



MORE HOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE

A total of 16 hotels are under construction and 34 are expected to be developed soon

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AUSTRIAN TO LAUNCH VIENNA-HK ROUTE



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'BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED'

Interview with UM's Anastasia Lijadi about her thesis on how 'third culture kids' struggle to develop a sense of identity

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Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Artist and activist Ai Weiwei has visited the Idomeni refugee camp in northern Greece, where about 14,000 people, mostly Syrian and Iraqi refugees, have found themselves stranded after Macedonia shut its border. "Thousands of people are stuck here," Ai said... You can't believe this is happening in Europe in the 21st century."

CHINA's inflation accelerated to 2.3 percent in February, driven by a jump in food prices, but stayed below the government's official target for the year.

JAPAN The coast guard resumes underwater searches for over 2,500 people still missing five years after an earthquake and tsunami devastated the country's northeast coast. Meanwhile, Shinzo Abe has pledged to bolster reconstruction efforts in tsunami-hit northern Japan and the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant ahead of the 2020 Olympic Games. The prime minister promised to rush decontamination work in irradiated areas near the plant to allow more residents to safely return home.

More in Extra Times

NORTH KOREA threatens nuclear annihilation, fires ballistic missiles into the sea in a show of defiance, tests a nuclear bomb and launches a long-range rocket into space as South Korea and the United States stage huge military drills.

INDIA's environmental watchdog fines a group headed by a Hindu spiritual leader 50 million rupees (USD740,000) for building features that altered the topography and flow of a river in India's capital before a major cultural festival this weekend.

More on backpage

Extradition between SARs could have retroactive effects

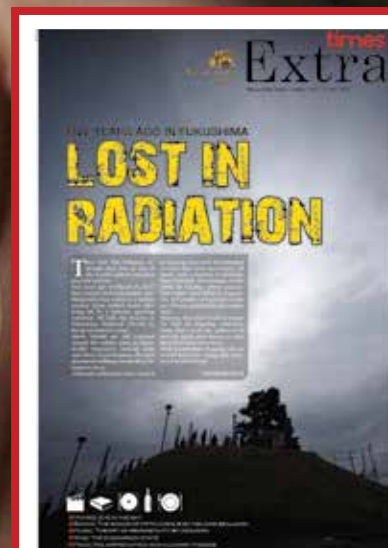
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BLOOMBERG



Hunt for blonde avatar shows dark side of Japan gaming

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TOURISM

New hotels to feature fewer rooms

THE new hotel developments currently under construction in the territory will feature about 36 percent less rooms than those built in 2014.

A statement issued yesterday by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSOPT) indicates that a total of 16 hotels are under construction and 34 others were in the construction project phase.

According to the data presented yesterday, the 16 hotels under construction will bring on line a total of 10,738 rooms, while the ones still in the project phase are expected to include only 8,882 rooms. The figures show a clear tendency for the construction of smaller properties with a reduction both in total construction area and in the number of rooms.

There will be a significant reduction in parking spaces available since the proportion of parking spaces per room will decrease from 0.82 spaces per room for the 16 hotels currently in construction to 0.5



BLOOMBERG

parking spaces per room for the 34 future hotel units now in the project phase.

The majority of the 16 hotels already under construction are located on the peninsula (9), followed by the Cotai area

where 5 properties are being built. Coloane and Taipa islands currently have 1 hotel being built each.

In terms of number of rooms, it is evident that the hotels under construction in Cotai

are bigger (with about 1,900 rooms per property). On the opposite end of the spectrum is the Macau peninsula, which will feature small hotels where the average number of rooms is about 65 rooms per hotel.

TWO-STAR HOTEL TO BE BUILT DOWNTOWN

ACCORDING TO a notice published this week at the Official Gazette, a land plot in Pátio das Flores (close to Avenida da Praia Grande) was granted to Ka Iek Sociedade Unipessoal to build a 2-star hotel. The company is authorized to build a five story building with the premium for the land concession amounting to MOP6.9 million.

In contrast, those in Taipa and Coloane which are being completed feature between 236 and 373 rooms.

As for future developments, the primacy of the Macau peninsula as a location will be made more evident with 28 of the 34 properties to be located here. The size of these hotels tends to be about double that seen previously.

For the Cotai area there are 3 other hotel properties in the planning featuring an average of about 1,622 rooms each. **RM**

Vienna-Hong Kong flights to commence in September

AUSTRIAN Airlines will launch direct flights between Vienna and Hong Kong five times a week from September 5 onwards, a press release from the Austrian Trade Commission for Hong Kong, Macau and South China revealed, representing the latest addition in the airline's expansion into East Asia.

Passengers can now be transported onto a new direct flight onboard a Boeing 777 that will travel between Hong Kong and Vienna five times a week.

"With 48 business class and 260 [economy] seats this will further increase the importance of Hong Kong as an Asia hub for Austrian companies in the region and will attract



Austrian Airlines AG passenger aircraft sit on the tarmac at Vienna International Airport

more Austrians to come to Asia's world city, Hong Kong," the statement read.

Hong Kong currently has more than 230 Austrian companies operating in the South China city, and is home to more than 750 Austrians. The Austrian Trade Commission commented that they expect a strong increase in tourism exchange between the destinations.

They also believe that, due to Vienna's central location in Europe and

Hong Kong's strategic links to South East Asia, the route may become an important regional hub for the transfer of traffic.

"The flight between Vienna and Hong Kong is an important point-to-point route but also for transfer traffic into the CEE [Central and Eastern Europe] region," the statement said. "About two-thirds of passengers will transfer at the Vienna hub and continue their journeys, flying particularly to Western and Eastern Eu-

ropean destinations."

The announcement follows the airline's decision six months ago to commence direct flights between Vienna and Shanghai, which are due to begin next month, in addition to their existing destination in the Chinese capital. Elsewhere in Asia, Austrian Airlines already have flights to Bangkok, Tokyo, Astana, Malé and Colombo.

The airline is part of the Lufthansa Group, Europe's largest airline group, and is a member of the Star Alliance.

The Times contacted the Austrian Trade Commission for Hong Kong, Macau and South China to ask if they will target Macau residents as customers for the new route, however the commission advised that the flight had only just been announced and they were unaware of any such intentions at present. **DB**

CRIME

Mainland bank to pay RMB3.47 million to a local resident

THE Zhuhai City Intermediate People's Court has ruled that a mainland bank has to pay RMB3.47 million to a Macau resident, following the actions of a third party who had fraudulently used his bank card.

On Wednesday, the Court revealed that the bank that issued the card was unable to present plausible evidence in order to attest to the male victim, surnamed Hu, being responsible for what had happened. The bank believed that Hu had not secured his password carefully enough due to the abnormal nature of the transactions.

The complainant applied for his debit card in Zhuhai in 2007. Later, in 2014, he received five messages from the bank saying that a series of transactions, worth in total RMB3.47 million, had just been made. Within just six minutes, the five corresponding debits took place in Tianjin City while Hu was in Zhuhai with the debit card in his possession.

Since both the cardholder and the card were in Zhuhai at the time of the transactions, the court pointed out that a third party must have used a forged card to conduct the crime. Investigations are still ongoing to identify the criminals.

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Extradition between SARs could have retroactive effects

THE Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan and the HK Secretary for Justice, Rimsky Yuen, met yesterday morning in Macau to discuss the details of the judicial cooperation agreement in criminal matters between the two special regions.

According to a statement from the Government Information Bureau, the negotiation process made good progress. The two sides have discussed the principles, details and technical matters, with some issues awaiting further research and amendment.

Regarding the arrangements for the extradition of criminals between both SARs, Sonia Chan said during the meeting that "such requests would be handled on a case-by-case basis once a cooperation agreement is in force." She added that "such requests might be made retrospectively in relation to court sentences already han-



Sonia Chan (right side, center) met with Rimsky Yuen (second left)

ded down, and still valid but not yet imposed." The secretary added that the agreement on judicial cooperation with Hong Kong is being discussed separately from such cooperation with the mainland.

There are doubts as to whether the arrangement with Hong Kong could apply to the two high-profile busi-

nessmen Joseph Lau and Steven Lo.

Both Hong Kong developers were found guilty of corruption and money-laundering by Macau's Court of First Instance (TJB) and sentenced to five years and three months imprisonment. However, they have escaped arrest by avoiding travel to Macau.

HOUSING

New private developments to provide more than 15,000 units

ACCORDING to the latest figures made available by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), a total of 15,352 private residential units are currently in the development phase. Those units include between them 14,915 new parking spaces, from which 10,950 are for automobiles and 3,950 for motorcycles.

The figures correspond with the 4th quarter of 2015 and were revealed by DSSOPT yesterday.

Until the 4th quarter of last year, 16 new housing developments had obtained housing licenses, while 99 others were in construction or completed (waiting for final inspection).

Ninety-six percent of the total residential units made available to the market are located on the peninsula with the remaining four percent to be shared between Taipa and Coloane areas in equivalent proportions.

Regarding the typology of these units, about two-thirds (10,629) were two bedroom apartments or smaller, while



apartments with 3 bedrooms or more were just 14 percent of the total (2,107).

In addition, DSSOPT reported 211 other private housing developments currently in the project stage. According to the preliminary study submitted by the applicants, a total of 21,071 apartments and 26,802 parking spaces will be constructed in the near future.

For these developments it is also expected that the proportion of units with 3 bedrooms or more will rise to about 53 percent of the total (11,112). **RM**

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Mid-term gaming report later than expected

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong has said that the mid-term review of the city's gaming industry will be made public within the year. Speaking in Beijing on the sidelines of the National People's Congress, Leong revealed that the government will submit the report to the central government. "The central government has clarified its requests for Macau's mid-term gaming review last year and has also given the green light to the SAR government's work proposals," he said. Lionel Leong had previously announced that the findings of the report would be made public early this year. Cited by TDM, the secretary admitted that the work progress related to the mid-term review has been slower than expected.

COLOANE HILL SKYSCRAPER

New Macau says there's procrastination over Urban Planning Law

Daniel Beittler

SCOTT Chiang, president of the New Macau Association (ANM) and a handful of other association members met outside the government headquarters yesterday afternoon in a bid to deliver a letter comprising complaints leveled mostly against the Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On.

The English translation of the letter, entitled "Things our CE didn't know he could do for Coloane," accused Macau's highest authority of allegedly misunderstanding his own constitutional powers.

It lamented the delays and "procrastination" of the MSAR government in relation to the installation of the Urban Planning Law, which has been under consideration for almost three years, and implied that the delay was a deliberate ploy to usher in the development project slated for Coloane Hill.

Following on from ANM accusations earlier this week that the government had been quietly but



Scott Chiang

speedily facilitating the approval of construction permits for the proposed 100-meter residential project planned for Estrada do Campo, the organization's letter stated they were "dumbfounded by our CE when he admitted himself to 'not knowing what to do' in legal operations to halt the project."

"He also confused the aforementioned power of preliminary measure with his administrative discretion," the statement dated March 10 continued, "again the administration never stops amazing us with its profound understanding of the law."

Protesters have been demonstrating against the residential building project since 2013, as it is expected to infringe on Macau's last significant area of greenery.

Last month around 40 people gathered on Coloane's hiking trails insisting that the government stand by its earlier commitments to the area's protection as an ecological reserve.

A statement made by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau last week stressed that the project had not been granted a construction permit and that starting any construction without such a permit would be strictly illegal.

Shortly afterwards the Chief Executive told reporters that he had read many reports on the situation and had noted many opinions, however "without any doubt, the government's actions are ruled by the law," and "both the Secretary [for Transport and Public Works] Raimundo do Rosário and other authorities have already expressed [the same sentiments]."

Yesterday ANM further urged the Chief Executive to immediately halt the Coloane Hill project and reiterated their call that "no major urbanizing project [should take place] in Coloane before a legal district planning [operative] is in place."

There were no representatives from the government to meet Scott Chiang yesterday and the front gate of the government headquarters remained closed, leading some journalists at the scene to wonder whether ANM had informed the government of the meeting and intention to deliver the letter.

"This is the front door: it is never open," said Chiang. "There is also a back door but you know, in Chinese, that is [a euphemism] for corruption."

Before leaving the scene, Chiang rolled up the letter and secured it in the gate by placing it through the space between the bars. A police officer approached Chiang and questioned him about the letter but did not remove it or ask the ANM president to do so.

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Daniel Beittler

THIRD culture kids (TCKs) is a term used to refer to individuals who were raised in a cultural environment different from their parents for a significant part of their childhood. Many consequently struggle with the concept of identity and a sense of belonging.

Anastasia Lijadi of the University of Macau recently published her dissertation, titled "Bloom where you are planted: Place identity construction of third culture kids," which won an award from the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What prompted you to undertake this area of research?

Anastasia Lijadi (AL) - My children will grow up as TCKs – individuals who trailed behind their parents who hopped across the border. As a parent of TCKs in the making, and for many parents in a similar situation, I would like to know if we are making the right decision for the future of our children by continuing to live our high mobility lifestyle.

MDT - What is the state of the TCKs community in Macau?

AL - I don't have information on the numbers of TCKs in Macau, but I can estimate about 30 percent of students in English-speaking schools and international schools of Macau are TCKs. Most TCKs families here work with multinational organizations, though I also noticed that there are self-mobility families, or those who have moved in

Q&A ANASTASIA LIJADI SCHOLAR

'I believe there will be more third culture kids worldwide'



Anastasia Lijadi

pursuit of a better life.

Living and growing up in numerous places has provided TCKs with benefits such as a high level of cross-cultural understanding and adaptability. However, even though the TCKs might know the common practices of many cultures they might not necessarily have internalized any one culture.

The challenges for TCKs in Macau are similar to those in other places, but what might be specific here is the state of the education system, as so far Macau only has English and Portuguese-speaking international schools.

MDT - Your research claims that TCKs have uni-

que relationships with family and friends. What were your findings?

AL - In my research on the friendships and relationships of TCKs, I found that due to their high-mobility lifestyle, TCKs build strong bonds with their parents as they are often the only stable, constant and prominent figures in their lives as they travel to and from various places. TCKs find less stability in relationships with their siblings, who may have to leave to pursue education, career or family life elsewhere, and with peers and a society that are constantly changing.

On the other hand, the adult TCKs participants in my research mentioned that their parents did not understand their strug-

gle and that they had nobody to confide in about their difficulties. [...] From my research, I can point out several generational differences between TCKs, which also influence how they find meaning in their high-mobility lifestyles.

MDT - How much of your research was based on your interaction with TCKs in Macau?

AL - For my doctoral research I focused on the TCKs lifestyle in a few cities, including Macau, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Jakarta. Only 20 percent of my participants lived in Macau when I recruited them and half of them have since left.

Macau is a relatively new place

Further studies are needed to understand how multiculturalism is integrated in school curriculums.

instigating confusion, but also because they may not be entirely sure themselves.

The number of people who identify as TCKs has increased exponentially in recent decades, riding the wave of globalization. What used to be a term normally reserved for the children of military and diplomatic personnel serving abroad, has now expanded to the children of business expatriates, teachers in international schools, and others who have simply followed employment opportunities or a better standard of living elsewhere.

for expatriate families and their TCKs, whereas Hong Kong, Singapore and Jakarta have been cultural melting pots for decades. Macau has recently been attracting many families from all over the world due to the opening up of the gaming industry in 2002.

MDT - How do you expect the TCK 'culture' will develop in the future?

AL - I believe there will be more TCKs around the world as more people than ever are living abroad. In 2013, the United Nations reported that 232 million people, or 3.2 per cent of the world's population, were international migrants. The growth in the past 13 years has been exponential compared to the 175 million recorded in 2000 and 154 million in 1990.

TCKs definitely have an influence the world. As Margaret Mead, the famous anthropologist said: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.'

MDT - How would you like others to continue your research?

AL - I am curious to know if the findings from my dissertation can be extended to Cross Culture Kids (CCKs) – that is, those who interacted with fewer foreign cultures or lived in a different country for a significant period of time during their developmental years, such as those from the Macanese, Portuguese, and mainland Chinese communities in Macau.

Further studies are needed to understand how multiculturalism is integrated in school curriculums and how schools can assist TCKs adjust to their new environment.

'Where are you from?'

THE term "third culture kids" was coined by the American sociologist Ruth Hill Useem in the 1950s who used it largely to describe the children of American citizens living and working abroad. Today the term usually refers to adults who spent a significant portion of their developmental years outside of their parent's culture.

It applies to those who have a tendency to

mix their birth culture with the culture of the society in which they live, causing individuals to be confused about their own identity.

"Where are you from?" is often the question that TCKs find the most difficult to answer. According to numerous testimonies from TCKs they often simplify their response or omit parts of it, partly to avoid

ARTS

The state of affairs of Filipino literature

WRITER Angelo Lacuesta and poet Mookie Lacuesta discussed the state of affairs of Filipino literature yesterday during a talk included in the 5th Macau Literary Festival and held at the Old Court Building.

According to Mookie, the origins of the country's literature are associated with its colonial history. English was already used in the Philippines as a medium of instruction in private schools in the 1900's during the pe-



Angelo and Mookie Lacuesta

riod of American colonialism, with a wide array of English reading materials available, which helped Filipinos adapt to the language.

"There is a very strong nationalistic sense of preserving what's our own background and not having any kind of colonial influence or presence. At the same time, America has proven to be our strongest ally," she said.

Angelo Lacuesta said that the story of the Filipinos is a story of the Over-

seas Filipino Worker (OFW), mentioning the 25,000 to 30,000 OFWs in Macau.

"Who writes their stories? That's where the problem lies because there is such a great divide in our literature where English is a language of the middle and upper classes, while Filipino [Tagalog] is the language of the OFW."

The session also debated the case of José Rizal's novel, "Noli Me Tángere," which was originally written in Spanish. The novel, written during the Spanish colonization of the Philippines to further expose the biases of the ruling government, precipitated Rizal's trips to Hong Kong and Macau in 1888. **Staff reporter**

UM to celebrate 35th anniversary

The University of Macau is set to kick off celebrations on March 19 to commemorate its 35th anniversary, comprising an opening celebration, the UM Open Day, and the UM Sports Day. A tree planting ceremony will be held to signify UM's commitment to producing outstanding graduates for society. The Open Day activities will include an international food festival, information seminars on how to apply for their undergraduate programs, guided campus tours, and student performances. According to a statement, UM will be organizing a series of academic events and inviting scholars from around the world to exchange ideas with local professors, students, scholars, and residents on various academic topics.

Bessmertny book launch in Hong Kong



Renowned Macau artist Konstantin Bessmertny is set to celebrate the launch of his art book, "The Last Dumpling," on March 15 at an event held at

the KEE Private Members Club in Hong Kong. The book launch will begin at 6.30 p.m. running through to 8.30 p.m., where guests will be treated to wine and live entertainment, organizers say. Additionally, guests are welcome to attend a four-course dinner that will follow the book launch at the club for HKD988 per person (plus 10 percent service charge). A complimentary copy of "The Last Dumpling" will be offered to all dinner guests, subject to availability. Interested parties should RSVP by Monday, March 14, by emailing tan@keeclub.com.

CARLOS MARREIROS

Gov't must 'work fast to make a plan to defend Coloane'

MACANESE architect Carlos Marreiros commented on the controversy surrounding the eventual construction of a skyscraper on Coloane's hill, saying that it's time to have an integrated, low-level construction plan for the area.

Speaking with the Times on the sidelines of a British Business Association of Macau event held this week, Marreiros, who is also the director general of Albergue SCM, voiced his concerns over Coloane's urbanization.

"I always agree that Coloane should be urbanized. Coloane should have an urbanization plan, but urbanizing Coloane doesn't mean that it will be full of high-rises. It should be integrated [...] this is what our plan for Coloane should be."

Marreiros added that the government should quickly work out an urbanization scheme in Coloane and have a low-level construction plan, with a



green approach. He believes that it is tough for the government to stop some previously promised projects.

"It is important to state that some developers have already had their projects approved in the past, [and] some of these projects stem from the Portuguese time [...] Macau SAR government cannot just refuse them," he said.

"They are legal documents, so they must be respected, but the government of Macau has to work fast if they are to

make a plan to defend Coloane, otherwise it will have to face other problems. Investors also have expectations, paying interest, and so on, so they need to develop the area," adds Marreiros.

Marreiros hopes that the issue, which is under discussion, can be solved to avoid 'ambiguous areas' in the future.

"Macau is an open society, therefore the opportunities must be on an even playing field for everybody."

Marreiros specified that urban intervention is a sensitive issue due to Macau's delicate urban profile, and recommended that all intervention be balanced, especially on the peninsula.

"On the other hand, Macau is a 450-year old historical city, with part of it listed by UNESCO. Therefore, intervention in the urban tissue should be done very carefully," he explained.

The architect also mentioned that Cotai, the so-called 'white land,' has not faced much of a battle with heritage, emphasizing that Macau peninsula's regulations are tough.

"On the Macau peninsula, we have a lot of regulations around the practice of architecture because you have the legacy - heritage that must be maintained - not only for tourists but also for locals. Heritage is part of the past and present identity of the people of Macau," he added. **Staff reporter**

Urbanizing Coloane doesn't mean that it will be full of high-rises.

CARLOS MARREIROS

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The Challenges Facing Macau
What is it going to take to restore confidence?

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



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Macau is facing some serious challenges, and these challenges will almost certainly affect property prices either directly or indirectly.

If Macau is going to prosper in the long term and would like a healthy property market, hard questions have to be asked and hopefully answered. It's easy to criticize, so there are also suggestions for potential solutions. Whether they are liked or not will be largely a matter of opinion.

Last week we examined transportation and the infrastructure. This week we look at education.

EDUCATION

If they can afford it, Macau residents send their children overseas for education. It's big business globally.

If Macau truly does want to diversify, now is the time to address the issue

of education. Losing the youth to an overseas system is neither healthy nor sustainable for Macau. Whilst moving overseas in itself is a life changing, eye-opening experience, it should be a choice and not a necessity.

An ever-shrinking world means that Macau needs some globally recognized educational brands to add to its portfolio. Space may be an issue, but as the new university campus has proved, where there's a will there's also a way.

You could be forgiven for reading this article in English and assume that it refers only to the popular western schools, but this is really about choice more than anything. A mixture of schools from diverse backgrounds would serve Macau well, being the melting pot that it is.

Some possible solutions?
1. Expand the plan for

Hengqin to include dedicated education areas, and encourage schools to submit proposals.

2. Investigate partnerships between existing Macau schools and recognized schools and systems based overseas.
3. Encourage more joint ventures and programs between overseas universities and Macau university.

If Macau is going to retain its talented people, a hard look at the education system is essential.

Schooling in Macau is one of the main reasons why families with kids of a certain age are not based here, and until Macau can offer attractive solutions to this problem, it will continue to miss out on the most talented people as they leave Macau to seek education elsewhere.

To be continued...

new business opportunities are just a handshake away

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A worker looks at a Toyota Motor Corp. Levin hybrid electric vehicle (left) at the 16th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition

China's auto sales rise 5.1 percent in January-February

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA'S auto sales growth decelerated to 5.1 percent in January and February as demand for lower-priced domestic brand SUVs soared but sedan purchases contracted, an industry group reported yesterday.

Sales of sedans, SUVs and minivans in the biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold totaled 3.6 million in the two-month period, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Sales for the first two

months are reported together to factor out the impact of the Lunar New Year holiday, a two-week slowdown that occurs at different times during that period each year.

SUV sales soared 54.8 percent in January and February from a year earlier while sedan sales fell 12.5 percent, according to the CAAM. Chinese brands accounted for 60 percent of the SUV market.

Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 4.4 percent to 4.1 million in January and February.

Auto sales suffered an unexpectedly sharp con-

traction from June through August, rattling a global industry that is counting on China to drive revenue. Demand rebounded in September after Beijing cut sales taxes on vehicles with smaller engines.

China's auto market has been cooling since growth peaked at 45 percent in 2009.

Sales have been dented by measures imposed by Beijing, Shanghai and other major cities to curb smog and congestion by limiting new vehicle registrations.

In December, half the vehicles in Beijing were

ordered off the road on alternate days after the Chinese capital's air pollution spiked to dangerous levels.

In January, auto sales rose 9.3 percent and total vehicle sales gained 7.1 percent, according to the CAAM. February auto sales contracted by 1.5 percent to 1.4 million while total vehicle sales declined 0.9 percent to 1.6 million.

Sales by China's lower-priced domestic brands grew at more than double the market's overall pace, rising 12.6 percent in the first two months of the year to 1.7 million vehicles.

Sales of Chinese-brand sedans fell 21.2 percent to 362,000 but SUV sales soared 64.1 percent to 763,000.

China's total auto sales last year were 21.1 million units.

—General Motors Co. said deliveries of GM brand vehicles by the company and its Chinese partners rose 0.5 percent in the January-February period to 666,713 vehicles. February sales declined 9.3 percent to 245,690 vehicles. SUV deliveries rose 115 percent.

—Ford Motor Co. sales rose 18 percent in January-February to 194,182 vehicles. February sales fell percent to 63,350.

—Nissan Motor Co.'s January-February sales rose 1 percent to 188,400 units. February sales fell 13 percent to 61,100.

—Toyota Motor Co.'s January-February sales rose 22 percent to 190,500. Sales in February rose 6.3 percent to 65,400.

—Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz said January-February sales rose 42.5 percent to 68,508 vehicles. February sales rose 29.3 percent to 25,837 vehicles. **AP**

RETAIL

Hugo Boss closes stores on mainland in cost-cutting effort

HUGO Boss AG, the embattled German fashion label, said it would fight discounting in the U.S. and close stores in China to protect profitability amid lackluster sales in those markets.

The retailer, whose CEO resigned last month after a series of forecast cuts and a plummeting share price, said it's paring investments by at least 9 percent, closing 20 stores in China and taking control over concessions inside U.S. department store Macy's Inc. The shares rose as much as 5.3 percent in early Frankfurt trading, buoyed by the company's plan to maintain its dividend and a forecast of unchanged gross margins.

"A stable dividend is better than we expected," Kepler Cheuvreux analyst Jurgen Kolb said in a note. "The 2016 outlook was already disclosed, but a flat gross margin is better than we expected."

Avoiding deep price cuts on items like 900-euro (USD988) suits and 1,100-euro cocktail dresses is top of mind for the company two weeks after the departure of Claus Dietrich Lahrs after eight years. A slumping Asian market has led to discounting, which detracts from Boss' luxury image, and the company's now shuttering outlets. It plans to invest less than 200 million euros in expansion this year, compared with 220 million euros in 2015.

The company's EBITDA margin last year narrowed to 21.2 percent from 23 percent. The dividend was held at 3.62 euros per share.

While the company's strategy of moving upmarket and expanding in high-design womenswear is sound, discounting at both ends of the price spectrum and a potentially protracted search for Lahrs' replacement are worrisome, Citigroup analyst Thomas Chauvet has said.

Meanwhile, stores like Intidex's Massimo Dutti and Hennes & Mauritz AB's & Other Stories are swiping customers from the lower end of the market, according to a Bloomberg Intelligence analysis. Inditex said Wednesday that revenue gained 15 percent in the start of this quarter on an adjusted basis, maintaining last year's growth rate. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA TO PARTICIPATE IN EARTH HOUR 2016

Sands China Ltd. properties will be lights out on March 19 in support of Earth Hour, starting at 8:30 p.m.

Exterior lights and non-essential indoor lights will be turned off for one hour at all Sands China's properties - Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao; The Plaza Macao featuring Four Seasons; and Sands Cotai Central featuring St. Regis, Conrad, Sheraton, and Holiday Inn - including at the project site of The Parisian Macao, according to a statement.

This marks the eighth year in a row of Sands China's participation in the worldwide environmental endeavor, aimed at raising global awareness of climate change by



encouraging eco-conscious individuals, communities, households and businesses to switch off their lights for one hour.

In the week leading up to Earth Hour, Sands China will incorporate the global "I Will If You Will" challenge to

incentivize team members across all properties to take action on climate change. Challenges such as turning off lights at home and not driving a car to work will accrue points for participants, giving them the chance to win prizes.

STUDIO CITY TO HOST WEDDING SHOWCASE



Studio City's first-ever Wedding Showcase will be held over three consecutive days starting from today at its cinematically-themed resort, allowing couples to preview and source wedding accessories.

The Studio City Wedding Showcase will feature a series of live activities including bride hairdo and makeup demonstrations, wedding gown catwalk shows, wine and food tasting, wedding planner exper-

ience sharing, and performances, according to a statement from Melco Crown Entertainment.

Studio City wedding packages provide a variety of facilities. According to the company, their award-winning culinary team and banqueting professionals are capable of customizing almost everything to the theme or taste of the couple's choice.

The resort promises couples up to 15 percent off for wedding banquet bookings on-site, with many more exclusive privileges only available to visitors during the three-day event. A cash rebate and complimentary food tasting session will be arranged for bookings confirmed and contracts signed on or before March 20.

EDP group reduces debt by selling assets to China Three Gorges



THE EDP Group will continue this year with an asset sale policy, specifically to its main shareholder, China Three Gorges (CTG) in order to reduce its level of debt, said the group's chairman.

EDP will raise almost 392 million euros with the sale of 49 percent of operations in Poland and Italy to CTG, but the disposal of assets in 2016 will amount to 500 million euros in total, the chairman of EDP, António Mexia, told Portuguese weekly newspaper Expresso.

EDP Renewables Europe, through the ACE Investment Fund LP, held the entire share capital of ACE Poland and ACE Italy, which together hold a portfolio of wind assets of nearly 600 megawatts.

This revenue and other businesses that are expected to increase the sale of assets to 500 million euros will allow the group to reduce debt to 16.5 billion euros at the end of the year, about 900 million less than last year.

This year, EDP will have to repay debt totaling 3 billion euros and another 1.7 billion euros in 2017. The group has said it is in a comfortable position to do so, thanks to a liquidity level of almost 5.4 billion euros.

But the group's debt is still considered high, with interest paid totaling 892 million euros, equivalent to 23 percent of EBITDA, according to the figures announced this week by the company at the annual re-

sults presentation.

Overall, the group's results improved due to EDP Renováveis and EDP Brasil, but profit fell 12 percent in 2015 to 913 million euros.

When it was awarded the privatisation of 21.35 percent of the Portuguese State's stake in EDP, in December 2011, for which it paid 2.69 billion euros, CTG pledged to invest 2 billion euros in EDP renewable energy projects.

The assets initially sold to CTG are located in Portugal and Brazil, after Spain had ceased to be a priority following regulatory changes in the country.

EDP Renováveis, now 49 percent owned by a subsidiary of CTG, CWEI (Hong Kong), is present in 11 countries and is considered the world's third largest renewables company.

In Africa, the group has pointed to joint investment of USD2 billion by 2020, focusing mainly on the dams that CTG will help build.

In January the CTG group signed contracts with the Brazilian Ministry of Mines and Energy for the concessions on two hydroelectric plants in the country - Jupia and Ilha Solteira - following an auction in which it paid 13.8 billion reais (USD3.66 billion) to get the award.

Recently, the vice president of CTG group, Lin ChuXue said in Beijing that the Portuguese-speaking countries were a priority, given the goal of being a world leader in renewable energy.

MDT/Macauhub

ADVERTORIAL

RED CARPET READY

Special occasions call for scene-stealing styles. Make an entrance with these award-winning looks from Sands Shoppes.



1. Dolce & Gabbana Runway look 2. Bobbi Brown Mascara 3. Chanel Chain bag 4. Parmigiani Watch 5. Van Cleef & Arpels Earrings 6. Bulgari Necklace 7. Chanel Eye shadow 8. Cartier Bangle 9. Atelier Versace Runway look 10. Gucci Pumps 11. Dior Shoes

MACAO LOVES LOCALS

Show your card and save!



Through 31 March, Macao residents can enjoy a 20% discount at participating restaurants and win a one-night stay at The Venetian Macao and Conrad Macao, or MOP1,500 dining voucher in a daily lucky draw. The first 10 WeChat followers will benefit from complimentary gondola rides at The Venetian Macao and Sands Cotai Central.



CALVIN KLEIN UNDERWEAR

Famed for its comfort, minimal design and eye-catching advertising campaigns, it comes as little surprise that powerhouse American brand Calvin Klein Underwear is the world's leading designer underwear brand for men and women.

Shop 2026, Level 2, Shoppes at Cotai Central

APM MONACO

Inspired by the joy of life on the French Riviera, jewellery brand APM Monaco fuses high-end design with a fast-fashion appetite for of-the-moment pieces. Expect covetable, wearable pieces that last beyond the season's end.

STK 101, Great Canal Street, Shoppes at Venetian



CORUM

Founded in 1955 in the Swiss town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, Corum not only upholds but elevates the area's heritage of horology to produce boldly designed high-performance timepieces ideal for the modern man.

Shop 012, Great Hall, Shoppes at Venetian

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Matthew Pennington,
Washington

CHINA is ripping off America in trade and should be slapped with a fat import tax. U.S. military allies Japan and South Korea are freeloading and need to pull their weight. The pan-Pacific trade pact negotiated by the Obama administration is a "total disaster."

With characteristic brashness, Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump has staked out uncompromising positions on Asia policy that could potentially roil U.S. relations with the region if he won the White House.

That's already prompted some sharp commentary from usually friendly countries in Asia, and expressions of contempt from Republican foreign policy hands who have vowed to oppose Trump.

Presidential hopefuls of both parties typically talk tough on China because of America's yawning trade deficit and the migration of U.S. manufacturing jobs to countries with cheaper labor. Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential nominee who lost the 2012 election, had vowed to declare China a currency manipulator on day one in office.

Trump is making the same threat, but also proposing a 45 percent tariff on Chinese imports into the U.S.

And as the business mogul vows to "Make America Great Again!" he's poking a stick elsewhere in Asia.

He has accused India and Vietnam, which have pulled closer to the U.S. as China's might has grown, of taking American jobs.

And Trump is questioning what the U.S. gets out of its decades-old security alliances with Japan and South Korea, which host 80,000 U.S. forces — the backbone of the U.S. military presence in Asia.

"If somebody attacks Japan, we have to immediately go and start World War III, okay? If we get attacked, Japan doesn't have to help us. Somehow, that

Trump's positions on trade, alliances could roil Sino-US ties



AP PHOTO
Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump

Trump opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership that he says would ultimately benefit China

doesn't sound so fair," Trump said on the stump in South Carolina Dec. 30.

Trump also asserts that Japan and South Korea should pay for U.S. military protection, but overlooks that they already pay about half the cost of stationing U.S. forces on their soil.

In Washington, more than 70 Republican national security experts have signed an open letter condemning Trump, saying

his insistence on close allies like Japan paying vast sums for protection, "is the sentiment of a racketeer, not the leader of alliances that have served us so well since World War II."

Asian commentators have responded to Trump's rise with a combination of puzzlement and anxiety.

"U.S. politics is in disarray," lamented the Nikkei newspaper in an editorial after Trump took an important step toward clinching the Republican nomination to contest the November election when he won seven states in "Super Tuesday" primaries. "Japan has taken for granted U.S. leadership in international politics. How are we supposed to face this situation?" it asked.

A commentary in South Korea's Dong-a-Ilbo newspaper said Seoul needs to start preparing for the possibility of a

Trump presidency, which could kick the U.S. economy back into a recession by employing protectionist trade policies.

On foreign policy, Trump is best known for promising to build a wall to stop illegal migration into the U.S. from Mexico, and for proposing a temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S., which inflamed sentiments in the Muslim world. But on the campaign trail, he has also highlighted the need to reform U.S. trade relationships in Asia to bring jobs back to America.

"I've not heard Trump criticized for that so much as his general super-nationalism. That aspect bothers people," said Richard Ellings, president of the National Bureau of Asian Research, who has been watching the reaction in Asia.

Should Trump win the nomination, he would likely face

Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democrats. When she was secretary of state, Clinton led the Obama administration's outreach to Asia's fast-growing economies — although as a candidate she has come against the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal that she once extolled.

Trump also opposes the TPP that he says would ultimately benefit China, although it is not among the 12 nations currently taking part.

In a Republican debate last week he called the agreement "a total disaster," primarily because it doesn't address currency manipulation. He blames undervalued currencies for trade imbalances with Japan, China and other countries.

Trump says that the sheer volume of U.S.-China trade gives Washington leverage over Beijing, although he exaggerates the size of imbalance. For years China was widely regarded as having undervalued its currency to help its exporters, but the yuan appreciated significantly against the dollar after 2010. Market forces appear to have played a greater role in a more recent depreciation in its value.

Trump also sees the imposition of tariffs as a way to get Beijing to put pressure on its erstwhile ally North Korea to stop nuclear brinkmanship.

"I mean, you've got this madman playing around with the nukes and it has to end and China has to do it," he told Fox News Jan. 8, referring to the unpredictable North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

But while he slams China's commercial practices and resolves to boost the U.S. military presence in the disputed East and South China Seas to check Chinese "adventurism," Trump gives back-handed compliments to Beijing's leaders as being smarter than Washington's. He has likened them to Super Bowl winners competing against a high school football team.

"I love China," Trump said at the Jan. 14 Republican debate. "I love the Chinese people but they laugh themselves, they can't believe how stupid the American leadership is." AP

US boy with cancer who wanted to be famous in China dies

AN 8-year-old American boy with terminal cancer whose dying wish to become famous in China reverberated around the world has died.

Dorian Murray died yesterday [Macau time], according to a post on the boy's official Facebook page.

"He was surrounded by people who love him and his transition to heaven

was very peaceful. He was embraced by both mom and dad," the post by family friend Kathryn Thomas said.

Dorian was diagnosed with a rare and untreatable form of pediatric cancer, alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma, when he was 4. After cancer cells spread to his spinal fluid, he and his family decided to stop

his chemotherapy treatment so he could enjoy the time he had left.

Not long after, Dorian told his father he wanted to be famous in China before he went to heaven. His father, Chris, a police officer in Connecticut, posted the wish on Dorian's Facebook page, urging people to use the hashtag #DStrong. It

spread across the globe.

People from places as far away as Australia and Florida sent him photos and well wishes. In China, people sent photos of themselves on the Great Wall holding signs reading #DStrong. Dorian and his family also received invitations to travel to China, but declined due to his health.



AP PHOTO
Dorian Murray

Celebrities including Justin Bieber, Conan O'Brien, William Shatner and Paula Abdul were among those who sent him well wishes.

Rhode Island Gov. Gina

Raimondo called Dorian a hero.

"That little boy inspired us, and our heart and thoughts and prayers go out to his family." Raimondo said yesterday. AP

Chinese inflation accelerates to 2.3 percent



Delegates read the work report delivered by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during the opening session of the annual National People's Congress

CHINA'S inflation accelerated to 2.3 percent in February, driven by a jump in food prices, but fell below the government's official target for the year.

The consumer price rise reported yesterday was up from January's 1.8 percent. Food prices rose 7.3 percent, up from the previous month's gain of 4.1 percent.

Inflation is forecast to edge higher this year, though analysts say it is unlikely to reach levels that would hamper plans by Chinese leaders to boost government spending to shore up slowing economic growth.

The government's official inflation target for the year is 3 percent. AP

Beijing to reform university programs to emphasize skills

CHINA'S education minister said yesterday that the country's second-tier universities should gradually reform their curricula to produce graduates with technical skills that better match the needs of the labor market.

Yuan Guiren said at a news conference on the sidelines of the annual national congress that most of the more than 2,500 Chinese universities and colleges focus on theory and scholarship while few teach applied skills.

"The programs at our higher learning institutes don't match our country's economy and industries," Yuan said. "As a result, our college graduates cannot find suitable jobs while employers cannot find suitable talents."

A record 7.65 million Chinese students will graduate from college this year, putting pressure on the government to find them proper employment or risk turning



them into a source of social instability.

Yuan said Beijing will encourage graduates to be enterprising while actively helping them find jobs.

"It's a challenge that the number of graduates increases while the economy slows," Yuan said.

Last year, China's economic growth slowed to a 25-

year low of 6.9 percent. On Saturday, Premier Li Keqiang said in a report that authorities have set a growth target of 6.5 to 7 percent for this year. AP

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JAPAN

USD6,065 hunt for blonde avatar shows dark side of games

Yuji Nakamura

JUST before the New Year holiday in Japan, ads for a smartphone game called Granblue Fantasy began appearing on television and in magazines. Granblue was already huge in Japan with more than 7 million people downloading it to fly giant airships and battle an evil empire with swords and magic. Cygames Inc., the company that makes the game, also told people about a new promotion: For a limited time, it would be easier to win a few characters, including one named Anchira.

Anchira is a rarely-seen, much-sought-after ally: blonde, scantily-clad, big-eyed. She's the kind of partner that can mean the difference between victory and defeat because of special healing powers. Players can win access to her with mysterious crystals that cost 300 yen (USD2.67) apiece and then cracking them open to find out what's inside. Sometimes they contain valuable characters like Anchira; other times they hold weapons or armor. Under normal circumstances, there's a 3 percent chance of locating rare characters like Anchira, but for the week Cygames was running its promotion, the chances would double.

Delirium ensued. Millions of new players downloaded Granblue. People across the country spent hours on end chasing the promoted characters.

One Japanese man, who goes by "Taste" online, began playing about three hours before midnight on Dec. 31, streaming his session in a game players' chatroom. For hours he spent money in furious pur-



suit of Anchira. His audience swelled from a handful to more than 10,000 as the New Year arrived, and before he knew it, Taste burned through \$2,665 without unlocking her. The chatroom crowd alternated from mockery to pity, wondering when his credit card company would cut him off. But Taste kept going, buying hundreds and then thousands of tokens. Finally at about 3 a.m., on attempt No. 2,276, he unlocked Anchira. The crowd erupted. He had spent \$6,065.

Video of Taste's expensive session was circulated widely in the weeks after the episode, sparking a backlash against Cygames, a subsidiary of CyberAgent Inc., and other top Japanese gamemakers. Players shared similar experiences of spending thousands of dollars on Granblue Fantasy and posted their own videos of losing fortunes. One man interviewed by Bloomberg News said he sunk more than \$7,000 into the game during the special New Year's promotion, and Daiki Kataoka, who lost more than \$800 during that period, was so incensed at what he saw as manipulation he collected

2,000 signatures for a petition calling for more regulation.

"Unless we change things from the very core, this situation will continue," said Kataoka.

Cygames initially didn't respond to criticism, then weeks later apologized. It granted credit to some customers - in virtual money - for what they spent and will begin implementing safeguards yesterday so players can get the prize they want if they go through 300 unsuccessful attempts. That would cap spending on each virtual item at about \$800. It also said it will begin disclosing the odds of winning each individual item.

There could be more fallout. Shares of the nation's mobile gamemakers tumbled by a total value of more than \$1 billion the day Cygames began issuing refunds. It was reminiscent of the hit stocks took in 2012 after lawmakers called some of the industry's tactics predatory and passed tougher regulations.

The gamer rebellion threatens the status quo in one of the strangest and most profitable corners of the digital universe. Japan's game companies have long been the envy of the indus-

try for their ability to produce big hits. But the controversy is exposing some companies' methods for extracting such huge sums and creating pressure for change.

"It's the perfect fodder for people who are against the mobile game industry in Japan," said Serkan Toto, founder of consultant Kantan Games Inc., which specializes in Japanese mobile games. "The videos are basically delivering the ammunition for people who are critical of the industry for being exploitative and greedy."

In the fantastical Granblue world, players assume the role of a young boy or girl from a far-flung village, embarking on a quest to defeat a dark empire by traveling from floating island to floating island, teaming with other rebels and employing special talents to fight imposing overlords. But instead of wookiees, droids, and light sabers, Granblue Fantasy is filled with spiky-haired men, curvaceous women and dragons. The basic game is free to play, but players progress faster if they buy weapons and characters with real money.

The enigmatic crystals obscure what players are actually buying. Granblue employs a technique called "gacha," which takes its name from Japanese vending machines that dispense prizes in plastic capsules without showing the contents. Players have to crack the crystals open - after they've paid for them - to see what they have won.

Certain forms of gacha have been banned in Japan because they're too manipulative. Granblue doesn't use explicitly forbidden gacha tactics, but Taste's Dec. 31 video shows how

effective the legal gacha can be. Taste, who didn't respond to requests for comment, bought crystals in bulk and cracked them every few seconds. He didn't bother with the game's battles - the main attraction for most players - for hours at a time as he pursued Anchira.

He wasn't the only one drawn by the New Year's promotions. Another gamer said he spent about \$7,200 over three days in early January to acquire Anchira. He's too chagrined to reveal his name, he said, but he's in his 20s and works in the tech industry in Osaka.

Some players shelled out a small fortune and never even got the girl. Kataoka forked over about 100,000 yen within hours, but failed to find Anchira. Inspired by Taste's video and other angry gamers, Kataoka accumulated 2,000 signatures and filed a formal complaint with the Consumer Affairs Agency. The petition claims the company led a misleading advertising campaign and potentially violated the rules passed in 2012.

Kataoka accumulated statistics from his own games and other users, and came away convinced Cygames didn't fulfill the 6 percent winning percentage it had advertised. An official at the agency wouldn't confirm the receipt of the complaint or explain what action the agency may take, and Kataoka said he hasn't heard back from the regulator yet.

Cygames denied any wrongdoing. "With regards to Granblue Fantasy, we are not aware of any operational issues or problems whatsoever," said Sonoko Miyakawa, a CyberAgent spokeswoman. **Bloomberg**

SOUTH KOREA

Human Go champion 'speechless' after second loss to machine

THE human Go champion said he was left "speechless" after his second straight loss to Google's Go-playing machine yesterday in a highly-anticipated human versus machine face-off.

Lee Sedol, one of the best Go players in the world with 18 world championships, was grim and ashen after the game, which lasted more than four hours.

"I'm quite speechless," he said at the press conference that was livestreamed on YouTube. "It was a clear loss on my part. From the beginning there was no moment I thought I was leading."

The latest victory by AlphaGo over South Korea's Lee puts Google's Alpha-

Go team one victory away from claiming the USD1 million prize.

If AlphaGo wins, the prize money is to be donated to UNICEF, Go organizations and charities.

AlphaGo's first win against Lee, on Wednesday, shook the Go-playing world, marking a milestone in the development of artificial intelligence.

Hundreds of thousands of South Koreans, even those who do not play the popular board game, followed the games on live TV and on YouTube. All major local newspapers reported Lee's loss on their front pages.

"2-year-old artificial intelligence masters 5,000-year-old human Go," said a

headline in the Chosun Ilbo, South Korea's most circulated daily newspaper.

Many had believed it would take another decade for computers to conquer the ancient Chinese board game, one of the most creative games ever devised and the only board game left to conquer after chess was mastered by computers in 1997. Go is much more complex than chess.

Google's team compared AlphaGo's win to landing on the moon.

The three remaining games run until Tuesday. Even if Lee loses the third game, he will play all five games.

Lee, 33, brimmed with confidence two weeks ago but that confidence was mis-



South Korean professional Go player Lee Sedol, right, appears on the screen during the second match of the Google DeepMind Challenge Match

sing after two straight defeats.

"The third game is not going to be easy for me," he said. **AP**



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USA

Peter Frampton on that crazy summer 40 years ago

AP PHOTO



Peter Frampton

Mark Kennedy, New York

IT'S been 40 years since Peter Frampton's life was turned upside down — in a good, crazy way.

The former Humble Pie member was enjoying some modest success as a solo artist when he followed the then-conventional wisdom and followed up his four studio albums with a double live album.

That's when all hell broke loose.

"Be careful what you wish for," says Frampton now with a rueful smile.

Within a month of its January 1976 release, the album "Frampton Comes Alive!" was in the Top 10 and getting stronger as the weather warmed. He spent a record 17 weeks at the top of the charts, thanks to the singles "Show Me the Way," "Baby, I Love Your Way" and the 14-minute "Do You Feel Like We Do," with its distinctive distorted vocal effect.

One day, his manager called and asked if he was sitting down.

"I said, 'Yeah.' He said, 'Well, you've just made history. It's the biggest-selling album of all time. You've just beaten Carole King's 'Tapestry' record,'" Frampton said.

"That's when I got nervous and a little bit anxious because to have the No. 1 album was unbelievable. I mean, I never, ever thought that I could approach that. But then to hear that, that's sort of surreal."

The English-born Frampton, now 65, is celebrating that crazy summer with a new release,

"Acoustic Classics," a CD of stripped-down versions of his best-known songs that includes one new tune, "All Down to Me." He wanted his beloved songs to sound fresh and intimate, as if they were written the night before.

"I was very pleased that the songs held up," said the singer-guitarist. "Very early on, I learned that you can have a great band, you can have a great producer, great studio, everything can be right, but if you don't have great songs, you've got nothing."

After the monster success of the 1976 live album, the singer's big hair and good looks led his record company to repackage him as a pop star. His next album was rushed, against his objections, and didn't do as well. Nothing could.

"I've learned that a pop star's career is about 18 months but a musician's career lasts a lifetime. I kind of morphed — as quickly as I could — into a musician," he said. "It was a crazy period."

Gordon Kennedy, a Nashville, Tennessee-based songwriter and musician who has written songs for Eric Clapton, Garth Brooks and Ricky Skaggs, has worked with Frampton for 16 years. He calls him "above everything else, this ferocious musician."

"He is a guy who, in some ways, had to overcome his own image. And it wasn't an image that he necessarily created," said Kennedy. "All the while, he's just wanting to play guitar."

Over the years, Frampton acted a little — he had a part in

"Almost Famous" and mocked himself in Geico ads — and worked with George Harrison and toured with old friend David Bowie, whom he had known since he was 12.

Bowie, who invited Frampton on his Glass Spider Tour, was a mentor. "For all of us, we've lost a genius, a one-of-a-kind. He taught so many people how to redirect your career — including me," Frampton said.

Redemption came in 2007 when Frampton's instrumental album "Fingerprints" won a Grammy Award, his first. "I was speechless at that time because it meant so much to me to get that vote of confidence as a player," he said.

"Over the last few years — since 'Fingerprints' — things kind of sped up. There's more demand for me out there live. I've been working really well every year. It's fantastic because I love to play live."

Frampton these days lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and is father to four kids, the youngest a college student at 19. He's come to terms with the album that defined his career.

"When I kick the bucket, the first sentence will be, 'known for the live album 'Frampton Comes Alive!' I know that," he said. He also knows how beloved his songs are, especially "Baby, I Love Your Way."

"I have actually met children conceived to that song," he said, laughing. "It was a very personal song to me and made me realize the more personal you make it, the more everybody else can see that in themselves." **AP**

USA

'Spring Break for nerds' kicks off today in Austin, Texas

THE smell of BBQ is in the air and talk about virtual reality, online privacy and the latest hot apps is on everyone's minds. It's time again for South by Southwest Interactive, an annual tech festival dubbed "Spring Break for nerds."

The five-day festival, which kicks off today in Austin, Texas, is more freewheeling than other tech conferences like CES in Las Vegas and Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. It's where St. Bernards delivering Mophie smartphone chargers to festival goers — as the charger maker arranged last year — can garner as much buzz as the apps brought to fame there, including Foursquare in 2009 and Twit-

ter in 2007.

"It's an interesting place to see what types of things are bubbling up in technology," said Ryan Hoover, founder of Product Hunt, a service for people to rate new tech products. "It has this mixture or collision of technology and entertainment. When different types of minds and people are connecting together, new ideas come out."

The festival has grown larger and more corporate over the years, with sponsors including McDonald's and Samsung, but it still draws an eclectic crowd of movers and shakers in the tech industry each year.

This year's sessions include one on a futuristic transportation system,

Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, which aims to move people in a capsule inside an enclosed tube track at 760 miles per hour — faster than commercial airliners.

Twitter co-founder Biz Stone will discuss the evolution of online search, while "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" director J.J. Abrams will tout his new app for video editing and sharing, KnowMe.

Even President Obama will make an appearance, the first for a U.S. president at the festival. He plans to talk about civic engagement with the editor-in-chief of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit news outlet based in Austin.

Ethan Kurzweil, a Bessemer venture capitalist who has attended the fes-

tival for eight years, said that while South by Southwest Interactive is no longer the little-known yet influential festival it once was, "you can still hear people talking about the very-bleeding-edge consumer tech trends."

South by Southwest Interactive is part of the larger SXSW festival, which also features sections for movies, music and games over 10 days. The interactive conference drew 33,825 registrants from more than 80 countries last year; the combined festival had about 80,000.

Organizers drew criticism several months ago when, faced with threats, they canceled two panels on harassment in online video games. In response, the festival will hold a

AP PHOTO



From left: JJ Castillo, Vanessa Cottingham, and Pamela Ledbetter, wave at a Koceto Jo prototype 360-degree view video camera during the SXSW Interactive Festival in Austin, Texas

day-long "online harassment summit" on Saturday, with a slate of panels examining the problem of online harassment.

Another hot topic will be the U.S. government's demands that Apple create a software program to bypass security features in an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino mass shooters. One panel will focus on ways to improve the relationship between the government and the tech industry, while preserving privacy and security.

And virtual reality will

continue to garner buzz, particularly as many systems such as Oculus Rift, HTC Vive and Sony Playstation VR are expected to hit the market this year. Some sessions will be part of the SXSW gaming festival, which runs March 17 to 19. But the interactive festival will have such panels as "Holy light field! Creating life-like presence in VR." And Samsung will show off VR chairs that offer motion simulation as people wear Samsung's USD100 VR headset, Gear VR. **AP**

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

- 10:30 Boonie Bears - Sr.2
- 11:25 Young Adult
- 11:55 Miscellaneous
- 12:55 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:25 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:25 Soap Opera
- 18:10 Classic Music
- 18:40 Contest
- 19:30 Miscellaneous
- 20:00 Documentary Serie
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Drama
- 22:00 Intelligence S.1
- 22:45 Documentary Series
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Brother's and Sisters S5

SUNDAY

- 10:30 Young Children
- 11:00 Sunday Mass
- 12:00 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Zig Zag
- 17:00 Miscellaneous
- 18:10 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 18:40 Documentary Serie
- 19:35 Comedy
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Contraponto
- 22:00 Operation Cloud Lab Secrets of the Skies
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 23:45 Miscellaneous

offbeat

MAYOR PLANS TO CROSS FLORIDA STRAITS ON MAKESHIFT RAFT

A Florida mayor says he's determined to return home from a visit to Cuba alone in a makeshift raft, despite warnings against the journey from the U.S. Coast Guard.

DeBary Mayor Clint Johnson said this week he devised his plan to better understand what Cuban migrants experience when crossing the Florida Straits.

Johnson plans to fly into Havana next month with some pieces for the raft and assemble it there with more pieces he can acquire locally.

While he says he will heed a Coast Guard warning to carry an emergency beacon that can broadcast his location, he insists his that his raft will be powered only by currents and not a motor.

"I don't want to get too far away from the purpose of doing this," Johnson said. "I want to understand what the people have gone through when they came here on a raft."

The number of Cubans making their own way illegally across those waters has surged for over a year amid concerns that special immigration privileges for Cubans may soon end. Under the policy known as "wet foot/dry foot," Cubans who reach U.S. shore generally can stay and pursue citizenship, while those caught at sea are returned home.

cinema



CINETEATRO

10 MAR - 16 MAR



GODS OF EGYPT

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

MERMAID

ROOM 1

7.30 pm

Director: Stephen Chau

Starring: Deng Chao, Show Lo, Zhang Yu Qi

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 92min



THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Robert Schwentke

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Jeff Daniels, Naomi Watts

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min

LONDON HAS FALLING

ROOM 3

(10-11, 13-16 Mar) 2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.45 pm

(12-13 Mar) 2.15, 5.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Babak Najafi

Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart, Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 99min

THE ROOM

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Lenny Abrahamson

Starring: Brie Larson, Jacob Tremblay, Sean Bridgers

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 118min



(12-13 Mar) KUNG FU PANDA 3

ROOM 3

4.00 pm

Director: Alessandro Carloni, Jennifer Yuh

Language: Chinese(English and Cantonese)

Duration: 95min

MACAU TOWER

03 MAR - 23 MAR

GODS OF EGYPT

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

this day in history



1977 ROMAN POLANSKI CHARGED WITH RAPE

Film director Roman Polanski has been charged with raping a 13-year-old girl at the home of Hollywood star Jack Nicholson.

The 43-year-old, who is out on bail, will appear in a Los Angeles court next week.

He could receive a prison sentence of up to 50 years if he is found guilty.

Polanski is facing four charges including rape, sodomy, child molestation and giving drugs to a minor.

According to Los Angeles Police, the rape took place after a photograph shoot at Mr Nicholson's home.

Polanski was later arrested at a hotel in Beverley Hills after the child's mother went to the police.

She said that her daughter had been taken to the Nicholson home on the understanding that she was being photographed for the French edition of Vogue.

But the mother later revealed that her 13-year-old child had been raped.

Police also raided Mr Nicholson's home and arrested his girlfriend Angelica Huston, daughter of film director John Huston, after she was found to be in possession of a small amount of cocaine. She too was later freed on bail.

Mr Nicholson was not in town at the time and Los Angeles Police said he was in no way connected with the events.

Polanski was the husband of actress Sharon Tate, who was one of seven people murdered by the Charles Manson family in 1969.

Born in Paris but raised in Poland, he suffered a tragic childhood - his Jewish mother was taken to Auschwitz concentration camp and killed in the gas chambers, and his father survived Mauthausen concentration camp and Polanski himself managed to escape the Cracow ghetto.

His most famous film is Rosemary's Baby, a horror fantasy in which Mia Farrow gives birth to Satan's child.

Polanski's last major assignment was as guest editor for last year's final issue of the French edition of Vogue.

It featured a gallery of leading actresses.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In August 1977 Roman Polanski pleaded guilty to having unlawful sex with the 13-year-old girl.

In December of that year he went into prison for a 90-day psychiatric study but was released after 42 days.

Knowing that he faced a possible jail sentence, Polanski jumped bail and fled to France in February 1978.

The judge who was due to pass sentence on the French-born director, said he only intended to impose a light sentence on Polanski and he would have expelled him from the US had he not fled the country.

Since then, the French born director has been unable to return to the US for fear of arrest and imprisonment, and he has avoided making films in the UK because of the danger of extradition.

He continued to direct several films in Europe. His film The Pianist landed Mr Polanski an Oscar in 2002 for best director but he was unable to attend the ceremony for fear of arrest.

Thirty years after his original conviction, in September 2009 Mr Polanski was arrested in Switzerland on a US arrest warrant. His victim had long since agreed an out-of-court settlement and called for charges against him to be dropped.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Indulge your highest impulses today -- go out to an art gallery or try an avant-garde concert.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You need to stretch yourself out somewhat and really meet others head-on.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Try to let go of your preconceptions today -- even more so than on other days!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to show that you can help people today -- even to those you help out almost every day!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You feel incredibly giving today -- even more so than usual -- and you may find that you're scoring triple points for all your karmic offerings.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You need to adjust to circumstances today -- and they are changing quickly!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to check out some big-picture ideas today -- otherwise, who knows how long this ridiculous problem will persist?

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You get some news today -- but it sounds too good to be true!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your friendships are highlighted today -- and it's a great time to meet new people!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to speed things up today -- even if you don't know why.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Someone new makes life a little sweeter for you today, so make sure to let them know you're grateful!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to think carefully -- especially if you're in a tricky negotiation of some kind.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

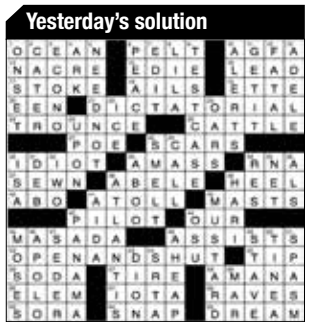
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Founded; abbr.; 6- Remnant; 10- Droops; 14- Tree with red flowers; 15- Acquire through merit; 16- Honeycomb unit; 17- Prepare to propose; 18- Not tricked by; 19- Creme-filled snack; 20- Verdi opera; 22- Enticing; 24- Actor Vigoda; 26- Cushion, as a blow; 27- First book of the Bible; 31- Cpl., for one; 32- Soul mate?; 33- Garr and Hatcher; 36- UK fliers; 39- Mont Blanc, par exemple; 40- Doctor; 41- Deutchmark replacement; 42- Mao ___-tung; 43- Silt deposit; 44- Kind of cat; 45- Sun. delivery; 46- Most strange; 48- Commence; 51- Orch. section; 52- Assemble; 54- More strange; 59- Salty drop; 60- I could ___ horse!; 62- Italian white wine; 63- Mayberry kid; 64- Not mint; 65- Domesticates; 66- Western Indians; 67- Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko; 68- Stylish;

DOWN: 1- Nevada town; 2- Transmitted; 3- Biblical pronoun; 4- "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author; 5- Gravel under railroad ties; 6- ___ volente (God willing); 7- Trade; 8- Some Art Deco works; 9- Pertaining to a sundial; 10- Soprano Renata; 11- Hawk's home; 12- First American to orbit Earth; 13- Plod (through); 21- Sapporo sash; 23- Some PX patrons; 25- Lauder of cosmetics; 27- Steps down to an Indian river; 28- Slippery fish; 29- Neck part; 30- Before, in verse; 34- Begley and Wynn; 35- Ascends; 36- Dominion; 37- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 38- Four-time Indy 500 winner; 40- God of dreams; 41- Quarterback Manning; 43- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 44- Takes into custody; 45- Frightens; 47- Somme summer; 48- All thumbs; 49- Marsh of mystery; 50- Tantalize; 52- Langston Hughes poem; 53- AAA suggestions; 55- Wander; 56- ___ Camera; 57- At any time; 58- Take five; 61- Citrus drink



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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Benfica, PSG made it to the quarters

A fortunate ricochet off the bar and Nicolas Gaitan's follow-up header helped to send Benfica into the quarter-finals of the Champions League yesterday [Macau time] with a 2-1 win over Zenit St. Petersburg.

Going into the second leg game 1-0 down against an injury-depleted Benfica, Zenit laid siege to Benfica's goal in the second half of the Round of 16 match. The home side was rewarded for its efforts in the 69th minute when Yuri Zhirkov found space on the left flank to cross for Hulk to head home.

Benfica was angered by the goal, arguing that a free-kick should have been awarded in the build-up when Zhirkov bodychecked Nelson Semedo to win the ball.

But the Portuguese club scored a crucial goal in the 85th minute when Raul Jimenez's curled volley was tipped onto the bar by goalkeeper Yuri Lodygin and fell perfectly for Gaitan's header.

Benfica made it 3-1 on aggregate with the last kick of the game when Talisca hit a half-volley from inside the box in the 96th.

"I was expecting us to win today," Benfica coach Rui Vitoria said. "We played very well, it's a well-deserved victory for us."

The win followed a last-minute victory for Benfica in the first leg in Lisbon, where Jonas scored the only goal in the 92nd-minute. It was also a repeat of a two-leg win over



Benfica's Nico Gaitan, right, scores his side's first goal during their Champions League Round of 16 second leg soccer match between Zenit and Benfica at Petrovsky stadium in St. Petersburg, Russia

Zenit at the same stage of the competition four years ago.

Zenit coach Andre Villas-Boas was morose in defeat.

"It's a pity for a team that pushed so well and created some great chances that we end up losing this game and the tie," he said. "I think it was a bit unfair what happened in today's

game ... It was not our day."

Zenit could have scored more were it not for a brave performance by Benfica goalkeeper Ederson.

Ederson put his body on the line to close down first Igor Smolnikov, who collided with the keeper and left him needing treatment in the 60th,

and then later Artem Dzyuba, who hesitated a little too long after storming through the defense in the 81st, allowing the keeper to make the stop.

The Russian club's record of never having reached the Champions League quarterfinals continues.

While Zenit keeper Lodygin's

spectacular one-handed stop of Jimenez's shot backfired when the ball came back off the bar, he had pulled off a similar save in the 72nd with an acrobatic, one-handed dive to stop a looping header from Victor Lindelof that was destined for the top corner.

In the other match of the night, Zlatan Ibrahimovic demonstrated his enduring attacking threat by steering Paris Saint-Germain into the Champions League quarterfinals with a goal and an assist in a 2-1 victory at Chelsea.

By replicating the first-leg triumph in the French capital last month, PSG eliminated Chelsea for the second successive season in the round of 16 but it is far more damaging for the London club this time.

Languishing in 10th place in the Premier League after a feeble title defense, Chelsea will almost certainly be out of the Champions League next season for the first time since Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich bought the club in 2003.

Although Chelsea conceded in the 16th minute when Ibrahimovic's cross was turned in by Adrien Rabiot, Diego Costa leveled 11 minutes later on his return from injury.

But Costa was forced off on the hour and Chelsea's hopes were deflated.

Ibrahimovic tapped in his 50th Champions League goal seven minutes later after being set up by Angel Di Maria on a sparkling night for the winger. **MDT/AP**

BADMINTON

Three-time champ Lee Chong Wei falls in All England first round

THREE-TIME champion Lee Chong Wei was upset in the first round of the badminton All England Championships.

Just when the round seemed set to finish virtually incident-free, the last match of an 11-hour day stunned the remaining fans, as B. Sai Praneeth of India, who lost all four previous meetings with Lee, ousted the second-seeded Malaysian 24-22, 22-20 in what he called his "greatest victory ever."

The defeat ended Lee's 21-match winning streak,

which included titles in France, China, Hong Kong, and Malaysia since October. They helped him rebound quicker than even he expected from an eight-month doping suspension last year, and rise in the rankings from 182 to 2.

Praneeth was promoted from qualifying late after teammate and Commonwealth champion Parupalli Kashyap withdrew with an injured knee.

He came from 15-7 down to tie the first game. Lee was first to game point but Praneeth got him on his third game point. In

the second game, Lee led 16-10 then 17-12, but Praneeth tied him at 19, rubbed out a game point for Lee, and won the last three points.

Lee's exit opened up the bottom half of the draw. The top half was top heavy with top-ranked Chen Long, the defending champion, Chinese teammate and five-time champ Lin Dan, and third-seeded Jan O Jorgensen of Denmark, all of whom won their openers in straight sets.

The only other seeded player of 16 to lose

across the men's and women's fields was men's No. 7 Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan, to Tommy Sugiarto of Malaysia, 21-14, 21-14.

Chou, a quarterfinalist last year, beat Sugiarto just last month in the Asia team championships, and was coming off a run to the German Open final last week. But he looked tired against Sugiarto.

In the women's event, Carolina Marin's title defense almost tripped up in the first round. The Spaniard won her first meeting with Bae Yeon-



Lee Chong Wei

ju of South Korea 25-23, 20-22, 21-15, but it was a struggle all the way.

Marin took more than an hour to secure the win. She missed two game points at 20-18 in the first before winning that 25-23, led 20-18 again with two match points in the second but couldn't clinch it, and finally pulled away from 12-12 in the

third.

She knows what to expect in her next match, as she has a 3-0 record against Maria Febe Kusumastuti of Indonesia.

None of the other seeded players dropped a game, including No. 2 Saina Nehwal of India, the runner-up last year, and No. 3 and Olympic champion Li Xuerui of China. **AP**

opinion

Kapok
 Eric Sautédé



THE MALEDICTION OF THE SECOND TERM

To paraphrase Scott Chiang, the president of the New Macau Association (NMA), talking to the press after the rather suspicious circumstances of the "suicide by asphyxiation" of the head of customs, Mandy Lai Man Wa, in late October last year: "you would be hard-pressed to find anyone in Macao who actually believes in the version of the government". Except this time, it has nothing to do with Mrs Lai, but the less dramatic and yet possibly equally traumatizing arrest on February 27 of former prosecutor-general Ho Chio Meng on charges of fraud, abuse of power and document forgery.

The authentic feeling of disbelief is not really that the man who was the executive's embodiment of the law for fifteen years could be corrupt and had abused his power to skim some 2,000 public contracts with the complicity of some of his staff and indelicate profit-prone local businessmen - only buffoons on TV get excited by the numbers. But rather that the government would be so intent on stressing that Mr Ho's misdemeanor was unconnected with his expedition of justice, and thus the fulfillment of his duties was untainted.

The issues connected to procurement in Macao, that Sonia Chan, the secretary for administration and justice, is willing to tackle and legally resolve "within a year" - this yearly horizon being the new fad - should easily gather consensus, although independent legislator José Pereira Coutinho, who also heads the biggest would-be civil service union, ATFPM, already pointed out that the discretionary awarding of public contracts from the top was the norm rather than the exception in Macao; thus the Ho "case" was "just the tip of the iceberg". This is another way of saying that the fish rots from the head down...

At the very distant end of the political spectrum, there seems to be another consensus that "there is more to it". Jorge Neto Valente, the rather pro-establishment president of the Macao Lawyers Association, could not help emphasizing that the whole affair was casting doubts on the entire judicial system, especially because there had been persistent rumors of "influence peddling" - about whom to prosecute when - within the public ministry when Ho was in charge. For Mr Valente, the corruption charges regarding procurement almost seem secondary. Then, far away from Mr Valente - politically speaking of course! - Scott Chiang and Jason Chao, the vice-president of NMA, voiced their skepticism that Ho's judicial responsibilities had been entirely shaded from his alleged misconduct for personal enrichment. Their question is simple: why break the law for a poorly remunerated paint job when you can break it for high return power meddling? He that will steal a pin will break a pound...

This "controversy" is now gathering additional momentum. Prominent lawyers and even a legal advisor of the Legislative Assembly started looking at the affair from a broader perspective. If we leave aside infatuated comments of one lawyer annoyed at a system that now prevents the boundless hiring of cheap and competent labor from Portugal for law firms, most of the remarks that were made (and hopefully will continue to be) deserve our whole attention. First of all because they concern the rule of law in Macao and the upholding of a "second system" that rests on clearly defined norms, due respect for processes and infused consideration for both the letter and the spirit of the law and the protection of individual rights. Second because they raise a core question related to the "independence" of our justice: the very fact that again Mr Ho will be denied his right to appeal - just like the case of Ao Man Long - is more than problematic: it is in contradiction with the Basic Law.

Lack of resolve in tackling this issue will be a litmus test of what is to become of the "one country, two systems" formula in Macao. Let it not become a malediction of the second term of the Chief Executive.

THE BUZZ POPE IMPOSES FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT FOR SAINTS AFTER ABUSES

Pope Francis has imposed new financial accountability regulations on the process for making saints after gross abuses were revealed. Francis issued norms yesterday that require external vigilance over the Vatican bank accounts created for canonization causes as well as regular budgeting and accounting to make sure donations are being used correctly.

The reforms come after two blockbuster books based on confidential Vatican documents revealed that the Vatican's saint-making machine brought in hundreds of thousands of euros for each saintly candidate but had virtually no financial oversight. The books estimated the average cost for each beatification cause at around 500,000 euros.

Skygazers catch flight for prime view of total solar eclipse



The full shadow of the moon during the total solar eclipse on Tuesday

Rachel D'Oro, Anchorage

SKYGAZERS from around the U.S. caught a flight from Alaska to Hawaii for prime viewing of a total solar eclipse that unfolded over parts of Indonesia and the Indian and Pacific oceans.

A dozen eclipse enthusiasts were among the 181 passengers on the plane yesterday [Macao time] that departed Anchorage for Honolulu. The rare event occurs when the moon is close enough to Earth to completely block out the sun.

Joe Rao, an associate astronomer at the American

Museum of Natural History's Hayden Planetarium in New York, called Alaska Airlines last fall, explaining that the flight would be in the right place for the eclipse. The route was expected to encounter the darkest shadow of the moon as it passed over Earth.

Problem was, the plane would be passing by nearly a half-hour too soon.

The airline rescheduled the flight to depart 25 minutes later, and it rendezvoused with the eclipse's sweet spot nearly 700 miles north of Honolulu. After the schedule tweak, Rao and a dozen other

astronomy aficionados booked seats for the big show at 36,000 feet.

Rao, like other self-dubbed "eclipse geeks," was thrilled about setting out to witness his 11th such spectacle.

"It is an experience," he said of watching the sun turn into a giant black disk in the sky. "Every fiber of you gets involved in those few moments when the sun is totally eclipsed."

The eclipse was expected to last just under two minutes in that location. The last total solar eclipse was in March 2015, and the one before that was in 2012.

Craig Small, a semiretired Hayden Planetarium astronomer, was viewing his 31st total eclipse. To mark each viewing, he carried a special eclipse flag made in 1972.

Also on board was Dan McGlaun, who brought 200 pairs of special filter glasses to distribute to other passengers. McGlaun, a project manager who runs eclipse2017.org, was excited about viewing his 12th total eclipse.

"It's going to be amazing. It always is," he said before boarding. "It's a universal reaction when you see an eclipse. You cheer, you scream, you cry." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	20-40 Good
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: D5M/G

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN President Ashraf Ghani has ordered his government to reopen the case of a woman beaten to death last year by a frenzied mob outside a Kabul shrine, just days after the country's highest court reduced the sentences of the 13 men convicted of her murder. The move comes ahead of the first anniversary of Farkhunda Malikzada's killing and as a leading international rights group issued a report slamming the Afghan judicial system over its failure to deliver justice.

NEW ZEALAND's central bank cuts its benchmark interest rate to a record low 2.25 percent and says the rate could go lower yet as the country grapples with weak international growth and lower prices for its crucial dairy exports.

EU The European Central Bank has cut its main interest rate to 0 percent from 0.05 percent as part of a package of measures intended to revive the eurozone economy. The ECB will also expand its quantitative easing programme from 60b to 80b euros a month. The scheme will now include the purchase of corporate bonds as well as government debt.



SOUTH AFRICA Jailed Polish immigrant Janusz Walus who killed prominent anti-apartheid leader Chris Hani in 1993 won a bid for parole yesterday, igniting bitter memories of racial unrest during white minority rule as well as fresh scrutiny of the balance between punishment and leniency for crimes committed during that era.

USA A Beverly Hills gallery and auction house official has pleaded guilty to smuggling an estimated USD1 million worth of items made from rhinoceros horn, elephant ivory and coral. Federal prosecutors announced that Joseph Chait pleaded guilty to two charges in a New York federal court. He could face up to 10 years in prison. He helped clients from China and other countries smuggle restricted items out of the U.S.

times square by rodrigo

