



MACAU AND THE SUBVERSIVE BOGAGE
Bocage, one of the most celebrated Portuguese poets of all time, lived in Macau for approximately six months

P4



'A HUB FOR GLOBAL FILMS'
Marco Mueller says that the future Macau film festival will be a point of entry for foreign productions to enter the Greater China market

P6



RAPID MELT OF NEW ZEALAND GLACIERS

P13

THU. 17
Mar 2016

T. 15°/ 19° C
H. 85/ 99%

Blackberry email service powered by CTM

N° 2519 **MOP 7.50**
HKD 9.50

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

Times

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



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREA's highest court sentences an American tourist who stole a banner to 15 years in prison with hard labor for subversion. Otto Warmbier, 21, was convicted and sentenced in a one-hour trial in the Supreme Court. [More on p12](#)

SINGAPORE's government announced yesterday that it has arrested four citizens accused of links to armed conflict in Yemen and to a Kurdish militia group fighting against the Islamic State group. It said the four men were arrested in separate cases under the country's Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without charge. Two have since been released with restrictions.

INDONESIAN police said they killed two suspected Chinese Uighur militants during a hunt for the country's most wanted Islamic radical. The two men were shot during a gunbattle this week in mountainous jungle terrain in Central Sulawesi province, local police said.



AUSTRALIA A piece of debris recently found on an Indian Ocean island where a wing fragment from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 had previously washed ashore is unlikely to be from the missing plane.

More on [backpage](#)

Li pledges more reform, tries to reassure on growth

P10,11 CHINA



St. Paul's to turn green tonight marking Irish national feast

P3



Submissions to 'Sound & Image Challenge' open until June

ORGANIZERS of the Sound & Image Challenge (SIC), a project that was launched six years ago by the Center for Creative Industries, (commonly known as Creative Macau), announced yesterday that the 7th edition of the event will feature two competitions; a short-film contest ("Shorts") and a music video contest ("Volume"). Submissions for both contests will be open until June 16.

José Luis Sales Marques,

president of the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), which co-organizes the festival, said at a press conference yesterday that the event aims to foster creative cooperation between artists from all over the world.

The Sound & Image Challenge Festival will be held between December 6 and 11. The "Shorts" category awards the best short films in four categories (Fiction, Documentary, Animation and Advertise-

ment). The "Volume" category calls on contestants to submit music videos using Macau compositions. The winning music video will be recorded as the festival's theme song. A series of cultural activities will be held between December 6 and 11, including shortlisted film showings, public voting, seminars about film production and development, as well as the screening of winning and nominated films.

Last year's festival received 25 nominated films from 10 countries and regions, namely France, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Spain, Poland, Russia, Greenland, Hong Kong and Macau.

According to Lúcia Lemos, project manager of Creative Macau, and the event's director, the best projects will have a "remarkable impact on Macau's filmography culture through consecutive showings." **Staff reporter**

ARTS

'Colour Exchange' painting exhibition opens

THE local delegation of the Orient Foundation held the inauguration of its new exhibition, "Colour Exchange: Painting," this week. The exhibition will be open until April 10.

It features the works of six artists with extensive careers in both Macau and mainland China: Eugenio Novikoff Sales, Lam Kin Ian, Lei Wai Wa, William Chio, Mak Kong Weng and Leong Yuk Fai.

Macau-born Eugenio Novikoff Sales – who spent significant time living in Mozambique and Portugal – blends African, Asian and European styles in his paintings.

William Chio, on the other hand,

paints in a more traditional Chinese style. His works have been exhibited in the Museum of Art, the Macau Foundation and the UNESCO Centre.

Leong Yuk Fai's works comprise mostly oil paintings. One of his paintings, "Short Rest," was selected for display in the 1979 Exhibition of Fine Works of Art, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Vitor Sereno, the Consul General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong, and José Sales Marques, the President of the Institute of European Studies of Macau, were among those in attendance at the ceremony. **DB**



Leong Yuk Fai

STATISTICS

Foreign exchange reserves decrease

THE Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) announced yesterday that the MSAR's foreign exchange reserves amounted to MOP153.2 billion (USD19.13 billion) at the end of February 2016.

According to AMCM's preliminary estimate, the reserves decreased by 1.4 percent from the revised value of MOP155.4 billion (USD19.39 billion) for the previous month. The local foreign exchange reserves at the end of February 2016 represented 12 times the currency in circulation at the end of January 2016.

The data released by the Monetary Authority indicates that the trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca dropped 1.23 points month-on-month, but rose 2.74 points year-on-year to 106.41 in February 2016. This suggests that the pataca depreciated against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners on a monthly basis, but appreciated on an annual basis.

Delays on cross-border industrial transportation

TRANSIT time through the Zhuhai-Macau Cross-border Industrial Zone has increased due to the new regulations that were recently introduced by the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau of Zhuhai that had the original intention of shortening the waiting time.

Firms which transport goods through this zone have complained that goods exported and imported through the channel have to wait longer before heading onward to their destination. Similar situations had reportedly started occurring in 2015, when the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau of Zhuhai announced there would be interim administrative rules that would allow certain items to pass through the border upon close inspection, without the need for clearance documents.

The Macau Delegate of the Chinese People's Congress, Liu Yiliang, said that new regulations had the opposite effect, adding: "It used to be only three to five hours, and time means money." According to the delegate, Gongbei Customs are intervening to handle emergency situations as authorized. However, Liu urges the General Administration of Customs of the PRC to "solve the problems as soon as possible."

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

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

Thank You!

Like us? facebook.com/mdtimes

Times

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

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

THE façade of the St. Paul's Ruins will be cast in green tonight in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, announced the Irish Chamber of Commerce in Macau (ICCM), the first of many events marking the cultural and religious occasion.

"The initiative came about following [the example of] a number of other cities turning their monuments green," Niall Murray, Chairman of the ICCM told the Times.

"These included the Sydney Opera House, the Empire State Building in New York, and even parts of the Great Wall of China, near Beijing," added Murray.

The green lighting will take effect after sundown, at approximately 7 p.m.

Additionally other celebrations are being planned for the weekend.

On Saturday night a gourmet six-course Irish menu with Irish craft beers and spirits will be held at the Grand Lapa Hotel, before it is followed by a cocktail reception and dancing and entertainment lasting until the early hours of Sunday morning.

According to Murray, the

St. Paul's to turn green tonight marking Irish national feast

■ The celebrations will continue into Sunday with a festive St. Patrick's Day parade

special guest of the night will be the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Críona Ní Dhálaigh, hosted by the Irish Consul-General for Hong Kong and Macau, Peter Ryan.

Organizers say the dress code is "cocktail or Irish-themed attire."

Tickets are priced at MOP1,200 per person, with a discount for ICCM members,



and can be purchased from The Irish Bar, Irish Coffee House, Premiere Bar and Tasting Room.

The celebrations will continue into Sunday with a festive St. Patrick's Day parade in Taipa's Avenida da Praia. Irish dancers and pipe players are set to perform and as many as 20 groups or associations are expected to join the parade, including a band from the University of Macau, according to event organizers.

They will gather in the park alongside the Praia de Nossa Sra. da Esperança at 1:30 p.m. and depart at approximately 2 p.m.

"These events are being done in conjunction with many events globally," said Murray, "that help the more than 70 million people of Irish descent around the world to celebrate St. Patrick's Day." **DB**

Blissful Carrot Market: a 'hang out and chill' bazaar



BLISSFUL Carrot, a local vegetarian and vegan restaurant, recently brought its market, along with various vendors, artisans and workshops, to the Grand Coloane Resort.

The 'Blissful Carrot Market' runs every third Wednesday of the month at the resort and has attracted many locals and expatriates.

Alyson Lundstrom, managing partner of Blissful Carrot, told the Times that they started the initiative with the aim of allowing the public to access organic vegetables and organic goods. This has been undertaken in collaboration with a small selection of vendors.

"I think when we first started, we had a few vendors

who we already knew could do something like this or who were already participating in markets," she said.

"They're thinking of things they could sell, and they could start their own small businesses by coming to our market, which is really cool and so we kind of snowball to people who have a talent on the side and [...] do this as a side project, so it has inspired a lot of people, I think," she added.

Though Alyson admits that the location seemed 'a bit iffy' at first, she claims that there has been an increase in the number of attendees. She also believes that the participants could be exposed to a 'beautiful' part of Macau.

■ The idea is to take a break in the middle of the week and leave central Macau, to come feel like you're somewhere else.

ALYSON LUNDSTROM

"The idea is to take a break in the middle of the week and leave central Macau, to come feel like you're somewhere else," the managing partner said.

"We also added music, some workshops, and things that allow people to feel that they haven't come all the way to just buy few things and leave. Now they can come and eat, enjoy the music and chill out. So it's definitely more of an involved experience which has become a hang-out space now."

Fransiska Orris, a paper crafter for over 30 years, said that the market has drawn families and individuals together in the middle of the week. She believes that such bazaars are nice outlets for small and homemade businesses.

"It's a nice outlet to have bazaars and markets like this because I do have a day job other than this, so this is just a hobby [...], even just to let people know that we exist. Because to have a proper shop is quite difficult here, I think," she claimed.

"It's always a good vibe. It's always nice to be here because you see people who have come from different lifestyles. They're interested in what we offer and you get to meet some like-minded people at the same time," she added.

Orris believes that Macau needs such markets, not necessarily for businesses, but to facilitate family gatherings. **Staff reporter**

IC issues additional MAF shows



Poster for "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)"

AFTER what the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has termed, "the public's overwhelming response" to the 27th Macau Arts Festival (MAF), the bureau has decided to organize additional performances for some of the most sought-after shows.

The following shows will offer additional performances: "The Fairy Tales from the World of Chaos," by Breakthrough Association of May 7 at 3 p.m.; "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" by Godot Art Association on May 14 at 3 p.m.; and the children's puppet play "Circles" by Step Out on May 21 and May 22 at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the additional performances went on sale yesterday at Macau Ticketing Network outlets and online, and they are limited in number and subject to availability. Early bird discounts for the tickets will last until Sunday.

The IC says that the early bird discount, subject to certain criteria, offers customers 30 percent off the price of the ticket if it is purchased before March 20 (Sunday). Alternatively a 20 percent discount will be offered from March 21 onward, the bureau states.

Local companies apply for Saipan junket licenses

Most bidders for junket promotion licenses in Saipan are from Macau, according to AAStocks Financial News. The Saipan Tribune reported earlier this year that Saipan's Commonwealth Casino Commission "has approved regulations and guidelines for junket operators who are expected to bring high rollers to gamble at the Saipan casino." The U.S.-administered Saipan is the most populous of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Locals complain about Zhuhai properties

The Zhuhai Customers Association has said that 27 of the complaints it received in 2015 were from Macau consumers, TDM reported. Peng Jiu Ru, president of the Zhuhai Customers Association, announced that 270 complaints were filed in 2015 representing more than RMB8.6 million in transactions. Twenty-two of these cases concerned Macau residents who purchased houses in Hengqin. "The difference in real estate policies [between] the two regions is the main reason for the dispute," Peng said. Peng appealed to members of the public that live in different regions to first understand the region's relevant laws and regulations before making purchases. He also acknowledged that controversial consumer issues that involve less than RMB5,000 could be settled through arbitration.

LITERATURE

Macau and the subversive poet Bocage



Pedro Barreiros (left), Daniel Pires (center) and Maria Antónia Espadinha (right) pictured during yesterday's session

Paulo Barbosa

BOCAGE, one of the most celebrated Portuguese poets of all time, arrived in Macau at the end of 1789 and lived

here for approximately six months. His presence in Macau was marked yesterday during a session held at the Old Court Building and included in the Macau Literary Festival.



A painting depicting Bocage

With an unusual talent for improvisation and irony, Bocage was a "first class poet" and "a transgressor in social, political, religious and sexual terms," explained Daniel Pi-

res, a researcher of his work.

Arriving in Macau from Guangzhou (or Canton, as the Chinese city was known at the time) after having deserted the army in India, Bocage described the city in a poem: "plenty of poverty, many vile women, one hundred Portuguese, all [living] in a pigsty."

Daniel Pires noted that, as was common in the XVIII century, he also had to write elegies for his Macau hosts. "That was normal at the time, a poor poet needed to express his gratitude."

Back in the motherland, the short-lived poet, who died when he was forty, faced the hardships of someone "who decided to live on the margins of society and paid dearly for his choice, going through phases of extreme poverty and 'uncertain dinners'," Pires said.

Persecuted by censorship and the Inquisition, the poet was arrested several times. His bohemian lifestyle meant that he became famous for his romantic adventures and thus provoked many anecdotes both in Portugal and Brazil, where he also lived.

Bocage was born in September 1765. Celebrations are still being held this year to mark the 250th year of the poet's birth.

AD

30m pageviews per year

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



Times App

New look more features



Times App on App Store & Google Play

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 Times

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

advertising@macaudailytimes.com

TOURISM

Macau endorsed as top summer destination



The article endorses a visit to Macau's largest natural beach, Hac Sa Beach

THE Times of India has included Macau in a list of top destinations for Indian tourists to visit this coming summer.

Describing the MSAR as a "happening city," the English-language newspaper recommends tourists visit the Ruins of St. Paul, the Macau Tower and Senado Square. In addition, they encouraged visitors to experience Macau's "entertaining nightlife and high-end resorts."

The article also endorses a visit to Macau's largest natu-

ral beach, Hac Sa Beach, in Coloane. However, it makes no mention of the territory's gaming activities.

Macau is one of three overseas locations that the newspaper has listed among its recommendations for summer destinations. The other two are Costa Rica and Malaysia, for which the Times of India has highlighted the natural beauty of the tropical rainforests and beaches found within each country.

Within India, the article recommends tourists head to Darjeeling, a traditional tea-producing region located in the Mahabharat range, otherwise known as the Lesser Himalayas, as well as the sun-and-sea state of Kerala on the Indian subcontinent's Malabar Coast.

Also included is another former Portuguese enclave, Goa, which the newspaper endorses for its "scenic beaches, delightful parties, cool shacks and beautiful churches," also mentioning the region's "Goan delicacies".

Bai Zhijian denies Ho's case has political connotations

THE former director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR, Bai Zhijian, has denied the allegations of political interference in the expedition of the corruption case that is involving Macau's former general prosecutor Ho Chio Meng, Journal San Wa Ou reported.

Bai acknowledged that Ho Chio Meng was "inside the system," but denied that the case could have political intervention. "Looking at the time and money that was involved, Ho's cases could not have anything to do with politics," he said.

However, Bai admitted that the current judicial system, as well as legislation and governance in Macau, require further amendments to reduce the occurrence of corruption-driven behaviors. "Ho is the second person holding an important senior position who has been exposed to allegations of corruption. The government must improve oversight," declared Bai.

The Central Commission for



Bai Zhijian

Discipline Inspection has been active in the Liaison Offices in both Macau and Hong Kong in order to fight corruption. "In spite of the enhanced inspection carried out by the central government, no incidents have been spotted so far," informed

Bai, who then claimed, "In fact, the Liaison Office doesn't possess that much power. We just provide assistance to the SAR government. This is not like the departments in the mainland, wherein they have budget authority." **Staff reporter**

AD

KTRANZ
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

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

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

We translate +10,000 words a day

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

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

USJ
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

2016 - 2017
ADMISSIONS NOW OPEN
現正招生

1 January - 29 April 2016
2016年1月1日至4月29日

Bachelor Programmes 學士學位:

Architecture	建築
Business Administration	工商管理
Christian Studies	基督宗教研究
Communication and Media Design	傳播與媒體設計學
Education	教育
Fashion Design	時裝設計
Government Studies	政府研究
Philosophy	哲學
Portuguese - Chinese Studies (Language and Culture)	葡萄牙與中國研究 (語言及文化)
Psychology	心理學
Social Work	社會工作學
Pre-University	預科
Portuguese Intensive Course	葡語密集課程
Foundation Year in Philosophy	哲學先修班

Admission Exam 入學考試
7 May 2016 (Saturday)
2016年5月7日 (星期六)

University of Saint Joseph 聖若瑟大學
Applications and Enquiries 報名或查詢
admissions@usj.edu.mo
www.usj.edu.mo
+853 8796 4455

TEN well-known Asian action movie directors will each select and promote an overseas film at the upcoming International Film Festival and Awards Macau (IFFA Macau), reports Variety Media.

Speaking at the fringes of a launch of the Hong Kong International Film and TV Market (FilMart) in Hong Kong this week, Marco Mueller, director of IFFA Macau was reportedly joined by Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) director, Helena de Senna Fernandes.

"We want the ten to each choose a film that is neither East Asian and non-American that they would personally go back to," Marco Mueller expressed to Variety Media. "They should be presenters of 'world cinema' and ensure diversity."

The festival will largely focus on genre and commercial cinema. It will boast a main competition, gala presentations, a best of festival section and a focus on regional cinema.

"The competition will be made up of popular films, but cutting edge and a bit special, keeping it interesting for international buyers," Mueller told Variety Media.

Though participants are yet to be confirmed and announced, Vietnam-born Chinese direc-

IFFA MACAU

'Macau really sees itself as a hub for global films'

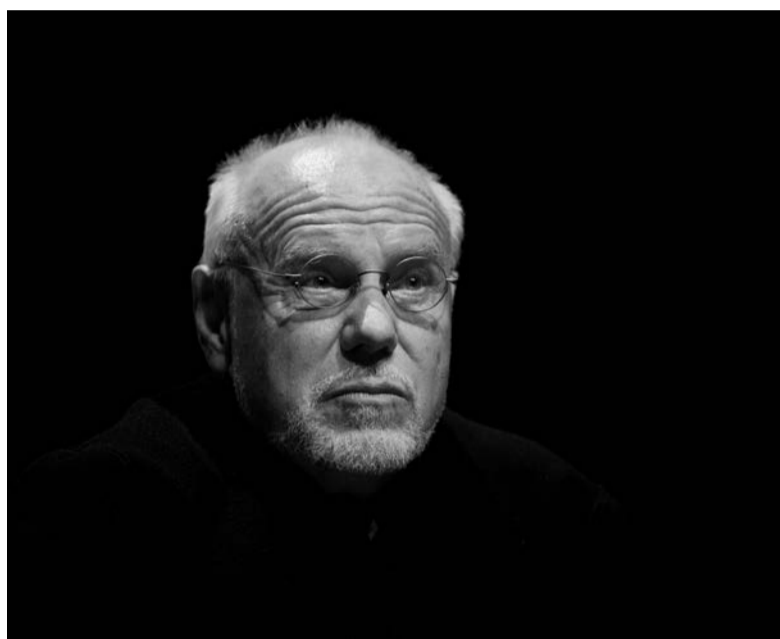
tor Tsui Hark and Hong Kong's John Woo are likely to be included among the ten, speculates Variety Media.

"Macau really sees itself as a

The competition will be made up of popular films, but cutting edge.

MARCO MUELLER

hub for global films and co-productions and as a point of entry for foreign companies to enter the Greater China market," he added. "The Macau government is seriously looking at



Marco Mueller

creating an incentives system." Mueller is the former director of the Locarno, Venice and Rome festivals. He was also as-

sociated with the Beijing and Silk Road film festivals in mainland China, before agreeing to take up the mantle in Macau.

The new festival, which will run from December 8 to 13, reportedly has a budget of around MOP80 million, supported by the government with the help of a commercial sponsor. Most of the events within the festival are due to be held at the venues of the Macau Cultural Center and the Science Museum, with additional smaller venues loaned for market activities.

The film festival, which according to MGTO aims to become a major film event for the Greater China and international markets, will showcase around 45 titles this year.

Nevertheless in its first year it has been timed to follow a similar event in Hong Kong where, just two days prior, a CineAsia convention and trade show will take place. The latter event is expected to draw many international figures to the region. **DB**

Asian Film Awards to be held tonight

A star-studded welcome dinner was held last night at Conrad Macau, Cotai Central, as a prelude to the Asian Film Awards (AFA) Ceremony to be held tonight at the Venetian Macao.

This year the Asian Film Awards Academy will partner with the acclaimed U.S. luxury jewelry brand, Hearts On Fire, to present the "Hearts On Fire-AFA Special Awards" to recognize the achievements of outstanding icons in the Asian film industry.



Pakho Chau and Clara Lee were named as 'Rising Stars of Asia'

Two Rising Star of Asia Awards were presented to Hong Kong singer-cum-actor Pakho Chau and Korean actress, Clara Lee, at last night's welcome dinner.

Receiving his first movie award yesterday, Pakho started his career as a teenage model for luxury brands, and made his debut as a singer back in 2007 and his screen debut

in "Love is Elsewhere" in 2008.

His roles as a fervent young doctor in "I Sell Love," a cheating husband in "S for Sex, S for Secret," and a billionaire in "Love Detective" made a lasting impression on audiences. But 2015 was the real breakthrough year for the actor after he was highly acclaimed for his role as Elephant Man, a cold-blooded killer in "Guilty."

Meanwhile Swiss-born British actress, Clara Lee,

has previously starred in many TV drama series since 2005, and made her big-screen debut in "Five Senses of Eros" in 2009.

She also made a spectacular presence in Hong Kong by starring in her first action film, "Line Walker", and in "Prince," in which she partnered with actors from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

She told reporters that she has visited Macau a few times before, but this was her first visit for work.


Iconic Japanese actress

Kirin Kiki, renowned for her work in cinema and television, was also present at the welcome dinner. She is being considered for the Lifetime Achievement Award tonight, alongside Yuen Woo-ping, a martial arts choreographer and film director from Hong Kong.

Kirin Kiki told reporters at the ceremony that she admires the younger generation of Asian actors and actresses.

"The younger actors and actresses have a more subtle way of acting, I think it is very impressive," she told reporters through a translator. "I think it is now their time." **DB**

AD



優悅 牙科護理中心
ICQ Oral Health Center

I Care for Quality

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.



Portable Chemical Toilet Hiring

- Regular Units, Flush Units
- Units with Sanitizers, Sinks
- Deluxe Units
- Daily, Weekly or Monthly
- Deliver, Pick-Up & Pump Out of Portable Toilets

FREE DELIVERY

Call: 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry



GLOBAL TOURISM ECONOMY FORUM 2016 WILL CELEBRATE 5TH ANNIVERSARY AND RECORD-BREAKING ACHIEVEMENT IN INSPIRING TOURISM ECONOMY EXCHANGES



The Global Tourism Economy Forum • Macau 2015 had concluded with flying colours in October, breaking its own record over the past three years by gathering nearly 60 ministerial officials, globally renowned private sector leaders, experts and scholars worldwide to share their insightful perspectives. Over 1200 delegates from different countries and cities came together to engage in thought-provoking discussions on the Belt and Road Initiative and the symbiotic relationship between culture and tourism, with over 200 local, Mainland and overseas media representatives present to cover the event. The Forum had marked an accumulated growth of 94% and 54% in delegate and media attendance respectively since its first edition in 2012.

The Forum had also garnered the Brand Convention Award at the 2015 Macao Convention and Exhibition Commendation Awards – a testimony of the Forum's stature as an exemplar of Macao's MICE industry and its contribution to Macao's undertaking to becoming a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure.

The Global Tourism Economy Forum (the "GTEF" or "Forum") was hosted by the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, initiated and co-organized by the China Chamber of Tourism under the authorization of All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), coordinated by the Global Tourism Economy Research Centre (GTERC) and in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The event was also supported by China National Tourism Administration (CNTA), World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) and Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

A visionary and pragmatic platform, GTEF was the first to initiate a dialogue on the 21st century Maritime Silk Road and its impact on global tourism industry and economic development. The Forum also took the lead in starting a high-level discussion on how the Belt and Road Initiative could play a role in catalyzing the transformation of cultural heritage into tourism resources, and at the same time in helping to strike a sustainable balance between preservation and innovation.

Themed as "Belt and Road Initiative: Unleashing the New Dynamics of Cultural Tourism", GTEF 2015 was designed to embrace the magnificent vision of the Belt and Road Initiative, stimulate discussions on the opportunities for cultural tourism brought by the Belt and Road Initiative, and explore new possibilities for multi-national and multi-regional cooperation.



In the opening ceremony, Mr. Ho Hau Wah, Forum Chairman of GTEF, emphasized that under the Belt and Road Initiative, development of economic cooperation and partnerships has extended beyond countries along the ancient Maritime Silk Road; the Initiative has also brought mutual political trust, economic integration, cultural inclusiveness and other mutual benefits to a broader region.

Mr. Chui Sai On, Chief Executive of Macao SAR, underlined in his welcome remarks that Macao, included in the Country's Belt and Road Initiative, can give play to its focal effect and become a part of regional collaboration. He believed that the Forum, with its forward-thinking perspective, can offer a clear direction and practical advices to Macao and the world to steer their tourism industry and economy towards sustainability.

Ms. Pansy Ho, Vice Chairman and Secretary General of GTEF, pointed out the tremendous economic impact of the Belt and Road Initiative and the important role Macao plays in the Initiative. She highlighted Zhejiang Province and Tianjin, two economically strong and culturally rich regions that have exploited the Belt and Road initiative to advance their own tourism development. She also underscored the Pacific Alliance – a powerful link between Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru – that shares similar visions of development and free trade, including tourism.



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNWTO and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government to establish a Global Centre for Tourism Education and Training in Macao, aiming at strengthening the city's competitiveness as a world tourism destination and improving the overall quality of human resources for tourism in Macao.

UNWTO presented the UNWTO/GTERC Annual Report 2015 on Asia Tourism Trends, the second edition of a joint project that provides cutting-edge research and analyses to the global audience.



Panelists in GTEF's signature session "Face to Face, Ministers and Private Sector CEOs" deliberated on the topic "Abridging our Distances through Connectivity".

GTEF 2015's programme also included comprehensive discussions on topics such as "Exploring the Full Dimension of Cultural Tourism – Cultural Heritage and Creative Living Culture", "Understanding Chinese Consumers Behaviour", "Driving Cultural Awareness through Social Media" and "Expert Series – Understanding Global Investment".

The 2015 Forum edition also offered a variety of special features such as Partner Chinese Province Presentation by Zhejiang, Picturesque Zhejiang

exhibition, and performance of Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra; Partner Chinese City Presentation by Tianjin; FONATUR Presentation on Investment Opportunity in Mexico; Vibrant Macau presentation by Macao Government Tourism Office; networking reception by Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute; and finale social program Erhu & Symphony Orchestra: The Butterfly Lovers Concert.

GTEF 2015's Exhibition for international exchange and Business Matching session successfully showcased the tourism resources and investment opportunities of the participating countries and regions, and encouraged collaborations.

Macao, situated at its strategic geographic and historic location, stands ready to offer multi-dimensional, multi-faceted and multi-cultural offerings that will give its visitors and residents lasting collective experience and memories by capitalizing on the Belt and Road Initiative, and create a virtuous cycle of positive and enriching influence from the visitors to the residents, and vice versa.

Dr. Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR Government and Executive Chairman of GTEF, addressed in his closing remarks that the lively dialogue among GTEF speakers on a partnership between culture and tourism has successfully opened up a valuable path for forging more far-reaching regional collaboration.

With its fifth edition in 2016, the Forum will continue its efforts and exploit its invaluable experience from the first four editions to inject more innovations into its programme and format. Once again, the world's most influential business leaders, decision-makers and academia will come together at GTEF to discuss how different industries can capitalize on tourism development and contribute to economic growth.

OUR HEARTFELT APPRECIATION TO OUR GUESTS OF HONOUR AND SPEAKERS

Guests of Honour:

- Chui Sai On**, Chief Executive, Macao Special Administrative Region
- Hun Sen**, Prime Minister, The Kingdom of Cambodia
- Ho Hau Wah**, Vice Chairman, The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Forum Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Bun Rany Hun Sen**, Spouse of Samdech Techo Prime Minister, The Kingdom of Cambodia
- Taleb Rifai**, Secretary-General, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO); Honorary Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Sok An**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Minister, The Kingdom of Cambodia
- Li Jinzao**, Chairman, China National Tourism Administration (CNTA); Honorary Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Annie Sok An**, Spouse of Deputy Prime Minister, The Kingdom of Cambodia
- Zang Xianfu**, Chairman, Tianjin Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
- Wang Huizhong**, Deputy Secretary, CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee
- Thong Khon**, Minister of Tourism, The Kingdom of Cambodia
- Sandra Howard Taylor**, Vice Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Colombia
- Chen Yixing**, Vice Chairman, Fujian Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
- Yao Jian**, Deputy Director, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region
- Cai Siping**, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of the

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region
- Alexis Tam**, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region; Executive Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Du Jiang**, Vice Chairman, China National Tourism Administration (CNTA); Honorary Vice Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Wang Shangqiang**, Director of the Department of Publicity and Education, All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC)
- Alejandro Schiavi**, Undersecretary of Coordination, Ministry of Tourism, Argentina
- Pansy Ho**, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Xu Jing**, Executive Secretary, World Tourism Organization General Assembly and Executive Council; Director, World Tourism Organization Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific; Honorary Vice Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- David P. Scowashi**, President & Chief Executive Officer, World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC); Honorary Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Isaac Lai**, Chief of Office, Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region
- Kevin Murphy**, Chairman, Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA); Honorary Vice Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Sergio Holguin**, Director of Strategic Management and Institutional Linkages, FONATUR
- Maria Soledad Acosta Torrelly**, Director of Tourism Promotion, Peru (PROMPERU)
- Mario Hardy**, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)
- Wang Ping**, Chairman, China Chamber of Tourism; Curator, China Ethnic Museum; Vice Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum

- Maria Helena de Sena Fernandes**, Director, Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO); Vice Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Jackson Chang**, President, Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute
- Song Yu**, Secretary General, World Tourism Cities Federation
- Peter Wong**, Executive Chairman, China Chamber of Tourism; Chairman, The MK Corporation Ltd.; Vice Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum
- Jean-Claude Baumgarten**, Vice Chairman, Global Tourism Economy Forum; Former President & Chief Executive Officer, World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)

Speakers: (Arranged in alphabetical order by surname)

- Bai Changhong**, Dean, Professor of College of Tourism and Service Management, Nankai University
- Desirée Bollier**, Chief Executive Officer, Value Retail Management
- Winnie Chiu**, President and Executive Director, Dorsett Hospitality International
- Dai Bin**, President, China Tourism Academy
- Ding Zuohong**, President, China Furniture and Decoration Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the board, Yuexing Group
- Helena Egan**, Director of Industry Relations, TripAdvisor
- Peter Greenberg**, Travel Editor, CBS News
- Duncan Horton**, Chief Executive Officer, Travel Weekly Group
- Ji Xiaodong**, Vice President and Secretary-General, China Chamber of Tourism; Senior Researcher, China Tour and Culture Development Research Institute
- Johnson Jia Yufeng**, Chief Executive Officer, D&J Global Communications
- John Keester**, Director of the Tourism Market Trends Programme, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

- Gerald Lawless**, President and Group Chief Executive Officer, Jumeirah Group
- Li Baochun**, Deputy Secretary-General, World Tourism Cities Federation
- Liao Chunrong**, Chairman, New Insight Holdings Group Limited
- Liu Ting**, Chairman, China Women's Chamber of Commerce; Chairman, Asia Link Group
- Liu Yang**, Chairman, Atlantis Investment Management Group
- Redolfo Lopez Negrete Coppel**, Chief Executive Officer, Mexico Tourism Board
- Rachel Liu**, Senior Director of International Business Development, Qunar
- Alfonso Martinez Cearra**, Director General, Bilbao Metropoli-30
- Peter Meier**, Chief Executive Officer, Kuoni Group
- Anita Mendiratta**, Founder and Managing Director, CACHET Consulting
- Billy Ng**, Managing Director, Head of Asia Gaming, Lodging and Leisure, Global Research, Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Qian Jiannong**, Vice President, Fosun Group
- Pablo Javier Retamal**, Brand and Market manager - Asia and Oceania, Turismo Chile
- Francisco Silva Silva**, Chairman of the Board, Grupo Security
- Song Lai**, Deputy-Director General, Asia-Pacific Business Department in China Development Bank Corporation
- Alexander Wan**, Senior Advisor, China Daily Asia Pacific
- Wang Wenjuan**, Secretary, CPC Committee of Tourism Bureau of Zhejiang Province
- Wu Zhaolan**, Vice Chairman, China Chamber of Tourism; Vice President, Suning Universal Group
- Yang Shihao**, Director-General, Tianjin Municipal Tourism Administration
- Zhang Ling**, Chairman, HNA Tourism Group Co. Ltd.

GTEF 2016 will focus on the millennial travellers and our discussion will zero in on how this young, independent-minded, resourceful and tech-savvy group is more than ever the increasingly influential force that is changing all the rules in the tourism industry.

5TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
MACAU
15-16 OCTOBER 2016

HOST: 澳門特別行政區政府社會文化司
IN COLLABORATION WITH: UNWTO
CO-ORGANISER: 中國全聯旅遊發展會
COORDINATOR: GLOBAL TOURISM ECONOMY RESEARCH CENTRE
SUPPORTING UNITS: ALL CHINA FEDERATION OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE, LIAISON OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT IN THE MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF PUBLIC RELATIONS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION, NATIONAL TOURISM ADMINISTRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, PATA

OFFICIAL HOTEL: VENETIAN MACAO
MAJOR SPONSORS: 銀河娛樂集團, MGM, 澳門博奕有限公司, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, 澳門博奕有限公司, 澳門博奕有限公司

SUPPORTING UNIT OF BUSINESS NETWORKING ACTIVITIES: PATA
FORUM CARRIERS: AIR MACAU, 澳門航空, TIG, TIG, International Jet City

MEDIA PARTNERS: CHINA DAILY, TIG, TIG, International Jet City



A worker cleans windows of the Anbang Insurance Group's building in Beijing

INSURANCE

Anbang gets US committee OK on Fidelity & Guaranty deal

CHINA'S Anbang Insurance Group has received approval from a U.S. committee for its nearly USD1.6 billion purchase of life insurance company Fidelity & Guaranty Life.

This comes on the heels of an announcement two days ago that Anbang is

part of a group offering \$14 billion to buy the Starwood hotel chain.

A filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission this week said that Fidelity & Guaranty Life, based in Des Moines, Iowa, has received notice from the Committee on Fo-

reign Investment in the U.S. that there are no unresolved national security concerns with regards to its acquisition by Anbang.

The deal, which was announced in November, is targeted to close in the second quarter. **AP**

Angola-China Chamber of Commerce due to be set up today

THE Angola-China Chamber of Commerce is due to be officially set up today (March 17), during a constituent assembly to be held in the Angolan capital, Luanda, the founding committee said in a statement.

The statement cited by Angolan news agency Angop said that the Constituent Assembly was an initiative of a group of legal and individual bodies from the two countries, and that the founding committee is led by Angola's Manuel Arnaldo Calado.

The CAC is intended to promote and support cooperation between businesspeople, Angolan investment in China and Chinese investment in Angola, respectively, promoting trade and technological exchanges.

The institution that will connect businesspeople from Angola and China proposes, among other things, to provide information to members on trade, investment, technology transfer and cooperation opportunities between the countries involved.

CAC's mission is to represent all of its members in relation to public authorities as well as business organizations and the public at large, in the respective countries. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD

Macau Rugby Day

Game Day

Kick off at 3.30pm

MACAU RUGBY CLUB
澳門橄欖球會

X

VALLEY R.F.C.

19.03.2016
Saturday

Location - THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MACAU
Avenida Wai Long, MUST Campus, Block K, Taipa - Macau

St Patrick's Day Gala Dinner

ST PATRICK'S DAY 愛爾蘭晚宴

Saturday March 19, 2016
Grand Lapa Hotel, Kam Lai Heen Restaurant, Macau
1/F, 956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, Macau. Tel: (853) 2856 7888

Entertainment from:
**Echoes of Erin Irish Dancers,
traditional Irish Musicians, live band,
DJ & special guests**

Food & Drink:
**Gourmet six-course Irish menu,
Irish craft beers & spirits**

Cocktail reception: 7pm-8pm
Dinner, dancing & entertainment: 8pm-2am
Dress Code: Cocktail or Irish-themed attire

Tickets: MOP1,200 per person (ICCM non-members);
MOP1,100 (ICCM members), MOP11,000 per table of 10.

Tickets available for sale from: The Irish Bar, Irish Coffee House & PREMIER Bar & Tasting Room. Seats are limited so please buy your tickets early to confirm your place. We welcome table reservations, sponsorship and table prizes for the event. Please contact niall@irishchambermacau.com for details.

brought to you by
 澳門愛爾蘭商會
Irish Chamber of Commerce of Macau

PROPERTY

US home construction jumps in February

CONSTRUCTION of new homes rose in February to the highest level in five months, but applications for new construction were weak for a third month.

Housing starts rose 5.2 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.18 million units, the Commerce Department reported yesterday. Construction had fallen in January in December, declines that had been blamed in part on winter weather.

Applications for building permits, a gauge of future activity, fell 3.1 percent to an annual rate of 1.17 million units after a flat reading in January and a drop in December.

The decline in building permits, unless reversed, could signal future trouble in an industry that was a bright spot for the economy last year.

For February, construction of single-family homes rose 7.2 percent to an annual rate of 822,000 units. Construction in the smaller apartment sector edged up a slight 0.8 percent to a rate of 356,000 units.

Regionally, construction activity plunged 51.3 percent in the Northeast but showed strength in all other regions. Construction rose 19.9 percent in the Midwest, 7.1 percent in the South and 26.1 percent in the West.

The National Association of Homebuilders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index held steady at 58 for March. Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good rather than poor.

Sales of new homes surged 14.5 percent last year to 501,000, marking the strongest year for this segment of the housing market since 2007.

Economists are forecasting another good year for housing as strong employment gains led more people to decide to purchase homes. Strength in home construction was a pillar of growth for the economy last year. **AP**



A "SOLD" sign sits in front of a house under the final stages of construction in Plano, Texas

MARKETS

European stock exchanges agree to USD30 billion merger

David McHugh, Frankfurt

THE London Stock Exchange and Germany's Deutsche Boerse say they are merging in an all-stock deal that will leave the German side with a majority in a company worth about USD30 billion.

The exchange operators are calling it a merger of equals that will accelerate their growth and offer customers more products and services — and said the deal is going ahead even if Britain votes to leave the European Union.

They expect to complete the combination by the first quarter of 2017. The two companies together are worth about \$30 billion based on their stock market value yesterday.

The deal makes sense even if British voters decide to leave the European Union in a referendum June 23, the two sides said, but conceded there are risks to its business from a potential British exit. It said the tie-up would benefit from European Union efforts to create a single capital market and expand the cross-border use of stock and bond markets to finance companies, a project known as capital markets union. They said that a vote to leave would put the capital markets union project at risk.

The companies "believe that the merger is well positioned to serve global customers irrespective of the outcome of the vote" although the outcome "might well affect the volume or nature of the busi-



A trader watches his screens at the stock market in Frankfurt, Germany

ness carried out by the combined group."

The owner of the New York Stock Exchange said March 1 that it was considering a competing bid for the London exchange. Officials at Intercontinental Exchange Inc., which owns the NYSE, could not immediately be reached.

In the merger deal, a U.K.-based holding company will be set up to acquire the London Stock Exchange Group PLC and Frankfurt-based Deutsche Boerse AG. When the deal is done, Deutsche Boerse shareholders will hold 54.4 percent of the holding company and Deutsche Bank CEO

Karsten Kengeter will be chief executive.

Both companies will name an equal number of board directors; LSE chairman Donald Brydon will serve as board chair.

The company would have headquarters in both London and Frankfurt. The deal needs approval from regulators in the European Union, the U.S. and Russia. The London Stock Exchange said Russian approval was needed because it owns Exactpro, a firm with offices in Russia specializing in quality assurance for exchanges and financial organizations. **AP**

corporate bits

H&M AND M.I.A. COLLABORATE FOR WORLD RECYCLE WEEK

H&M is collaborating with artist and singer M.I.A. on a new music video to support H&M's latest global initiative, World Recycle Week.

According to a statement, H&M aims to collect 1,000 tonnes of unwanted or worn out garments from customers worldwide across more than 3,600 stores by the end of the program.

The initiative is part of H&M's goal to close the loop in fashion, recycling unwanted garments to create recycled textile fibers for new products.

Since H&M first launched Garment Collecting in 2013, the company has collected over 25,000 tonnes of clothing,



Artist M.I.A.

according to a statement. H&M introduced its first garment range made from recycled textile fibers two years ago.

Customers are encouraged to bring any unwanted and worn out garments and textiles, from any brand and in any condition, to any H&M store. By doing so fewer garments will go to landfills and, in return, customers will receive vouchers to use at H&M.

MGM'S 'AUX BEAUX ARTS' TO DISH UP MILK-FED LAMB

MGM Macau is bringing the traditional Basque-style milk-fed lamb from the southwest Pyrénées-Atlantiques region of France to its Aux Beaux Arts restaurant next month.

The lambs are fed on the mother's milk only, and the exclusive diet gives the meat unique characteristics. According to MGM, the meat is tender with an extremely delicate taste and aroma.

Elie Khalife, Chef de Cuisine of Aux Beaux Arts, will showcase his creativity with the meat using the finest cuts of shoulder, rack and saddle, with a wide variety of exquisite French culinary art.

The restaurant will also offer



'Aux Beaux Arts'

the "Sommelier Selection" to pair up with this seasonal offering. The chef's recommendation of the milk-fed lamb menu is available throughout April.

AVON TO CUT 2,500 JOBS, MOVE HQ FROM NYC TO UK

Avon Products Inc. says it is cutting 2,500 jobs and moving its headquarters from New York to Great Britain.

The move comes after the cosmetics giant sold its North American business to private-equity firm Cerberus.

Avon had 28,300 employees outside its sold-off North American operations at the end of December. It said this week it will book a USD60 million charge in the current quarter due to the layoffs.

The company said it expects to save \$50 million this year from payroll cuts and the closure of open positions. Starting in 2017, it expects to



save around \$65 million to \$70 million a year.

Avon will keep facilities in Suffern and Rye, New York, and remain incorporated in New York. Its stock will still trade on the New York Stock Exchange.

opinion

Views on China

David Fickling, Bloomberg

CHINA'S RUST BELT CAN SHRUG OFF 1.8 MILLION JOB CUTS

There's a flavor of "Crisis, what crisis?" about Premier Li Keqiang's declaration that China can reduce the chronic overcapacity of its steel and coal industries while avoiding "large-scale layoffs."

Li was giving his annual press conference against the backdrop of industrial unrest that rose to the highest level in at least five years in January, according to Hong Kong-based labor advocacy organization China Labour Bulletin. Coal workers in Heilongjiang province took to the streets at the weekend after a local state-owned miner announced 100,000 job cuts, according to the official Shuangyashan Daily. In neighboring Jilin, weekly protests are still going on nearly seven years after demonstrators beat a mill manager to death in a dispute over privatization plans.

That's just the tip of the iceberg. China's government is forecasting 1.8 million job cuts in the coal and steel sectors as it trims as much as 500 million metric tons of coal output and up to 150 million tons of steel capacity by 2020. How could redundancies on that scale fail to foster unrest?

The scale is certainly dramatic, but it's worth putting in context. The proposed job cuts amount to barely one percent of China's urban workforce, which numbered 183 million at the end of 2014. Add in rural and you get to 773 million, and the working age population as a whole is over a billion. The country's mines alone cut about 399,000 workers during 2014, government data show, a somewhat faster pace than would be needed to achieve the 1.8 million target by 2020.

For all their prominence, mining and steel just don't amount to a significant share of China's labor force any more. The country's financial services sector and its health and welfare system each employ more people than either industry. If employment in public administration continues to grow at the same pace as it did over the five years through 2014, that sector alone will have put on an extra 2.4 million jobs by the end of the decade.

With the dollar value of exports falling 25 percent in February and the increase in buildings under construction sliding to the lowest on record in December, Li has bigger issues to worry about than mining and steel. A serious structural decline in the country's construction industry, which adds and loses millions of jobs each year due to seasonal factors and has a workforce that's scattered throughout every urban area, would pose a much bigger threat, for instance.

None of this is likely to be much consolation for laid-off workers. As the U.S. midwest and the north of England can testify, the decline of heavy industry can leave long and painful scars on people's lives. And a government as wary of public protest as China's will be aware of the risk of demonstrations blossoming into something more confrontational, like the 1984 U.K. miner's strike.

That helps explain the 100 billion yuan (USD15.3 billion) fund that Li has promised to support workers who have to retrain for new jobs, a sum that could be increased if necessary, he said yesterday. If that money is spent on workers — a significant caveat, given the gaps between intention and action within China's byzantine government structure — it would amount to about 56,000 yuan per laid-off employee, almost a year's pay for a Chinese mine worker. That's not going to be enough for every employee handed a pink slip. But it's no cause for panic.

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINESE Premier Li Keqiang yesterday promised more market-opening reforms and said Beijing can keep slowing growth on track, seeking to reassure jittery global markets about the outlook for the world's No. 2 economy.

Speaking at a news conference, Li promised to shrink bloated steel and coal industries, make the financial system more market-oriented and reduce the government's role in business. He expressed confidence that despite such wrenching change, the world's second-largest economy can achieve its official growth target of 6.5 to 7 percent and avoid mass job losses.

"So long as we stay on the course of reform and opening up, China's economy will not suffer a 'hard landing'," Li said at the event capping the annual meeting of China's ceremonial legislature.

In the wide-ranging televised event lasting nearly two hours, the premier also said U.S.-Chinese cooperation will grow regardless of who wins this year's U.S. presidential election. Asked about tensions over conflicting claims to portions of the South China Sea by Beijing and other governments, Li said China wants "harmonious coexistence" with its neighbors.

Chinese leaders have spent the past three weeks making unusually high-profile declarations about economic stability following stock and currency turmoil that dented their reputation for adeptly managing growth. At a February meeting of global finance officials in Shanghai, both U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob

Premier Li pledges

Lew and Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said the reflexively secretive communist government needed to do a better job of explaining policy changes.

The repeated Chinese reassurances have started to quell anxiety, but Beijing has some way to go to calm global markets, private sector analysts said.

As for promises of stability, "we perceive it as fake," said Stephen Innes, a currency trader for OANDA in Singapore. "I think the Chinese economy is struggling and will continue to struggle over the next year."

At the news conference, Li acknowledged China's slowing growth and regulatory shortcomings, possibly hoping reassure investors and consumers with a show of candor.

China's ruling Communist Party is navigating a years' long shift from

a worn-out growth model based on exports and investment to a more sustainable approach driven by domestic consumption.

An unexpectedly sharp downturn over the past two years raised the threat of politically dangerous job losses. Beijing has countered with repeated interest rate cuts and injections of money through higher spending on public works construction — setbacks for its campaign to reduce reliance on investment.

Analysts say the growth target, down from last year's "about 7 percent," will be hard to meet without more stimulus. The IMF and other forecasters say it will likely fall to 6.3 percent or lower from last year's 6.9 percent.

The economy suffers from "government overreach," Li said, referring to complaints over the dominance of state companies in areas from energy to finance to telecoms. He said Beijing is failing to do "an adequate job of ensuring a level playing field" for entrepreneurs who generate most of China's new wealth and jobs.

Li promised to make it easier to set up new businesses. He said the state-dominated financial system would become more market-oriented to support growth.

The latest jitters over China began with a share sell-off in June that wiped out some USD5 trillion. The government spent heavily to buy shares to stop the slide.

The surprise introduction in Au-

So long as we stay on the course of reform and opening up, China's economy will not suffer a 'hard landing'.

LI KEQIANG

Christopher Bodeen

THE economy dominated the Chinese legislature's annual session, but other challenges cropped up too, including the potential for new instability on the Korean Peninsula, unrest in Hong Kong, the election of an independence-leaning government on the self-ruling island of Taiwan and tensions in the South China Sea.

Such issues could prompt President Xi Jinping to shore up his support by turning up nationalist rhetoric — one of the ruling Communist Party's traditional strategies for building legitimacy. A look at some of them:



HONG KONG HEADACHE

The Occupy Central street protests in 2014 sought to expand democracy but ended without a clear resolution — and a distrust of authority has lingered in Hong Kong. A Lunar New Year street riot last month shocked many in the city, while the disappearance of five people linked to a publishing house specializing in politically sensitive books has raised fears that Beijing is tightening its hold on the southern financial hub. Elections this year for the 70-seat Legislative Council could result in deadlock, while unpopular Chief Executive C.Y. Leung appears to be Beijing's only option to run for a

ANALYSIS

Taiwan, Korea challenge

second term in 2017.

Premier Li Keqiang said yesterday that China won't be changing its basic policy of allowing Hong Kong to maintain a substantial degree of autonomy, and expressed faith in the city's government and citizens to manage their problems while Beijing maintains a watchful eye.



TAIWAN TURNS AWAY

Beijing was helpless to watch the pro-Chinese Nationalist Party go down to ignominious defeat in Taiwan's presidential and legislative elections in January. The result was a huge win for the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party, whose leader Tsai Ing-wen is set to be inaugurated as the island's first female president in May, backed by her party's first majority in the legislature. During the eight-year rule of Nationalist President Ma Ying-jeou, Beijing had hoped to use economic inducements to bring the island closer to its goal

AP PHOTO

Chinese
Beijing

more reform, tries to reassure on growth



Premier Li Keqiang reacts during a press conference after the closing session of the annual National People's Congress held in the Great Hall of the People

gust of a new mechanism for setting the yuan's state-controlled exchange rate fueled fears Beijing would weaken the currency to boost exports. The yuan slid against the dollar and capital flowed out of China, limiting Beijing's ability to support the economy with interest rate cuts without causing more turmoil.

Official efforts to calm markets have had mixed success.

Central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan's pledge to avoid "competitive devaluation" calmed depreciation expectations enough to cut interest rates, economist Prakash Sakpal of ING said in a report.

Traders are losing interest in the yuan thanks to abrupt central bank policy changes aimed at preventing them from betting against the Chinese currency.

"Every day, they seem to be switching back and forth," said Innes of OANDA. "That is still causing a lot of grief for investors out there."

In Japan, Asia's second-largest economy, the comments by Chinese leaders do little to defuse concern about the spillover of the slowdown, said Harumi Taguchi of IHS Economics.

"The slowdown has become much more evident and it will continue this year," she said.

The legislature ended with no announcements of major new initiatives, though none were expected. The ruling party gave itself until 2018 to show first results from the campaign to make state companies

more efficient and competitive. No significant new changes are likely until after 2017, when a new Cabinet is scheduled to take office.

Excess production capacity in industries including steel and coal has led to price-cutting wars, pushing companies toward bankruptcy and prompting complaints from reform advocates that propping up companies is a waste of public money. Exports of excess steel anger China's trading partners.

The government plans to cut 1.8 million steel and coal jobs, but Li promised authorities would help those workers find new jobs. The government previously announced it would create a 100 billion yuan (\$15 billion) fund to pay for that.

"We will ensure there are no massive job losses," Li said.

That reluctance to "tolerate the pain associated with significant change" might weigh on growth, Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report.

"The leadership's continued tentative approach to structural reform raises doubts about growth prospects over the medium term," said Evans Pritchard.

The premier acknowledged concerns about rising debts and potential bad loans at banks but said debt levels are manageable given the large reserves held by financial institutions and China's high savings rate.

"We are still in a good position to defuse debt risks," he said. **AP**

Challenges could push China's nationalism

of eventual political unification, but the policy seems instead to have generated resentment among young voters.

Li has avoided mentioning Taiwan's elections, but said China would stick to its core policies of opposing the island's independence and insisting that Tsai agree that Taiwan and mainland China are part of a single Chinese nation.

In a phone conversation this week with his Japanese counterpart, Foreign Minister Wang Yi reaffirmed China's commitment to fully implement U.N. sanctions against Pyongyang and called for new talks with North Korea on nuclear disarmament.



SOUTH SEA ESTRANGEMENT

Tensions have been building for years in the South China Sea as China's increasingly robust moves to assert its maritime claims in the strategically vital region prompted angry exchanges with other claimants, especially Vietnam and the Philippines. Frictions have risen further when China added more than 1,200 hectares of land to its holdings by expanding existing islands or creating entirely new ones by piling sand atop coral reefs. The addition of airstrips and military infrastructure has Washington and others worried that China is attempting to assert total dominance over the region's waters and airspace.

Foreign Minister Wang last week warned that China won't permit other nations to infringe on what it considers its sovereign rights in the area.



NEXT UP: NATIONALISM?

The need to burnish his own image, deter rivals and divert attention from slower growth could prompt Xi to intensify Chinese nationalism through the use of jingoistic rhetoric and by taking a hard line with the U.S. and others, U.S. analysts Robert D. Blackwill and Kurt M. Campbell wrote in a recent report. "Economic growth and nationalism have for decades been the two founts of legitimacy for the Communist Party, and as the former wanes, Xi will likely rely increasingly on the latter," the two wrote.

Nationalism has proven effective before in mobilizing support, as in the 1990s when the party deflected criticism over the bloody suppression of the 1989 pro-democracy movement by stirring pride in China's achievements and resentment against its rivals, especially the U.S. But such a strategy can also spin out of control, as with recurring violent anti-Japanese protests that have forced the government to quickly reassert control. **AP**



KOREAN CONUNDRUM

After working to repair ties with its communist neighbor, Beijing was angered by Pyongyang's purported hydrogen bomb test in early January and a subsequent satellite launch that was seen as a test of banned missile technology. Though initially unwilling to take tougher action that might destabilize Kim Jung Un's regime, China hardened its attitude in mid-February and agreed with the U.S. on tough new U.N. sanctions to punish Pyongyang for violating earlier resolutions.

North Korea sentences US tourist to 15 years in prison

Jon Chol Jin & Eric Talmadge,
Pyongyang

NORTH Korea's highest court sentenced an American tourist to 15 years in prison with hard labor for subversion yesterday, weeks after authorities presented him to media and he tearfully confessed that he had tried to steal a propaganda banner.

Otto Warmbier, a University of Virginia undergraduate, was convicted and sentenced in a one-hour trial in North Korea's Supreme Court.

He was charged with subversion under Article 60 of North Korea's criminal code. The court held that he had committed a crime "pursuant to the U.S. government's hostile policy toward (the North), in a bid to impair the unity of its people after entering it as a tourist."

North Korea regularly accuses Washington and Seoul of sending spies to overthrow its government to enable the U.S.-backed South Korean government to take control of the Korean Peninsula.

Tensions are particularly high following North Korea's recent nuclear test and rocket launch, and massive joint military exercises now underway between the U.S. and South Korea that the North sees as a dress rehearsal for invasion.

The University of Virginia said it was aware of the reports about Warmbier and remained in touch with his family, but would have no additional comment at this time.



American student Otto Warmbier (center), is escorted at the Supreme Court in Pyongyang, North Korea

Before the trial, the 21-year-old from Wyoming, Ohio, said he had tried to steal a propaganda banner as a trophy for an acquaintance who wanted to hang it in her church. That would be grounds in North Korea for a subversion charge.

Trials for foreigners facing similar charges in North Korea are generally short and punishments severe. Warmbier was arrested as he tried to leave the country in early January. He was in North Korea with a New Year's tour group.

U.S. tourism to North Korea is legal. Arrests of tourists are

rare but the U.S. State Department strongly advises against such travel.

Further complicating matters, Washington and Pyongyang do not have diplomatic relations. The Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang acts as a go-between in consular issues when U.S. citizens run afoul of North Korean authorities.

North Korea announced Warmbier's arrest in late January, saying he committed an anti-state crime with "the tacit connivance of the U.S. government and under its manipulation." It remains

unclear how the U.S. government was allegedly connected to Warmbier's actions.

Warmbier had been staying at the Yanggakdo International Hotel. It is common for sections of tourist hotels to be reserved for North Korean staff and off-limits to foreigners.

In a tearful statement made before his trial, Warmbier told a gathering of reporters in Pyongyang he tried to take the banner as a trophy for the mother of a friend who said she wanted to put it up in her church.

He said he was offered a

used car worth USD10,000 if he could get a banner and was also told that if he was detained and didn't return, \$200,000 would be paid to his mother in the form of a charitable donation.

Warmbier said he accepted the offer because his family was "suffering from very severe financial difficulties."

Warmbier also said he had been encouraged by the university's "Z Society," which he said he was trying to join. The magazine of the university's alumni association describes the Z Society as a "semi-secret ring society" founded in 1892 that conducts philanthropy, puts on honorary dinners and grants academic awards.

In previous cases, people who have been detained in North Korea and made a public confession often recant those statements after their release.

In the past, North Korea has held out until senior U.S. officials or statesmen came to personally bail out detainees, all the way up to former President Bill Clinton, whose visit in 2009 secured the freedom of American journalists Euna Lee and Laura Ling.

In November 2014, U.S. spy chief James Clapper went to Pyongyang to bring home Matthew Miller, who had ripped up his visa when entering the country, and Korean-American missionary Kenneth Bae, who had been incarcerated since November 2012.

Jeffrey Fowle, another U.S. tourist from Ohio detained for six months at about the same time as Miller, was released just before that and sent home on a U.S. government plane.

Fowle left a Bible in a local club hoping a North Korean would find it, which is considered a criminal offense in North Korea. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

US says losing access to Beijing-claimed waters would be huge

AU.S. Navy commander warned yesterday that if the United States lost access to international waters claimed by China in the South China Sea, it would have far-reaching implications beyond military.

U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott H. Swift told a conference on Indo-Pacific maritime security that sailing warships in freedom of

navigation operations through contested areas where multiple countries have competing territorial claims was "not a naval issue." He said the issue is the impact on the global economy and international law.

But he said that the United States has no expectation that such a loss of access would ever occur.

The U.S. Navy has

angered China by sending warships close to artificial islands built by Beijing that include airstrips and radar stations. The U.S. lays no claims to the waters, but says it has an interest in ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight and peaceful resolution of ownership disputes.

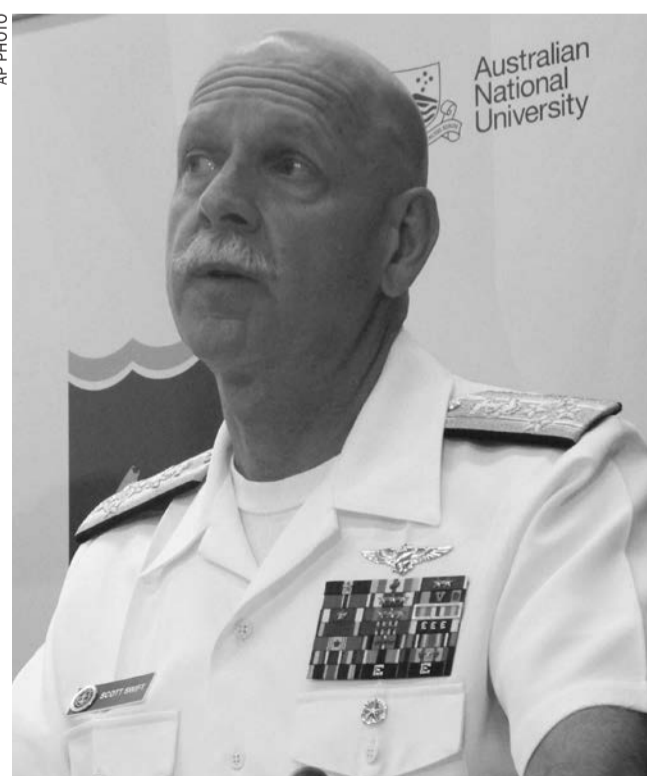
Swift said there was a "palpable sense" that an attitude of "might makes

right" was returning to the region after 70 years of security and stability since World War II.

While the United States was increasing its military presence in the region as part of its pivot to Asia, Swift said there was no need for more U.S. naval facilities in countries such as Australia.

"There's no real necessity, in fact it become a facilities burden, if we were to expand in some other way. That's not something that I would support," Swift said.

Australia is increasing its defense ties with the United States, its most important strategic ally, as tensions and a military build-up mount in the South China Sea. **AP**



U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Scott H. Swift addresses a conference

Nick Perry, Franz Josef Glacier

NEW Zealand is renowned for its wondrous scenery, and among the country's top tourist attractions are two glaciers that are both stunning and unusual because they snake down from the mountains to a temperate rain forest, making them easy for people to walk up to and view.

But the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers have been melting at such a rapid rate that it has become too dangerous for tourists to hike onto them from the valley floor, ending a tradition that dates back a century. With continuing warm weather this year there are no signs of a turnaround, and scientists say it is another example of how global warming is impacting the environment.

Tourism in New Zealand is booming and nearly 1 million people last year flocked to get a glimpse of the glaciers and the spectacular valleys they've carved. But the only way to set foot on them now is to get flown onto them by helicopter.

Tour operators offer flights and guided glacier walks, although logistics limit this to 80,000 tourists per year, half the number that once hiked up from the valley floor. Up to another 150,000 people each year take scenic flights that land briefly at the top of the glaciers.

Flying in the UNESCO World Heritage area comes with its own risks, highlighted in November when a sightseeing helicopter crashed onto the Fox Glacier, killing all seven aboard.

Sitting near the base of the Franz Josef Glacier, Wayne Costello, a district operations manager for the Department of Conservation, said that when he arrived eight years ago, the rock he was perched on would have been buried under tons of ice. Instead, the glacier now comes to an end a half-mile further up the valley.

"Like a loaf of bread shrinking in its tin, it's gone down a lot as well," Costello said. "So it's wasted away in terms of its thickness, and that's led to quite a rapid melt."

Because of that melt, the

AP PHOTO



The Franz Josef Glacier in New Zealand

Rapid melt of New Zealand glaciers ends hikes onto them

valley walls that were once braced by the glaciers have been left exposed and vulnerable to rock falls, making hiking up too dangerous. Tour operators stopped taking guided hikes onto the Franz Josef in 2012 and the nearby Fox in 2014.

A 2014 paper published in the journal *Global and Planetary Change* concluded the two glaciers have each melted by 3 kilometers in length since the 1800s, making them about 20 percent shorter. The glaciers have recently been melting at a faster pace than ever previously recorded, the authors said.

Heather Purdie, a scientist at the University of Canterbury

and lead author of the paper, said climate change is the driving factor.

"We know that glaciers around the world, including the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers, are responding to that warmer temperature and they're retreating," she said. Small changes in temperature and snowfall tend to be magnified in the two glaciers and their retreat has been interrupted by advances that can last years, she said.

Costello and tour operators are hoping to see another advance soon. But there's no sign of that: February was the second-hottest month ever recorded in New Zealand.

The hot weather has even created a new type of tourist attraction over the other side of the mountains. Purdie said the glaciers there are also rapidly retreating, resulting in tourists taking boat rides on the lakes to see some of the massive icebergs that have begun to shear away.

A helicopter trip onto the Fox Glacier reveals deep crevasses in the translucent blue ice and stunning ice caves through which guides take crampon-wearing tourists. A guide retells the indigenous Maori legend which would have it that the Franz Josef Glacier began as a stream of tears left by a young woman

■ A helicopter trip onto the Fox Glacier reveals deep crevasses in the translucent blue ice and stunning ice caves through which guides take crampon-wearing tourists

whose lover was killed by an avalanche.

The glaciers are formed by prevailing westerly winds dumping snow in a high-altitude basin. It compacts into ice and is pushed down the valleys much like toothpaste being squeezed from a tube. The glaciers slide and roll down the mountain at a rate of 4 meters (13 feet) each day, picking up rocks and debris along the way.

"It's the uniqueness, the rawness of the environment," that draws tourists from Australia, North America, Europe, and,

increasingly, China, said Rob Jewell, chairman of the Glacier Country Tourism Group.

It's also a region which is subject to rapid changes in the weather. At the time of November's helicopter crash — which killed four tourists from Britain and two from Australia, as well as the New Zealand pilot — some observers said the weather and visibility were marginal for safe flying.

Jewell said he didn't want to comment until an investigation by authorities was complete. He said the crash hasn't affected tourist numbers, which have been stronger than ever this year.

At the base of the Franz Josef, Dutch tourist Dieuweke Derkse said she was overwhelmed by the beauty of the glacier and the purity of the environment.

She said she believed global warming was responsible for its retreat and felt a little guilty even visiting New Zealand because of the fossil fuels burned by the plane ride there. But she said the glacier also helped inspire her to live in a more environmentally conscious way.

"It makes me a little bit sad because you see how fast everything is going," she said. "The river is going very fast but the snow and glacier is going backward." AP

AP PHOTO



Tourists who have taken a helicopter trip onto the Fox Glacier follow a guide

SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC



Every Saturday, until March 22, PokerStars LIVE Macau will be hosting the HK\$1,000 Saturday Warm-up (20k GTD) at 2pm and the HK\$3,000 Saturday Superstack (100k GTD) at 6pm

It's part of the exciting new schedule of poker tournaments we're running Wednesdays to Sundays

Cancel all other plans

Find out more at PokerStarsLIVEMacau.com

Level 2,
Estrada do Istmo,
Cotai Macau SAR

PokerStars LIVE
Macau

All tournaments are subject to regulatory approval.

SPECIAL OFFER

GOLD LABEL

\$3600



VSOP

\$3700



Buy 2 Get 1 Free
買2送1



D2 CLUB
www.d2club-macau.com

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edf. New Orleans III
澳門友誼大馬路-澳門漁人碼頭新奧爾良館 III
Tel: (853) 2872 3777



RCR Electronics (Macau) Ltd.

中葡電子(澳門)有限公司

ELV Systems Specialists
專業的弱電系統



Surveillance Systems
監控系統

Design & Budgets
設計和預算

Intrusion Alarm Systems
入侵警報系統

Project Management
項目管理



Access Control Systems
門禁系統

Maintenance & Service
維修和服務

AV/TV, Telephone & Display Systems
AV/TV, 電話和顯示系統

Risk Assessment & Management
風險評估和管理



Fire Detection & Supression Systems
火焰偵測和滅火系統

Survey & Troubleshooting Services
檢驗和故障診斷與維修服務

Network & Structure Cable
網絡和綜合佈線

澳門馬場東大馬路25-69號福泰工業大廈12樓B座

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

TEL: + (853) 2822 1341

FAX: + (853) 2822 0824

www.rcr-macau.com

email: contact@rcr-macau.com

DONALD Trump scored victories yesterday [Macau time] in three states, including the big-prize Florida, but lost Ohio to the state's governor, John Kasich, as the billionaire continued to move ahead in his stunning campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. Hillary Clinton won at least four states, dealing a severe blow to Bernie Sanders' bid to slow her march toward the Democratic nomination.

Marco Rubio, the Florida senator who staked his once-promising campaign on winning in his home state, dropped out of the presidential race shortly after the polls closed. That leaves Kasich as the last true establishment candidate running against Trump and arch-conservative Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Trump now has 621 delegates. Cruz has 396 and Kasich 138. Rubio left the race with 168 delegates

Trump, the brash and controversial reality TV star, has upended Republican politics by winning most of the state-by-state competitions for delegates who will choose the party's nominee. He has seized on Americans' anger with Washington politicians, discomfort with immigration and fears of terrorism, attracting voters with his blunt talk and simply worded promise to make America great again.

Super Tuesday II's votes in five states had been viewed as a pivotal moment in the Republican presidential campaign. For the first time, two states — Ohio and Florida — had winner-take-all contests. A Trump sweep could have given him an insurmountable lead in the delegate count.

Trump won the biggest prize — all 99 Florida delegates — as well as winning North Carolina and Illinois, and was locked in a tight race with Cruz in Missouri. He told a victory rally in Florida, "This was an amazing night."

But Kasich's win, capturing all of Ohio's 66 delegates, was crucial to keeping alive the hopes of mainstream Republicans trying to stop Trump.

Both the Republican and Democratic primaries in Missouri were too close to call.

While Trump has amassed the most delegates, he's winning just 46 percent of the

USA ELECTIONS

Trump wins Florida, loses Ohio; Rubio drops out



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to supporters at his primary election night event at his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla.

delegates that have been awarded so far. If that pace continues, he would fall short of the majority that he would need to assure him the nomination at the party's convention in July. The result could be a contested convention, creating an unpredictable outcome.

This was the first victory for Kasich, whose upbeat message and long record of government service has had little resonance as his rivals seized on voters' anxiety and disdain for Washington. While he could benefit from Rubio dropping out, he remains an extreme longshot for the nomination, though he could help keep Trump below the 50 percent threshold.

Cruz said at a Houston rally that the battle for the Republican presidential nomination battle was a "two-person race" between himself and Trump. He did not mention Kasich by name.

Trump now has 621 delegates. Cruz has 396 and Kasich 138. Rubio left the race with 168 delegates. It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination for president.

In the Democratic race, Clinton's victories in Florida and North Carolina were expected, but Sanders, a Vermont senator and self-described democratic socialist, had hoped to take the industrial states of Ohio and Illinois, both of which Clinton won. He criticized the former secretary of state

for her past support for trade deals. Sanders is unlikely to overtake Clinton in the delegate count, but his victory last week in Michigan underscored the unease that many Democratic voters have about her candidacy.

Clinton has at least 1,561 total delegates including superdelegates. Sanders has at least 800 delegates

With her wins, Clinton put herself in a commanding position to become the first woman in U.S. history to win a major party nomination.

Overall, Clinton has at least 1,561 total delegates including superdelegates, who are elected officials and party leaders free to support the candidate of their choice. Sanders has at least 800 delegates when the count includes superdelegates. It takes 2,383 to win the Democratic nomination.

In Missouri, the margins between Trump and Cruz and between Clinton and Sanders, were less than one-half of 1 percentage point, meaning the

losing candidate can request a recount. The Associated Press did not call either race.

At a victory rally in West Palm Beach, Florida, Clinton pivoted quickly to the November election by assailing Trump's hardline immigration positions and support for torture. "Our commander-in-chief has to be able to defend our country, not embarrass it," she declared.

Trump has alienated many Republicans and Democrats alike with his disparaging remarks about Mexicans, Muslims and women, among

others. He entered Tuesday's primaries embroiled in one of the biggest controversies of his contentious campaign. He has encouraged supporters to confront protesters at his events and is now facing accusations of encouraging violence after skirmishes at a rally last week in Chicago that he ended up cancelling.

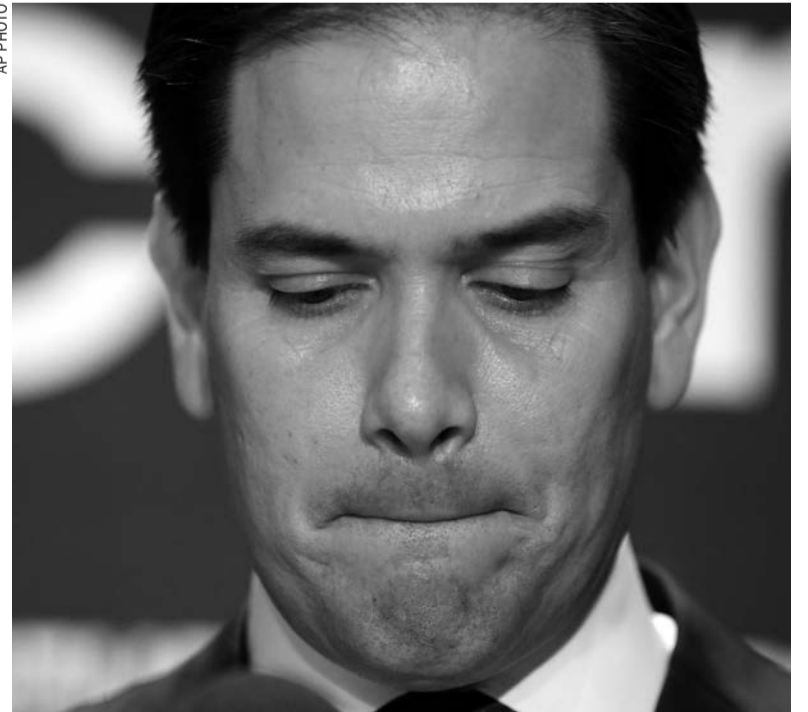
"I don't think I should be toning it down because I've had the biggest rallies of anybody probably ever," Trump said Tuesday on ABC's Good Morning America. "We have had very, very little difficulty."

Rubio and Kasich have suggested they might not be able to support Trump if he's the nominee, an extraordinary stance for intraparty rivals. All of the Republican candidates had earlier pledged to support the nominee.

Rubio implicitly rebuked Trump throughout a speech in Miami announcing he was dropping out of the race, imploring Americans to "not give in to the fear, do not give in to the frustration."

Now thrust into the center of a campaign that has been bitterly personal, Kasich vowed to cheering supporters in Berea, Ohio, that he would "not take the low road to the highest office in the land."

Trump has been the target of millions of dollars in negative advertising in recent weeks, including one ad campaign that highlights his statements that appear to encourage violence — among them, "I'd like to punch him in the face."



Republican presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., speaks during a Republican primary night celebration rally at Florida International University in Miami, Fla.

what's ON



CHAN MING'S EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30 pm

(Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: April 30, 2016

ADMISSION: Free

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

"HEART CARVING - XUE YIHAN'S SCENES OF MACAU PRINTMAKING EXHIBITION"

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays); 3pm-8pm

(Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: April 22, 2016

VENUE: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery, Calçada da

Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau Gallery A2

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily

(Except Mondays, closed on the following day

instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no

admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau

(853) 2833 7676

NEW ART PEOPLE PROJECT 2016 POP UP

SHOP FOR SOMETHING-SI-WAI'S CLOTHING

EXPERIMENT EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: March 27, 2016

VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel

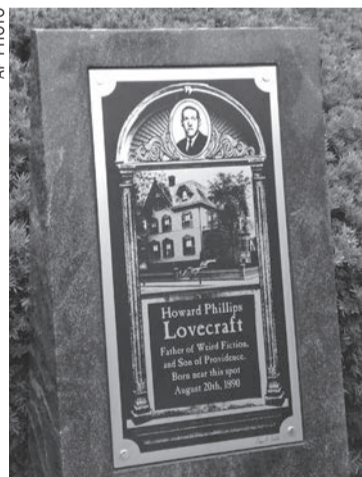
Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

Offbeat

FANS USE LOVECRAFT'S FAME TO PROMOTE PROVIDENCE'S WEIRD SIDE



Fans of H.P. Lovecraft's writings are trying to use the growing fame of the early 20th century fantasy-horror writer to promote Providence's weird side.

Lovecraft so identified with Rhode Island's capital city that he wrote "I am Providence" in a letter. His headstone bears the phrase. Some of Lovecraft's best-known works are set in Providence.

In the 79th anniversary of his death this week, a light rain fell as about 20 people gathered where Lovecraft's childhood house once stood for the unveiling of a marker.

The nonprofit Lovecraft Arts & Sciences Council placed the marker as part of a broader effort to foster the weird fiction and art community in Providence and highlight Lovecraft and other writers and artists. It's working to publicize local historic sites, weird events and unique destinations.

The council wants to use Lovecraft to present Providence as a capital for weird, fun and imaginative events, said Niels Hobbs, the director.

"That's something even Lovecraft would appreciate," Hobbs said. "He adored Providence."

Howard Phillips Lovecraft was born in Providence on Aug. 20, 1890. He spent a brief period in New York, then returned and lived in Providence until his death on March 15, 1937.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:25	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:10	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Documentary Serie
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

17 MAR - 23 MAR



KUNG FU PANDA 3

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm

(3D) 5.45 pm

Director: Alessandro Carloni, Jennifer Yuh

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 95min

GODS OF EGYPT

ROOM 1

9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

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

THE TAG ALONG

ROOM 3

2.15, 5.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Wei-hao Cheng

Starring: Wei Ning Hsu, River Huang, Yin-Shang Liu

Language: Mandarin (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 93min

ZOOTOPIA

(19 MAR - 20 MAR) ROOM 3

4.00 pm

Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 108min

LONDON HAS FALLING

ROOM 3

4.00, 7.30 pm

Director: Babak Najafi

Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart,

Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 99min

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



Kray Twins Ronald and Reginald

1995 KILLER RONNIE KRAY DIES

Notorious gangland killer Ronnie Kray has died in hospital two days after he collapsed in his ward at Broadmoor where he was serving a life sentence for murder.

Police said 61-year-old Ronnie died at 0907 GMT after being transferred to Wexham Park hospital, Slough, from a hospital in Ascot.

The man, once part of the infamous gang "The Firm", is understood to have suffered a heart attack.

Ronnie, a homosexual who had been married, was taken to Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, two days ago after collapsing in his room at Broadmoor.

He was transferred to Wexham Park hospital last night after his condition deteriorated, and he later died there.

Kray and his twin brother Reggie were sentenced to 30 years in prison in 1969, which ended a 10 year bloody reign of terror in London.

Ronnie had shot George Cornell in the Blind Beggar public house in Whitechapel in 1966 for calling him a "fat poof".

And a year later Reggie stabbed Jack "The Hat" McVitie in a flat in North London.

Ronnie was later judged to be criminally insane and sent to the Broadmoor secure hospital.

He told friends and family he expected to die a prisoner.

Kray, who shared the ward with Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe, had suffered two earlier heart attacks, the latest in September 1993 after which doctors warned his rumoured 100 cigarettes a day habit would kill him.

The Krays have reached iconic status, revered by some and scorned by others.

They ran a brutal gang in London's East End during the late 1950s and 1960s which netted them a fortune and allowed them to live a life of luxury.

Since their conviction, an industry has grown around them with books, T-shirts, television specials and a film starring pop star twins Gary and Martin Kemp of Spandau Ballet.

Reggie is understood to have learnt of his twin's death from a fellow prisoner in Maidstone jail who had heard it on the radio and was described as "absolutely distraught".

Their elder brother Charlie, who served seven years for his part in the crimes, said he was saddened by the loss and that his late brother had been misunderstood.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Scotland Yard had been on the trail of the Krays for many years and finally caught up with them and their accomplices in 1968.

In June 1997 Charlie was found guilty of masterminding a £39m cocaine plot and jailed for 12 years. He died in hospital as an inmate in April 2000.

The surviving brother Reggie, who had hoped for parole after serving 30 years in prison, got release as a dying wish when Home Secretary Jack Straw ordered his freedom when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given just weeks to live. He died in October 2000.

Neither the Krays' incarceration or death has suppressed their legend.

Many people had campaigned for their release as they were seen as having a sense of honour by ridding London's streets of criminals.

Despite using violence many insisted women and children were safe as long as the Krays prowled the streets.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You'll achieve a right of passage. Or will you go through a hazing? Whatever the initiation ritual, you're moving on to a new level, so embrace it with enthusiasm.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Something is putting a fire under you. Whether it's real or imagined, you still have time to shop around, so don't take the first assignment or job offered to you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 A little communication means a lot, whether with colleagues or acquaintances. Don't just hope things will go the way you want them to. Take the initiative, even if it means withstanding the glare of the group.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your emotions are easily aroused, and for good reason. Your excellent memory is at work again. Use it as your compass when navigating your way through work, today.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 This is only a test. Without those words, certain sounds would be frightening. With them, they're to be ignored. Take the latter approach when it comes to doing boring assignments.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Some may wonder how you can remain so high-spirited, and you may not even know the answer. It's your true sense of purpose shining through all the tedium, if that means anything to you or to them.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If you always feel that you have to choose between being selfish and being selfless, then you're not doing something right. Being a team player feels much more win-win.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're not out for gain, you just want to be of service. Who are you kidding? Not even yourself. You're in it for the money, just like everyone else at the office, so don't feel forced to hide it.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Didn't acting macho go out with the last century? Apparently not for everyone. Don't take a retro stance too seriously. Look at it as camp and you can have fun with it instead.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 If your ancestors are breathing down your neck fairly regularly, then it could be time to make a decision, but it's not the one you think. Family and career don't have to be opposites, so relax.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Some kind of electricity is being generated at the office. Make sure it's something you can use. Keep it less like lightning bolts and more like a steady current.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Being lost in the clouds is one thing, but being delusional is something else altogether. Someone you work with is beyond wearing rose-colored glasses. Don't let their illusions pull the wool over your eyes.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

5x5 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

Easy+

5x5 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

Medium

5x5 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

Hard

5x5 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

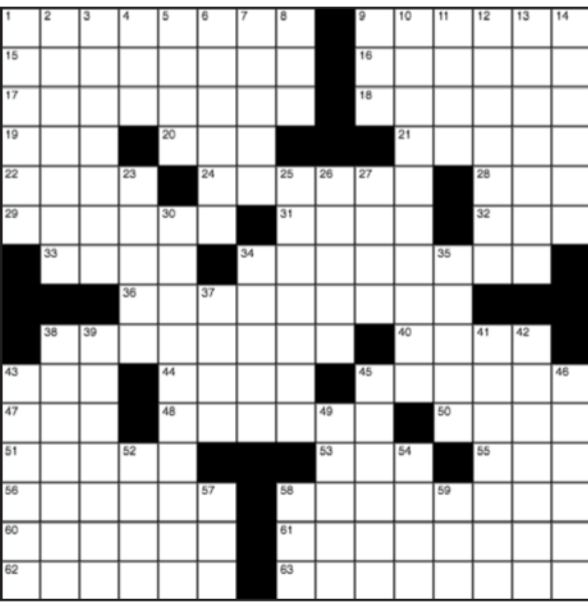
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Regulate; 9- First name in whodunits; 15- Unequal; 16- Fix beforehand; 17- Evolves; 18- Ornamental vestment part; 19- Verse starter?; 20- Live and breathe; 21- Floating bombs; 22- Grazing sites; 24- Kathmandu native; 28- Court fig.; 29- Bars legally; 31- Party to; 32- Fire starter?; 33- Cauterize; 34- Like a lodestone; 36- Critical revision of a text; 38- Deject; 40- Man, in Milan; 43- 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 44- Singer Redding; 45- Lens settings; 47- AOL, e.g.; 48- Dog breed; 50- Scots Gaelic; 51- Data; 53- Prefix with content; 55- Earthlink competitor; 56- Angles; 58- Poisonous alkaloid; 60- Be emphatic; 61- Free from sensual desire; 62- Minuscule; 63- Residing;

DOWN: 1- Separable component; 2- Unity; 3- Digress; 4- Ply; 5- Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace; 6- Decorates; 7- Conical native American tent; 8- Begley and Wynn; 9- PC program; 10- Grasslike; 11- Ethereal: Prefix; 12- Large sea wave; 13- Miscrants; 14- Bikini tryouts; 23- Flies high; 25- Chopin or Liszt; 26- Emo anxiety; 27- Burt's ex; 30- Impress favorably beforehand; 34- Reason for a raise; 35- Govt. security; 37- Make reference to; 38- Intend; 39- Deadlock; 41- Glacial deposit; 42- Constituent of blood serum; 43- Fit badly; 45- Disorderly disturbance; 46- Choose; 49- Author Zola; 52- Dilute; 54- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 57- Dirty digs; 58- "Car Talk" ainer; 59- Director Browning



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE www.JMLProperty.com

FOR RENT

More info, please contact us Info@JMLproperty.com (853) 2835 2699 Office

Tou Un, Tower 2 Taipa 690 sq ft / HKD 4.58M HKD 6,637sq ft Fully furnished Ref: 16025469

Manhattan F Unit Central Taipa 3 Bedrooms Apartment Resort Style Facilities HKD 21,500 / 1,720 sq ft Ref: 15090534

Kam Long, Lilau Square Macau 1,100 sq ft / HKD 4.9M HKD 4,454sq ft Renovated in 2004 Ref: 15085452

Modern Apartment Central Taipa 2 Bedroom Apartment Newly Renovated HKD 14,000 / 820 sq ft Ref: 16020564

Chun Leong Car Park, Taipa 0sq ft / HKSD 1.8M HKD 0sq ft Car park for Sale Ref: 15050514

The Buckingham Taipa 2 Bedrooms Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 18,000 / 1,350 sq ft Ref: 16020558

Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau 627 sq ft / HKD 3.88M HKD 6,188sq ft Near Ruins of St Pauls Ref: 15075447

Houston Court Coloane Village 1 Bedroom Apartment Lovely Roof Terrace HKD 12,500 / 740 sq ft Ref: 15110549





Innovation that excites



FF

IRICLE

CIRCLE OF ADVANTAGE | QASHQAI

新康恆集團有限公司屬於下日產澳門總代理
新康誠汽車有限公司
XIN KANG CHENG MOTORS LTD.

Showroom:
Avenida 1 de maio,
The Bayview Bloco 4, R/C,C-D, Macau



Enquiry: 2871 9838

Graham Dunbar, Geneva

FOOTBALL SCANDAL

FIFA admits to World Cup hosting bribes, asks US for cash

WHILE acknowledging for the first time that votes were bought in past World Cup hosting contests, FIFA is seeking to claim "tens of millions of dollars" in bribe money seized by U.S. federal prosecutors.

FIFA submitted a 22-page claim to the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York yesterday [Macau time] that seeks a big share in restitution from more than USD190 million already forfeited by soccer and marketing officials who pleaded guilty in the sprawling corruption case.

Tens of millions of dollars more is likely to be collected by U.S. authorities when sentences are handed down, and from dozens of officials currently indicted but who have denied bribery charges or are fighting extradition.

FIFA claims it is the victim of corrupt individuals, despite widespread criticism that bribetaking was embedded in its culture in the presidencies of Joao Havelange and Sepp Blatter, who was forced from office after 17 years by the current scandal.

"The convicted defendants abused the positions of trust they held at FIFA and other international football organizations and caused serious and lasting damage to FIFA," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said yesterday in a statement. "The monies they pocketed belonged to global football and were meant for the development and promotion of the game. FIFA as the world governing body of football wants that money back and we are determined to get it no matter how long it takes."

In documents seen by The Associated Press, FIFA asks for:

- \$28.2 million for years of payments, including bonuses, flights and daily expenses, to officials it now says are corrupt.



Newly elected FIFA president Gianni Infantino

- \$10 million for the "theft" of money that FIFA officials transferred as bribes to then-executive committee members to vote for South Africa as 2010 World Cup host.

- "substantial" cost of legal bills since separate U.S. and Swiss federal probes of corruption in international soccer were revealed last May.

- damages for harm to its reputation, plus other bribes and kickbacks for media rights to non-FIFA competitions but "which were made possible because of the value of the FIFA brand".

"FIFA has become notable for the defendants' bribery and corruption, not its many good works," lawyers for soccer's world body state in the claim. "FIFA is entitled to restitution

for this harm to its business relationships, reputation and intangible property."

FIFA's grab for a share of the money sets up a battle with two of its regional confederations — CONMEBOL, the South American confederation, and CONCACAF, the body running soccer in North America. It was officials and competitions from those regions that were most involved in the corruption crisis.

It also signals a change in strategy for FIFA, after months of senior officials distancing Zurich from the scandal, instead blaming confederations which are beyond its control.

Most of the already seized money — \$151.7 million — will come from Brazilian marketing executive Jose Hawilla, whose group of agencies were heavily

involved with matches CONCACAF and CONMEBOL controlled but not FIFA directly.

In an initial claim for \$28.2 million, FIFA specifies an amount for each of 20 men from the Americas over many years that it says it should be repaid from money held by U.S. authorities.

FIFA wants more than \$5.3 million it spent on Chuck Blazer, the disgraced American official who has pleaded guilty, allocates \$4.4 million of its claim for former FIFA vice president Jack Warner, and \$3.5 million for Ricardo Teixeira, Havelange's former son-in-law

FIFA as the world governing body of football wants the [seized] money back and we are determined to get it no matter how long it takes.

GIANNI INFANTINO
FIFA PRESIDENT

from Brazil.

Warner, a long-time power-broker from Trinidad and Tobago until resigning in a 2011 election bribery scandal, is identified by FIFA in its 22-page claim for receiving a \$1 million bribe from 1998 World Cup bid candidate Morocco, and ensuring the \$10 million bribe from South Africa was paid via a FIFA account in 2008.

FIFA claims a further \$2 million for payments to Jeffrey Webb, the Cayman Islands banker who was arrested at a luxury Zurich hotel last May, and now lives at his home near Atlanta, Georgia, awaiting sentence in June.

"These dollars were meant to build football fields, not mansions and pools; to buy football kits, not jewelry and cars; and to fund youth player and coach development, not to underwrite lavish lifestyles for football and sports marketing executives," Infantino said.

It is unclear how much influence Infantino, a former lawyer, had had in the restitution claim since he was elected only three weeks ago, with strong support from voters in the Americas.

Infantino's signature pitch to voters on election day was about finances, saying bluntly "It's your money." That resonated with members of CONMEBOL and CONCACAF, who have had a combined \$20 million central funding frozen by FIFA.

CONCACAF, based in Miami, has had its past three presidents implicated in the U.S. case. But it has passed wide-ranging reforms to clean up its operations, and has targeted restitution money to rebuild.

"CONCACAF views itself as a victim of a number of the offenses described in the indictments and intends to seek restitution at the appropriate time," the regional body said in a statement. **AP**

FORMULA ONE

All eyes on qualifying at season starter in Australia

THIS weekend's Formula One season-opening grand prix in Australia should, in theory, be an unpredictable affair.

Along with the standard first-race technical glitches with new components, the usual churn of rule changes, and drivers becoming acquainted with racing, this year will also add a new qualifying system and reduced aid to drivers from the pit wall.

The race at Melbourne's Albert Park street circuit usually is also a high attrition contest that has produced some unlikely winners.

However, putting the race result to one side and

looking at the more pure measure of speed from qualifying, Melbourne is a near faultless guide to who will win the drivers' championship.

Eight of the past nine drivers to have won pole position in Melbourne went on to win that year's title, with Lewis Hamilton in 2012 — then driving for McLaren — being the only exception.

So the wise investments on who will take the 2016 title should be based upon what happens in Melbourne on late Saturday afternoon. Or should it?

Dismayed by the predictability of modern F1, the

sport's commercial chief Bernie Ecclestone led the way in introducing a new qualifying system which will, after much debate and opposition from the top teams and drivers, be in place this weekend.

There will be the same three segments of qualifying, but instead of cutting the slowest cars at the end of Q1 and Q2 and deciding the top grid spots at the end of Q3, the cars will be eliminated one by one every 90 seconds.

Each car will have a few minutes in each session to set a lap time before the regular eliminations begin in a system already

dubbed 'musical chairs.'

It reduces the margin for error, and eliminates the luxury of the top drivers spending most of the time in the garage in Q1 and Q2, simply doing one lap in each of the first two sessions and thereby keeping fresh sets of tires for the race. Instead they'll have to be out there from the start on dirty, unrubbered tracks.

The change is designed to shake up the qualifying order, and perhaps put a spanner in the works of Mercedes, which has been the utterly dominant force of the past two seasons. But few critics suspect it will be enough.

Hamilton is a favorite to win a third straight drivers' championship, and notwithstanding a controversial pre-race trip to New Zealand in which he publicly criticized a casino and drew the attention of local law enforcement for apparently taking a selfie while riding a motorcycle, he should be primed for another strong start in Australia.

"The car feels even better than last year's from both a performance and reliability perspective, which is saying something," Hamilton said earlier this week.

"People keep asking me about motivation, but I



Formula One racer Lewis Hamilton

just have to look at the faces of all those people [at the team's technical headquarters] to know what I'm fighting for."

His biggest challenge again shapes as teammate Nico Rosberg, who finished the 2015 season with three successive wins — after Hamilton had the title secured. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Adam Minter, Bloomberg

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HONG KONG?

A little more than a decade ago, Hong Kong was the world's busiest port. Giant vessels competed to get into the city's berths, waiting to load and unload containers filled with goods manufactured just over the border in China's factory towns. Back then, Hong Kong still expected that its freewheeling commercial culture could change China for the better. And trading - accounting for almost 25 percent of the city's economy - seemed like just the industry to lead the way.

Now those expectations are colliding with reality. Last week, the local government reported that cargo flowing through Hong Kong dropped by 13.8 percent in 2015, capping a dismal year in which the city's port declined to the world's fifth-busiest, dropping behind one-time also-rans Shanghai and Shenzhen. It's likely to get worse: Last year, Deutsche Bank predicted that the volume of cargo moving through Hong Kong will decline by as much as 50 percent over the next decade.

That's not just an economic blow. For a city that has long valued its independence and distinctiveness from mainland China, it also threatens something of an identity crisis.

Shipping has played a singular role in the modern history of Hong Kong, dating back to 1841 when British naval officers claimed the large, placid harbor with the idea that it would serve as a perfect gateway to China's internal markets. The port's period of greatest prosperity was the latter half of the 20th century, following China's economic opening to the outside world. Between 1972 and 2012, the volume of cargo moving through the port increased almost 18 times over, with the fastest growth between 1990 and 2000.

Two types of business propelled that growth - and both are now under serious threat.

The first is direct shipping to and from South China. For decades, the port of Hong Kong offered better berths, technology and efficiency than Chinese ports across the border. Shippers preferred its predictable legal system to the mainland, where regulations and duty assessments could change on a whim.

In the past few years, however, China has been steadily eroding these advantages by building advanced port facilities of its own. During the second half of the 2000s, while the volume of cargo moving through Hong Kong grew by about 2 percent annually, it grew by 20 percent in Shenzhen and 57 percent in Guangzhou. Hong Kong's share of South China's cargo business has declined from more than 70 percent in 2001 to less than 40 percent today.

The second crucial business is so-called trans-shipment. By Chinese law, foreign vessels can't carry cargo from one domestic port to another. But Hong Kong, considered an international port, is exempted from this restriction. Foreign ships can move freight from there to any number of mainland ports. One result is that a large industry of warehouses and other infrastructure has grown up in Hong Kong to support trans-shipment, which represents 72 percent of the port's business.

Now the Chinese government is under growing pressure from foreign cargo carriers and mainland ports to lift the restriction more broadly. When - not if - that happens, Hong Kong's position as a super port will only recede further. To some extent, that seems to be intentional: Last year, China's leading maritime policy institute predicted that, by 2030, "Hong Kong's position as an international shipping center will fall."

The local government is now entertaining proposals to upgrade and expand the port. But it's arguably too late. It can't change the fact that China's economy has expanded and modernized well past the stage where it needs a gateway. That aspect of Hong Kong's identity, like so many others, will likely have to accommodate itself to ever greater Chinese influence.

THE DENMARK'S TV2 CHANNEL OPENS OFFICE IN SYRIAN CAPITAL

Denmark's TV2 broadcaster says it has opened an office in Damascus, claiming to be the only western media to do so.

Mikkel Hertz, news director of the channel based in Odense, in central Denmark, says it was "a unique opportunity" that the channel obtained a permanent visa in Syria after "a long process." He did not elaborate.

Longtime war correspondent Rasmus Tantholdt says it is "a better starting point for filtering out the propaganda emanating from all the warring parties."

Heryz says the office opened yesterday on the 15th floor of a high-rise "in a relatively peaceful area" in the city.



Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen, Denmark

ONCE AGAIN

Danes take top spot in world happiness report, Singaporeans happiest in East Asia

DENMARK, perhaps better known for its fictional, suicide-agonizing prince Hamlet and fierce marauding Vikings than being a nation of the happiest people, has just won that very accolade. Again.

Even U.S. Democratic front-runners Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders have singled out the small Scandinavian country as an example of a happy, well-oiled society. Yesterday, the United Nations made it official: It found Danes to be the happiest people on Earth, in a study of 156 countries.

Knud Christensen, a 39-year-old social worker, knows one reason why his compatriots are laid-back - they feel secure in a country with few natural disasters, little corruption and a near absence of drastic events.

"We have no worries," Christensen said, smiling as he stood on a Copenhagen street near the capital's City Hall. "And if we do worry, it's about the weather. Will it rain today, or remain gray or will it be cold?"

The Scandinavian nation of 5.6 million has held the happy crew twice before since the world body started measuring happiness around the world in 2012, which is based on a variety of factors: People's health and access to medical care, family relations, job security and social factors,

including political freedom and degree of government corruption.

Egalitarian Denmark, where women hold 43 percent of top jobs in the public sector, is known for its extensive and generous cradle-to-grave welfare.

Few complain about the high taxes as in return they benefit from a health care system where everybody has free access to a general practitioner and hospitals. Taxes also pay for schools and universities, and students are given monthly grants for up to seven years.

Many feel confident that if they lose their jobs or fall ill, the state will support them.

Jeffrey Sachs from Columbia University, one of those behind the report, says that happiness and well-being should be on every nation's agenda.

"Human well-being should be nurtured through a holistic approach that combines economic, social and environmental objectives," he said in a statement before the World Happiness Report 2016 was to be officially presented in Rome yesterday.

The Roman Catholic Church has welcomed the study, declaring that happiness is "linked to the common good, which makes it central to Catholic social teaching," according to Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, one of Pope Francis' key advisers at the Vatican.

Kaare Christensen, a university professor in demography and epidemiology in Odense, where fairy tale writer Hans Christian Andersen was born, says it doesn't take much to satisfy Danes.

"They are happy with what they get. Danes have no great expectations about what they do or what happens to them," she said Christian Bjoernskov, an economy professor at the University of Aarhus, Denmark's second-largest city, believes feelings self-assurance and self-determination have a lot to do with it.

"Danes feel confident in one another (...) when we stand together we can succeed," he says. "And they also have a strong belief they can decide their own lives."

After Denmark, the next happiest nations last year were Switzerland, Iceland and Norway, followed by Finland, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden. Israel takes the 11th place while the United States was 13th, two spots higher than the previous year.

Singapore (22) ranks as the happiest place in East Asia, followed by Thailand (33), Taiwan (35), Malaysia (47), Japan (53), South Korea (58), Hong Kong (75), Indonesia (79), Philippines (82) and mainland China (83). Macau is not ranked. MDT/AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-80 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

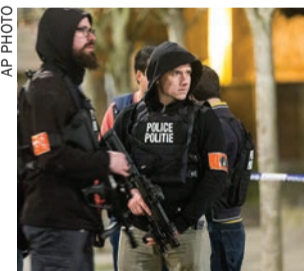
WORLD BRIEFS

USA Donald Trump scored victories in three states, including the big-prize Florida, but lost Ohio to John Kasich, as the billionaire continued to move ahead in his stunning campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. Hillary Clinton won at least four states, dealing a severe blow to Bernie Sanders' bid to slow her march toward the Democratic nomination. More on p15



SYRIA Russia's plan to withdraw forces from Syria is sending a strong message to President Bashar Assad, whose hard-line stance is diverging from Moscow's interest in declaring its intervention in the country a success as it also accelerates peace efforts.

ISLAMIC STATE Omar al-Shishani, an Islamic State commander who was a magnet for fighters from the former Soviet Union, has died of wounds suffered in a U.S. airstrike in Syria, according to Iraqi and U.S. officials.



BELGIUM Belgian and French police investigating a suspected link with the November Paris attacks stormed a Brussels house. After being fired upon, police killed a suspect armed with a Kalashnikov assault rifle, authorities say.

GERMANY Authorities conducted raids across the country after the government banned a right-wing extremist group called Weisse Wölfe Terrorcrew accused of wanting to establish a Nazi-style dictatorship. The raids and seizures of evidence in 10 states targeted 16 leaders of the group.