



**VIP ROOMS 'REMAIN DOMINATED BY TRIADS'**  
A report on organized crime in Macau's casinos has been released in the British Journal of Criminology

P3



**ELECTRICITY RATES MAY DECREASE**  
Electricity rates may decrease as a result of the yuan's devaluation, according to the chairman of CEM's executive committee

P7



**MISSING HK BOOKSELLER RESURFACES**

P11

WED.02  
Mar 2016

T. 14°/ 21 C  
H. 55/ 90%

Blackberry email service powered by CTM

N.º 2508  
MOP 7.50  
HKD 9.50



# Times

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

Stay Ahead In The New Broadband Era  
50M 100M 250M 600M POWERED BY CTM 1G  
Enquiry : 6613 0002

4G home fiber broadband wi-fi CTM

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

AD

**Pregnant women should avoid travelling to affected areas of Zika virus**

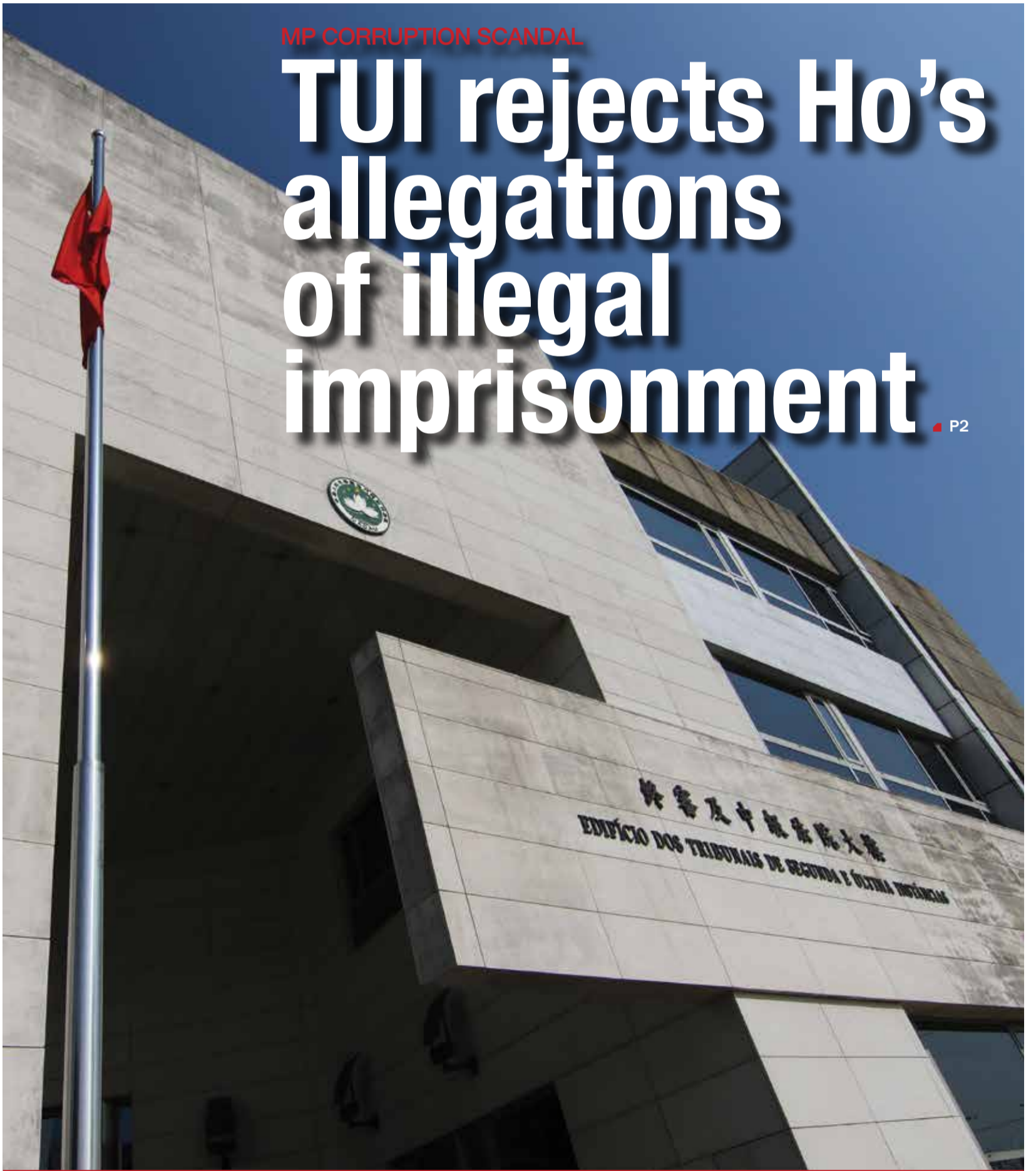
Hotline  
**28 700800**

RENATO MARQUES

MP CORRUPTION SCANDAL

# TUI rejects Ho's allegations of illegal imprisonment

P2



**WORLD BRIEFS**

BLOOMBERG



**CHINA** Struck by a sudden inspiration for a business plan while cooped up in a room at a southern China detention center, entrepreneur Liu Minghui turned to the only people nearby for feedback - his jailer and 11 cell mates. It worked. [More on p10](#)

**NORTH KOREA** With tensions high and the United States and South Korea ready to hold their massive annual war games next week, which North Korea sees as a dress rehearsal for invasion, Pyongyang is warning it will respond to any violations of its territory with "merciless" retaliation, including strikes on Seoul and the U.S. mainland. [More on p12](#)

**GREECE-MACEDONIA** More than 7,000 refugees and other migrants are camped on Greece's northern border with Macedonia, waiting for authorities to allow them to continue their long trek north to seek asylum in wealthier European countries. [More on backpage](#)

More on backpage

# Casino revenue bottoms out in February beating analysts' estimates

P5 GAMING



# TUI rejects Ho Chio Meng's allegations of illegal imprisonment

Renato Marques

**T**HE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has rejected a habeas corpus claim (a request to determine if a person's imprisonment or detention is lawful) by former Public Prosecutor General, Ho Chio Meng.

A collective of judges of the region's top court, presided over by Song Man Lei and assisted by Sam Hou Fai and Lai Kin Hong, met yesterday afternoon to analyze Ho's request. If accepted, Ho would be granted immediate release from prison.

TUI's dismissal suggests that habeas corpus may not apply to this case, and that Ho's defense would have done better to appeal against the preventive custody measures.

**There is no hierarchically superior court to appeal to, and all appeals will be heard by the very same people that made the decision in the first place.**

JORGE MENEZES



Lawyer Leong Weng Pun is representing Ho Chio Meng

TUI said its measures were justified based on Ho Chio Meng's "risk of escape," stating also that "other measures were not considered to be sufficient," and that the preventive custody measures were taken after "strong evidence" against him was presented.

According to several sources contacted by the Times, the defense – led by lawyer Leong Weng Pun – based its request on Article 33 of Law 10/1999 (Statutes of Judiciary Magistrates), which states that magistrates cannot be arrested or

subjected to preventive custody before being formally accused or having the day of their hearing appointed. Exceptions can only be made in cases where the accused magistrates are arrested "in blazing offence" for crimes punishable by a maximum prison sentence of more than three years.

TUI's decision yesterday also addressed the topic of Article 33 of Law 10/1999, stating that, "since February of 2015, the suspect was appointed as the coordinator of the Committee on Criminal and Legal

Studies, ceasing to be a magistrate." This condition raises doubts for Ho's defense, who believes that the former Prosecutor General retains his position as a magistrate.

After the court hearing at TUI, Leong refrained from commenting on the case, saying, "I still do not have the verdict, so I need the verdict first [in order] to read it and study it. My team and I need to study it first."

Asked for comment by the Times, lawyer Jorge Menezes explained that "contrary to the ci-

vil law, it is not appropriate for criminal law to be open to interpretation" because it is subject to more restrictive rules. In this sense, he thinks that TUI's preventive measures would have been carefully analyzed by the magistrates. "I'm certain that they all know well their own statutes," he said.

The lawyer also thinks that habeas corpus might not be justified in this particular case, since "there are only three reasons to lodge that kind of request: incompetence from the authority that decided the arrest; violation of the legal deadlines for the application of these measures; and because the arrest had been made based on facts that the law does not allow to result in the application of preventive custody, and none of these reasons are relevant here."

Menezes added, "It is precisely TUI's implementation of the preventive custody measures that creates a problem (already seen before during the case of former Secretary Ao Man Long). After TUI there is no hierarchically superior court to appeal to. As a result, all appeals will be analyzed by the very same people that made the decision in the first place." In his opinion, the situation "leaves people in this position with [...] diminished rights."

Since the Ao Man Long case, many studies and publications have addressed the supposed flaws in a legal system that does not allow "effective appeal" for another instance.

## Two entrepreneurs arrested in connection to MP corruption case

**T**WO local entrepreneurs involved in the case incriminating former management and leadership staff of the Public Prosecution Office (MP) join the role of suspects waiting for trial in preventive custody, in

accordance with the measure applied to the former Public Prosecutor General, Ho Chio Meng.

According to a press note from the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) the two entrepreneurs had already been

assigned with lighter restrictions, forbidding them from departing the territory.

From Monday the CCAC noted that the restrictions were being violated after, in the process of the investigation, the commission

found that the two were causing difficulties in the gathering of evidence and the normal process of the investigation as well as colluding their accounts of the incidents with the aim of standardizing their testimonies in court. **RM**



CCAC's head André Cheong

[www.macaudailytimes.com.mo](http://www.macaudailytimes.com.mo)

**MDT's Website has logged over 120 million page views since January 1st, 2012 up to today.**

**Thank You!**

Like us? [facebook.com/mdtimes](https://facebook.com/mdtimes)

Times

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: Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitter, Emilie 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

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



REPORT

# Macau VIP rooms 'remain dominated by triads'

Daniel Beitler

A report on organized crime in Macau has been released in the British Journal of Criminology, detailing the changes that the triad underworld has undergone since the handover in 1999, and concluding that VIP rooms "remain to this day dominated by triads."

The report, entitled "Triad Organized Crime in Macau Casinos: Extra-legal governance and entrepreneurship," asserts that the Chinese criminal underworld is simultaneously developing as traditional territory-based gangs and dynamic businesses produced by entrepreneurs.

"New forms of betting and crime have emerged to meet the needs of high-end gamblers, thus resulting in the formation of a triad-enterprise hybrid that comprises territoriality and reputation of violence commonly found



in extra-legal governance and the dynamic entrepreneurship of small firms," reads the article.

Macau-based gangs have readjusted their traditional use of violence and intimidation and instead adopted market-based business strategies to continue their extra-legal activities.

"[Triads] continue to treat the VIP rooms as their economic territories and provide extra-legal governance," the article concludes. "They monopolize the VIP rooms, treat them as their territories and ensure that rivals would not steal their whales [high rollers]. They punish cheats

and frauds that occur in their territories, where occasional use of violence is seen."

Gaming-related crimes continue to account for a significant portion of reported crime in Macau. The Times reported last week that gaming-related cases surged 38 percent to 1,553 cases last year, which law enforcement agencies accredit to heightened police attentiveness to gaming operators as the industry undergoes an "adjustment period."

The article was written by two academics at City University of Hong Kong from the Department of Applied Social Sciences, T. Wing Lo,

DICJ SAYS IT KNOWS OF NO TRIADS IN VIP ROOMS

THE GAMING Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) has said that it has no knowledge of the existence of triads in VIP rooms of Macau casinos, as per the study released in the British Journal of Criminology. "So far, we have not verified any triad selected by casinos or working with junket VIP gaming promoters," the bureau stated, cited by Lusa. However, they promised to take "appropriate measures" should irregularities be detected and said they would continue monitoring "the fulfillment of their [operators'] legal, statutory and contractual obligations, and other responsibilities stipulated in the legislation."

and Sharon Ingrid Kwok.

According to Lusa, the study was developed over 30 months between 2012 and 2015 and included interviews with 17 members of triads, VIP hall operators, local officials, and visits to a VIP room of a casino not identified in the report.

## Imports slump in January

Macau's total import of merchandise has decreased 18.5 percent year-on-year to MOP6.96 billion, while the merchandise trade deficit now amounts to MOP5.98 billion, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). In January there was a year-on-year decrease of 21.4 percent and 15.4 percent on merchandise imported from mainland China (MOP2.71 billion) and the European Union (MOP1.63 billion), respectively. The latest available data indicates that merchandise exports amounted to MOP973 million in January, up by 1.5 percent year-on-year. The value of re-exports grew by 8.4 percent to MOP834 million, while the value of domestic exports dropped 26.2 percent to MOP139 million, with that of tobacco (MOP27 million) falling by 49.9 percent. External trade in merchandise reached MOP7.93 billion in January, down by 16.5 percent compared to MOP9.49 billion a year earlier.

## EU marks Women's Day with seminar

The European Union Academic Program in Macau (EUAP-M) will celebrate International Women's Day, March 8, with a seminar on "Women and Gender Politics: The Contemporary Situations in Europe and Macau." The session will commence at the University of Macau's Tai Fung Lecture Hall with speakers from the university. EUAP-M, established in 2012, is a partnership between UM and the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), co-financed by the European Union. It aims to raise awareness of the EU among the general public of Macau and students of all levels.

AD



# Be your own boss

Get a business cooking with Thermomix.

Thermomix gives you the opportunity to work for yourself as an independent Consultant in a business that offers fun, freedom, flexibility and good money.

Our advisors show customers how to use this revolutionary machine at demos and cooking classes in Macau.

As a Thermomix representative you will receive ongoing training and support and attend cooking classes. You can turn your passion for food into a great full-time or part-time income while participating in our fantastic promotions.

If you would like to make a difference and do something you love, please contact our head office.

Tong Jia de Ramirez  
Phone Number : +853 6668 1771.



# Pun Weng Kun says 'training of local athletes is important'

Renato Marques

**SUCCESSFULLY** organizing Macau's big sporting events, the training of local athletes, expanding the network of public sports facilities and continuing to develop "Sport for All" activities are the tasks that the new president of Macau Sports Development Board (ID), Pun Weng Kun, elects as priorities for his two-year mandate that was yesterday publicized in his swearing-in ceremony, held at the government's headquarters.

The former vice president of ID, speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony, anticipated a smooth path of "following the plan that was previously established."

"From my side I am not anticipating any challenge or pressure because my team and I are used to major works and we have built a good team to face any challenge and to successfully organize the big events. I am confident that we will fulfill our mission," Pun Weng Kun said.

He hopes that the "high level sports events" that the territory holds annually can "attract local



Pun Weng Kun

people to assist and also attract people from abroad to visit Macau and become more familiar with the territory."

In order to provide local athletes with better conditions to train and develop their skills the ID is planning the creation of an Athletes Training and Formation Center that is currently "in a stage of negotiation with several entities that are finalizing the project and will shortly start contacting the Land, Public works and Transport Bureau [DSSOPT] in order to boost the project forward," Pun said, adding

that "only after the launch of the public tender for the construction will it be possible to have a clear idea of how long will take to build."

Cooperation with the University of Macau is also a major task needed to expand the network of public sports facilities. "At the moment we are talking with the University [of Macau] Rector in order to secure from the institution nine facilities to include in the network [of public sports facilities] and so far the feedback is good. Soon we will have good news to announce to the population," the president of ID added.

# ANM calls for rethink of dog muzzling proposal

**THE** New Macau Association (ANM) sent a letter to the president of the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly this week, calling for the removal of a rule that would force pet owners to muzzle their dogs in public places at all times.

The rule has been proposed as part of the Animal Protection Bill, which is seeking to provide greater security for animals and impose harsher penalties on those found guilty of animal cruelty.

"In the absence of a significant number of cases of dog aggression in Macau, compulsory dog muzzling will defeat the original purpose of the bill, to protect animals," reads ANM's letter.

The association added that after initial research into muzzling laws in other countries, they "discovered no precedent in jurisdictions in the developed world echoing that requirement."

In places where regulations over muzzling dogs do exist, "the requirement usually applies to particular aggressive breeds or individual dogs with a history of aggression toward humans." **DB**



XINHUA

AD

30m pageviews per year

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



# Times App

## New look more features



Times App on App Store & Google Play



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 Times

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

advertising@macaudailytimes.com

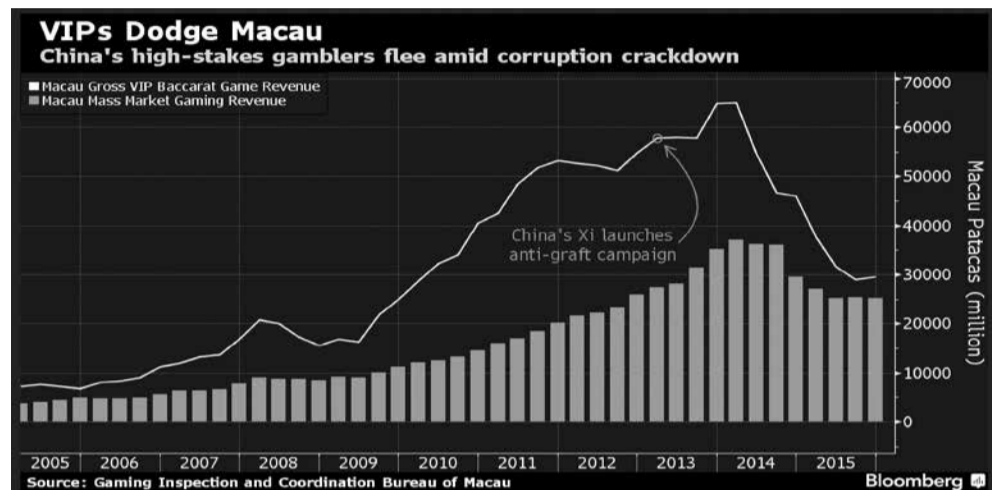


**M**ACAU'S casino market shrank less than analysts' estimates in February, as an increased number of tourists to the city over the Lunar New Year holiday helped ease a slump that's lasted for almost two years.

Gross gaming revenue was MOP19.5 billion (USD2.4 billion), according to data from Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. The 0.1 percent decrease was the smallest since the downturn began, and compares with the median estimate of a 2 percent drop from six analysts surveyed by Bloomberg and the 21.4 percent decline in January.

"The fact that the market almost grew in February despite continued VIP woes leads us to believe mass market increased nicely year-on-year in February, which is what investors likely need to see more of," Union Gaming Group LLC analyst Grant Govertsen wrote in a note. Still, he expects gambling revenue to

# Casino revenue downturn eases on festive fillip



drop further in March and April, by 13 percent and 6 percent respectively, before returning to growth in June.

Chinese high-rolling gamblers have laid low since President Xi Jinping started an anti-corruption campaign in 2013, ending a decade-long Macau boom that propelled the city's ca-

sino revenue to seven times more than the Las Vegas Strip. Since then, operators such as Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. have opened resorts aimed more at tourists and mass-market gamblers, in hopes of lifting gaming receipts from their five-year low.

Macau casino shares reversed earlier losses after

the monthly data was released, with Sands China Ltd. up as much as 1.9 percent and Wynn Macau Ltd. rising as much as 1.6 percent in Hong Kong trading. The Bloomberg Intelligence Macau casinos index rose as much as 0.4 percent, after falling by 2.1 percent in the morning.

Revenue from VIPs, as

measured by their favorite baccarat card game, have fallen to near the level of other gamblers as Macau's government tightened scrutiny on junket operators, middle-men who organize trips for high-end Chinese gamblers and lend them money to bet with, in effect skirting China's currency controls.

Sands China President and Chief Operating Officer Wilfred Wong predicted last week Macau's casino industry would stop its decline as early as February thanks to increased gambling over the weeklong Chinese holiday that started Feb. 8.

The deputy chairman of Galaxy Francis Lui echoed Wong's optimism, after his company posted fourth-quarter earnings that beat expectations.

Despite the downturn, Macau remains the world's largest gambling hub, with revenue in 2015 about five times that of the Las Vegas Strip. The Chinese city's gambling houses have shifted their focus to become more Vegas-like, in an attempt to draw more tourists by providing more non-gaming facilities.

Galaxy's newly-opened Broadway casino-hotel and a Batman ride in Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd.'s Studio City helped the two operators grow their share of the mass market gambling segment in 2015. The \$4.1 billion Wynn Palace will offer air-conditioned cable car rides and Sands China's the Parisian will feature a half-size Eiffel Tower replica when they open later this year.

Macau's transition from high-end gamblers to mass market tourists will lead to a more seasonal volatility in business however, as fewer VIPs take up the weekday traffic, Bank of America Merrill Lynch's analyst Billy Ng wrote in a note. **Bloomberg**

AD



**CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER**  
仁德醫療中心



*We bring high quality of medical service to Macau*

<b>General Surgery</b>	Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong, Dr. Kwong Man
<b>Breast Surgery</b>	Dr. Leong Iat Lun
<b>Urology</b>	Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao
<b>Paediatric Surgery</b>	Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong
<b>Paediatrics</b>	Dr. Leung Ping Maurice, Dr. Zhang Zhiqin
<b>Plastic &amp; Aesthetic Surgery</b>	Dr. Lam U Lin
<b>Orthopaedic Surgery &amp; Sports Medicine</b>	Dr. Lam Kun Kuan
<b>Cardiology</b>	Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin
<b>Gastroentero-Hepatology</b>	Dr. Zhan De Juan
<b>General Medicine</b>	Dr. Ng Kam Hong
<b>Anaesthesiology</b>	Dr. Ning Siu Kei Eric, Dr. Chan Wai Han
<b>Dietitian</b>	Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau  
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com  
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed



**聖若瑟大學**  
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

## USJ MARCH Events

	<p><b>Aformal Armatures</b> By Jason Hilgefort 3 March 2016 (Thursday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English Venue: NAPE 1 Speakers' Hall</p>
	<p><b>The Celebration of Mercy</b> By Prof. Anna Chan 3 March 2016 (Thursday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: Cantonese Venue: Seminary Auditorium</p>
	<p><b>Mercy and Virtues</b> By Prof. Emeritus Fausto Gomez, OP 10 March 2016 (Thursday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English Venue: Seminary Campus</p>
	<p><b>Teaching and Supporting Students with Down Syndrome in Inclusive Classrooms</b> By Dr Donna Couzens 11 March 2016 (Friday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English Venue: NAPE 1 Speakers' Hall</p>

**FREE ADMISSION**  
For more information: [www.usj.edu.mo](http://www.usj.edu.mo)  
For inquiries: [pr@usj.edu.mo](mailto:pr@usj.edu.mo) Tel: 8796 4433

NAPE1 | Rua de Londres 16, Macau, China  
Seminary | Largo de Sto. Agostinho, #5 Macau





www.rcr-macau.com

# RRC Electronics (Macau) Ltd.

## 中葡電子(澳門)有限公司

---

<p><b>ELV Systems Specialists</b> 專業的弱電系統</p> <p><b>Design &amp; Budgets</b> 設計和預算</p> <p><b>Project Management</b> 項目管理</p> <p><b>Maintenance &amp; Service</b> 維修和服務</p> <p><b>Risk Assessment &amp; Management</b> 風險評估和管理</p> <p><b>Survey &amp; Troubleshooting Services</b> 檢驗和故障診斷與維修服務</p>	        	<p><b>Surveillance Systems</b> 監控系統</p> <p><b>Intrusion Alarm Systems</b> 入侵警報系統</p> <p><b>Access Control Systems</b> 門禁系統</p> <p><b>AV/TV, Telephone &amp; Display Systems</b> AV/TV, 電話和顯示系統</p> <p><b>Fire Detection &amp; Suppression Systems</b> 火焰偵測和滅火系統</p> <p><b>Network &amp; Structure Cable</b> 網絡和綜合佈線</p>
--	---	---

---

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

new business opportunities are just a handshake away





MACAU AFTER WORK



deltabridges.com



DELTA BRIDGES  
珠三角纵横

sales@deltabridges.com (+853) 66965212 (+86) 13326647710



**BBAM**  
澳門英國商會  
British Business Association of Macao

**LAST CALL**  
*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*

**BBAM/ Members – MOP/HKD 350**  
**Non-Members – MOP/HKD 550**

CPD available upon request  
bbam@britchammacao.org or phone +853 8798 9697



## CEM: Electricity rates may decrease

**E**LECTRICITY rates may decrease as a result of the yuan's devaluation, according to the chairman of Companhia de Electricidade de Macau's (CEM) executive committee, Bernie Leong.

Speaking on the sidelines of yesterday's CEM media lunch at the JW Marriott Hotel Macau, Leong said the drop in rates could be introduced as soon as next month.

The electricity company's investment plan for 2016 includes about MOP680 million to be used in major infrastructure projects such as the high-voltage substations at the Cotai Healthcare Complex, Hospital Conde S. Januário and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Island. CEM received MOP980 million from the government for its 2016 Annual Development Plan.

Leong also introduced the company's future investment plan, adding that, "In light of the serious aging of some of the generators, CEM has been in negotiations with the Macau government to replace some obsolete and inefficient diesel power generation units with eco-friendly and efficient gas turbine units, which would be crucial for retaining Macau's power generation capacity [in order] to increase Macau's bargaining power [with suppliers] and boost the safety of Macau's power supply."

He also said that local authorities have



approved a new Dispatch Centre project, which will be located at the Coloane Power Station.

The company's total investment in 2015 amounted to approximately MOP960 million, of which MOP750 million was spent upgrading and expanding power transmission and distribution networks.

Power consumption in Macau continues to hit new highs, with a growth of 6.2 percent year-on-year. Over 81 percent of the region's electricity was imported from the mainland, down 1.1 percent from 2014. CEM stressed that this was "the first ever negative growth" in terms of electricity importation. **PB**

## Power-trading hubs in Beijing and Guangzhou

**C**HINA'S two dominant electricity distributors will build power-trading platforms in Beijing and Guangzhou in a step toward electricity-market reform that will allow users to buy power directly from generators.

State Grid Corp. of China will run a trading center in Beijing and China Southern Power Grid Co. will start a hub in its home city of Guangzhou in the south, the National Development and Reform Commission said in a statement on its website yesterday. The two centers will provide a fair and transparent platform for users to negotiate and buy electricity directly from generators, it said.

Power is among the industries in President Xi Jinping's reform drive to overhaul the nation's bloated state-owned businesses and allow market forces to play a bigger role.

BISHOP STEPHEN LEE

## 'Fear' behind China's refusal to admit mainlanders to USJ

**M**ACAUS new bishop Stephen Lee struck out at mainland China last week, accusing the Central Government of fearing the propagation of Catholic education.

His comments, made during a TDM interview, were in response to the Central Government's recent refusal of a request from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ). The university had asked for at least 60 mainland students as part of its plans to grow its current student body of 1300, with the available facilities in its new Ilha Verde campus set to open next year.

Bishop Lee said that fear was the only reason he could fa-

thom behind the decision. He added that the refusal saddened him, since the Church's relationship with mainland authorities had generally been improving.

"Fear that we educate some Catholics and clash against the government," he reasoned. "I don't know; that's the only reason I can see."

"[We have always] tried to be friendly to every country, especially to the motherland, China. So I don't see any reason why it [the request] should have been rejected. It's quite unfair to us and that's why I'm quite sad to hear that," said Lee.

Bishop Lee, who has now



Bishop Stephen Lee

been in his new role for around a month, took over office from the former bishop, José Lai, who resigned for health reasons. Lee's appointment has caused some to speculate that the Hong Kong-born priest could bring to Macau a dose of the neighboring SAR's political activism.

Although at the ceremony marking his installation as bishop of Macau, Lee reminded his congregation that it

was imperative to have "unity with God, unity with the Pope, unity with the city of Macau, and unity of China," his outspoken comments last week are in stark contrast with Lai's more cautious standpoint.

The new bishop also stressed last week that ties between the Church and mainland authorities are stronger today than they have been for a long time, which makes the rejection more surprising.

Lee told TDM, "the relationship with China has been getting on so well. But now, suddenly, [they] rejected our request."

"We have to abide by the 'One Country, Two Systems'. Our role is quite passive in the sense that we can help if they want us to help," said Bishop Lee, adding that the Church is capable of helping China by offering spiritual and financial assistance. **DB**

## MSAR starts youth visitor program

Macau will organize thousands of young people to visit Chinese mainland in the next three years, the Government Spokesperson's Office announced yesterday. The local government plans to initiate the "One Thousand Visitors Plan" in order to send 1,000 youth to visit the Chinese mainland every year. According to Xinhua, the three-year program intends to help young Macau people to have deeper and wider understanding of Chinese mainland, and encourage them to participate in the development of the nation. In cooperation with China's education ministry and All-China Youth Federation, the program is led by the Office of the Chief Executive and run by the Macau Foundation. The visitors will be selected from middle schools and youth organizations. The first batch of visitors will come to Guangdong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai, with itinerary featuring leadership building, science and technology innovation, as well as culture and arts.

## 15,605 Vietnamese workers sent overseas

As many as 15,605 Vietnamese workers were sent abroad in the first two months of this year, according to VOV News, 29 of whom came to Macau. Of the total workers sent abroad, 6,695 were female. The 15,605 workers account for 15.61 percent of government's yearly plan, equivalent to 90.69 percent of last year's planned numbers. According to the latest figures released by the Overseas Labor Management Department of the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, 6,978 Vietnamese workers were dispatched to work overseas last month alone. Taiwan received the largest number of workers at 3,963 in February, followed by Japan (2,215), Malaysia (503), Saudi Arabia (118) and South Korea (57).

## Guangzhou may reach out to HK and Macau homebuyers

**G**UANGDONG'S provincial government may lift home-purchase restrictions (HPR) in "eligible cities" for buyers from Hong Kong and Macau, as part of its plan to clear the province's stock of unsold flats.

A document covering ten measures was released on Monday night, stating that Hong Kong and Macau buyers will be entitled to the same benefits as locals in "eligible cities."

Though it did not identify the cities, South China Morning Post reported that

industry experts believe Guangzhou is likely to be included as its house prices have been down recently, compared to other cities.

Guangzhou posted a year-on-year decline of 1.38 percent in January, according to China Real Estate Index System reports. Conversely, new home prices in Shenzhen, Beijing and Shanghai rose by 53 percent, 15 percent and 9 percent, respectively, over the past 12 months.

"I think it is possible that Guangzhou will lift home-purchasing restrictions,

especially in new districts where inventory is high," said Alan Jin, a property analyst at Mizuho Securities.

Jin added that the current restrictions cover all of Guangzhou, with the exception of two fringe districts, Zengcheng and Conghua.

One of the ten measures mentions the need for Guangzhou to adjust effective administrative boundaries for its obsolete home-purchasing restrictions. Jin believes that after the adjustment, the restrictions may be applied to outlying

districts of Guangzhou, except for Haizhu and the Pearl River New Town Area, which are the centers of the city.

"Guangzhou is the only possibility among tier-one cities that may see the lifting of HPRs," he noted. "Shenzhen and Shanghai are not likely, given the frantic increases in housing prices. Beijing has huge population inflow pressure already."

Guangdong's new policy aims to reduce the amount of unsold units by 12.5 percent come 2018. At the end of 2015, the province had unsold stock of 160 million square meters, of which 22.48 million square meters were located in Guangzhou. **Staff reporter**



PMI

# Chinese factories lose more momentum, surveys show

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

**C**HINA'S manufacturing outlook deteriorated in February, according to two surveys of factory activity released yesterday, a day after Beijing loosened credit to counter sluggish conditions in the world's second biggest economy.

An index based on an official survey of factory purchasing managers (PMI) declined to 49.0 in February from 49.4 in January in the seventh straight month of contraction.

The index has not been at a lower level in seven years; it fell to 45.3 in Jan. 2009 as the global financial crisis was unfolding.

The reading by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing is based on a 100-point scale with the 50 mark dividing expansion from contraction.

Separately, a private survey also showed further weakening in manufacturing.

The Caixin/Markit purchasing managers' index slipped to a five-month low of 48.0 last month from 48.4 the previous month.

"The index readings for all key categories including output, new orders and employment signaled that conditions worsened, in line with signs that the economy's road to stability remains bumpy," said He Fan, chief economist at Caixin Insight Group. He said the government faces more pressure to continue rolling



A worker performs welding on car part at a Volvo factory in Chengdu in southwestern China's Sichuan province

out "moderate" stimulus policies to prevent growth from slowing too sharply.

The latest such move came Monday night when the central bank freed up more money for lending by cutting the amount banks need to hold in reserve.

Caixin's survey mostly covers smaller, private enterprises while the federation report focuses on larger, state-owned companies.

Economists cautioned the numbers were distorted by the Lunar New Year holiday, which falls at different times

in the first two months of the year. Factories typically stock up on raw materials and scramble to fill orders before shutting for an extended break that began this year in early February.

Attempting to iron out the distortions, ANZ Bank economists Raymond Yeung and Louis Lam noted that the official index's average for January and February together was 49.2, which still indicates contraction.

There was some better news for China's services sector, with an official survey of non

-manufacturing business activity slipping but continuing to grow last month, coming in at 52.7 from 53.5 in January. Services have helped offset manufacturing weakness in China's economy, which last year posted its slowest expansion in a quarter century as growth ebbed to 6.9 percent.

China's economic slowdown comes as policymakers in Beijing try to wean the economy off a tired model based on manufacturing and investment and refocus it on self-sustaining services and domestic consumption. **AP**

ENTERTAINMENT

## China's box office tally last month outpaced North America's

**C**HINA'S monthly box office surpassed North America's for the first time in February, which included the peak movie-going period of Lunar New Year.

Chinese cinemas took a record 6.87 billion yuan (USD1.05 billion) in ticket sales in February, about \$250 million more than the North American market, the official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday. It cited the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.

China's box office continues to grow at spectacular rates as the country builds more cinemas and screens. Its February total was nearly 70 percent higher than that of February two years ago, Xinhua said.

China is expected to surpass North America as the world's largest movie market as soon as next year.

Chinese movie "The Mermaid," a romantic sci-fi movie with an environmental message directed by Stephen Chow, drove the February box office, pulling in more than 3 billion yuan (\$460 million) after opening on Feb. 8, the Chinese New Year Day.

The movie about a mermaid who is sent to kill a property developer whose latest project threatens the waters where she lives, and ends up falling in love with him, has also become the biggest grossing film in Chinese box office history. **AP**

### corporate bits

#### 7-ELEVEN OPENS IN MACAU AIRPORT



Macau International Airport Company Limited (CAM) has entered into a five-year sub-concession contract with 7-Eleven for the operation of convenience store services after an open tender procedure, according to a press release.

A 7-Eleven shop at the south

side of the Departure Hall commenced business last month, aiming to provide passengers and airport staff with a one-stop convenience store service on a daily basis. Services on offer include in-store "Hot Shot" cooked food to provide customers with fast food and refreshments on the go.

#### HONG KONG JEWELRY SHOW BEGINS

Organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HK-TDC), the International Diamond, Gem & Pearl Show opened yesterday and will run until Saturday at the AsiaWorld-Expo.

According to a statement from the HKTDC, the show is now in its third year and will have a "Sea Sparkle" theme. More than 1,880 exhibitors from 42 countries and regions will showcase raw jewelry materials such as quality diamonds, precious gems, semi-precious stones and pearls.

The 33rd HKTDC

Hong Kong International Jewelry Show will also commence its five-day run tomorrow at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), and will offer opportunities to source a diverse range of jewelry.

The show will feature a series of activities to provide industry players with market insights and the latest jewelry production techniques. The HK-TDC has also organized more than 110 buying missions, comprising more than 9,300 buyers from 75 countries and regions, to offer exhibitors more business opportunities.

#### BNU CO-ORGANIZES LUNCHEON TO MARK SECRETARY OF STATE VISIT

BNU and four other organizations hosted a luncheon with Mr João Vasconcelos, the Portuguese Secretary of State of Industry, for his visit to Macau.

The event was co-organized with the Consulate General of Portugal in Hong Kong and Macau, the Macau European Chamber of Commerce, the Portuguese-Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry and AICEP.

According to a BNU press release, around forty guests attended the event, including business leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals.

In his welcome speech, Mr Vasconcelos highlighted the relationship between Portugal and China, particularly with Macau



SAR, and how it is a strategic priority for Portugal. This could be reflected in the growing trend of Portuguese exports to Macau, he said.

Mr Vasconcelos added that Macau represents a special platform for co-operation between the European and Asian markets, similar to Portugal's function as a bridge between Europe and the Portuguese-speaking countries.



CHINA has been involved in urban development in Angola, particularly in Luanda, and its experience in this field may help the economic diversification of Angola, with more investment in real estate, thus overcoming current economic difficulties.

In the article "Opportunities for new urbanism of Angola after the collapse of the oil economy", published by the NGO Development Workshop (dw.angonet.org), researcher Allan Cain emphasizes that in "post-socialist" countries "conversion of land held by state monopolies for urban use is a 'unique opportunity' and can trigger a wave of investment.

"Applying some of the long awaited reforms in housing credit, participatory planning and fiscal decentralization for municipalities can encourage housing owners themselves and the private sector to invest in urban development and housing opportunities, [...] stimulating foreign investment in real estate" said Cain.

"Angola is committed to finding new ways to diversify and grow its economy in the new climate of low prices of raw materials. The Chinese experience of urban development, if shared, could prove to be as valuable as their loans," he said.

For the "rapid urban and economic growth" of China from 1980, he said, municipalization and decentralization of governance was central, together with the greater financial autonomy of local authorities, who made use of the value of their

# China's real estate experience can help Angola overcome economic difficulties



WIKIMEDIA.ORG

land by leasing it or selling building rights to private investors. Revenues captured by the local authorities were then used to finance social housing and urban infrastructure, increasing real estate value and gener-

ating greater wealth and urban growth. "As in China, the origins of wealth that grows and sustains these cities are the savings of home buyers and investors in the private sector, these resources are yet to be made use of in Angola," said Cain.

By "capturing the value of private investment for public benefit," he said, municipalities can use the revenues to "improve infrastructure and provide social housing, promote a virtuous cycle and increase the values that accompany urban transformation."

One of the reasons for investor reluctance so far has been the "lack of a functional land market" in Angola, and the resolution of issues related to property that are the "first step to stimulating private sector involvement" in financing the housing projects that the coun-

try needs. Luanda received China's largest housing development in Africa, the Kilamba project comprising 20,000 apartments, with similar projects planned for the remaining 18 provinces, providing 150,000 housing units.

The recently released "Operational plan for China's credit line" to Angola, prepared by the Angolan government with the work to be carried out by Chinese companies, provides for the connection of 480,000 homes to the power grid, the construction and rehabilitation of more than 2,200 kilometers of roads and the construction of 39 water supply systems.

With approximately 155 projects in the sectors of Health, Education, Transport, Agriculture, Industry, and other sectors, the Plan has an estimated cost of USD5.2 billion. **MDT/Macahub**

AD

 **優悅牙科護理中心**  
**ICQ Oral Health Center**  
I Care for Quality

ICQ dental team is a group of dental specialists with internationally recognized qualifications. We provide all range of dental services:

- Oral examination and radiology investigation
- Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Children Dentistry
- Orthodontic Treatment
- Oral and Dental implant Surgery
- Endodontic Treatment
- Periodontal Treatment
- Emergency Treatment

We are committed to deliver high quality dental services with personalized care. We ensure the highest level of infection control.

**Website: www.icqoral.com**  
**Facebook: www.facebook.com/icqoral**

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT: OFFICE HOUR: 10:00AM-19:00PM  
CLOSE ON SUN, TUE AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Rm1907, 19/F, AIA Tower, Nos. 251A-301, AVENIDA COMMERCIAL DE MACAU, MACAU SAR  
TEL: (853)28373266 FAX: (853)28356483 EMAIL: INFO@ICQORAL.COM WWW.ICQORAL.COM

## New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.

- Septic Tank Pump Outs
- Sewer Transfer
- Grease Trap Pump Outs



**Call: 2883 3008**

*Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry*

# KTRANZ

## TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

**ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS**

**Languages**  
ENGLISH, CHINESE,  
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,  
KOREAN, SPANISH,  
FRENCH, ARABIC,  
RUSSIAN

**Services**  
TRANSLATIONS,  
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,  
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

**We translate +10,000 words a day**

Contact: Ms Juliana Cheang  
Email: juliana@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR



INTERVIEW | LIU MINGHUI

# Executive's big new idea forged during jailhouse torment

Aibing Guo

**STRUCK** by a sudden inspiration for a business plan while cooped up in a room at a southern China detention center, entrepreneur Liu Minghui turned to the only people nearby for feedback - his jailer and 11 cell mates.

Even during Liu's yearlong detention on what turned out to be false allegations of embezzlement, the founder and executive chairman of China Gas Holdings Ltd. couldn't wait to remake the company after his eventual release.

The jail-house idea? Dispatch the company's tens of thousands of gas-meter readers to knock on the doors of its 20 million customers and sell them a range of other services - everything from insurance to food delivery.

While the jailer and his cell mates couldn't fully grasp the plan's value, Liu was convinced company profits would soar once he re-purposed its army of meter readers into a network of door-to-door sales people.

"I was afraid," Liu said in an interview almost five years after he was detained in December 2010. "I was frightened and thought about the possibility that I may never get out of jail, but at the end of the day you have to find a way to keep your head up. Otherwise the experience of staying in jail alone may ruin you."

Liu, 52, did so by sustaining a laser-like focus on the blueprint to transform his company, and the nimble strategic changes by private-sector China Gas positioned it to benefit from reforms sweeping China's state-owned enterprises sector. Now more changes are coming: Delegates at this year's National People's Congress in Beijing, which starts March 5, will debate new reforms of state-owned enterprises.

Those reforms pose risks for executives like Liu who test the waters. As China pries the economy away from its dependence on bulky state-owned firms, its leaders have displayed an ambivalence toward the entrepreneurs it depends on to build a new economy. Their allegiance regularly comes under suspicion because they advocate the power of markets.

Liu's transformation - from an against-the-grain entrepreneur to established executive to criminal suspect and back again - is a cautionary tale that may offer lessons for others.



China Gas Holdings Ltd. Chairman Liu Minghui

A native of the northern province of Hebei, Liu's early career was spent as a government official responsible for luring foreign investment to the area. He witnessed the shrinking of state-owned enterprises that would result in millions of furloughs in the 1990s as China's leaders including Deng Xiaoping and former Premier Zhu Rongji allowed market forces and private businesses a greater role in the economy.

"You have to trust the market," Liu said, a refrain he would repeat multiple times.

Imbued with the belief that markets reflect people's natural instincts to improve their lives, Liu left his government job to form a company aimed at making state-owned firms competitive.

It was a struggle. While Liu's company found investors for a number of different state-owned enterprises, executives lost interest in proposed changes after the money was transferred.

"They wanted our money, not our principles," Liu said. As a result, the projects were "mostly unsuccessful."

By 2000, Liu changed strategy and began looking for opportunities to invest in businesses that state-owned enterprises didn't want. That's when he found natural gas and started buying money-losing gas distribution businesses.

Liu and his business partners responded quickly to an earlier series of reforms aimed at discarding SOE's unprofitable businesses. Having bought a Hong Kong-listed company and renaming it China Gas Hol-

dings in 2002, they collected money-losing operations from city governments and built the company into China's biggest natural gas distributor by 2016 with a market capitalization of USD6.6 billion.

In most countries, a success story like that would be inspiring. Even in the bustling southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, however, Liu's success offered no protection from accusations that he had embezzled company funds.

"We never dismissed one worker in the process" of building the company, Liu recalled. "In fact, most of the employees liked the change because it made them more money while bringing out a better performance from their old selves. The change of system changed people's mindsets."

That outlook may be what China needs as companies look to deliver on President Xi Jinping's economic reforms. In the latest round affecting the energy industry, private capital will be allowed to invest in areas dominated by state-owned firms.

A betting person might have wagered against China Gas at the start. Armed with little more than a vision, Liu set out across the country to buy the so-called "last mile" gas piping operations from city governments, the link from natural gas depots to homes and businesses. Local authorities were keen to unload these money-losing assets. Liu's method of remaking old-style distributors was simple. He kept a couple administrators in the office and sent everyone else out in search

of business. He discarded "iron rice bowl" protections typical at state-owned firms and gave employees clear sales targets.

Liu bet he could make these operations profitable. To encourage workers, Liu recalls telling them that municipalities would be eager to sell these assets now but might regret it later. Then China embarked on a campaign of rapid urbanization, with each new building connected to a gas pipe, making his collection of assets suddenly valuable. Profits increased and word spread that Liu could turn things around.

"We're going to make this business so profitable that they'll try to take it all away from us," he told his employees. Those comments proved prescient, but first the company would suffer an unexpected blow.

In December 2010, as Liu met with colleagues at the company's 18th floor headquarters in Shenzhen, authorities arrived unannounced. They said they wanted to take him into custody as part of a "state secrets" probe, he recalled.

**I was frightened and thought I may never get out of jail, but at the end of the day you have to find a way to keep your head up.**

They led him away and held him in a room at a detention center in Shenzhen for months without contact with his family or lawyers. Liu had no idea how long he'd be detained. At one point, he dreamed that his father had died. Only after he was released did he learn it was true.

"There is nothing worse than being thrown into jail, and losing freedom can change a person's perspective on life," Liu said. "Suddenly so many things that you took for granted every single day become a luxury."

After a year in detention, officials finally told Liu his incarceration was a mistake and released him. He had little time to celebrate, however, before facing a hostile takeover bid.

His detention had sparked a dramatic sell-off of China Gas shares and within weeks of his release, the giant state-owned China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. bid to take over the company. To keep control, Liu had to convince his shareholders he was a better bet to generate profits.

"In either life or business, there are so many things you don't have control over at all," Liu said.

Although he acknowledged past turmoil, Liu is now focused on the future, eagerly demonstrating how to use the company's latest initiative - a mobile phone app to place on-going service orders - that the company will roll out in March.

"We are the Alibaba of the gas distribution business, and I see China Gas as a public service company that caters everything our customers may need," Liu said. "Natural gas is just one of our services but definitely won't be the main part of what we do. We want to be that service boy who knocks on every door of our customers, asking what can we do for you."

Today, China Gas Holdings' management faces new challenges. Executives discuss whether the company can survive the country's slowest economic growth in a quarter century.

"Every time our management met, I asked the question, can we stay alive in the business tomorrow and what may kill us or save us?" Liu said.

Although the company's stock is down nearly 25 percent from last year's peak, it has fared better than the broader market. Twelve of 18 analysts rate it a "buy," with five recommending "hold" and one a "sell." Shares rose 4.3 percent to close at HKD10.80 yesterday.

"It's a smart and strategic move for China Gas to enter the retail business through its existing network, as there are not a lot of companies that can legitimately open doors simply by knocking and saying who they are," Shi Yan, a Shanghai-based analyst at UOB Kayhian Investment Co., said of Liu's plan. Risks are low, she said, since China Gas won't lose its existing income even as it tests the waters with new services.

In 2014, the company started selling gas-related electric appliances and tools, and more recently added phone cards, rice and fruit.

In the new competitive landscape, Liu sees China Gas as a much different company than when it was founded.

"To some extent, China Gas is the undervalued meter reader. We can knock on doors and sell our customers everything they may need," Liu said. "China Gas is not a utility. We are a service provider that sells everything that our 20 million customers may ever need. That's the future of China Gas." **Bloomberg**





A poster featuring five missing Hong Kong booksellers is displayed by their supporters at the entrance of the closed Causeway Bay Bookstore

## Missing HK bookseller resurfaces in TV interview

A Hong Kong bookseller missing for two months has reappeared in an interview with Chinese media, insisting he wasn't abducted and instead crossed illegally into mainland China to help authorities with an investigation.

The interview with Lee Bo, broadcast late Monday, came a day after another man that he worked with, Gui Minhai, purportedly confessed to illegally selling thousands of books by mail to mainland Chinese buyers.

The 16-minute interview shown on Hong Kong-based pro-Beijing Phoenix TV appears to be an attempt to quell growing concern over the fates of Lee, Gui and three other missing men linked to a publishing company that specialized in books on sensitive

political topics banned in mainland China.

Lee went missing Dec. 30 and the four others disappeared in October. The five worked for Mighty Current Media or its Causeway Bay Bookstore, whose books were popular with mainland Chinese visitors to Hong Kong.

The case drew international concern over fears Beijing was eroding the "one country, two systems" principle that allows Hong Kong to maintain civil liberties such as freedom of the press and a high degree of control over its own affairs.

Lee's case in particular rang alarm bells because of suspicions he was snatched by mainland Chinese security agents who crossed into Hong Kong. Britain's Foreign Office said in a report in

February that Lee, a British citizen, was "involuntarily removed" to the mainland. However, Lee said the claims were false and were used by unnamed groups to hype up his case.

"After the Mighty Current affair emerged, I wanted to secretly go back to the mainland as soon as possible to resolve the company's affairs, then secretly return to Hong Kong," Lee said. He added he didn't want anyone to know and didn't want to leave any record of his journey at immigration checkpoints so he chose to use "illegal immigration," but did not give further details.

Lee also said he planned to renounce his British right of abode, or residency rights, though it's not clear why he used that term rather than citizenship. **AP**

## Chinese pastor fired from provincial office over court case

A leading pastor in an eastern Chinese province where authorities have been cracking down on churches has been barred from the pulpit and removed as head of the provincial state-sanctioned Protestant church association.

The action in Zhejiang province against Joseph Gu Yue-se followed his arrest last month on charges of embezzlement and other economic crimes.

Supporters say the case against Gu was drummed up in retribution for his public opposition to a campaign by

Zhejiang officials to forcibly remove hundreds of rooftop crosses from churches.

Notices posted yesterday on the websites of the official provincial Christian Association and Three-Self Patriotic Movement said the charges against Gu required his removal, despite his case not having gone to trial.

Gu, who was taken into custody on Jan. 28 in Zhejiang's capital of Hangzhou, had been senior pastor at Chongyi Christian Church, one of China's largest.

Over the past two years,

Zhejiang has led the charge in tearing down church crosses and other outward symbols of the Christian faith, saying they violated building codes.

Critics say the rapid growth of Christian groups has made the ruling Communist Party nervous [more on page 7]. The dispute has been complicated by the fact that they have received help from overseas supporters at a time when the Chinese government is particularly sensitive to what it considers foreign meddling in domestic issues.

While authorities have

long targeted unsanctioned "house churches," the current crackdown is remarkable because it involves members of the usually compliant official religious bodies.

In a related case, a husband and wife who led their congregation in opposing the cross removals were sentenced recently to 14 and 12 years in prison on charges of disturbing social order, illegally organizing people to petition the government and "tricking" congregants into donating money used toward personal expenses. **AP**

### GUANGZHOU

## 24 jailed over billion dollar fraud

A court in Guangdong province has jailed 24 people for fraudulent fund-raising of over 9.9 billion yuan (about USD1.5 billion), cheating more than 230,000 victims, mostly elderly people, from 2002 to 2012, the Xinhua state-run news agency reported yesterday citing the court ruling.

The main suspect, Jiang Hongwei, was sentenced to life in prison while 23 others received jail terms ranging from three to 14 years at Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court.

The group set up four companies in Guangzhou, many branches and subsidiaries across China, raising funds by tempting members of the public into buying membership cards or funding nonexistent loans, by promising returns as high as 47 percent.

According to Xinhua, many elderly victims who put their savings into the scam burst into tears at the trial. Some said they were attracted by the company's "novel modes of financial services" and fooled by their fancy exhibitions.

"Their grand exhibition occupied six halls. After attending it, I felt assured and decided to invest 700,000 yuan," said one elderly woman from Jiangsu Province. "It was all the savings of me and my husband."

The court has frozen the fraudsters' personal accounts and seized their assets, including 127 vehicles and 43 villas, but prosecutors said many victims might not be able to get their money back as Jiang had squandered millions on luxuries and failed to disclose where other funds had gone, the state run agency added.

China's central go-

vernment earlier this month promised severe retribution against illegal fund-raisers after Ezubao, an online peer-to-peer platform, was found earlier this year to have cheated about 900,000 investors out of more than 50 billion yuan (\$7.6 billion) through fake investments. An executive from the parent company has admitted that it was nothing but a Ponzi scheme.

Financial Times correspondents in China wrote in a dispatch yesterday that the case highlights the financial risks of the loosely regulated wealth management products industry, which often targets retail investors who have little financial sophistication. "Beijing is concerned that popular discontent at such frauds will spill over into social unrest."

The Chinese government "already on the defensive over its management of the plummeting stock market and the slowing economy, is worried that financial scandals could threaten banking sector stability."

P2P lenders, which grew out of investor hunger for wealth management products, are supposed to invest the money they raise into financial products issued by third parties such as property developers. According to industry estimates, as many as a third of China's 3,800 registered P2P lenders have run into financial difficulties as economic growth slows.

Last year hundreds of angry investors protested in Beijing and Shanghai after losing \$6 billion from the Fanya Metals Exchange, which offered investment products promising an annual return of up to 14 percent, the FT reported.

**MDT/Agencies**



Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

WITH tensions high and the United States and South Korea ready to hold their massive annual war games next week, which North Korea sees as a dress rehearsal for invasion, Pyongyang is warning it will respond to any violations of its territory with “merciless” retaliation, including strikes on Seoul and the U.S. mainland.

“Military First” is the national motto of North Korea, which is ever wary of threats to its ruling regime and still technically at war with Washington and Seoul. Nuclear-armed and boasting the world’s fourth-largest military, it is persistently seen as the biggest challenge to the security status quo in East Asia, an image it loves to promote and showcased in an elaborate military parade last October.

The joint South Korea-U.S. military exercises are to begin March 7 and last more than a month. Tensions always go up when they do.

Pyongyang has poured huge resources into developing its nuclear and missile arsenals and maintaining its conventional forces. About 5 percent of its 24 million people are on active military duty, and another 25-30 percent are in paramilitary or reserve units, ready for mobilization.

But just how strong is Kim Jong Un’s army?

Here’s a review, based on what AP reporters and photographers have seen on the ground and the latest report to the U.S. Congress by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

#### ON THE GROUND

**BY THE NUMBERS:** 950,000 troops, 4,200 tanks, 2,200 armored vehicles, 8,600 pieces of field artillery, 5,500 multiple rocket launchers.

**BEHIND THE NUMBERS:** This is, and always has been, North Korea’s real ace in the hole. While its threat to launch a nuclear attack on the U.S. mainland appears to be well beyond its current capabilities, turning the South Korean capital into a “sea of fire” is not.

The ground forces of the Korean People’s Army form the largest segment of the military, by far. Seventy percent of them are forward-positioned around the Demilitarized Zone for quick mobilization in a contingency with South Korea; they are extremely well dug-in with several thousand fortified underground facilities.

Their arms are mostly “legacy equipment,” produced or based on Chinese and Russian designs dating back as far as the 1950s. But they have in recent years unveiled new tanks, artillery and infantry weapons. In the October parade, the KPA displayed a new 240 mm multiple rocket launcher with eight

AP PHOTO



North Korean soldiers turn and look towards their leader Kim Jong Un as they carry packs marked with the nuclear symbol as they parade during a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the Korean War armistice in Pyongyang

#### ANALYSIS

## Branch by branch, a look at N. Korea’s massive military

tubes on a wheeled chassis. Kim Jong Un was recently shown by state media observing a new, longer-range anti-tank weapon.

“Despite resource shortages and aging equipment, North Korea’s large, forward-positioned military can initiate an attack on the ROK (South Korea) with little or no warning,” the U.S. report concluded. “The military retains the capability to inflict significant damage on the ROK, especially in the region from the DMZ to Seoul.”

#### AT SEA

**BY THE NUMBERS:** 60,000 sailors, 430 patrol combatant ships, 260 amphibious landing craft, 20 mine warfare vessels, about 70 submarines, 40 support ships.

**BEHIND THE NUMBERS:** Divided into east and west fleets with about a dozen main bases, the navy is the smallest branch of the North Korean military. But it has some significant strengths, including hovercraft for amphibious landings and one of the largest submarine forces in the world. An estimated 70 attack, coastal or midget-type subs provide stealth and strongly bolster coastal defenses and possible special operations. It has no “blue water” — or long-range — naval forces and relies heavily on a large but aging armada of small coastal patrol craft. But it, too, is upgrading some of its surface ships and has made a show of

its efforts to domestically develop a submarine capable of launching a ballistic missile.

#### IN THE AIR

**BY THE NUMBERS:** 110,000 troops, over 800 combat aircraft, 300 helicopters, more than 300 transport planes.

**BEHIND THE NUMBERS:** Here’s where the “legacy” aspect of the North Korean military really kicks in. North Korea hasn’t acquired any new fighter aircraft for decades. Its best fighters are 1980s-era MiG-29s bought from the Soviet Union, the MiG-23 and SU-25 ground attack aircraft. They all suffer chronic fuel shortages and pilots get little training time in the air. Its air-defense systems are aging and it continues to maintain lots of 1940s-era An-2 COLT aircraft, a single-engine, 10-passenger biplane, which would probably be most useful for the insertion of special forces troops behind enemy lines. Interestingly enough, it also has some U.S.-made MD-500 helicopters, which it is believed to have acquired by bypassing international sanctions. They were shown off during a parade in 2013.

#### SPECIAL FORCES

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Not specified in report to Congress. Somewhere around 180,000 troops. Estimates vary.

**BEHIND THE NUMBERS:** North Korea is fully aware that

it is outgunned, technologically inferior and logistically light years behind its adversaries. But it also knows how to shift the equation through asymmetric tactics that involve stealth, surprise and focusing on cheap and achievable measures with an outsized impact. Special forces operations are among them — and the North’s special forces are the “most highly trained, well-equipped, best-fed and highly motivated” units in the KPA. Commandos can be inserted into the South by air or sea, and possibly on foot through tunnels across the DMZ. The North is working hard on its cyberwarfare capabilities, another key asymmetric military tactic. It is believed to have a growing number of drones.

#### NUKES AND MISSILES

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Number of nuclear weapons not specified in report to Congress. Possibly more than a dozen, outside sources estimate. 50 ballistic missiles with 800-mile range, six KNo8 missiles with a range of 3,400-plus miles, unknown number of Taepodong-2 missiles with roughly same or longer range. Possibly one submarine-launched ballistic missile. Various shorter-range ballistic missiles.

**BEHIND THE NUMBERS:** North Korea claims to have tested its first hydrogen bomb on Jan. 6, the day after the Department of Defense report came

out. That claim has been disputed, but there is no doubt it has nuclear weapons and its technicians are hard at work boosting their quantity and quality. Major caveat here: The operational readiness of its nuclear weapons and many of its ballistic missiles is debatable.

Pyongyang’s main hurdles are making nuclear warheads small enough to fit on its missiles, testing re-entry vehicles required to deliver them to their targets on an intercontinental ballistic missile and improving and testing the arsenal for reliability and accuracy. Its Taepodong-2 ballistic missile is the militarized version of the rocket it launched on Feb. 8 with a satellite payload. North Korea has yet to demonstrate that it has a functioning ICBM, generally defined as having a range of over 3,418 miles.

#### CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL

This one is a question mark. The U.S. Defense Department claims Pyongyang is continuing research and development into both, and could use them, but offered no details on biologicals in its recent assessment. It said Pyongyang “likely” has a stockpile of “nerve, blister, blood and choking agents” that could be delivered by artillery shells or ballistic missiles. The North is not a signatory of the Chemical Weapons Convention and its troops train to fight in a contaminated environment. **AP**



Yuri Kageyama & Youkyung Lee,  
Tokyo

JAPAN

# Panasonic recognition of same-sex marriage an isolated move

**F**OR decades, Panasonic Corp. has shaped Japanese corporate tradition — be it morning exercise routines or lifetime employment. But don't hold your breath waiting for other Asian businesses to emulate its latest policy announcement: Recognizing same-sex partnerships.

Much of Asia remains far behind the West in such attitudes. Panasonic's move is rare, although bold, and seems unlikely to herald a sea change.

In China, South Korea, the Philippines and much of the rest of Asia, "coming out of the closet" still has enormous consequences, not just for the individual but also for family members who might become targets of abuse and ostracism. It's an act requiring tremendous courage in Asian cultures that value conformity, traditional family structures and harmony.

Even the way Panasonic responded to media queries about its decision was telling. It said it had considered the move for more than a decade, but offered no details. The maker of the Viera TV and Lumix camera appeared overwhelmed by the outpouring of interest, mostly from Western media, and said it could not provide interviews on the issue.

Lenny Sanicola, an employee benefit expert at WorldatWork, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, was surprised by Panasonic's low-key stance. A U.S. company pioneering such a move would be announcing its decision with fanfare and likely getting showered with praise, he said.

"Panasonic would be a pioneer in Japan," he said, noting that sending a message about valuing diversity would attract younger talent that is urgently needed in an aging society like Japan.

It's only a matter of time before Asian nations adopt what has

AP PHOTO



A man walks by a Panasonic showroom in Tokyo

become the dominant message in Europe and North America, Sanicola said.

"It's business as usual. We treat everyone the same," he said in a recent telephone interview.

Same-sex marriage is legal in the U.S. The Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that same-sex couples have the right to marry. In the U.S., employers are required to abide by federal regulations on retirement plans, health insurance and other be-

nefits for spouses already, and a review of company policies on the state level has begun.

"Recognition of changing social mores and a desire to enhance diversity appeal to prospective employees, as well as prospective customers," said Karen Cates, a professor at Kellogg School of Management. "In short, it is good business."

Throughout Asia, same-sex marriages are not legal. A few local governments in Japan now

recognize such partnerships as the equivalent of marriage. That includes Tokyo's Shibuya ward, a bastion of Japan's youth culture and its equivalent of Silicon Valley. There are no legal penalties for violations.

Japanese public sentiment is generally unsympathetic to LGBT issues, and local media speculated that Panasonic merely made its same-sex marriage decision because it was an Olympic sponsor.

The International Olympic Committee opposes discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. But Emmanuelle Moreau, an IOC spokeswoman, denied it influences company policies, including Panasonic's.

Toyota Motor Corp. of Japan and Samsung Electronics Co. of South Korea have diversity policies. But Toyota said that doesn't extend to recognizing same-sex marriage, and it's not considering any change. Samsung said its policies are specific for country depending on local laws, including benefits.

Tomoshi Sakka, a lawyer who represents gender-related discrimination cases, said Panasonic's decision could serve as a precedent toward recognizing same-sex marriage in Japan — a demand he feels is sure to grow in coming years.

For many in Japan and elsewhere in Asia, though, the hardships are daunting and few outside the entertainment industry are open about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Most people working in mainstream companies stay closeted.

"First of all, it will take a huge toll on one's promotion possibilities," said a 30-year-old gay man who works at one of South Korea's top companies and who requested anonymity. He did not want his employer identified for fear of reprisals and no one at his company knows he is gay, he said.

"People in senior positions are older, and they are not open-minded. It's not just at my company. I never heard of anyone at any other company," going public about being gay, he added. "It's not socially accepted."

The East-West cultural divide on LGBT issues was at the center of a lawsuit in Hong Kong filed by a British woman whose lesbian spouse was repeatedly not granted a spouse visa. She had to periodically leave and return to Hong Kong on a tourist visa. The case is still pending. **AP**

INDIA

# Police kill eight Maoist rebels in gunbattle in the southeast

**E**IGHT Maoist rebels, five of them women, were killed in a fierce gunbattle with police in southeastern India, police said.

The gunbattle with at least 30 rebels began yesterday in a remote forest area bordering Chhattisgarh and Telangana states, said police superintendent Shahnawaz

Qasim. Police had started searching for the rebels after receiving a tip that they were seen moving around in the area.

Eight bodies were recovered and police were looking for other rebels who belong to the Communist Party of India (Maoist), he said.

Among those killed was a leader of the par-

ty, identified by police as Hari Bhushan, from Telangana.

Police suffered no casualties.

The rebels have been fighting for more than three decades in central and eastern India to demand a greater share of the region's natural resources for indigenous people. They have been

relatively quiet over the past six months.

The rebels say they are inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong. The Indian government says the rebels are the country's most serious internal security threat. India's home ministry says the rebels are active in 20 of India's 29 states. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Indian police secure the area of a gunbattle with suspected rebels



Julie Pace & Jill Colvin,  
Washington

**R**EPUBLICAN Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton are eyeing an opportunity to pull away from their rivals today [Macau time] in multiple state contests across the country that could accelerate their march toward the general election.

Voters from Vermont to Colorado, Alaska to American Samoa and numerous states in between were heading to polling places and caucus sites on what is known as Super Tuesday, the busiest day of the 2016 primary campaign.

The contests come at a turbulent moment for Republicans as they grapple with the prospect of Trump becoming the party's nominee. His main rivals, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, are engaged in a frantic effort to stop the billionaire real estate magnate — with Rubio in particular lobbying surprisingly personal attacks — but it was unclear whether they had made their move too late.

Tensions boiled over during Trump's rally yesterday in Radford, Virginia, where he was repeatedly disrupted by demonstrators, including 20 or more chanting "Black lives matter." At another point, he asked a protester, "Are you from Mexico?" after he was interrupted during remarks about immigration. He ordered several people to be removed, then cast himself as a unifying political force.

"Believe it or not, we're going to unify this country," he said.

Like Trump, Clinton has won three of the four early voting contests, including a thrashing of rival Bernie Sanders in South Carolina on Saturday. Her victory there was due to overwhelming support from black voters, putting her in position for a strong showing in several Southern states with large African-American electorates that vote today.

Clinton has shed nearly all references to her Democratic opponent in recent days, choosing instead to focus on Trump. She is casting herself as a civil alternative to the insults and bullying that have consumed the Republican race.

"What we can't let happen is the scapegoating, the flaming, the finger pointing that is going on the Republican side," she told voters gathered yesterday in Springfield, Massachusetts. "It really undermines our fabric as a nation. So, I want to do everything I can in this campaign to set us on a different course."

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist who has energized young voters with his call for a political revolution, was seeking to stay close



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump

USA ELECTIONS | SUPER TUESDAY

## Clinton, Trump look to pull away from rivals

to Clinton in the South and pick up victories in states including Minnesota and his home state of Vermont. But Sanders faces tough questions about whether he can rally minorities that are core Democratic voters. Still, Sanders has the resources to remain in the race through the last primaries in June, with his campaign announcing it had raised more than USD41 million in February alone.

Democrats will vote in 11 states and American Samoa on Super Tuesday, with 865 delegates up for grabs. It will take 1,237 delegates to secure the nomination at the party's national convention in July in Philadelphia.

Republicans will vote in 11 states, with 595 delegates at

stake — nearly half the 1,237 delegates needed to gain the nomination at the party's convention, also in July, in Cleveland.

Trump was seeking to sweep the South, which would be a massive blow for Cruz. The Texas senator, a favorite of the region's social conservatives and evangelical Christians, expected the South to be his firewall, but now is simply hoping to emerge with a victory in his home state.

Rubio's goal on Super Tuesday is even more modest. He's seeking to stay competitive in the delegate count and hopes to pull off a win in his home state of Florida on March 15.

The Florida senator has cast himself as Republicans' best

■ Like Trump, Clinton has won three of the four early voting contests, including a thrashing of rival Bernie Sanders in South Carolina

chance to win in a general election and has received a flood of endorsements from party officials after other more mains-

stream candidates dropped out. But he's failed to win a state so far, raising questions about his strategy for topping Trump.

Republicans spent months largely letting Trump go unchallenged, wrongly assuming that his populist appeal with voters would fizzle. Now party leaders are divided between those who pledge to fall in line behind Trump if he wins their party's nomination and others who insist they can never back him.

An Associated Press survey of Republican senators and governors across the country showed just under half of respondents would not commit to backing Trump if he's the nominee. Their reluctance foreshadowed a potentially extraordinary split in the party this fall.

The worries among Republicans appeared to grow after Trump briefly refused to disavow former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke during a television interview. Trump said he had not understood the interviewer who first raised the question about Duke and other white supremacists, and he did later repudiate him. **AP**

## Democrats in New Zealand first to vote in 'Super Tuesday'



**N**EW Zealand may be thousands of miles from the U.S. presidential campaign trail but local Democratic Par-

ty supporters could boast about being the first in the world to cast ballots in multi-state primaries dubbed "Super Tuesday" — and in a bar, no less.

American voters living in Wellington and registered as Democrats voted just after midnight early Tuesday local time, almost a day ahead of compatriots back home. In keeping with the South Pacific nation's informal style, the votes, all 28 of them, were cast in local drinking spot, the Public Bar and Eatery.

Handily winning the day in New Zealand was Sen. Bernie Sanders, who picked up 21 votes, while former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got six. One ballot was spoiled. The results will be confirmed later this month at the global voter tally center in Germany.

Wellington is the first of 111 cities in 41 countries outside the U.S. to cast ballots in the primary for Democrats abroad.

Republicans living overseas won't be able to do the same because the party doesn't have a similar mechanism for its supporters to vote in primaries.

Americans living in New Zealand include students, people with specialized jobs, and retirees, said Kat Allikian, chair of the Democrats Abroad New Zealand.

She said a big motivation for local voters was to stop Republicans winning the White House — in particular, leading candidate Donald Trump.

"The overwhelming concern of all Democrats overseas is this Trump phenomenon that is happening on the Republican side," she said. "It's mindboggling that he's running away with the nomination. Although it's not set yet."

Allikian said it was an honor to lead the vote among those living overseas.

"People are really tickled that we're the very first in the world," she said. **AP**



**MPC 24**

MACAU POKER CUP

19 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH 2016

RED DRAGON MAIN EVENT  
HKD \$8,000,000 GUARANTEED

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.POKERSTARSLIVEMACAU.COM](http://WWW.POKERSTARSLIVEMACAU.COM)

Level 2,  
Estrada do Istmo,  
Cotai Macau SAR

All events subject to regulatory approval.

**PokerStars LIVE**  
Macau

**D2 CLUB**

[WWW.D2CLUB-MACAU.COM](http://WWW.D2CLUB-MACAU.COM)

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edif. New Orleans III  
澳門漁人碼頭新奧爾良館 III  
Tel : (853) 2872 3777

**MAGNUS SECURITY SERVICES**

**MAGNUS**

馬格納斯 保安 (澳門) 有限公司

License No. 5/2010

**MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD**  
Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69  
Edif. Ind. Fok Tai, 12 floor "B", Macau SAR  
Tel.: (853) 2822 1341  
Fax.: (853) 2822 0824

MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD



**SECURITY SERVICES**  
全面保安服務

**EVENTS SECURITY**  
活動場地保安

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS**  
特別行動

**SECURITY SYSTEMS**  
保安及安全系統

**RISK ASSESSMENT & RISK MITIGATION**  
風險評估及應對措施

**SECURITY FORCE TRAINING & EVALUATION**  
保安部隊訓練及評核

MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD



## what's ON



## ONE CENTURY OF AUSTRIAN ART 1860-1960

TIME: 10am-7pm

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

UNTIL: April 3, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Adult MOP5

(Free admission on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY

- PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUDELOT

TIME: 10am-7pm

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

UNTIL: June 19, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)

VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House,

Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

## MA-BOA / LIS-CAU, DRAWING AND LITHOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: March 19, 2016

VENUE: G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building,

Xian Xing Hai Avenue, Macau.

Free Admission

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

## BEYOND 9AM TO 6PM FERNANDO WONG

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm -8pm (closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: March 30, 2016

VENUE: Rua de Abreu Nunes 14B

Edf. San Pou R/C - A

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6307 3797

## PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY DONATED BY JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm Daily (No admission after 5:30

pm; Except on Mondays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de

Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

## Offbeat

## 14 JAILED FOR STEALING ANTIQUES, RHINO HORN FROM UK MUSEUMS

Fourteen members of a criminal gang have been convicted of stealing millions of pounds worth of rhinoceros horn and Chinese artifacts from British museums and auction houses.

A jury at Birmingham Crown Court in central England found four gang leaders guilty yesterday. Ten other men were convicted at previous trials.

The thieves broke into collections including the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and the Oriental Museum in Durham in 2012, stealing jade items valued by police at between 17 million pounds and 57 million pounds (USD24 million and \$80 million). Many have never been recovered.

They also tried to steal a rhino head from Norwich Castle Museum, but dropped it as they fled.

The gang was dubbed the Rathkeale Rovers because of its links to the village of Rathkeale, Ireland.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Entreview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:30	Criminal Minds Sr.9
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Drama
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

25 FEB - 02 MAR



## 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

## 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



## THE FINEST HOURS

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Craig Gillespie

Starring: Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Ben Foster, Eric

Bana

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 117min

## THE SECRET

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Barbara Wong ChunChun

Starring: Leon Lai, Wang Luodan, JJ Lin

Language: Mandarin (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 107min

## MACAU TOWER

04 FEB - 02 MAR

## THE GOOD DINOSAUR

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Peter Sohn

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 93min

## this day in history



## 1970 IAN SMITH DECLARES RHODESIA A REPUBLIC

The Prime Minister of Rhodesia, Ian Smith, has declared his country a republic, cutting its last link with the British Crown.

The new Rhodesian Republic, came into being at 2301BST yesterday, unrecognised by the rest of the world and barely noticed by Rhodesians themselves.

Mr Smith signed a proclamation officially dissolving the current parliament and introducing a new Republican Constitution.

The ceremony took place at Government House, until last year the official residence of Sir Humphrey Gibbs and his predecessors as governor and representative of the British Crown.

The creation of the republic breaks an 80-year-old link with the British monarchy - but has been widely anticipated since Mr Smith unilaterally declared the country independent of Britain four years ago.

Since then, Rhodesia has left the Commonwealth and been subject to tough international sanctions.

Mr Smith said: "Today is not such a tremendous day for us Rhodesians. Our Independence Day is the great day.

"Rhodesia did not want to seize independence from Britain. It was forced upon us."

The real question now is whether a Rhodesian republic will gain any international recognition.

The chairman of Mr Smith's Rhodesian Front party, Ralph Nielson, said: "We have cut our ties as to whether or not a republic is going to make all that difference, I sincerely believe it will, particularly in the eyes of the rest of the world.

"I believe various things are going to flow, improved trade and without a doubt, in time, diplomatic recognition."

The British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, has already made clear his Labour government will not recognise the new regime in Rhodesia.

The United States has also indicated it will not recognise Smith's republic "under any circumstances".

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Ian Smith's illegal declaration of independence in 1965 led to international economic sanctions. Britain had hoped to guide Rhodesia to black majority rule in line with the rest of the African continent.

By 1971, Edward Heath was prime minister of Britain and behind the scenes, negotiations were held with Ian Smith's regime to organise a legal settlement that would ensure the equality of land rights between Africans and Europeans.

Ian Smith's party, the Rhodesian Front, overwhelmingly won elections in 1970 and 1974, as government clashes with black nationalist guerrilla fighters intensified.

In 1977, Smith succumbed to sanctions and the high cost of war and agreed to negotiate a transition to black majority rule.

Robert Mugabe was elected prime minister of an independent Zimbabwe in 1980 under a new constitution.

Mr Smith remained an MP until 1987. He died in a residential home in South Africa in 2007.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's time to take inventory - write down a list of everything you own that's of any importance...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've got some seriously intense feelings about someone new - but you're still just as balanced and together as usual!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Try to have patience with that person or problem that's been such a pain - you can outlast it with ease as long as you don't flip out.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You have to deal with someone who's hard to pin down, so invite them over to your place or find some other way to get them where you want them.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your reputation is more important than ever today, so make sure that you're checking out what people are saying about you.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your mental energy is perfect for long, meandering discussions or philosophical meditation.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your magnetic personality is fully engaged with the world now, so you should find it easier than ever to attract new romantic attention.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your honesty is your best tool today - so do whatever you can to avoid cover-ups and little white lies.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's the small stuff that wears you down today, but you still have to deal with the little details.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your love life is taking off today - expect a new date request or a resurgence of feelings for your current partner.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You prefer to face the future, but for now, you need to make sure that your focus is on your past.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your appearance is more important today - and your energy helps glam you up in some new way!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

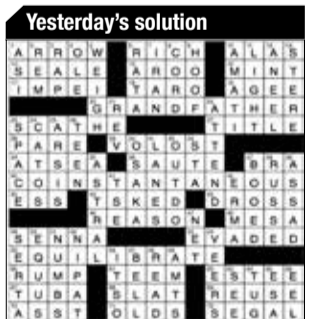
WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Parsonage; 6- Anklebones; 10- Attorneys' org.; 13- Running wild; 14- Narrative poetry; 15- Ladies of Sp.; 16- Dig find; 17- Outback hoppers; 18- Quickly, briefly; 19- Like some orders; 20- Spicy hot; 22- Intoxicated; 24- Affront; 28- Automaton; 31- Very, to Verdi; 32- Sour-tasting; 34- VCR button; 36- Kiln; 37- Give \_\_\_ rest!; 38- Changed; 41- Prizm maker; 42- Semester; 44- Female sheep; 45- Stingy one; 47- Satisfied; 49- Not up; 51- "Am not!" rejoinder; 53- Goes in; 56- Protective helmet; 59- Capital of Calvados, in NW France; 61- Not tricked by; 64- Like some dorms; 65- Christian writings; 66- Fibbed; 67- Basilica area; 68- Legend; 69- Windy City trains; 70- Cauterize; 71- Elite group;

DOWN: 1- Trading center; 2- Specific geographical places; 3- Nabisco's \_\_\_ Wafers; 4- Stain; 5- Catchall abbr.; 6- Shipworm; 7- Each; 8- Coil; 9- Japanese immigrant; 10- \_\_\_ longa, vita brevis; 11- Bleat of a sheep; 12- Snake; 15- States as fact; 20- Small stone; 21- Genetic messenger; 23- Mrs. Dithers, in "Blondie"; 25- Grammarian's concern; 26- Coherent light beam; 27- Bandleader Puente; 29- Woody inhabitants of forests!; 30- Sun. talk; 32- Shed \_\_\_; 33- Menu; 35- Building material; 37- \_\_\_ girl!; 39- Defunct airline; 40- Cut calories; 43- Technique; 46- Distinctive; 48- 1950 film noir classic; 50- Directing head; 52- Killer whales; 54- Temple leader; 55- Vends; 57- Narcotic; 58- For \_\_\_ Jolly Good Fellow; 60- Nair rival; 61- Bullfight cheer; 62- Zilch; 63- French possessive; 65- Arts deg.;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



AD

FOR SALE www.JMLProperty.com
FOR RENT More info, please contact us Info@JMLproperty.com (853) 2835 2699 Office

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau and Coloane, including Chun Leong Car Park, Nam Ngon Macau, Kam Long, Lilau Square Macau, H Unit in Gladiolus Court, The Buckingham, Riviera (Barra Area), The Manhattan, and Houston Court.

JML property logo and text: 卓雅物業 since 1994





Innovation that excites

# FOLLOWING THE MAP ISN'T YOUR STYLE

## THE ALL-NEW Crossover-SUV X-TRAIL

Hands-free power backdoor



2-3-2 (7 seaters) arrangement



### PERFORMANCE FOR EVERY ADVENTURE

X-TRAIL combines high efficiency with bold performance. Designed for effortless driving, the twin VTCdirect injection engine and XTRONIC CVT work seamlessly together for a thrilling ride. The advanced engine with both delivering responsive power and outstanding fuel economy. With X-TRAIL, you're all set for any adventure.

XIN KANG CHENG MOTORS LTD.

Advenida 1 de Maio, The Bayview Bloco 4, R/C, C-D, Macau Tel: 2871 9838





## OLYMPICS

# IOC to remove itself from doping cases in Rio

Stephen Wilson, Lausanne

**I**N a major change in the handling of positive drug tests at the Olympics, the IOC is set to remove itself from the process and have a group of independent sports arbitrators rule on doping cases during the games in Rio de Janeiro, officials familiar with the plans told The Associated Press.

The change is expected to be approved by the International Olympic Committee's executive board yesterday, three officials told the AP. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan had not yet been formally adopted.

The move is intended to make the prosecution of doping cases more independent by taking it away from the IOC and putting it in the hands of a special panel of the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Under current rules, doping cases during the Olympics are dealt with by a special IOC disciplinary panel appointed by the IOC president. The panel schedules hearings with athletes who test positive and decides on sanctions. Most athletes who test positive during the Olympics are disqualified, expelled from the games and stripped of any medals.

Under the new proposal, positive cases would go directly to a small group of specially-appointed CAS arbitrators on site. They would hold hearings and issue rulings without IOC involvement.

Any appeal against the arbitrators' decision would be heard by a separate CAS division, which already handles eligibility and other disputes at the Olympics.

CAS is a Swiss-based body created by the IOC that is considered the highest court in dealing with sports disputes.

The change for the Olympics was studied by CAS and IOC lawyers and came together quickly. It was being submitted for formal approval to the IOC's ruling executive board today.

The move is part of IOC President Thomas Bach's efforts to make drug-testing and sanctioning more

AP PHOTO



IOC President Thomas Bach

credible by removing any potential conflicts of interest.

Bach has also recommended that, in the future, all doping sanctions be handed down by CAS, rather than by individual sports bodies.

Olympic leaders agreed last year that drug-testing in general — not just at the games — should be taken out of the hands of sports bodies. Bach has proposed that an independent testing agency under WADA control be put into place before the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. WADA is still studying the proposal and how to fund it.

"We are convinced that the adoption of these proposals would lead to a more efficient, more transparent, more streamlined, more cost efficient, more harmonized anti-doping system," Bach said late last year. "It would better protect the clean athletes and enhance the credibility of sports."

Also yesterday, World Anti-Doping Agency president Craig Reedie reported

to the IOC board on efforts by Russia and Kenya to comply with global rules at a time when track and field athletes from both countries risk missing the Olympics in August.

The IAAF suspended Russia from global competition in November following a WADA commission report that detailed a vast system of state-sponsored doping and cover-ups. WADA declared Russia's anti-doping agency non-compliant.

"The ball is in Russia's court," Reedie said. "They are aware of the agreements we have on progress that needs to be made. They are very well aware of IAAF criteria for track and field athletes. Work literally goes on every day."

Asked whether he was confident that Russian athletes would be reinstated in time for Rio, Reedie said: "I am certainly going to try."

Kenya, meanwhile, has until April 5 to meet WADA requirements or face being declared non-compliant, a step toward a possible ban from the Olympics for

its track and field athletes. WADA is demanding that Kenya create and fund a fully-fledged national anti-doping agency.

"They are very well aware of what they need to do," Reedie said. "They simply need to do it. If they don't do it, my compliance review committee will take the matter further."

More than 40 Kenyan athletes have failed drug tests since 2012, and four high-ranking national federation officials are under investigation for doping cover-ups and other alleged wrongdoing.

Reedie reiterated that Brazil's anti-doping agency has until March 18 to meet WADA guidelines. If it fails, the Rio drug-testing lab would be declared non-compliant, meaning thousands of doping samples during the games would have to be sent out of Brazil for testing, raising major logistical and financial challenges.

"It is up to them to do it," Reedie said. "It would make life a lot easier if they did." **AP**

## FOOTBALL

## Early exit looming for Sanfrece in Asian Champions League



AP PHOTO

Another first-round exit is looming for Japanese champion Sanfrece Hiroshima after a 4-1 loss to FC Seoul yesterday in the Asian Champions League. In

its past three appearances, the J.League team has never progressed past the group stage. Three goals from Seoul striker Adriano, the Brazilian who scored four in the 6-0 win over Buriram United last week, put the match out of reach after the Japanese team had taken a first-half lead. Seoul is at the top of Group F with six points, above Shandong Luneng on goal difference. The Chinese team beat Thai club Buriram 3-0 with goals from Zhao Mingjian and Brazilian duo Diego Tardelli and Jucilei.

## UEFA is hiking the cost of Champions League final tickets by up to 14 percent

The first 6,000 tickets for the May 28 match at San Siro in Milan went on sale by lottery yesterday. A further 40,000 seats in the 71,500-capacity stadium will later be split between the finalists. UEFA said 30 percent of the seats are in the most expensive category and have climbed 13 percent, from 390 euros at the 2015 final in Berlin to 440 euros (USD478). Category 2 tickets, which account for 26 percent of sales, have risen by 14 percent — from 280 euros to 320 euros (\$348). But UEFA has frozen the cost of the lowest ticket categories at 160 euros (\$174; 33 percent of seats) and 70 euros (\$76; 11 percent of seats).

## CRICKET

## South Africa spinner Phangiso suspended for illegal action



AP PHOTO

South Africa's Aaron Phangiso was suspended yesterday after tests revealed he has an illegal bowling action, putting the left-arm

spinner in doubt for the World Twenty20 this month. Cricket South Africa withdrew Phangiso from contention for the first two games of a three-match warm-up series against Australia while he undergoes work on his action and is tested again Monday. The suspension continued a troubled time for Phangiso, who has been involved in alcohol and drug controversies in recent months.



opinion

**Made in Macao**  
 Jenny Lao-Phillips



**ON MACAU LOVES LOCALS**

After all the festive parades and light installations of the Spring Festival, the latest hot topic in town should be none other than the joint citywide campaign of Macau's six gaming operators.

A week ago, I was invited to attend a press conference, about which the only information I was told then was the name: "Macau Loves Locals". The first question that popped into my head was "how much (love)?" and "who loves me, again?"

Of course, the first "person" that came to mind was the government – was there a new initiative, perhaps a continuation of MGTO's CNY activities for local citizens? Or could it be a new government wealth sharing programme with more money for local citizens? Maybe an increase in education subsidies for local students or, finally, rental control for local SMEs? Though I didn't think it was likely to be about protecting the local environment from real estate development, the term "Macau Loves Locals" did trigger a minute or two of sweet daydreams. That is, until I opened the file and read further about the campaign.

To my shock and amusement, I read that, the campaign was a joint act of "corporate social responsibility" carried out by the joint forces of Macau's six gaming operators. Just a few weeks ago, I was having a discussion in my classroom on CSR, and how large corporations, at desperate moments, join forces with competitors to enhance their image of responsibility at the industry level to gain social acceptance. We discussed the basic social responsibilities of all businesses, and to what extent CSR was merely lip service for the purpose of public relations. If only the campaign had been announced a month earlier, we would have had a real, live local case to discuss in the classroom.

Then again, the planning of the campaign took only five weeks, so the initiative probably didn't exist a month or so ago. I imagine that the six gaming heads sat down six weeks ago and decided they needed to give something back to the local community, and thus "Macau Loves Locals" was born. At least, I guess there wouldn't have been much dissent among the "Big Six", as they have very efficiently agreed upon and taken action to provide locals with a series of benefits. Now that is some real love! So, one week into this campaign, how much love have local citizens felt?

It is unfortunate that the campaign met with a bad start, with locals complaining about the violation of their privacy when some non-gaming outlets asked to copy personal information from their ID cards. This was quickly resolved, but to my surprise, there wasn't much more about "Macau Loves Locals" on social media. So I started proactively asking locals about their participation in this campaign. Apparently, the campaign has not managed to stimulate much excitement among the locals. According to most people I've interviewed, the campaign was not attractive enough to encourage them to go visit any of the outlets. Some claimed that they tried to redeem the offer, but were disappointed because the outlets they visited did not offer discounts, and one didn't even recognize the Macau ID card. Quite a few locals didn't know that there was a campaign going on at all. Well, their loss for not reading newspapers, I must say.

But what other channels has "Macau" used to communicate this campaign to the locals, aside from the press conference? Now that the Big Six have joined forces, shouldn't "Macau's" marketing efforts be much stronger? Of course, by "Macau" I mean the six gaming operators, though I didn't realise that they speak for all of "Macau" now. Maybe it was too clumsy to call the campaign "Non-gaming Entertainment in Macau Loves Locals," but I should pay more attention next time I say "I love Macau".

**THE BUZZ** TIGER AIRWAYS PLANE MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING IN MELBOURNE

A Tiger Airways jet made an emergency landing in the Australian city of Melbourne after an odor was detected and crew members were reported ill, the government said.

The Airbus A320 carrying 80 passengers and crew from Brisbane declared an emergency as it approached Melbourne Airport yesterday

morning, Transport Minister Darren Chester said in a statement.

"Tiger Airlines Flight TGW 511 reported an odor in the cockpit and cabin," the statement said. "There were reports that crew members were taken ill."

The fire brigade and ambulances were put on standby, but the plane landed safely, it said.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

**Critics of Oscars show say diversity talk was too narrow**

AP PHOTO



Dave Chappelle (left) and Chris Rock appear backstage at the Oscars

AS Felix Sanchez watched the Academy Awards ceremony, he kept wondering when all the talk of diversity from host Chris Rock and others would itself become more diverse.

"I was shocked that Latinos and Asians and Native Americans were not a part of this conversation," says Sanchez, chairman and co-founder of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, based in Washington, D.C.

"They have this idea that the paradigm is still black-white and they need to expand the conversation. That it was so narrow is indefensible."

The all-white list of acting nominees led to widespread criticism in the weeks leading up to Sun-

day night's show and to the hashtag movement Oscars-SoWhite. Rock was praised for introducing an unusual level of candor about race to the telecast, but his comments were almost exclusively about blacks, and the show overall made only brief references to other minorities.

In one segment, three Asian children carrying briefcases walked out on stage and were introduced as PricewaterhouseCoopers accountants, an apparent reference to Asians being good at math.

"If anybody's upset about that joke, just tweet about it on your phone, which was also made by these kids," Rock said.

Mee Moua, president and

executive director of the Washington-based Asian Americans Advancing Justice, said in a statement that the show was a setback for diversity.

"The 'joke' involving Asian children, which played off more than one damaging stereotype of Asians and Asian Americans, exposed one of the failings of how we talk about race in America: race relations are not a black-white binary," she said.

A publicist for Rock, Leslie Sloane, said this week that he was unavailable for comment. And the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Sanchez said that he watched closely to see if any attendees were wearing brown ribbons, which Eva Longoria and others had suggested as a protest against the absence of Hispanics.

"I didn't see one person wearing the brown ribbon," he said.

Some at the Oscars did make broader calls for diversity. "The Revenant" filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, in his acceptance speech, urged "our generation to really liberate ourselves from all prejudice and [...] make sure for once and forever that the color of the skin becomes as irrelevant as the length of our hair." AP

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**THE HAGUE** An accused al-Qaida-linked Islamic radical, Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi (pictured), appeared yesterday at the International Criminal Court for a hearing to establish whether evidence is strong enough to try him for his alleged involvement in the destruction of historic mausoleums in the Malian city of Timbuktu. The case involves "the destruction of irreplaceable historical monuments."

**GERMANY's** unemployment rate dipped to 6.6 percent last month thanks to sustained growth in Europe's biggest economy and relatively mild winter weather. The Federal Labor Agency said that 2.911 million people were registered as jobless in February, down 9,000 from the previous month and some 111,000 from a year earlier.

**SPAIN's** Socialist party leader is hoping to persuade a majority of parliamentary deputies to back his bid to form a new government, but the lack of support from other parties suggests he won't be successful. Pedro Sanchez's presentation speech will be followed by debate and a vote today.

**USA** Just before the crucial multi-state primaries, a sharp new divide erupted between Republicans who pledge to fall in line behind Donald Trump if he wins their party's nomination and others who insist they can never back the bombastic billionaire. More on p14

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi



"Mary Magdalene in Ecstasy," a long-lost painting by Italian master Caravaggio is shown to the public for the first time at an exhibition in Tokyo. "Mary Magdalene in Ecstasy" was found in a private collection in 2014. The painting is one of 11 Caravaggio works in the show, Caravaggio and His Time: Friends, Rivals and Enemies, which opened yesterday at the National Museum of Western Art and runs through June 12.

AP PHOTO



**USA** George Kennedy, the hulking, tough-guy character actor who won an Academy Award for his portrayal of a savage chain-gang convict in the 1960s classic "Cool Hand Luke," has died. His grandson Cory Schenkel says Kennedy died on Sunday morning of old age in Boise, Idaho. He was 91.