of deposits, and bond issuance is now a smaller part of their funding mix than it was five years ago, according to the Reserve Bank of Australia. Wholesale markets nevertheless remain a key source of funds. Australia's top four banks raised more than AUD27 billion (USD19 billion) in the local bond market last year and the equivalent of more than \$49 billion abroad, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Australia's banks "stack up well compared to their global



National Australia Bank

peers, but they are not immune to the forces of re-regulation which will require ongoing capital raising at more onerous costs of capital," said Robert Mead, a money manager at Pacific Investment Management Co. in Sydney. Market-reliant Australian banks are "impacted by the issuance requirements of their global peers and the finite demand for credit from the global investor base," he said.

The four largest lenders raised a record AUD20 billion in equity capital last year to meet new regulation and may need a similar amount over the next two years.

National Australia Bank Ltd. last week sold AUD2.25 billion of three-year bonds in its home

market at a spread of 98 basis points over the bank bill swap rate. That compares with 88 basis points for a similar tenor AUD1.4 billion deal last month from Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. and 78 basis points for a AUD2 billion Commonwealth Bank of Australia transaction in October.

More expensive funding has already spurred some lenders to increase what they're charging customers. The largest banks last year increased mortgage rates for both landlords and owner occupiers, while NAB and Westpac both confirmed this month that they've lifted interest rates for some business borrowers.

"The industry is facing a lot

of pressure with significant increases in wholesale funding costs and increased capital," Westpac said by e-mail yesterday. "While we have been disciplined in managing our margins, over the long term all businesses must deliver sustainable returns."

Part of the increase in credit risk premiums for Australian banks probably stems from people using them as a "cheap hedge" against broader concerns about China, resources and domestic housing, according to Philip Miall, head of credit research and strategy at QIC Ltd. Although these issues do pose risks, he reckons Australia's banks are well positioned and doubts that there will be a housing crisis.

While mortgage arrears are still under control, there are signs that the nation's housing market is slowing. Home values in Sydney declined 2.1 percent in the three months to Jan. 31, while they fell by 0.6 percent across the country's capital cities, according to data from CoreLogic Inc.

"Our banks are continuing to perform strongly from a financial standpoint and asset-quality standpoint," QIC's Miall said from Brisbane. "In terms of valuation, spreads have widened out, it's getting to good levels." **Bloomberg**

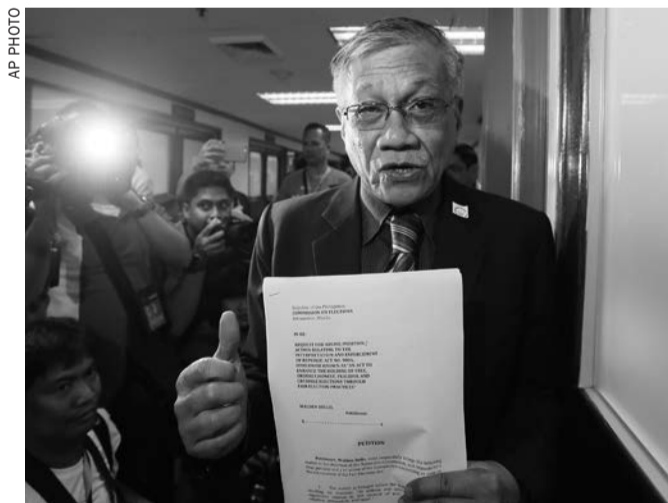
Philippine elections body urged to stop Pacquiao fight

Teresa Cerojano, Manila

WORLD boxing star Manny Pacquiao's April 9 bout with Timothy Bradley came under a cloud yesterday when the Philippine elections commission was asked to stop the Las Vegas match because it would give the Filipino slugger and senatorial candidate massive publicity.

Former Rep. Walden Bello, also a senatorial candidate in the May 9 elections, said in his petition to the Commission on Elections that allowing the welterweight fight to proceed during the campaign period would violate a law giving candidates equal access to media publicity and a ban on TV and radio programs favoring a candidate.

Bello, a left-wing politician who has not fared



Senatorial candidate Walden Bello holds documents seeking to postpone the April 9, 2016 fight between Manny Pacquiao and Timothy Bradley

well in voter-preference polls ahead of the elections, said the fight, which Pacquiao declared would be his last, should be postponed until after the elections.

Pacquiao, 37, has not fought since losing to Floyd Mayweather Jr. last

May in the richest fight ever. Pacquiao reportedly made more than USD100 million for that fight, and is guaranteed \$20 million to fight Bradley.

The eight-division champion is the Philippines' most famous athlete. He has represented Saranga-

ni province in the Philippines' House of Representatives since May 2010, though he has drawn criticism for seldom showing up for legislative duties.

Pacquiao will face Bradley at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, completing a trilogy between two of the world's top welterweights. Bradley won a hotly disputed split decision over Pacquiao in their first meeting in June 2012, but Pacquiao won by unanimous decision in the April 2014 rematch.

The Bible-quoting Pacquiao has been embroiled in controversy recently for saying that people in same-sex relations are "worse than animals," drawing the ire of netizens and celebrities. He made the comment when asked by a local TV network about his views on

same-sex marriage, and video of his response was posted on the network's website last week.

In response to the remark, apparel giant Nike said that it would no longer have any business dealings with Pacquiao, and that that it found his comments "abhorrent."

Pacquiao has apologized to people hurt by his comments and said he respects Nike's decision. But he has stood pat on his opposition to same-sex marriage.

Bello said he was not seeking Pacquiao's disqualification as a senatorial candidate, but was asking the elections commission to take action on the complaint.

"I imagine if they rule in our favor, which I believe they will, then they will have to tell Manny that he would have to comply

with it," Bello said, adding that if Pacquiao refuses to comply, disqualification from the election could be a logical outcome.

Bello's petition said that if the spirit and intent of the Fair Elections Act were to be strictly followed, then Pacquiao should be required to go on leave from his profession during the campaign period.

"He has all the rights to exercise his boxing profession after the elections, but to schedule his boxing bout during the campaign period and close to the elections is obviously taking advantage of his personality and his profession, extending undue benefit to his candidacy," the petition said.

It was not clear when the Commission on Elections would decide on the issue. **AP**

Bangladesh editor admits bogus stories fed by military

AN editor of one of Bangladesh's most respected newspapers has sparked an uproar by admitting that eight years ago, he published unsubstantiated reports alleging corruption by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, then in the opposition. He says the military fed him the information and pressured him to print it, but it's the journalist who is feeling the heat more than the country's long-powerful armed forces.

The admission by Editor Mahfuz Anam of the English-language Daily Star raises questions of whether the impoverished and politically fractious South Asian nation can escape the influence of its long-powerful military, which has taken over the country twice since Bangladesh gained independence in 1971.

The revelation "is significant to understand Bangladesh's inner weaknesses in the governance system," retired Maj. Gen. Abdur Rashid, now a political analyst, told The Associated Press. "The military is always powerful in Bangladesh, as they always have a role to play to decide the political course. Such important organs of the state are not always free from influence."

Though Bangladesh is a democracy, the influence of its military is felt far and wide. It's routinely utilized for big projects, including building bridges, expanding highways and preparing national identity cards and passports. It has frequently contributed to U.N. peacekeeping missions, raising its stature among Bangladeshis, many of whom believe that soldiers could fix even Dhaka's notorious traffic congestion. Any public insult to the military is considered unthinkable.

The military has loomed large



An Indian rickshaw puller reads a newspaper early morning in Dhaka

over Bangladeshi politics, and over the lives of both Hasina and her main rival, opposition leader Khaleda Zia. Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's first democratically elected leader, was killed in a military coup along with many of his family members in 1975. Zia's husband was a military chief and, after a series of coups and countercoups, declared himself president and ruled until he was assassinated by a group of army officers in 1981.

Though they are now bitter foes, Hasina and Zia once built a mass movement to oust the last military dictator in 1990, demanding that democracy be restored to the nation of 160 million. Both Zia, whose center-right party is aligned with Islamist political forces, and the

secular Hasina served as prime minister before a military-installed government took over in 2007 and jailed both of them on corruption charges that were never proven in court.

Between 2006 and 2008, the military began using the nation's media to tear the two women down, Anam and other newspaper editors said. Anam said on a TV talk show this month that acquiescing to the military was the "biggest mistake" of his professional life.

His confession quickly prompted lawmakers in Hasina's party to demand his paper be closed, with some filing police charges accusing Anam of sedition and defamation. But other editors have since said Anam was not the only one pressured by the military to report stories against

political leaders without adequately vetting the allegations.

"We also published such reports, it's not that Mahfuz Anam did it alone," Bhorer Kagoj daily editor Shyamal Dutta said on another TV talk show. At the time, he said, editors felt that they had no choice but to go with the will of the military.

The military's public relations office did not immediately respond to a written request for comment.

A former chief reporter at the Daily Star, Zayadul Ahsan Pintu, said one of their journalists was picked up by the military and tortured in custody while the military-installed government ruled. He later gained asylum in Sweden, which Anam helped negotiate. The Daily Star continued to publish unsubstantiated reports

against Hasina and other after that arrest, Pintu said in a Feb. 14 essay published on the website of local TV station Cannel I.

Even now, the "time has not come yet to disclose everything," Pintu said. "Our society or the state is not mentally ready yet to accept such things. It proves we are not mature enough (as a society) to accept that truth. It's clear from my ex-editor's slight revelation of truth."

Though Bangladesh is a democracy, the influence of its military is felt far and wide

Only one newspaper, the New Age, and its editor Nurul Kabir has said he refused to crack under military pressure to publish reports from its intelligence wing. Kabir said that, on occasions, he had to sit across table from top military officials to discuss such reports over cups of tea.

The last era of military-backed rule ended in 2008, when political pressure led to the release of both Hasina and Zia. Hasina then led a political alliance to election victory, and has been the country's prime minister ever since.

The military, however, remains strong enough that some believe it could clear the way for Zia to become prime minister by withdrawing its backing for Hasina. Zia wants an early election, but Hasina says there will be no vote until her term ends in 2019.

Rashid, the former general, said checks on the military's power are needed.

"In many countries reforms in the military are obvious and a constant process, especially in the developed nations to make them accountable to public," he said. AP

Death toll from Fiji cyclone hits 18 as aid sent to islands

THE death toll from a ferocious cyclone which tore through Fiji over the weekend has risen to 18 as authorities yesterday began to get a grasp on the scale of the disaster and deploy aid to hard-hit outer islands.

Authorities were still having trouble communicating with some islands, including places like Koro Island which suffered some of the worst damage. And more than 6,000

residents across Fiji were staying in emergency shelters after their homes were broken or swamped.

Winds from Cyclone Winston, which tore through Fiji over the weekend, reached 285 kilometers per hour, making it the strongest storm in the Southern Hemisphere since record-keeping began, according to the Weather Underground website.

Getting emergency supplies to the group's far-

flung islands and remote communities was the government's top priority said Ewan Perrin, Fiji's permanent secretary for communications. Home to 900,000 people, Fiji has more than 100 inhabited islands.

"The logistics of getting supplies and equipment to remote communities is difficult," he said. "Some have lost their jetties and it's uncertain if airstrips are able to be landed on."

Perrin said authorities yesterday were sending a vessel to Koro Island filled with medical supplies, food and water. He said crews on the boat would build temporary shelters for those people on the island whose homes had been destroyed.

Perrin said the electricity network across Fiji remained patchy, and in some cases power had been deliberately cut to prevent further damage.



In this aerial photo supplied by the New Zealand Defense Force, debris is scattered around damaged buildings at Muamua on Vanua Blava Island in Fiji

He said clean water was also a challenge, and people were being asked to boil their water, treat it with chemicals or drink bottled water.

Phone communications had been rapidly restored in many areas but in other areas the damage was severe and would take longer to fix, he said. AP

Jake Coyle, New York

ENTERTAINMENT

Damning study finds a 'whitewashed' Hollywood

IN one of the most exhaustive and damning reports on diversity in Hollywood, a new study finds that the films and television produced by major media companies are "whitewashed," and that an "epidemic of invisibility" runs top to bottom through the industry for women, minorities and LGBT people.

A study released yesterday by the Media, Diversity and Social Change Initiative at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism offers one of the most wide-ranging examinations of the film and television industries, including a pointed "inclusivity index" of 10 major media companies — from Disney to Netflix — that gives a failing grade to every movie studio and most TV makers.

Coming just days before an Academy Awards where a second straight year of all-white acting nominees has enflamed an industry-wide crisis, the report offers a new barrage of sobering statistics that further evidence a deep discrepancy between Hollywood and the American population it entertains, in gender, race and ethnicity.

"The prequel to Oscars-SoWhite is HollywoodSoWhite," said Stacy L. Smith, a USC professor and one of the study's authors, in an interview. "We don't have a diversity problem. We have an inclusion crisis."

The study, titled the Comprehensive Annenberg Report on Diversity, examined the 109 films released by major studios (including art-house divisions) in 2014 and 305 scripted, first-run TV and digital series across 31 networks and streaming services that aired from September 2014 to August 2015.

More than 11,000 speaking characters were analyzed for gender, racial and ethnic representation and LGBT status. Some 10,000 directors, writers and show creators were examined, as was the gender of more than 1,500 executives.

The portrait is one of pervasive underrepresentation, no matter the media platform, from CEOs to minor characters. "Overall, the landscape of media content is still largely whitewashed," the study concludes.

In the 414 studied films and series, only a third of speaking characters were female, and only 28.3 percent were from minority groups — about 10 percent less than the makeup of the U.S. population. Characters 40 years or older skew heavily male across film and TV: 74.3 percent male to 25.7 percent female.

AP PHOTO



Uzo Aduba accepts the award for outstanding supporting actress in a drama series for "Orange Is The New Black" at the Emmy Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles

Just 2 percent of speaking characters were LGBT-identified. Among the 11,306 speaking characters studied, only seven were transgendered (and four were from the same series).

More than 11,000 speaking characters were analyzed for gender, racial and ethnic representation and LGBT status

"When we start to step back to see this larger ecology, I think we see a picture of exclusion," said Smith. "And it doesn't match the norms of the population of the United States."

Behind the camera, the discrepancy is even greater. Directors overall were 87 percent white. Broadcast TV directors (90.4 percent white) were the least diverse.

Just 15.2 percent of directors, 28.9 percent of writers

and 22.6 percent of series creators were female. In film, the gender gap is greatest: Only 3.4 percent of the films studied were directed by women, and only two directors out of the 109 were black women: Ava DuVernay ("Selma") and Amma Asante ("Belle").

Following a request made in May by the American Civil Liberties Union (which cited previous USC studies, as well as those by UCLA and the Directors Guild in claiming women have been "systematically excluded" from directing jobs), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission last year began investigating gender discrimination in Hollywood.

The federal investigation is just one element of growing scrutiny for the industry. But for protesters, finding a target for what some consider a systematic problem isn't easy. Even many of those, like Spike Lee, who have criticized the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, have insisted the issue goes far deeper than Oscar nominees.

When academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs recently announced dramatic steps to diversify the overwhelmingly white and male film academy, she said: "The academy is going to lead, and not wait for

the industry to catch up."

USC's study, which the school has been publishing in various forms for the last 10 years, also seeks to add a new metric in the conversation. The "inclusivity index" is a report card for the performances of 21st Century Fox, CBS, NBC Universal, Sony, the Walt Disney Co., Time Warner, Viacom, Amazon, Hulu and Netflix. Those companies encompass all the broadcast networks, most major cable channels, all of the major movie studios and three of the dominant streaming services.

Each was rated by their percentage of female, minority and LGBT characters; and of female writers and directors. None of the six major studios rated better than 20 percent overall; Time Warner fared poorest of all with a score of zero. The report concludes that the film industry "still functions as a straight, white, boy's club."

Disney, Sony, Paramount, Fox, Universal and Warner Bros. didn't immediately comment Sunday night.

Some of the same companies, however, scored better when their TV and digital offerings were evaluated. Disney, the CW, Amazon and Hulu all scored 65 percent and above.

"When we turn to see where

the problem is better or worse, the apex to this whole endeavor is: Everyone in film is failing, all of the companies investigated," said Smith. "They're impervious to change. But there are pockets of promise in television. There is a focus that change is possible. The very companies that are inclusive — Disney, CW, Hulu, Amazon to some degree — those companies, if they're producing and distributing motion pictures, can do this. We now have evidence that they can, and they can thrive."

USC researchers also, for the first time, added analysis of those 10 companies' executives. Researches didn't have racial or ethnic background information, but found that women represent about 20 percent of corporate boards, chief executives and executive management teams.

"As prestige or power of the title increases, we see fewer women at the top," said Katherine Pieper, who co-authored the study with Smith and Marc Choueiti. "Film still has a prestige to it, so we see fewer women filling those positions."

The research offers the chance for comparison between mediums. Do streaming services adhere to the established patterns of traditional television or deviate from them?

In some cases, they do, but in many, they don't. Netflix (20 percent on the inclusion index) scored about the same as NBC Universal, CBS and Fox. There were far fewer female directors working in digital series (11.8 percent) than in broadcast (17.1 percent), in the shows studied. Broadcast, cable and steaming series also all revel in sexualized female characters and nudity more than movies do.

But some of the study's most troubling finds are simply absences. Roughly 50 percent of the examined content didn't feature one Asian or Asian-American character; 20 percent didn't include one black character. Researchers argue for change beyond "tokenism," including making target goals public and creating a system of checks and balances in storytelling decisions.

"People are still erased. It's 2016 and it's time for a change," said Smith. "We've laid out concrete actionable steps because we don't want to do this again in 10 years." AP

Costas Kantouris

GREECE'S government warned yesterday it expected a growing number of stranded migrants and asylum seekers after neighbor Macedonia further restricted border access at the weekend.

Ioannis Mouzalas, a deputy minister for migration said the European Union was failing to deal with unilateral actions and an "outburst of scare-mongering" from individual

Greece braces for growing number of stranded migrants

member states.

Macedonia imposed the restrictions at the weekend after Austria imposed a cap on transit and asylum applications.

The action — blocking Afghans from crossing the border and generally restricting access — from left thousands of migrants stranded in Greece, at the border and the port of Piraeus, near Athens, where regular private services to the border were suspended.

"Once again the European Union voted for something, it reached an agreement, and a number of countries who are lacking the culture of the European Union, including Austria, unfortunately, violated this deal 10 hours after it was reached," Mouzalas told state-run ERT television.

"The European Union cannot act in a united way to this outburst of scare-mongering from various countries. And that is creating problems, and these problems also involve our country."

Nearly 100,000 migrants and



Refugees and migrants sit at a refugee camp at the Greek-Macedonian border near the northern Greek village of Idomeni

refugees have traveled to Greek islands from nearby Turkey so far this year.

Police said about 2,000 people were stranded at the border camps near the Greek border town of Idomeni, including some 600 Afghans who staged a peaceful protest, holding up Afghan flags and hand-written banners.

Among them was 25-year-old Shafiuallah Qaberi who traveled to Greece from the northern Afghan city of Kunduz.

"We've been here for three days, and no one knows why they have closed the border," he told the AP. "I don't need food and I don't need water. What I need is to get over the border. Why are they stopping us?" AP

HUNGARY CATCHES 500 MIGRANTS TRYING TO ENTER

MORE THAN 500 people were caught trying to enter Hungary last weekend, the highest figure since the construction last year of fences on the borders with Serbia and Croatia meant to stop the flow of migrants reaching the country.

According to police statistics, 501 people were caught between Friday and Sunday, including 237 on Sunday, the highest one-day figure so far in 2016. Hungarian police caught 598 migrants in January, but more than 1,550 have been caught so far this month.

Nationalist leader rejects criticism of rhetoric

THE leader of a rising German nationalist party is rejecting accusations that her rhetoric has helped stoke anti-migrant hatred, and says her party offers a "very necessary" option for disgruntled conservatives as regional elections near.

Frauke Petry's upstart Alternative for Germany party has climbed in polls as Germany faces a migrant influx. It advocates much tougher controls and has faced criticism over various

comments made, including an interview last month in which Petry herself suggested police could shoot refugees trying to enter Germany.

Yesterday, the mayor of the town of Bautzen, where onlookers celebrated as a former hotel being turned into a refugee home burned over the weekend, accused Petry of "spiritual arson"— a phrase often used in Germany to denounce incitement.

Petry rejected that as "cheap polemics."

AD



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聯營律師 ASSOCIATES:

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UK

New newspaper to launch despite declining readership



A British publisher says it is launching the country's first new national paper in 30 years — despite rapidly declining newspaper sales and readers switching to online websites.

Trinity Mirror says The New Day will stand out from other British newspapers because it will be politically neutral and will not have an op-ed column.

Alison Phillips, who will edit the paper, said yesterday: "We will just tell the story straight" because readers do not want to be told what they should think.

The paper will hit newsstands next week. It will have a presence on social media, but will not have a website.

Earlier this month, the Independent newspaper published its final print edition and announced it was changing to a digital-only format. **AP**

BRAZIL

Police order arrest of Rousseff's election guru



Dilma Rousseff

BRAZILIAN police have ordered the arrest of the marketing expert who helped President Dilma Rousseff win two elections — a development that sees a long-running corruption probe move a step closer to the president.

In a televised news conference yesterday, police accused Joao Santana and his wife, Monica Moura, of receiving millions of dollars in illicit funds from Odebrecht, a major construction company under investigation for its relationship with the state-run oil company Petrobras.

The two are currently in the Dominican Republic. According to their lawyer, they are willing to cooperate with any police inquiry.

As well as masterminding Rousseff's 2010 and 2014 election victories, Santana also ran former president Lula da Silva's successful 2006 campaign. **AP**

AP PHOTO



TERRORISM

IS frees Syrian Christians held since 2015 for ransom

Bassem Mroue, Beirut

THE Islamic State group yesterday released the last of some 230 Assyrian Christians kidnapped a year ago in Syria after the receiving millions of dollars in ransom, Christian officials said.

Younan Talia, of the Assyrian Democratic Organization, told The Associated Press that about 40 remaining Christian captives were released and are on their way to the northeastern town of Tal Tamr.

Younan said the release came after mediation led by a top Assyrian priest in northern Syria.

The extremists captured the Assyrians, members of an ancient Christian sect, last February after overrunning several communities on the southern bank of the Khabur River in northeastern Hassakeh province.

Kidnapping for ransom is a main source of income

for the extremists. In November, IS said it killed a Norwegian and a Chinese captive after demanding ransom for their release two months earlier.

Talia said IS demanded a ransom of USD18 million for the Assyrian Christians. He said the

■ Christians made up about 10 percent of Syria's pre-war population of 23 million

figure was later lowered following negotiations. He said he did not know the final amount.

Osama Edward, director of the Stockholm-based Assyrian Human Rights Network, said 42 Chris-

tians, mostly young women and children, were released. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also said 42 were released, including at least 17 women.

A Syrian Christian figure said the worldwide Assyrian community launched a campaign for the captives' release shortly after they were abducted. He said a bank account was opened in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil and donations began to flow in from around the world.

"We paid large amounts of money, millions of dollars, but not \$18 million," said the man, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the sensitive mediation. "We paid less than half the amount."

The official added that the fate of five Assyrians who went missing during the abductions was still unknown.

IS attacked a cluster of villages along the Khabur

River, sending thousands of people fleeing to safer areas and capturing the Assyrians over a period of three days. Over the next two days, the extremists picked up dozens more from 11 communities near Tal Tamr.

The Hassakeh province, which borders Turkey and Iraq, has become the latest battleground in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria. It is predominantly Kurdish but also has Arabs, Assyrians and Armenians.

On Friday, the predominantly Kurdish Syria Democratic Forces captured the IS stronghold of Shaddadeh in Hassakeh, where some of the kidnapped were once believed to have been held.

Many Syrian Christians, who made up about 10 percent of Syria's pre-war population of 23 million, left for Europe over the past 20 years, with the flight gathering speed since the country's conflict began in March 2011. **AP**

what's ON



CONCERT

TIME: 8pm

DATE: February 23-24, 2016

VENUE: Venue: Macao Cultural Centre,
Avenida Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

AGE: 6 years old

ENQUIRES: (853) 2856 8832

'PRIMITIVE FORM'

WONG HOI IAN CERAMIC ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm

(Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: February 27, 2016

VENUE: Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, 10, Macao

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRES: (853) 2835 4582

THE MASTERY OF SHIPBUILDING

- FISHING JUNK MODELS BY WAN CHUN

TIME: 10am-6pm

(Closed on Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: April 9, 2016

VENUE: Gallery of the Historical Archives of Macau,

Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

Nº 91 - 93, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRES: (853) 2859 2919

ONE CENTURY OF AUSTRIAN ART 1860-1960

TIME: 10am-7pm

(no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 3, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRES: (853) 8791 9814

SHINING CLEAN - EXHIBITION OF YONGLE
PORCELAIN EXCAVATED FROM ZHUSHAN OF THE
JINGDEZHEN OFFICIAL KILN AND MUSEUM

TIME: 9am-9pm

UNTIL: March 13, 2016

VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic
and Municipal Affairs

BUREAU ORGANIZER: Civic and Municipal Affairs

Bureau, Cultural Affairs Bureau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

SOU PUI KUN'S WORK "MUSIC BOX"

IN EXHIBIT OF CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE

TIME: 10am-7pm

(no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 19, 2016

VENUE: The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

KENYA: UBER CAR BURNED AS
TENSION RISES WITH TAXI OPERATORS

A Kenyan police official says an Uber car was ambushed and burned highlighting an escalation of tension between conventional taxi operators and drivers of the ride-sharing app.

Nairobi police chief Japhet Koome said yesterday that the Uber driver was injured in the attack Sunday night. He promised tough police action against the violence.

Koome said police have received complaints from Uber drivers of harassment by taxi operators but the burning of an Uber car signifies an escalation.

Taxi operators in Kenya earlier this month asked the government to stop the operations of Uber, which has become popular because of its cheaper fares.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:50	Castle S.5
17:40	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Happy Endings S3
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

18 FEB - 24 FEB

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: ROAD CHIP

ROOM 1

7.30 pm

Director: Walt Becker

Starring: Jason Lee, Jessica Ahlberg, Josh Green

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 92min

MERMAID

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Stephen Chau

Starring: Deng Chao, Show Lo, Zhang Yu Qi

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 92min

FROM VEGAS TO MACAU III

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Andrew Lau, Wong Jing

Starring: Chow Yun-fat, Andy Lau, Nick Cheung,

Jacky Cheung

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 112min



CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON:

SWORD OF DESTINY

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Yuen Woo-Peng

Starring: Donnie Yen, Michelle Yeoh

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 120min

THE MONKEY KING 2

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Pou-Soi Cheang

Starring: Aaron Kwok, Gong Li, Feng Shaofeng

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 120min

MACAU TOWER

04 FEB - 02 MAR

THE GOOD DINOSAUR

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Peter Sohn

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 93min

this day in history



Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero Molina

1981 REBEL ARMY SEIZES
CONTROL IN SPAIN

Spain is in a state of political confusion after an attempted right-wing coup.

This evening about 200 soldiers and members of the paramilitary Civil Guard stormed the lower house of the Spanish Parliament, the Cortes, firing automatic weapons and shouting orders.

They took hostage about 350 MPs debating a new government.

The group - led by Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero Molina, an officer of the Civil Guard - told all those present to lie down.

Lt Col Tejero then called on the King to make an announcement.

All streets around the building have been sealed off.

The coup plot originated in Valencia, in eastern Spain, under the command of Lieutenant General Jaime Milan del Bosch.

A supporter of the late dictator General Franco, the former commander of the elite Brunete Armoured Division near Madrid was recently transferred because of his opposition to the new political order and was suspected of plotting against it.

The general has declared a state of emergency and ordered tanks onto the streets of Valencia.

In Madrid the rebel army took over the radio and TV stations for 90 minutes. They dispersed when riot police arrived on the scene.

The King meanwhile has called on the civil service to take on the role of parliament based at Zarzuela Palace.

The joint chiefs-of-staff issued a communiqué saying all measures had been taken to put down the rebellion and restore order.

Despite these reassurances Spaniards are now wondering how long their five-year democracy can last.

Although Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy has been fairly smooth - until now - there have been rumblings of discontent among the right.

A few weeks ago Spain's first democratically elected prime minister Adolfo Suarez resigned.

It is believed he was under pressure by the right wing of his Democratic Centre Union party and the armed forces about concessions made to separatists in Catalonia and the Basque regions.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Early the following day, King Juan Carlos appeared on national TV to tell the people he had ordered the armed forces to take all necessary measures to put down the coup.

The rebel forces and their leaders surrendered and released their captives 22 hours after the siege of the Cortes had started.

The revolt was further damaged by the coup generals' failure to drum up support from other army units around the country.

One more plot was foiled when a group of colonels was discovered planning to seize power on the eve of the October 1982 general election.

The Spanish government was involved in a long-running campaign against the violence of the Basque separatist group Eta.

The group declared a permanent ceasefire on 22 March 2006. But in December 2006 a bomb went off at Madrid's airport leaving two people missing, presumed dead. Eta was blamed for the attack.

In January 2007, the Spanish Government declared the peace process "broken, liquidated, finished".

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Fantasies of moving home to mom and dad should be all the incentive you need to keep working. Bringing home the bacon by hook or by crook might not feel really great, but imagine the alternatives.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
 Your first instinct is to be possessive, but being tight with money really won't help anything. It could even hurt your finances to be too frugal. Remind yourself that it takes money to make money for a reason.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You're proud of your income, and why shouldn't you be? Even if all you're doing is putting a roof over your head, you have good reason to feel pleased. Just remember to keep your ego under control.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
 You have no idea what course to take. Stick with current projects, if only because coming up with new ones seems next to impossible. Keep your head down and consider yourself officially in denial.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Your heart, your wallet, your financial advisor - they all have energies that are so very different. If you don't do some questioning, then they'll just continue to be mismatched. Listen to your own mood first.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Crying over spilled milk might be childish but it's ever so satisfying. Go ahead, get it out of your system. If you don't indulge, your emotions are likely to ruin your desire to move forward.

Taurus April 20-May 20
 You're happy and content on a shoestring, but that doesn't mean you will be forever. Start thinking ahead. If you want your old age to be secure, the time to start planning for it is now.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 If you could be in two places at once, you'd be doing a lot more than making money. But since you can't be both making it and spending it, count yourself lucky. It has some time to sit in the bank and grow.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
 Some mornings when you wake up, you feel like you're on a totally new planet, even though the only thing that's really changed is the financial landscape. It's one of those disorienting days. Endure.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
 If you stay strictly intellectual you may be able to talk yourself out of a sweat. But if you go by your intuition, you'll be in an unreserved panic. The middle ground isn't much better, but it's what you should aim for.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 If you find yourself wanting to be anywhere but home, then you're more than likely doing the avoidance. Don't let money worries alienate you from those who love you the most.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
 Money is like poetry to your ears, and all you're doing is counting it in the abstract. Is it relief or something base that's making you swoon over it? Get to the bottom of that mystery another day.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-3	4	clear
Harbin	-22	-12	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	-1	4	clear
Urumqi	-11	-2	clear
Xi'an	0	10	cloudy
Lhasa	-1	13	clear/overcast
Chengdu	5	11	moderate rain/drizzle
Chongqing	8	11	drizzle
Kunming	7	13	cloudy/drizzle
Nanjing	4	11	overcast/cloudy
Shanghai	5	10	drizzle/overcast
Wuhan	4	13	overcast/cloudy
Hangzhou	6	10	drizzle/overcast
Taipei	16	20	drizzle/moderate rain
Guangzhou	11	13	drizzle
Hong Kong	14	18	drizzle/cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-3	1	moderate snow/sleet
Frankfurt	1	10	moderate snow/drizzle
Paris	3	10	drizzle/moderate rain
London	-1	12	sleet/drizzle
New York	1	6	clear/overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 5- French composer Erik; 10- Juniors, perhaps; 14- Comedian Carvey; 15- Trick; 16- Zeno of ___; 17- Looking down from; 18- Chopin piece; 19- Capone nemesis; 20- Public declaration; 22- Poles for sails; 23- Father; 24- Fido's appointment; 25- Lacking depth; 29- Absence of sound; 33- Actress Streep; 34- Just ___; 36- Work up lather; 37- French pronoun; 38- Together; 39- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 40- Tolstoy and Gorky; 42- Old Fords; 43- California border lake; 45- Dignify; 47- Goes by; 49- Part of UNLV; 50- Strike caller; 51- I ___ vacation!; 54- Sagacious; 60- Toiletries case; 61- Renter's sign; 62- Lotion ingredient; 63- Land measure; 64- Speechify; 65- Rod's partner; 66- Norse god of thunder; 67- Stun gun; 68- Preservative;

DOWN: 1- Yellow cheese coated with red wax; 2- ___ Hari; 3- Party to; 4- Quickly; 5- Tight swimsuit; 6- Some are liberal; 7- Tight; 8- ___European; 9- Just manage, with "out"; 10- Governing bodies; 11- Bullfight cheers; 12- Resting place; 13- Disrespectful back talk; 21- Drop; 22- ___Brooks, filmmaker responsible for "Blazing Saddles"; 24- Bad habit; 25- Look happy; 26- Troy beauty; 27- Favored crime of pyromaniacs; 28- Squander; 29- Have a feeling about; 30- ___Ark; 31- Summer camp transport; 32- Fencing swords; 35- Lay down the lawn; 38- ___well...; 41- Military person; 43- Domesticated; 44- Becomes visible; 46- Ewe said it; 48- Gloss; 51- Tidy, without fault; 52- Work with acid; 53- Monetary unit of Ireland; 54- ___ song (cheaply); 55- Exclamation to express sorrow; 56- Nerve network; 57- Intestinal sections; 58- Seasonal song; 59- Moolah; 61- Small child

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- 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
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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 Ref: 15080524

Wai son
 Macau
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 HKD 4,500sq ft
 Balcony with Church View
 Ref: 15105458

THE GREENVILLE
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 3 Bedroom Apartment
 Convenient Location
 HKD 13,000 / 1,395 sq ft
 Ref: 16010556

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 Macau
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 HKD 7,471sq ft
 Lovely Apartment
 Ref: 15085452

Manhattan F Unit,
 Taipa
 3 Bedrooms Apartment
 Large Master Bedroom
 HKD 21,500 / 1,720 sq ft
 Ref: 15090534

H Unit in Gladiolus Court
 Coloane
 2,530 sq ft / HKD 11.8M
 HKD 4,664sq ft
 Completely Renovated
 Ref: 11115275

Houston Court, Coloane Village
 Coloane
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 Upgraded in Sept 2015
 HKD 13,500 / 800 sq ft
 Ref: 15090532

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John Durren, Seoul

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Wealthy Chinese clubs again favorites as ACL kicks off

CHINESE clubs have been making headlines around the world by spending huge amounts of money to attract big-name stars, but with the Asian Champions League starting today, teams from Australia, Japan and South Korea have a chance to redress the balance.

In the winter transfer window, the Chinese Super League has spent almost USD300 million on players, more than the English Premier League, traditionally the richest in the world.

Guangzhou remains the favorite to win the title

Guangzhou Evergrande, the defending Asian Champions League winners, spent over \$40 million to acquire Jackson Martinez from Atletico Madrid. Jiangsu Suning paid almost \$100 million for Brazilian stars Ramires from Chelsea and Alex Teixeira from Shakhtar Donetsk, while Shanghai SIPG shelled out \$50 million to acquire Elkeson and Asamoah Gyan.

Guangzhou has won two of the last three Asian Champions League tournaments, while the other Chinese clubs have struggled. It remains to be seen if the recent investments make a difference for clubs like Jiangsu, Shanghai and Shandong Luneng.

Guangzhou remains the favorite to win the title, despite being placed in a group with two former winners, Pohang Steelers of South Korea and Japan's Urawa Reds, as well as Sydney FC from Australia.

"It is a tough group but the Asian Champions League is a tough competition," Guangzhou president Liu Yongzhou told The Associated Press. "For Guangzhou, we have won the trophy two times now and it is important for the club to



Guangzhou Evergrande coach Luis Felipe Scolari

win it again and make it three. We will do everything we can to defend the trophy we won."

If coach Luiz Felipe Scolari leads the team to a third title, Guangzhou will equal the number of ACL championships won by Pohang Steelers, the most successful club in Asian history.

The South Korean club has a fraction of the spending power of Guangzhou, but received some good news last week when the Asian Football Confederation ruled that the

Steelers-Evergrande match at Guangzhou's Tianhe Stadium would be played behind closed doors as punishment for the Chinese team breaching marketing and media regulations during the 2015 ACL final against Al Ahli of Dubai.

"It is a hard game for the first in the Asian Champions League," Pohang coach Choi Jincheul said. "Guangzhou is the champion and have many good players but we have a good record and are looking to perform well in the competition."

Australia's two biggest clubs, Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory, will be looking to progress to the knockout stage of the continental competition for the first time after failing to do so in six previous attempts between them.

Sydney coach Graham Arnold is hoping to follow in the footsteps of the Western Sydney Wanderers, who surprisingly won the title in 2014. "No doubt it is a very difficult group," Arnold said at a news conference in Sydney last week. "Guan-

zhou's budget is 40 times more than ours, Pohang's is 30 times and Urawa is 20 times. But Western Sydney showed it can be done."

Melbourne, which exited in the group stage in 2015, has been drawn in a group with Shanghai SIPG, the 2015 Chinese Super League runner-up; two-time Asian champion Suwon Bluewings of South Korea; and 2008 ACL champion Gamba Osaka of Japan.

"It's a tall order," Melbourne boss Kevin Muscat told Australian media. "But it's a challenge we will take on head on. It's where we wanted to be. In our last campaign, it got to this time of the season and we relished the opportunity to play on this world stage."

The 32 teams have been split into two geographic zones until the final. Since 2005, only one west Asian team, Al Sadd of Qatar in 2011, has lifted the trophy. Al Ain, the reigning United Arab Emirates league champions, will be the favorite in the west region after Al Ahli failed to qualify for the 2016 tournament. Another team to watch, Lekhwiya, has won four of the last five domestic titles in Qatar, but has yet to progress past the last eight in the ACL.

Saudi giants Al Hilal and Al Ittihad will be searching for a third title to add to the two they've each won, while Iran is still looking for a first victory in the competition. The games between the Saudi and Iranian clubs have been moved to the end of the group stage after Riyadh demanded the matches be moved to a third country amid worsening relations between the nations. The AFC is hoping that a political settlement can be reached soon. **AP**

Basketball Australia asks club to probe offensive photos

BASKETBALL Australia said it was satisfied with how a Melbourne club is dealing with allegations of racism that surfaced when Liz Cabbage identified a national squad teammate on Twitter who had posed for photos with brown paint on her face in an end-of-season celebration.

Australian Opals forward Alice Kunek posted the picture of herself in costume on Instagram on Sunday, and Cabbage used Twitter posts to highlight the image, saying she was "shocked and disturbed to see this behavior from someone I'm meant to call a 'teammate.'" "Blackface is dis-

gusting, I honestly have no words," Cabbage, a former WNBA center who is now playing in China, posted. "People wonder why I have issues with some @BasketballAus teammates, I've been dealing with this behavior since we were kids."

Blackface was common in old American minstrel shows featuring white

performers as stereotyped black characters.

Kunek deleted the photo and issued an apology saying she hadn't intended it to be offensive.

Basketball Australia chief executive Anthony Moore said Monday that Kunek's club, the Melbourne Boomers, had been asked to investigate and "we are sa-

tisfied that the club has taken this matter seriously and moved swiftly to address this with their player.

"Whilst poor judgment was exercised by Ms. Kunek, we note and accept her sincere remorse."

In a statement, Moore said the federation and the player association would take "a leadership

position in the education of all basketballers around the country on racial and religious vilification."

The 24-year-old Cabbage is in contention for Australia's 2016 Olympic squad after being sidelined by selectors for a qualifying series because she skipped a training camp to attend a music festival. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk

Daniel Beitler



Gov't surplus could be used for 'art handout'

I stand fully behind the government's drive to build Macau's creative and cultural industries in a sustainable manner. It is economically prudent to reduce the territory's reliance on a single revenue stream and – in light of Macau's probable eventual integration with the mainland, and the Communist Party's contempt for gambling – it makes sense to wean ourselves off our dependence on gaming.

The government makes a great deal of noise about cultural industries; dashing to set up new competitions, installations, film festivals and so forth, while throwing its financial backing behind anything that contributes to the promotion of culture.

But this 'overnight' approach is probably insufficient to create a truly organic cultural class, which is a necessity if the cultural and creative industries want to achieve anything resembling sustainability. Apart from the world-class acts that grace Macau with one-off shows, my anecdotal experience of cultural events has flagged the issue of poor attendance.

In order for these industries to be well attended and therefore sustainable, Macau needs to simultaneously develop a producer and a consumer class of cultural products and services. These need not be mutually exclusive groupings.

Specifically, we need to instill a sense of creativity in our youth by giving them a reason to develop an interest in art and culture. We need to encourage these same people – and their peers – to consume the products by attending performances, supporting local hand-crafted products and so on.

Macau's resources are limited. The MSAR doesn't have a lot of land to repurpose, nor does it have the seven million-plus population of Hong Kong. But we do have one key resource: a large government surplus at the end of the fiscal year.

One proposal that might be interesting is an 'art handout' system similar to the regular handouts in place for residents and non-permanent residents.

The idea here would be to grant a nominal annual sum to every young person who completes a cultural product or service. This could be anything from paintings and sculptures to the online sale of one's own tie-dyed t-shirts. The bar doesn't need to be set too high, because the creation itself is beside the point.

The ultimate goal here is to stimulate a conversation and an interest in this field, thereby creating a well-informed generation that is eager to experience cultural and creative products. Young people might ask each other what they are doing this year to qualify for their 'art handout'. They might go to see their peers' finished works or exhibits. As both a producer and a consumer, every young person would then have a genuine interest in experiencing cultural products.

According to the AL's initial reading on the government budget for 2016, the government surplus is expected to be around MOP18.2 billion. If such a program were offered to all persons between the ages of 10 and 30 in the MSAR, around 175,000 individuals would be eligible for the 'art handout'.

For the purpose of my calculations, I am assuming that non-permanent residents and non-resident citizens would also be eligible for the handout – though, from my experience in Macau, this seems highly unlikely.

But if all these people applied for handouts from the fund, which granted something like MOP5,000 for the successful completion of an annual project, the full cost of the handout would amount to just MOP875 million per year, less than 5 percent of the predicted surplus. This figure could be a lot less in reality, though my crude estimations do not account for any administrative costs.

Macau already has funds for cultural projects, but these are usually only for contest winners. Too often, you need to prove your credentials or experience in the field in order to be eligible for a grant. This is all well and good, but it doesn't do much to expand the producer class or tempt a new generation of consumers.

THE HEAVY FIGHTING CUTS OFF ROAD TO CITY OF ALEPPO

A Syrian opposition activist group says heavy fighting has cut off the government's only supply route to the northeastern city of Aleppo. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says clashes were underway yesterday along the southeastern approaches to the city, which is bitterly divided between the government and the rebels, and also around the town of Khanaser. The Observatory tracks Syria's civil war. A

news agency close to the Islamic State group said the extremist group's fighters had cut the road. Aleppo, Syria's largest city and one-time commercial center, is divided between the government and its opponents, while IS holds a wide front to the east of the city. Fighting has been fierce in Aleppo province in recent weeks amid a government offensive to cut off the rebel stronghold.

Ford CEO looks to autonomous cars, sharing economy



Mark Fields talks during an interview next to the new Kuga SUV car

Ford CEO Mark Fields says the 112-year-old company is tripling its investment in new technologies that will ultimately lead to self-driving vehicles – but will keep making cars for drivers who want to keep their hands on the wheel.

Fields said it was no coincidence that Ford chose the Mobile World Congress, a massive technology trade show in Barcelona, to unveil its new Kuga SUV, which features its latest connectivity and driver-assisted technology.

"We are really emphasizing our transition from an auto company to an auto and mobility company," Fields told The Associated Press in an interview yesterday at Ford's stand, which stood out in a sea of smartphone and gadget makers.

"This is a really good audience to reach some new folks." The Kuga includes the latest

version of Ford's connectivity technology, SYNC 3, which the company says includes improved voice commands and makes it easier to access applications on a driver's smartphone. It has a new 1.5-liter diesel engine, among other features.

Fields said that over the next five years investment will increase threefold in autonomous driving technologies, such as one-button parking assistance and guidance to keep a car in its lane and help braking in heavy traffic, with the ultimate goal of a fully autonomous car. He declined to provide financial figures.

Don Butler, Ford's executive director of connected vehicle and services, told the AP "we like to think about it as the transition from just a hardware company to a software and mobility services company as well."

"Mobility" is a buzzword at

the wireless show. For Ford customers, it means a wide range of innovations from further integration of the Internet in cars, to ride-sharing and even the use of other modes of transport in conjunction with cars, like bicycles.

Fields said Ford is aware it will have to be careful to keep a hold on the traditional car driver, by protecting – especially in the United States – the aura of personal freedom that automakers have always cast over their products.

Ford is taking a "dual path" in developing the connected car, said Fields. One for those who want to be assisted by the car or eventually have the vehicle take over, and another for drivers who want to keep control of the wheel.

With ride-sharing platforms like Uber reshaping driving for many young would-be consumers, Ford is also looking to get a piece of the so-called sharing economy.

"Across the world when you see growth of these megacities, with 10 million or more folks, people want mobility solutions, they want options," Fields said. That can include car-sharing, ride-sharing or the use of multiple modes of transportation linked into one service – such as the use of a train and bike. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xaume Olleros/Bloomberg



Residential buildings stand in the Peak district of Hong Kong. It took Wheelock Properties Ltd. just three hours to sell a luxury home in Hong Kong's exclusive Peak neighborhood to an unidentified buyer for HKD830 million (USD107 million) on Saturday.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA Authorities in a north Indian state began lifting curfews in key towns and protesters gradually removed roadblocks after 12 people died in clashes during demonstrations for government benefits.

BANGLADESH An editor of one of the country's most respected newspapers sparked an uproar by admitting that eight years ago he published unsubstantiated reports alleging corruption by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, then in the opposition. More on p12

VENEZUELA As Zika spreads in the Americas, the country faces a lack of bug spray to deter mosquito bites, scant contraceptives to avert pregnancies, little medicine to treat Zika-linked maladies and no effective public health campaign to inform people about the disease.



SPAIN In a good early sign for Ferrari in its attempt to challenge Mercedes, Sebastian Vettel was faster than reigning champion Lewis Hamilton in Formula One pre-season testing yesterday.

ZIMBABWE's mining minister said the government will now control all mining in the diamond-rich Marange area, after operators were ordered to halt all mining because their licenses have expired.

PALESTINE An advocacy group says a detainee has entered uncharted medical territory with a hunger strike of 89 days – longer than fasts by other Palestinians or by Irish prisoners in 1981.