



**ENVIRONMENT: LIGHT POLLUTION STARTS TO WORRY ACTIVISTS**  
 "People can't even see the stars," says Joe Chan, head of the Green Student Union. Events such as the Light Festival disturb residents and bird habitats

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**FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS 'DOING WELL', SAYS CONSUL DEAPERA**  
 Filipino migrant workers travel to Macau on tourist-visas, in the hope of a job to help support their family. But in general the 25K-community is "doing well"

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**CALL FOR XI'S RESIGNATION SPARKS CONCERNS IN BEIJING**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**VIETNAM**'s parliament has elected Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan as its chairwoman, making her the first woman to lead the Communist-dominated legislature. The 61-year-old won 95.5 percent of the votes, the National Assembly said on its website.

**MYANMAR** The party of Aung San Suu Kyi submitted a proposal to parliament yesterday to create a new position for her as "state adviser," which would allow her to have a powerful hand in running Myanmar. One lawmaker from her party described the position as "the president's boss," indicating that Suu Kyi's party is helping her to achieve a pledge she has repeatedly made to be above the president.



**AUSTRALIA-TURKEY** The government yesterday warned its citizens against travelling to the Turkish cities of Ankara and Istanbul because of the threat of terrorism. Later yesterday evening another explosion took place near a bus terminal in the Turkish city of Diyarbakir. **More on page 12**

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EXCLUSIVE

**March casino revenue down 15.6 percent at 'austerity' level**

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AT LAST!

**Polytechnic announces Chinese language studies for foreigners**

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**Extra** times  
 weekend Guide  
 INSIDE



# 2016 MIECF elects waste management as top concern

Renato Marques

**T**HE 2016 edition of the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF) kicked-off yesterday morning at the Venetian Macao Ballroom, in the presence of high ranking officials from MSAR, Hong Kong and from several regions of mainland China.

In its ninth edition, the event elected “Green Economy – Opportunities for Waste Management” as the theme for this year.

Addressing the audience in English, the Macau SAR Chief Executive, Chui Sai On said in his welcoming speech, “Environmental protection is one of the main policies of the Macau SAR government. We are striving for a balance between environmental conservation and development by building a low carbon city and enhancing the growth of environmentally sustainable industries,” adding that “[the government] is committed to reducing the waste of resources and promoting separation as a recycling policy in order to improve waste management. Macau is taking all kinds of measures to implement the Macau solid waste resource management plan so as to lay an important foundation for creating a green and low carbon city,” Chui said.

During the introductory keynote address that followed the opening ceremony, Xu Nanping, Vice-Minister of the

Ministry of Science and Technology of the PRC, reiterated the words of President Xi Jinping that described the environment as something “irreplaceable,” explaining the efforts that the central government is taking towards environmental protection at different levels.

In this field, Xu recalled the advances that have been achieved by his Ministry, “we have been promoting the development of environmental protection technologies as well as a balanced development of the different fields in this area,” he said, adding that the government’s initiative, the “Blue Sky Project” is a good example of how the Central government is “pushing forward” to meet the needs of environmental protection in its aim towards well-being in both “economic, environmental and social” aspects.

One of the invited guest speakers to address the keynotes was Professor Walter Stahel, a professional in the

field with extensive knowledge and experience and well-known for being a pioneer in what is called the “Circular Economy.”

Prof Stahel, used his time to present to a room packed with delegates and field professionals on the “Circular Economy” and on its advantages in terms of waste reduction. He started by saying “the objectives of a green economy are to prevent waste and to manage resource stocks,” illustrating his idea with the example of the “Christmas Tree” that undergoes a simple treatment (incineration) or it can be put through a “labor intensive process” of dismantling the product for reuse or recovery of all or most of its materials.

In Prof Stahel’s opinion that same example can be used for almost everything, pointing-out the advantages of the use of the “labor intensive process,” since this process not only benefits by creating less or no waste but creates a “local economy” that will create jobs and other possibilities around it.

Prof Stahel also explained how this process is also profitable stating “reused goods are usually one-third less expensive than the most cost efficient manufacture of a new one,” adding that this also creates a “logistic advantage” as the products are processed locally creating what he called a “consumer caring or teddy bear effect.”

“The more you use a product, the more you spend on labor and on local labor [shall lead to



Chui Sai On

the] return of your investment in a product to grow about 5 times. This is what CEOs and CFOs are really interested in hearing.”

Although he makes the clear assumption that “this model is not of interest to the manufacturing industry, it has to be based on a political decision that will then have an effect on the economy. Manufacturing will always be needed to introduce new products and new ideas,” he said, concluding: “The product use is what we should focus on now.”

This new era, as he named it, will be the “Era of R,” transforming the 3R policy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) in “Reuse, Repair and Remanufacture (for technological upgrading).”

Prof Stahel pointed to the future as the time when we can “recycle atoms, slip molecules...,” stating, “whoever manages to control that process first will have a very big competitive advantage.”

In his opinion, waste is merely “abandoned resources,” stating that in order “to prevent waste we need to give it a value or make someone liable to pay for it,” he said.

Another aspect that Prof Stahel thinks is still lacking in economies is that “time” factor.

He said, “we need to introduce time into economic thinking.” Time will be the factor that will promote profit, exemplifying this concept with a road bridge, which instead of being built and supported by the government was privately built and financed under a 78-year contract that will allow the investors to take profit exclusively from the toll fees to be charged over that period of time.

“Design and build things on your own. If you do things right you will get the profits in time by doing basically nothing,” he stated adding that people in general need to rethink what the economy is about and steer away from the idea of ownership and engage in the ideas of “rent, lease and share,” in order to “buy performance.”

The inventor of the “Cradle to Cradle” and “Performance Economy,” concluded by saying, “the interesting thing in all this is that there is nothing new here, we have been doing this for ages, we just don’t realize it. The idea of a permanent economy was introduced by Aristotle about 2000 years ago,” he concluded.

The MIECF will be running until April 2 when a “Green Public Day” will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**We are striving for a balance between environmental conservation and development.**

CHUI SAI ON



Xu Nanping



Professor Walter Stahel

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UP 6.2 PERCENT IN 2015

## CEM's power consumption hits record high

**T**HE Annual General Meeting of Companhia de Electricidade de Macau - CEM, S.A. (CEM), was held yesterday, reporting that the power consumption increased by 6.2 percent to hit another record high of 4,966 GWh in 2015. The peak demand climbed by 4.4% to 883 MW, with net profits hitting MOP662 million, up 8.8% from 2014.

According to a press release, Macau's locally generated power significantly increased to 753GWh in 2015, up 73 percent from 2014. On the other hand, 4,054 GWh of electricity was imported from the Mainland to Macau in 2015, down 1.1 percent from 2014.

In 2015, over MOP958 million were invested into further improving and developing infrastructure. Out of this investment package, almost 78 percent was invested into the development and maintenance of the transmission and distribution network, while generation projects accounted for about 13 percent.

A number of transmission and distribution infrastructure projects will commence in succession in 2016, including the new Dispatch Centre Building project and three new high-voltage substations with a total investment of approximately MOP500 million at Hospital das Ilhas, Hospital Conde S. Januário, and the artificial island for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

ENVIRONMENT

## Light festival raises question marks over light pollution

**T**HE Light Festival, considered by the government to be a big success, is now prompting worries among local citizens about light pollution, as reported in the Chinese media.

A local environmental association has questioned the Government Tourism Office (MGTO) about the reasons behind the decision to pla-



**People from Macau can't even see the stars now and feel aggrieved when looking up to the sky.**

JOE CHAN  
GREEN STUDENT UNION

ce the light festival in such densely populated areas, such as the Largo de Santo Agostinho, and the Igreja de São Lourenço.

Joe Chan, President of Macau Green Student Union, is concerned about these events which disturb neighboring residents and contribute to the deterioration of bird habitats. In his opinion, they could take place in more sparsely-populated, open squares, instead of being set in narrow spaces.

"Most people seek peaceful environments around the community they live in, especially on holidays. The quality of life for Macau residents should be a top priority of this government, instead of catering to the preferences of tourists," Chan said in a recent interview to Cheng Pou.

According to Chan, leisure tourism exists as a sustainable, low-pollutant model oriented toward moderate consumption.

When referring to light pollution, Chan pointed out that harm by light doesn't have an immediate effect and that is why people aren't aware of the potential harm after light related events have taken place.

To show how some developed countries are protecting their environments from light pollution, Chan mentioned that some European countries allow lit signs only in commercial areas, and that some Asian countries set limits as to the intensity of light. Another one of his concerns is that light pollution can have a negative impact on people's immune systems.

Chan believes that the government should ensure that public facilities do not overuse outdoor lighting.

"People from Macau can't even see the stars now and feel aggrieved when looking up to the sky," Chan said.  
**Staff reporter**

AD



TRANSPORTATION

# Passengers' association calls for tougher 'rogue taxi' legislation

**T**HE Macau Taxi Passenger Association (MTPA) was disappointed with the weak legislation proposed at Tuesday's meeting of the Traffic Advisory Board (CCT), held at the Macau Transport Bureau (DSAT) headquarters, according to a statement.

The proposal calls for sanctions on taxi drivers after they are caught breaking the law more than eight times in one year and that the second level penalty be a suspension lasting one month.

MTPA President Andrew W Scott said: "Given that rogue taxi drivers are generally not caught when they break the law, this would mean taxi drivers could scam passengers dozens of times a year and receive no penalty. The initial penalty proposed is a mere one week suspension - hardly a strong incentive against bad-acting drivers."

The MTPA proposes penalties for taxi drivers caught "fishing" or engaging in other illegal practices. The association also claimed that if Macau is to be a



Andrew Scott

successful international world-class tourism and leisure hub, a 'superb' taxi industry with 'honest and trustworthy drivers' is necessary.

Scott also criticized taxi drivers as they sometimes charge illegal fares of as much as MOP1,000 to unsuspecting tourists for a single taxi ride.

"We've had this problem in Macau for around a decade now, and it's taken over seven years to get these proposals to the Legislative Assembly. Is this really the best we can do? We must get this right - it might be another seven

years before we have another chance!" declared Scott.

Meanwhile, MTPA also claimed that research has shown that other jurisdictions with heavy penalties for 'bad acting' taxi drivers, have particular 'clean and healthy' taxi industries, stating Singapore as an example.

The association has expressed its disappointment over DSAT as its 33-page proposal lodged with DSAT in September 2014, as part of the Public Consultation Process regarding Macau's taxi industry, received no response.

Staff reporter

# Thousands of App-based Shenzhen drivers with criminal records

**T**HOUSANDS of drivers transporting passengers arranged through car-hailing apps in Shenzhen have been found to have extensive criminal records and history of drug offences, Xinhua news agency reported.

1,425 drivers, frequently reached through apps such as Uber and Didi, were found to have recorded drug offences. Another 1,661 drivers have extensive criminal records, and one driver is a registered patient in a psychiatric institution with a history of public displays of violent behaviour.

This week, Shenzhen's municipal transportation committee summoned executives from online transportation network companies, including Uber, Didi, Zuche, Yongche, and ihavercar.com. "A large number of accidents, non-local licensed cars, delayed solutions to passengers' complaints, overlooked fair competition, and lack of

gatekeepers to select qualified drivers are among the primary reasons that led to the investigation," an initial report says.

The committee blamed the app operators for having hired, last year, at least 300,000 drivers using license plates from other cities, which resulted in increased traffic congestion. The committee also criticized the companies for having adopted a strategy that consisted of offering subsidies to both commuters and drivers, which they consider to be unfair competition.

Representatives of the aforementioned companies were asked to dismiss unqualified drivers, including those without a local license plate.

According to Shenzhen police, the city registered 756,000 infringements related to services from car-hailing apps, of which 3,653 were traffic accidents. Staff reporter

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**M**OST Filipino migrant workers travel to Macau on tourist-visas, in the desperate hope of obtaining a job, mostly as domestic helpers, to help support their family's needs, revealed the Philippines Consul General in Macau, Lilybeth Deapera.

"We've raised this issue to the government and they're approving [quotas for non-resident workers]. It's not encouraged but when the government approves it, we urge them to register with OWWA [a Philippine government agency tasked to protect and promote the welfare of the Overseas Filipino Worker]," says Deapera to the Times.

With over 25,000 Filipino workers in the city, the consul general claimed that they have insufficient manpower to cater for all the services the migrant workers need. However, they 'replicate things' by reaching out to the group, through community meetings every month with Filipino community leaders.

"We participate in all the events that we've been invited to as much as possible because that's the time we meet the members of the community," says Deapera. Adding that the city, being small, has an advantage, as information can easily be disseminated.

She also believes that the Filipino community is "doing well," though they occasionally meet people who have been abused or not treated properly by their employers. However, most of the domestic helpers in Macau are not stay-ins like in Hong Kong, meaning forced labor is unlikely to occur at si-

## MDT INTERVIEW

# Filipino migrant workers 'doing well', says Consul General Deapera



milar rates.

The consul general added that they have a partnership with Caritas Macau, gathering every quarter with speakers from the Macau government who discuss issues such as labor laws.

"They're the ones who explain to our countrymen that they also have rights but the problem is that some workers complain when their work contract has already ended," Deapera emphasized.

With regards to workers who didn't go through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the consul general explained that such employees are more prone to

receiving less than USD400, the minimum wage set by POEA.

"Some complain that they receive less than USD400, that's because they came here as a tourist and they just tried to find a job within 30 days, and when the 30th day is near, they grab whatever is available," explains the consul general.

"That's the reason why we discourage them to do these types of things as they do not have the right to negotiate."

Meanwhile, in spite of the recent downturn of the casinos, Deapera said they haven't received reports of Filipino workers being discriminated in

■ The consul general said they haven't received reports of Filipino workers being discriminated in the hotel and gaming industry

the hotel and gaming industry.

However, she claimed that some contracts were not renewed for employees working as cleaners and security guards since the minimum wage law in this industry has been imposed.

Moreover, there are over 30 Filipino inmates held in the territory, mostly for drug related offenses. Deapera said that they are enticed to smuggle drugs from other Southeast Asia countries, due to their severe lack of finances. **Staff reporter**

## Couples to pay more for being old

An elderly couple from Sichuan province was required to pay a "seniors' fee" in addition to the normal fee for a package tour to travel to Australia, according to a mainland report earlier this week. The couple tried to apply for the package tour at different travel agencies in Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan province. However, Mr He, 72, and his 68-year-old wife were asked to pay an extra RMB1,200 each because of their age. According to Mr He, staff from the travel agencies which they visited, told the couple that customers younger than 28 or older than 59 would be charged an additional fee depending on the destination of travel. This so-called additional fee was abolished in 2009.

## More local nursery places needed

Choi Sio Un from the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) claimed during a television interview that IAS expects the number of students enrolled in local nurseries to reach 10,000. Choi advised that IAS is complying with the legal procedures that allow the establishment of new nurseries, as well as the expansion of existing ones. He affirmed that he realizes the concerns of parents of children at preschool age. "I understand that the parents want their children to gain a sense of independence before going to school," said Choi. He believes that IAS can attend to the needs of 90 percent of the children who will be in nurseries this year. There are currently 50 nurseries in Macau taking care of 8,400 children. Thirty-three nurseries are funded by the government. The enrollment period will see a peak during April and May. Eighty percent of the 33 nurseries funded by the government started the first phase of enrollment today.

## AVIATION

## ANM call for 'immediate release' of landing gear report

Daniel Beittler

**N**EW Macau Association (ANM) president Scott Chiang and vice-president Jason Chao called on the Macau Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) yesterday for the immediate release of the investigation report into the fractured landing gear on a Mega Maldives Airlines plane last year.

As reported on Tuesday, an aircraft operated by Mega Maldives Airlines was forced to remain grounded at the Macau airport after its landing gear suddenly malfunctioned last May. It remained there for two months until Boeing Shanghai sent staff to repair it.

The association representatives have said that they want to know when the investigation was (or will be) concluded, as well as when the final report will be released and the justification for withholding the report contrary to the requirements outlined in the law and by international convention.

According to Law no. 2/2013 "Civil Aviation Accident and Incident Investigation and Aviation Safety Information Protection Law" and Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention, "the State conducting the investigation should release the final report



Scott Chiang (left) and Jason Chao

in the shortest possible time and, if possible, within twelve months of the date of the occurrence."

ANM added that if the second delay of Mega Maldives Airlines hadn't attracted considerable media attention, the public "might still be in the dark" about the landing gear incident last year.

"The problem is two-sided: firstly an airline with a safety record that is less-than-perfect [is operating in Macau], and secondly, Macau - as a member of the international community - has a responsibility to monitor and report these situations to the community," said ANM president, Scott Chiang.

They also said that the incident could impact tourism in the city and may affect Macau residents seeking to travel abroad. "In addition to the fare, service and safety records are often taken into account when passengers go to book their flights so the AACM should let the public have access to the safety records of airlines," said Jason Chao.

Asked how the incident would affect Macau residents, Chiang retorted, "Is it [the effect of the incident] exclusive to foreign residents? We are an international city. How will an international airline with an unreliable safety record, impact the reputation of Macau as an international city?"

Moreover, ANM raised suspicions over the renewal of the license of Mega Maldives Airlines, which is due to be renewed almost exactly twelve months after the incident occurred on May 28, 2015.

"This 'coincidence' has raised suspicion over the possibility that AACM is deliberately delaying the release of the final report to the maximum time permitted by law," an ANM statement read. "As a result, the review will be processed before the final report on the incident is released to the public."

## New sand supply for land reclamation

The Infrastructure Development Office announced the establishment of a new dredging site - with the support of the authorities of Guangdong Province - to supply sand for the land reclamation work relating to the new urban zone known as Area A. The new dredging site is located south of the Y-Bridge. However, Sand extraction at the new site is technically more challenging than in the area in which it was previously used. The Office said it would strive to develop new solutions in the coming months to ensure a stable supply of sand for the Area A land reclamation project. Land reclamation works for Area A were originally due to be completed by December 2015. The schedule however was affected by the February 2015 closure of the dredging site that supplied sand for the works.



HIGHER EDUCATION

# Polytechnic offers Chinese language degree for foreigners

**M**ACAO Polytechnic Institute (MPI) will offer a new Bachelor degree in International Chinese Language Education starting from the next academic year, as announced at the launch ceremony yesterday.

According to the President of MPI, Lei Heong Iok, this is the first program of its kind offered by a higher education institution from Macau. MPI considers the program to “facilitate not only the development of the bilateral exchange platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries but also the implementation of the country’s ‘One Belt One Road’ strategy.”

The courses will be taught in Chinese, English, and Portuguese, and will vary according to the nationality of the students.

For non-Chinese native speakers, the mandatory courses include modern Chinese, reading Chinese, Chinese history, Chinese handwriting, Chi-



nese culture, Chinese grammar, Chinese literature, Chinese interpreter, Macau history and culture, as well as compulsory courses, such as English-Chinese translation and Chinese-Portuguese translation.

For native Chinese speakers, they will be taught with more emphasis on Portuguese and English courses, as well as foreign literature courses, besides those related to Chinese.

The program welcomes all nationals. Students who are native speakers of Chinese will take one year of study in Portugal, whereas those who aren't native Chinese will spend one

year at the Beijing Language and Culture University after finishing the three years at MPI. Graduates of this program are recognized by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau of Macau SAR Government, and they may work as teachers in the secondary school system.

“This program opens up a new path for young people from Macau and Mainland China in international education and in the promotion of the Chinese language,” announced MPI.

Applications for the first year of the program are now open and will remain open until May 6. **Staff reporter**

# MUST pays tribute to six scholars

**T**HE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) held its ceremony for the Conferment of Honorary Doctoral Degree 2016 at its institution yesterday, honoring scholars for their contribution to society.

Six individuals who have made achievements in education, economy, science and technology, and have also made contributions to social development, have been paid tribute by the university.

President of MUST, Prof Liu Liang, said in his welcome speech that the scholars all share the same qualities in their perseverant spirit of science exploration and humanistic character toward social commitments.

“It is a great honor for MUST to hold such a ceremony in its anniversary month to award the six most outstanding scholars for their extraordinary achievements and contributions, which will certainly inspire every MUST teacher and student to take up the commitment to carry on the excellent culture, furthering the excellent quality of education here to reach its greatest potential,” said Prof Liang.

One of the awarded scholars was Prof Erwin Neher, a German bio-



physicist, and receiver of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of single ion channels in a live cell.

The discovery has had a revolutionary impact on the field of neuroscience and cell biology, breaking a new path for making known the development of mechanisms of various diseases, and has advanced studies into more disease-specific innovation.

Prof Neher believes that this current era is facing problems such as accelerating climate change, financial crises every five to seven years, eruptions of hatred especially in the Middle East, resulting in continuous migrations of displaced people and biological problems including epidemics and problems related to ageing societies.

“Our species, homo sapiens, continues to quest for greater knowledge in all areas irrespective of the unsettling events that surround us,” he said. “This is a quest that is not new.” **Staff reporter**

AD



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## Travel Agency Industry

For implementation of the “Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme” and recruitment for new applicants, the Macao Government Tourism Office is going to organize a promotion seminar on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016, to introduce the assessment criteria and application procedures of the Scheme.

**Time: 15:00 – 17:00**  
**Venue: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tourism Activities Centre, No.431 Rua Luís Gonzaga Gomes, Macao**  
**Language: Cantonese (Portuguese and English simultaneous interpretation will be provided)**

\*\*\*\*\* Interested merchants are welcome to attend \*\*\*\*\*

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Paulo Chan

'WORST'S OVER' SAYS GAMING BOSS

## March casino revenue down 15.6 percent beats forecasts

**M**ACAU gross gaming revenue for March, due to be published today, is down 15.6 percent year-on-year, official sources told the Times.

In March 2015, GGR sat at MOP21.48 billion, so last month's receipts calculate to around MOP18.15 billion (USD2.3 billion) - a number that barely touches the "austerity" level announced previously by Secretary Lionel Leong.

It is, however, a result which beats analysts' forecasts.

Sanford C. Bernstein forecast on March 8 that the GGR

would have been between MOP16.4 billion and 17.6 billion, or between minus 18 percent and minus 24 percent y-o-y. This week, Daiwa Securities analysts remained "skeptical."

"Our ground checks in Macau last week were sobering, with industry participants sharing an overall air of cautiousness about the sector's near-term prospects," wrote Jamie Soo and Adrian Chan in a note.

In an interview with Radio Macau this week, Paulo Martins Chan admitted that the casino's long losing streak

"could have continued through March."

The recently appointed director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau said the worst is now over for Macau's ailing gaming industry. He added that gaming revenue is likely to see a 10 percent drop this year.

Chan also argued that further drops in revenue will not be as steep as they have been for almost the past two years.

"The most trying times are now past us. I think that even if there's a drop in revenue, it will be a slight one," Chan said to Radio Macau. **PC**

## TOURISM STATS

## Package tours drop in February

**VISITORS** on package tours totaled 569,000 in February, down by 34.0% year-on-year and 0.2% month-to-month. Package tour visitors from mainland China (438,000) decreased by 36.7% year-on-year, and those from the Republic of Korea (34,000) and Taiwan (40,000) dropped by 18.8% and 24.2% respectively. In the first two months of 2016, visitors on package tours totaled 1,139,000, down by 33.2% year-on-year.

There were 106 hotels/guesthouses operating at the end of February an increase of 8 year-on-year. Number of guest rooms totaled 32,000, up by 4,000 (+13.9%) year-on-year, with rooms of 5-star hotels (20,000) and 4-star hotels (8,000) together accounting for 87.5% of the total.

A total of 872,000 guests checked into hotels/guesthouses in February, up by 15.9% year-on-year.

Guests from the mainland increased by 9.1% to 562,000, while those from the Republic of Korea (23,000), Hong Kong (130,000) and Taiwan (36,000) recorded double-digit growth. The average length of stay of guests held stable at 1.4 nights as in February 2015. The average occupancy rate of hotels/guesthouses was 78.6%, down by 1.8 percentage points year-on-year; 5-star hotels had the highest occupancy rate at 80.5%, down by 3.2 percent.

## Leong: Hengqin key to diversification

**T**HE Secretary for Finance and Economy has said the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Industrial Park is an important driver of Macau's future growth away from its dependence on gaming.

Lionel Leong, Secretary for Finance and the Economy, sees a clear path to the diversification of Macau's economy, and it is inextricably linked to the integration with the SAR's neighbors, especially Hengqin Island.

In a wide-ranging interview with Macau Inc., Leong stated that he sees the new Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Industrial Park, which was inaugurated recently in Hengqin, as an important milestone in Macau's efforts to diversify the economy by attracting investment in non-gaming industries.

He expressed his pleasure with the efforts the concessionaires are making with investments in non-gaming activities and facilities, and that more can be done to encourage wider participation by investors in the new industrial park.

Viewing the current slowdown in gaming revenues as a challenge for Macau to find new avenues of growth, Leong declared that he remains confident about the future.



Lionel Leong features in Macau Inc. April's issue. For the full report read it online at [www.macauinc.com](http://www.macauinc.com). (Subscriptions email: [info@macauinc.com](mailto:info@macauinc.com))

"All in all, Macau's fiscal standing remains sound - in addition to running a budget surplus, the Macau government continues to have a fiscal reserve of approximately MOP400 billion at its disposal," he revealed in the interview.

"A dominant gaming sector not only makes it difficult for Macau to manage economic risks," Leong explained, "it also undermines the long-term stability and prosperity of Macau. The urgent task currently facing Macau is how to accelerate economic

development and we must handle it well regardless of the level of difficulty."

"We need to be prepared for the testing and thrifty times that lie ahead," he emphasized, "and we should also take the initiative to change."

Leong says the Macau government will continue to oversee gaming administration to promote healthy and orderly growth, and it will persist in promoting tourism and non-gaming development. By encouraging the gaming, non-gaming and leisure sectors to interact with small- and medium-sized enterprises, the MICE and financial sectors will gradually develop into economic pillars.

Situated in Hengqin New Area and covering some 5 square kilometers, the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Industrial Park is focused on developing tourism, MICE, traditional Chinese medicine, creative industries and financial services. Macanese enterprises are being encouraged to invest in and enter Hengqin with a market-oriented approach.

The MICE and financial-services industries are particularly important, Leong says. The MICE industry is already being developed, of course, and Leong sees it as a priority for the government to encourage Mainland Chinese e-commerce enterprises, third-party payment processors and other financial enterprises to invest in Macau.



## REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Is it time to invest in Macau again?  
Or should we wait another year. Or two? (Part 2)

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



JULIET RISDON

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Home sales have slowed, property prices are down. It could just be the right time to pick up a good deal. Here are the other 5 considerations to take into account if you are thinking about getting back into the market.

## 6. YOU HAVE SOME PROTECTION AGAINST INFLATION

Over the long term, housing has tended to stay ahead of inflation by a small margin.

It's not a guarantee or a perfect model, but you will sleep easier knowing that as inflation kicks in and rents rise, the price of your own property is going up as well. This type of financial 'insurance' is very important for families, and especially important for young families with children who must plan for the next 50 years of their life. That sense of financial security is difficult to replace with any other form of investment.

Knowing the Macau government, there will always be schemes and incentives to help local Macau residents own their own property, and this may range from financial advice and backing, to straightforward cash handouts.

## 7. IT'S YOUR 'CAPITAL'

Housing prices will go up and down. Historically, there are 10 year fluctuation cycles, but these figures generally apply to the western world

as opposed to Asia.

One way of comparing house prices with stock market investments is to think of it like this:

House prices are like a ship on the sea, and they move slowly and steadily up and down in comparison.

Stock prices on the other hand look more like a rocky mountain range, pitching up and down and sometimes falling off a cliff.

Paraphrasing an online article "If you have investment experience, you will know that stocks are incredibly hard for most normal people to own in large quantities for practical as well as psychological reasons".

## 8. YOU ARE FORCING YOURSELF TO SAVE

We have given an example of this in earlier articles.

When you rent an apartment for HK\$15,000 month instead of buying one for HK\$4,000,000 and paying a mortgage of \$20,000 per month, renting may make sense.

The question is, will you REALLY save the \$5,000 difference for your own future?

Most people won't.

In addition, the mortgage payment reduces the 'principle', in other words the amount of money you owe the bank.

In saving terms, paying a mortgage gives the long-term discipline required to build up a substantial investment.

## 9. CHOICE

There are a lot of homes for sale at the moment, especially above HK\$4,000,000.

You have your pick, but it won't last. The market will turn around again and it will be difficult to strike a deal. Owners will hold on to their properties as prices rise, fuelled by the imagination and that primeval driver of mankind, greed.

Buying when others are fearful is always the best time to buy.

## 10. IN TIME THE MARKET WILL RECOVER AND CHANGE

As the population of Macau continues to grow, so does the demand for housing.

With all the new developments on the Cotai Strip coming up, and the direct demand for labour that will be required, it's not hard to see that the pressure on housing is going to increase.

Unemployment is currently below 2%, and Macau will need to come up with a workable strategy to import labour. Simply put, it can't grow without more people to do the jobs.

More people mean more homes being rented and purchased.

The current slowdown in the housing market is likely to make everyone look back at this period with regret if they missed the chance to buy... again!

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PROPERTY

## Average US rate on 30-year mortgage steady at 3.71 percent

**A**VERAGE long-term U.S. mortgage rates were unchanged to slightly higher this week after declining the previous week.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said yesterday the average rate on a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage was steady at 3.71 percent. The benchmark rate also remained close to the 3.70 percent level it marked a year ago.

The average rate on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages edged up to 2.98 percent from 2.96 percent last week.

Prices of U.S. government bonds and their yields — which move in opposite directions — also showed little change over the week, in contrast to their sharp swings in recent weeks.

Mortgage rates tend to follow Treasury bond yields. The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond stood at 1.83 percent Wednesday, down from 1.87 percent a week earlier. The yield slipped to 1.82 percent yesterday.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, in a speech earlier this week, reaffirmed the Fed's plans to move slowly in raising the interest rates it controls. That prospect could keep a lid on mortgage rates in coming weeks.

To calculate average mortgage rates, Freddie Mac surveys lenders across the country at the beginning of each week. The average doesn't include extra fees, known as points, which most borrowers must pay to get the lowest rates. One point equals 1 percent of the loan amount.

The average fee for a 30-year mortgage was unchanged from last week at 0.5 point. The fee for a 15-year loan also held steady, at 0.4 point.

Rates on adjustable five-year mortgages averaged 2.90 percent this week, up from 2.89 percent last week. The fee remained at 0.5 point. **AP**

## China rating outlook cut at S&P on risk of slower rebalancing

**S**TANDARD & Poor's has cut the outlook for China's credit rating to negative from stable, saying the nation's economic rebalancing is likely to proceed more slowly than the ratings firm had expected.

China's AA- long-term credit rating now has a negative outlook, S&P said in a statement. Earlier in March, Moody's Investors Service made a similar revision, highlighting surging debt and questioning the government's ability to enact reforms.

"We revised the outlook to reflect our expectation that the economic and financial risks to the Chinese government's creditworthiness are gradually increasing," S&P said in a statement. "This follows from our belief that, over the next five years, China will show modest progress in economic rebalancing and credit growth deceleration."



Facing deflationary pressure at home and tepid demand from abroad, China's policy makers are juggling reforms aimed at cutting overcapacity with stimulus to cushion the blow. Leaders have flagged more fiscal support this year, and room on the monetary front to support growth.

China's economic expansion will remain at or above 6 percent a year in the next three years, S&P forecast. The investment rate may be "well above" what S&P says are sustainable levels of 30-35 percent of GDP.

Chinese stock-index futures trading in Singapore fell after the S&P announcement, with the FTSE China A50 April futures extending declines to 0.8 percent. The

offshore yuan rose before paring gains to trade 0.14 percent higher at 6.4678 a dollar.

"They are just reiterating the potential risks that we already know," said Tommy Xie, Singapore-based economist at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. "It seems like S&P are playing catch up and I doubt we will see any significant impact on markets. If anything we'll probably see some government-linked media fighting back in the coming days."

To support economic growth targets, China's top planning agency is doling out new fiscal stimulus, further raising the amount of money available to local governments this year under a special infrastructure bond program, people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg earlier yesterday. **Bloomberg**

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# Call for Xi's resignation sparks concerns in Beijing

Daniel Beitler

**BEIJING'S** response to an anonymous letter posted online last month, which called for the resignation of President Xi Jinping, "has been anything but dismissive," writes an article in The New York Times.

The letter, which appeared online at the start of the month before Chinese government officials started their annual sessions, presents Xi in an unfavorable light. According to The NY Times, its style mixes "old-school party jargon and liberal criticism that makes its true authorship difficult to discern."

It demands Xi's resignation "out of concern for the party's endeavors, out of concern for the future of the country and its people, and also out of concern for the personal safety of you and your family," which is likely to be interpreted by Beijing as a threat.

Xi's critics are accusing him of amassing too much power and of betraying the party's recent tradition of collective decision-making. Other common themes of the recent criticism include Xi's anti-corruption campaign, which



In this Feb. 19, 2016 file photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, people applaud as Chinese President Xi Jinping (center) talks with editors in the general newsroom of the People's Daily in Beijing

has targeted former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin among others, as well as his efforts to transform the media into a tool for promoting his own image.

So while it is perhaps not surprising that authorities in the Chinese capital rapidly

responded to the demands with a customary crackdown, involving the detention of at least 11 people since the letter surfaced on March 4, the reaction according to some has been surprisingly disproportionate, drawing more attention than the letter itself.

Among those who have been detained are the siblings of a Chinese editor based in Germany who posted an article criticizing the detention of a journalist in mainland China.

What may further concern authorities is the ease and frequency of the disobedience

and the open, critical remarks that, for a brief period, feature on the personal blogs and websites of dissidents.

Earlier this week Yu Shao-lei, a Chinese editor at a Southern Metropolis Daily, posted a resignation note online to his Sina Weibo microblog. Under the section entitled "reason for resignation," Yu wrote: "Unable to bear your surname" in reference to Xi's visit to state media outlets in February when he necessitated that journalists maintain absolute loyalty to the Communist Party, going so far as to insist they "bear the surname of the Party."

But the latest dissident voice only came to light yesterday, when an editor of Canyu, or "Participation", a Chinese-language website based in the U.S. that specializes in critical commentary of the Chinese Communist Party, said that he had received another letter on Monday urging Xi to quit.

According to the editor, the letter claims to be a petition of 171 "loyal party members," despite the fact that it was delivered anonymously. "As it was also anonymous, it lacks credibility," the editor Cai Chu told The NY Times.

"The response has shown how jittery they are," added Kerry Brown, a professor of Chinese politics at King's College, London. "The fear seems to be that these views might be taken as representative of real elite figures."

## PBOC discloses currency forward positions

**CHINA'S** central bank revealed its short foreign-currency positions in forwards and futures for the first time, a decision that Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. said will help show the extent of the monetary authority's support of the yuan.

The People's Bank of China held USD28.9 billion of such positions with commercial lenders as of end-February, according to a statement posted on its website. It added that it made short-foreign currency trades in derivatives with commercial lenders to meet demand from companies looking to hedge overseas liabilities.

"It looks like this is the first time they are reporting their forwards book, and we finally get an idea of their forwards intervention," said Khoo Goh, a senior foreign-exchange strategist at ANZ. "It indicates that their intervention activity is a lot more than we had previously estimated in February."

The nation's currency reserves fell at a slower pace in Fe-

bruary, prompting speculation that the central bank was using derivatives - which don't immediately show up in the data - to prop up the yuan. The figures don't necessarily give a comprehensive picture because non-PBOC institutions may absorb flows, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. economists wrote in a March 7 note.

The world's largest currency hoard dropped by \$28.6 billion to \$3.2 trillion in February, the smallest decline since June and less than the \$40.9 billion decrease predicted by economists surveyed by Bloomberg. The central bank burnt through \$513 billion of the stockpile last year to support the yuan since a surprise devaluation in August.

Hedging demand from companies has increased since last year as the yuan became more flexible against the dollar, the PBOC said, adding that it will keep providing such products based on real needs when the forwards contracts mature. **Bloomberg**

MCDONALD'S

## 1,500 new outlets in China, Hong Kong, South Korea

**MCDONALD'S** Corp. said yesterday it plans to open 1,500 new restaurants in China, South Korea and Hong Kong as it looks to faster-growing markets to help drive a global turnaround.

McDonald's said it is looking for partners to help finance that expansion. The company said it also will give local managers more decision-making power to respond to Asian customers.

McDonald's, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, is overhauling its business under CEO Steve Easterbrook after acknowledging it failed to keep up with changing tastes. The total number of global



Visitors take photos at an exhibition showcasing the toys given out by McDonald's in the past 25 years in mainland China, in Beijing

diners visiting its restaurants fell last year.

"Asia represents a significant area of opportunity for McDonald's to blend our global quality standards with local insights and expertise from partners who share our vision and values," Easterbrook

said in a statement. "These actions build on our turnaround efforts and will advance local ownership, enable faster decision-making and achieve restaurant growth."

McDonald's currently has 2,800 restaurants in China, South Korea and

Hong Kong, most of them owned by the company instead of franchisees. The company deems those "high-growth markets," which it says have stronger expansion and franchising potential.

The company previously announced plans to identify strategic partners in two other Asian markets, Taiwan and Japan.

McDonald's says it plans to turn over more company-owned outlets to local owners, with a long-term goal of making 95 percent owned by franchisees.

The company reported earlier that sales worldwide rose 5 percent at established locations in the final quarter of 2015.

In the high-growth markets unit, sales climbed 3 percent. U.S. sales rose 5.7 percent and those in Britain and Canada rose 4.2 percent. **AP**



Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWAN

# Decapitation of three-year-old sparks anger and fear

**T**HE apparently random decapitation of a three-year-old girl in front of her mother in low-crime Taipei this week has sparked outrage, calls to save the death penalty and questions about the island's state of mental health care.

The attack on the child, who was walking behind her mother on the way to a metro station, has stunned and horrified inhabitants of greater Taipei, with the reaction at times verging on violence. Hours after the girl was killed, a crowd gathered outside the police station where the slaying suspect was taken, some of them armed with baseball bats.

"I can't accept this," said Chiu Yuan-chao, Taipei mother of a nine-year-old, said in a telephone interview. "This kind of person shouldn't be allowed to enjoy the treatment of a normal person. I think all moms and dads will have this kind of view. This sort of incident is becoming something of a trend and my feeling is that the society is amid some sort of panic."

Police arrested Wang Ching-yu, 33, who they suspect killed the child. He had been hospitalized for treatment in 2010 and 2014 after arguing with his family because of an unspecified mental illness, Central News Agency said, citing police.

Authorities have not said whether mental illness was a factor in the attack or whether Wang had been clinically diagnosed with any mental illness.

City dwellers largely still consider the metro area of 5.6 million to be safe. Murders across the island have fallen from 1,765 cases in 1995 to 474 in 2014, statistics from the National Police Agency show.

But the attack triggered debate about whether to keep the death penalty as a deterrent against violent crime. Legislators have been discussing reforms to the punishment, which had been effectively suspended



A woman prays in front of a makeshift memorial offered with flowers and stuffed animals for a girl who was killed on Monday by a knife-wielding assailant outside a subway station in Taipei

from December 2005 to May 2008. Thirty-three people have been executed since 2008.

About 80 percent of Taiwanese support capital punishment, according to the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty.

"We need a deeper discussion, not just keep or drop the death penalty, but a more complete system," alliance Executive Director Lin Hsin-yi said Thursday. "If we let a criminal out of jail, will he do more bad things? We need to talk about that."

The girl's killing was among several cases of random violence in recent years that have raised concerns about crime and

the city's ability to provide adequate mental health support.

A day after the slaying, a police officer was stabbed at a metro station, again apparently at random. Last year, an eight-year-old girl was killed on an elementary school campus by a man who local media said heard voices. In 2014, a man killed four people in Taipei's ever-crowded metro system.

In each instance, the attackers were characterized as suffering from mental disorders. The man convicted of killing passengers on the subway at age 21 was sentenced to death last year.

The attack has also raised questions about potential inadequacies in the island's mental health services. Lin Wan-i, an incoming official of the president-elect's administration, told local media that the suspect had not been properly diagnosed and observed before being discharged.

Since Monday, many people in Taiwan, including a local official overseeing a Taipei borough, have called for hospitalizing severely mentally ill people in hospitals.

But Pan Chun-hung, director the Department of Addiction Science with Taipei City Hospi-

■ The attack triggered debate about whether to keep the death penalty as a deterrent against violent crime

tal, said Taiwan needs to raise the public's overall awareness of mental health issues. Some people may have difficulty recognizing mental illness in themselves and others or are unaware that treatment is available, he said. Strangers should not fear the mentally ill as "most have no antisocial traits," he said.

"When things happen there's a bit of panic and a reaction that people should be quarantined," Pan said. "But our medication is advanced and people can be treated effectively. We hope eventually, if people know more, they won't feel so panicked."

Tsai Ying-wen, Taiwan's president-elect, said on Wednesday that Taiwan's future head of police will need to devise "specific strategies and activities" to boost public safety.

"Facing the innocent sacrifice of a child, we can't just be angry and sad," she said in a statement. "Our responsibility is to give every father, mother and child a life that's free of fear." AP

HONG KONG

# Gov't threatens to bar party advocating independence

Ting Shi

**T**HE Hong Kong government threatened to bar formation of a political party advocating independence from China, adding to tensions over Beijing's control of the city before legislative elections in September.

Hong Kong is an "inalienable part of the People's Republic of China" and any movement that advocates independence

violates the city's stability and the Basic Law, the city's de-facto constitution, the government said in a statement on its website. The government will "take action according to law" to deal with any attempt by a political party to push for independence, the statement said.

The government's comments came after the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, a branch of the Chinese government, said

that any political party advocating Hong Kong's independence marks "a severe violation" of both the Chinese Constitution and the Basic Law. "This is absolutely out of the question," the office's deputy director Wang Zhimin said on Wednesday. The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office said the Hong Kong government has already refused the party's registration.

A new group calling it-

self the Hong Kong National Party is openly calling for independence as part of the growing "localism" movement in the city where political division has deepened after the 2014 pro-democracy protests. The Occupy movement, as it was known, failed to win concessions after thousands of demonstrators took to the streets for nearly 80 days to protest Beijing's plan to determine the candi-

dates for election of the city's chief executive.

Former leaders of the now-suspended student group Scholarism, a key organizer of the Occupy protests, are also setting up a new party to field candidates for the September election when all 70 seats of the Legislative Council will be contested. That new formation is only calling for "self-determination by Hong Kong people." Five other

localist candidates are campaigning for a referendum on amending the Basic Law to allow more autonomy.

The Basic Law was adopted in 1990 by the Chinese government as it prepared to gain control of the city in 1997 after more than 150 years as a British colony. Article 1 of the Basic Law states that Hong Kong "is an inalienable part of" China. **Bloomberg**





In this Nov. 17, 2013, file photo, Indian Sikh devotees clean the tank early in the morning at the Golden Temple, on the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the first Sikh Guru in Amritsar

## INDIA

# Once-gleaming Golden Temple dulled by air pollution

Katy Daigle, Umar Meraj, Amritsar

**T**HE chronic air pollution blanketing much of northern India is now threatening the holiest shrine in the Sikh religion, making the once-gleaming walls of the Golden Temple dingy and dull.

There is little to be done short of replacing the 430-year-old temple's gold-plated walls — an expensive project already undertaken more than a century ago and then again in 1999.

To cut down on pollution, environmentalists and religious leaders have launched a campaign that includes persuading farmers to stop burning spent crops to clear their fields, removing industry from the area and cutting back on traffic. A community kitchen called a "langar" that serves up to 100,000 people free meals every day at the temple is also switching from

burning wood to cooking with gas.

But so far the campaign hasn't had much impact, with change happening slowly and still no pollution monitoring equipment installed.

"As far as pollution goes, we are paying attention," said Jaswant Singh, environmental engineer at the State Pollution Control Board, a government regulatory authority. "We are in the process of procuring equipment so that we can check the pollution area, pollution from every source on a day-to-day basis."

Officials have also banned burning trash or cooking with certain fuels in restaurants and communities nearby, but enforcement so far remains weak. The city also wants to build an electricity station to stop people from using diesel-fueled generators, but Singh could not say when that might happen.

"The pollution degrading the

Golden Temple is growing," said environmental activist Gunbir Singh, who heads a group called Eco Amritsar. "We need to do a hell of a lot of work to protect the holy city status of this city."

It's unclear how much replacing the gold plating would cost, but it would surely be high.

"This is gold. The cost would be huge, but still would not be a problem," Gunbir Singh said, suggesting Sikh devotees would rally behind the cause if needed. "Most of the activity that goes on there is based on donations — people will take off their bangles and rings and leave them if work needs to be done."

Thousands of Sikh devotees and tourists every day visit Amritsar, the main city in Punjab state, to see the 17th century shrine, surrounded by a moat known as the "pool of nectar," or "Sarovar," and housing the Sikh holy book,

the Guru Granth Sahib. Most of the world's 27 million Sikhs, whose monotheistic religion originated in Punjab in the 15th century, live in India.

The country suffers some of the world's worst air pollution, thanks to a heavy reliance on burning coal for electricity, diesel in cars and power generators, and kerosene and cow dung for cooking and lighting homes. Heavy construction amid a decade-long economic boom has also kicked up huge clouds of dust, and farmers still regularly clear their fields with fire, sending even more black carbon into the air.

The capital of New Delhi was named by the WHO as the world's most polluted city, while Amritsar — about 390 kilometers (240 km) to the north — was ranked India's ninth most polluted.

The Golden Temple is not the only major monument to be affected by pollution. The white marbled Taj Mahal has also

become dirty from pollution from the nearby city of Agra, and every few years, workers from the Archeological Survey of India place mud packs on its walls to keep them from turning yellow and brown.

But many across the country remain unaware of the risks in breathing unhealthy air, even as scientists warn it is sickening countless Indians every year. About 1.4 million Indians were killed by illnesses related to air pollution in 2013, according to a recent study by researchers at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver.

That tally will only rise unless pollution levels are drastically curbed, experts have said. Instead, the pollution is getting worse, according to NASA satellite images revealing particulate matter in the air. An analysis last month by the environmental group Greenpeace showed the overall concentration of PM2.5 — the tiny lung-clogging particulate matter suspended in the air — increasing 13 percent from 2010 to 2015.

With pollution fast damaging the Golden Temple, some in the Sikh heartland said they were reminded of their religious duty to protect nature.

"Our holy book teaches us that the air is the teacher, the water is the father and the earth is the mother. So we have to be mindful of all the elements of nature as true Sikhs," the environmentalist Gunbir Singh said.

Authorities plan to ban vehicles from the area immediately surrounding the shrine. "Even the devotees will have to come on foot," said Harcharan Singh, who heads the Shrimoni Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee, which oversees the six major Sikh temples across India.

But efforts have been slow, and officials admit so far incomplete.

Sikh preacher Baba Sewa Singh said he and his devotees have tried to help mitigate the pollution threat by planting more than 100,000 trees in the region.

"If anyone asks about the saplings," he said, "we plant them for free in their villages." **AP**

## AUSTRALIA

# Warning issued against travel to Ankara and Istanbul

**T**HE Australian government yesterday warned its citizens against traveling to the Turkish cities of Ankara and Istanbul because of the terrorist threat.

The heightened travel warnings followed the deaths of more than 80 people in four separa-

te suicide bombings in the two cities this year, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said.

Australians are advised to "reconsider your need to travel" to the cities — the second-highest danger warning on a four-tier scale.

"Terrorist groups con-

tinue to threaten further attacks, including targeting tourists and westerners," Bishop said in a statement.

Provinces of Batman, Bingol, Bitlis, Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Kilis, Mardin, Sanliurfa, Siirt, Sirnak, Tunceli and Van had previously

carried the same travel warning.

Turkey overall carries Australia's second-lowest travel warning, although Australians are advised not to go within 10 kilometers (six miles) of the Syrian border.

The warning comes as

thousands of Australians prepare to travel to Turkey's Gallipoli Peninsula to commemorate the anniversary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps troops in an ill-fated invasion on April 25, 1915, during World War I.

Bishop said the Australian government was not aware of any specific threat to ANZAC Day services planned on the peninsula.

Australians traveling to services should minimize any transit time spent in Istanbul and Ankara, she said. **AP**



SOUTH KOREA

# Tough anti-prostitution laws upheld

**SOUTH** Korea's constitutional court yesterday upheld laws that toughened punishment on prostitutes, pimps and their clients.

The Constitutional Court decided to uphold a provision that makes it a criminal offense to voluntarily sell or buy sex, punishable by up to a year in prison or a fine of 3 million won (USD2,600).

The ruling was made in response to a complaint by a female sex worker, who argued people have the right to choose their occupation.

A court statement said that the government could deny such individual rights to prevent exploitation and protect moral values.

South Korea has always banned prostitution, but the laws were rarely enforced and red-light districts were largely tolerated before 2004.

The court said that decriminalizing prostitution would inspire an explosive growth in sex trade, threaten the stability of South Korea's society and economy and inspire disorderly sexual behavior.

Critics of the anti-prostitution laws say they limit women's freedom over their bodies. They also say that tougher punishment has made sex work more dangerous for women by



A representative of sex workers wipes her tears after listening to a judgment at the Constitutional Court in Seoul

creating a thriving underground industry in which they sell sex at bars, apartment rooms and through social media and dating apps, which often leaves them more vulnerable to abusive customers and pimps.

Supporters of the laws say decriminalizing prostitution would benefit exploiters more than sex workers. They argue prostitution is inherently violent and exploitative for women, especially in a country like South Korea, where women suffer from one of the harshest inequalities among developed nations and are often economically pressured into prostitution. **MDT/AP**

# FBI: Man arrested after doing yoga on airplane

Jennifer Sinco Kelleher, Honolulu

**A** Japan-bound airplane returned to Hawaii because of a violent South Korean passenger who wanted to do yoga instead of sit in his seat, the FBI said.

The pilot of the March 26 United Airlines flight from Honolulu International Airport to Narita International Airport turned the plane around after hearing that Hyongtae Pae was yelling at crew members and shoving his wife, the FBI said in a criminal complaint.

Pae told the FBI he didn't want to sit in his seat during the meal service, so he went to the back of the plane to do yoga and meditate. He became angry when his wife and flight attendants told him to return to his seat. "Pae pushed his wife because she was trying to make

him stop," the complaint said. "He felt that she was siding with the flight crew."

He tried to head-butt and bite Marines who were passengers on the flight and tried to force him back to his seat, Assistant U.S. Attorney Darren Ching said at Pae's detention hearing this week.

According to the complaint, he threatened to kill passengers and was yelling that there is no god.

Pae went into a rage because he felt the flight crew was ordering him around, Ching said. Ching said Pae shouldn't be released because he's a danger to his wife, himself and others. Pae urinated on himself and was on suicide watch at the Honolulu Federal Detention Center, Ching said.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Kevin Chang ordered that Pae be released on USD25,000 bond, but

with certain conditions including not leaving the island of Oahu and undergoing a mental health evaluation.

Since the arrest, Pae's wife has been staying at the Waikiki Gateway Hotel, defense attorney Jin Tae "J.T." Kim told the judge.

Chang denied Kim's request to allow Pae to return home to Korea, because that would involve getting on a plane again.

Outside of court, Kim said his client is a 72-year-old retired farmer who traveled from South Korea to celebrate his 40th wedding anniversary with a Hawaii vacation. It was the couple's first trip to Hawaii.

Pae only recently took up yoga to help with anxiety, Kim said, adding that he was sleep-deprived during the vacation. Pae told the FBI he hadn't been able to sleep in 11 days. **AP**

## 2016 MIECF

Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition  
2016年澳門國際環保合作發展論壇及展覽



## 綠色經濟新動力 廢物管理創商機 Green Economy - Opportunities for Waste Management

Host :



中華人民共和國澳門特別行政區政府  
Government of the Macao  
Special Administrative Region of  
the People's Republic of China

### Highlights of the Official Events

2/4/2016 (Saturday)

- 09:00 - 17:00 Green Showcase & Green Matching
- 10:00 - 17:00 Green Public Day & Eco-Market Macao

### Green Public Day

Reducing Waste for a Green Lifestyle

FREE ENTRY

- Green Showcase – General public can learn about environmental protection in different countries and regions as well as the latest environmental and technology information.
- Environmental Workshop – Just a little twist and creativity to turn waste into different green items!
- Family Games – A variety of stage games, booth games, and magic shows; learn about Environmental Protection with fun. (Chance to win amazing environmental friendly gifts while stocks last.)
- "Eco Fun" – Support environmental protection by registering as a member of "Eco Fun". Both new applicants and existing members can earn 50 bonus points at MIECF. (Note: Limited to Macao residents and bonus points may be claimed once only.)

### Programme of Seminars & Presentations

Venue: Expo Hall A – Green Business Matching Area

2/4/2016 (Saturday)

- 10:00 - 11:00 The advantage of HDPE pipe in dealing with the situational problems that Macao facing
- 11:30 - 12:00 Water Recycling System for Food and Beverage
- 12:30 - 13:00 HKGBC Green Product Accreditation and Standards (HK G-PASS)
- 13:15 - 13:45 Introduction to the Innovative Bio-Refineries Industrial Processes and Products

•FREE ADMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION. ALL ARE WELCOME. •

### Programme of Concurrent Events

Venue: Sicily Room

2/4/2016 (Saturday)

- 10:00 - 13:00 The 1st Macao Maritime Session: Marine Functional Zoning and Development Planning
- 14:00 - 18:00 International Forum on Green Economy Opportunities

Hotline: 8798 9675

Remarks: Please refer to the program of the above activities at the official website for more updated details.

www.macaomiecf.com

### Venue: The Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel

#### Green Public Day Free Shuttle Bus Service

To reduce carbon footprints and advocate green mobility, we sincerely invite you to visit MIECF by taking our free shuttle buses.



Location	Time	Frequency
Depart: Rua do Dr. Pedro José Lobo (The Macau Square) Return: Venue (The Venetian Macao West Entrance)	Depart: 09:00 - 15:45 Return: 11:15 - 18:45	Every 45 minutes
Depart: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida (Opposite to Pak Wai Car Park) Return: Venue (The Venetian Macao West Entrance)	Depart: 09:30 - 16:15 Return: 11:15 - 18:45	
Depart: Estrada Marginal do Hipódromo (Near Hac Sa Wan Royal Supermarket) Return: Venue (The Venetian Macao West Entrance)	Depart: 09:30 - 16:15 Return: 11:15 - 18:45	

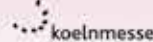
Complimentary parking is available at Expo Hall D (Parking period: 09:30 - 17:30, parking spaces are subjected to availability and on a first-come-first-served basis.)

Host Co-ordinators:

Government Agencies of the Macao Special Administrative Region



Event Manager:







C&C LAWYERS  
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Josh Lederman, Washington

## NUCLEAR SUMMIT

# Obama, Asian leaders to huddle over N. Korea nuclear threat

**W**ORKING to display a united front, the United States and key Asian countries will seek Thursday [today, Macau time] to put more pressure on North Korea as world leaders open a nuclear security summit in Washington.

President Barack Obama, the summit's host, will also seek to smooth over tensions with China over cybersecurity and maritime disputes as he and President Xi Jinping meet on the sidelines. The summit also offers Obama his last major chance to focus global attention on disparate nuclear security threats before his term ends early next year.

Though nuclear terrorism and the Islamic State group top this year's agenda, concerns about North Korea's nuclear weapons program are also commanding focus as the two-day summit gets under way. Those long-simmering concerns have escalated of late following the North's recent nuclear test and rocket launch.

Obama is planning to have a joint meeting today with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye, two U.S. treaty allies deeply concerned about North Korea. It's a reprise of a similar meeting the three countries held in 2014 during the last nuclear security summit in The Hague.

China's influence over the North will be front and center later in the day when Obama sits down with Xi. The White House said that meeting was also an opportunity for Obama to press U.S. concerns about human rights



In this Nov. 19, 2015 file photo, President Barack Obama shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Manila, Philippines

and China's assertive territorial claims in waters far off its coast.

Though frictions with China remain high, the U.S. was encouraged by China's role in passing stringent new U.N. sanctions on North Korea, its traditional ally. Now the U.S. is pressing Beijing to implement those sanctions dutifully.

"The international community must remain united in the face of North Korea's continued provocations, including its recent nuclear test and missile launches," Obama wrote in an op-ed appearing yesterday in The Washington Post. He added that the re-

cent U.N. sanctions "show that violations have consequences."

The U.S. and South Korea have been discussing whether to deploy a U.S. missile defense system called THAAD, or the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, in South Korea to counter the threat from the North. China has resisted that step out of concern it would also give the U.S. radar coverage over Chinese territory, and Russia opposes it as well.

Antony Blinken, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, said this week that China must engage with the U.S. directly on North Korea if it wants to avoid the

Though nuclear terrorism and the Islamic State group top this year's agenda, concerns about North Korea's nuclear weapons program are also on the rise

U.S. and its partners taking steps "that it won't like."

In North Korea, meanwhile, the government has been churning out regular propaganda pieces condemning the U.S. and South Korea, while warning it could launch a pre-emptive strike against South Korea or even the U.S. mainland at any time.

For years, pressing security crises in the Middle East have overshadowed Obama's goal of expanding U.S. influence and en-

agement in Asia, with the North Korean threat another unwanted distraction. Though the U.S. and China have struck sweeping agreements on climate change, they've remained at odds on many economic issues. Obama has also been unable to get Congress to ratify the Asia-Pacific free trade deal his administration painstakingly negotiated.

Obama also plans to meet today with French President Francois Hollande, amid steep concerns about terrorism in Europe following Islamic State-linked attacks in Paris and Brussels. The summit continues on Friday with a special session focused on preventing IS and other extremists from obtaining nuclear materials and attacking urban areas.

Some of the 2,000 metric tons of highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium being used in civilian or military programs worldwide could be turned into a nuclear bomb if stolen or diverted, the White House warned. Fewer than half of the countries participating in the summit have even agreed to secure sources of radiological material that could be used for a dirty bomb, though more countries are expected to announce commitments during the summit to tighten controls. **AP**

## Tata's U.K. steel challenge is selling a business few want

Kevin Crowley

**B**UYERS for Britain's biggest steel operations may be tough to come by.

Faced with a market flooded with cheap Chinese exports, Tata Steel Ltd. is planning to sell its U.K. business after several quarters of losses and 2 billion pounds (USD2.8 billion) of writedowns left the division with an asset value of almost zero. Steel prices have plunged to the lowest in a decade and in the U.K. higher wages and rising energy costs make the business harder to sustain.

"It will be very difficult to find a buyer for steel assets in the current market environment," Seth Rosenfeld, a London-based European steel analyst at Jefferies International Ltd., said in a phone inter-

view. "Trying to ensure the long-term competitiveness of this plant will remain a real challenge for any upcoming owner."

European steelmakers are struggling with prices that have fallen by more than 50 percent since 2008 and a glut in global supply. Tata's U.K. assets, once controlled by state-owned British Steel and bought for \$12 billion a decade ago, include the giant Port Talbot works in South Wales. In total, the division employs about 15,000 people.

Liberty House Group said earlier this week that taking on the company's iron and steelmaking facilities would present a "huge challenge," according to a statement from Executive Chairman Sanjeev Gupta. The company,

which is buying two of Tata's plants in Scotland, said it's interested in the U.K. processing operations.

"Our engagement will depend very much on what Tata and the government are prepared to do to help save these businesses," he said.

The risk of losing thousands of industrial jobs in an economically deprived region is already putting pressure on Prime Minister David Cameron. The government is considering "all options" and wouldn't rule out temporary state control as a way to ensure sufficient time for a buyer to be found, U.K. business minister Anna Soubry said in a BBC radio interview.

"I don't believe nationalization is the right answer," Cameron said in televised comments from

his Downing Street office in London after presiding over a meeting of ministers yesterday to discuss the crisis. "What we want to do is secure a long-term future for Port Talbot and for other steelmaking plants in the United Kingdom."

Cameron said the government is doing "everything we can" but pointed out that the steel industry "is in difficulty right across the world" with "massive overcapacity."

Trade union GMB, which represents British steelworkers, said the government should consider taking over the industry to protect jobs, while opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, who has also called for nationalizing the plants, said the Prime Minister had offered no solutions.



The sun sets as smoke and steam rises from the Tata steel plant in Port Talbot, Wales, after the steel giant confirmed plans to sell its UK assets

"Tata has let the whole of the U.K. steel industry down," GMB national officer Dave Hulse said in a statement. "We have to look at nationalizing the steel industry. Even over a short period of time this will be needed to protect the assets."

Mumbai-based Tata Steel, with operations in 26 countries, now has a market value of about \$4.5 billion, or less than half of the amount paid for its U.K. business. The company has crude steel

production capacity in the U.K. of about 11 million metric tons a year, according to its website. That's about 0.5 percent of global production, according to Rosenfeld.

"The outlook for the U.K. steel industry is clearly bleak," said Alessandro Abate, a London-based analyst at Berenberg Bank. Tata has "explained the turnaround is basically unaffordable and is net dilutive for them. There's a chance they may point to a shutdown." **Bloomberg**



## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	RTPi Live
18:20	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Documentary Serie
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie

## SATURDAY

10:30	Boonie Bears - Sr.2
11:30	Young Adult
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Variety
18:05	Classic Music
18:35	Contest
20:00	Documentary Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Drama
22:00	Intelligence S.1
22:45	Documentary Series
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Macau Literary Festival - The Script Road Concert - Cristina Branco

## SUNDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:40	Comedy
17:05	Pateo do Mungo
17:50	Non-Daily Portuguese News
18:15	Macau Fishermen
18:35	Non-Daily Portuguese News
19:00	Documentary Serie
19:30	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Contraponto
22:00	Caribbean with Simon Reeve
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	UEFA Europa League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme

## offbeat

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNOR SAYS  
'ICELAND' VIDEO MAY DRAW TOURISTS

Rhode Island's governor says people searching for Iceland online are finding her state instead because of a goof in its tourism video and she's hoping they'll visit.

The state's tourism video has been mocked on social media for showing a prominent concert hall in Reykjavik. Embarrassed state tourism officials quickly yanked the video off YouTube on Tuesday.

But Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo looked on the bright side yesterday [Macau time].

"Here's the good news: Now when people go search for Iceland, they're seeing Rhode Island. So maybe some people will come visit us, too," she said with a laugh.

An editing company has taken responsibility for the mix-up. The state's economic development agency, the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, said it shared the blame since it hired the vendor.

The Harpa concert hall and conference center in Reykjavik had a little fun with the kerfuffle, tweeting "We look good in that video, right?"

The scrutiny of the video has led to the discovery of an error on a newly redesigned tourism website. The smallest state has less than 2 percent of the nation's historic landmarks, not the 20 percent listed.

The Commerce Corporation said that the website referred to what is now an outdated statistic from its listings on the National Register of Historic Places. It says it's updating the website.

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

01 APR - 06 APR



## BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE\_

ROOM 1

2.30, 6.30, 9.15 pm

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 153min



## ZOOPTOIA\_

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.05, 9.45 pm

Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 108min



## EDDIE THE EAGLE\_

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.05, 5.55, 9.30 pm

Director: Dexter Fletcher

Starring: Taron Egerton, Hugh Jackman,

Tom Costello

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 106min

## KUNG FU PANDA 3\_

ROOM 3

7.45 pm

Director: Alessandro Carloni, Jennifer Yuh

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 95min

## MACAU TOWER

24 MAR - 27 APR

## BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE\_

ROOM 1

1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 153min

## this day in history

2001 EX-YUGOSLAV LEADER  
ARRESTED AFTER SIEGE

Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has been arrested and taken to prison, ending a heavily-armed standoff at his Belgrade villa.

The news came shortly after five single shots and a burst of automatic gun fire were heard at Mr Milosevic's home where he had been surrounded by police for nearly 36 hours.

A senior official from the ex-leader's Socialist Party, Vladimir Ivkovic, said Mr Milosevic had decided to give himself up of his own free will.

Mr Milosevic was thought to have been holed up in the villa with his wife and daughter and about 20 well-armed bodyguards who fought off a police assault on the villa in the early hours of Saturday.

Mr Milosevic earlier insisted that he would "not go to jail alive" and was said to be in an "unbalanced" mental state.

Mr Milosevic faces charges in Yugoslavia of corruption and theft of state funds.

He is also wanted on war crimes charges by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

However, Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica has said the extradition of Mr Milosevic to the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague is not his government's immediate priority, despite growing international pressure.

The arrest coincides with the expiry of a US deadline for the Yugoslav government to detain the former president or risk losing substantial American aid and international loans.

A decision on whether to release some \$50m of aid is expected on Monday.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

In June 2001 after US pressure Slobodan Milosevic was extradited to The Hague to face the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

His trial started in February 2002 and could last for several years.

The prosecution have to prove that as head of state Milosevic was behind all war crimes committed during the conflicts in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo.

A further complication was that Milosevic, who said he did not recognise the tribunal's authority, has chosen to defend himself.

During the trial the former Yugoslav leader has cross-examined witnesses including the BBC's former Belgrade correspondent, Jacky Rowland.

Milosevic died in his cell at the UN tribunal in March 2006. A post mortem examination revealed he died of a heart attack but there was speculation it may have been brought on by the wrong medication.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
You're not upset, exactly. But you just don't feel comfortable at work anymore. If it's something concrete, then call in help. But if it's something subliminal, then all the hard work is up to you.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Sometimes being at the office is like being in a hothouse. Or is it a high school gym? Things are heating up, in a juvenile way. Try not to participate in any popularity contests.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
At this stage, there's only so much you can do. Until you figure out the lay of the land, you can't make so much as an educated guess. Humble yourself and spend time learning instead of talking.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Being flexible is your strong suit, but in some areas it just doesn't pay to bend. Money is one. Those with differing ideas may be putting the pressure on you, but go by the books on this one.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Collecting antiques is not the office's primary function. On the other hand, loyalty has some intrinsic value. Keep your eyes wide open and notice how those with seniority are treated.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
You're not the only one feeling restless. A group lunch might be just what's called for to regain some focus. You might not want to be the one to suggest it, but jump at the invitation if someone else does.

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
You're feeling acquisitive, and even office supplies are scratching the itch. They're relatively harmless as far as material possessions go. Nonetheless, don't be greedy.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
As soon as you express your ideas, people are drawn to your vision and always agree with you one hundred percent. Not. But just because real life isn't a fantasy doesn't mean you shouldn't speak up.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
There's the big picture - the corporate office - and then there's the internal picture - your handful of cubicles. Broadening your horizons could be as easy as walking down the hall, so make the trip.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Even the best of friends needs occasional time to themselves. Don't get bent out of shape if a colleague seems detached. Their issues are best left alone from nine to five.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
For some things, you don't need an audience. You don't have to be ashamed if you miss the cut, but that doesn't mean you should force yourself to be emotionally exposed, either. Stay in your cubicle.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
No one gets hired to be the office doormat. This kind of position simply evolves. Or is it that it 'devolves'? Either way, don't let that role get passed on to you.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	14	23	dusty/clear
Harbin	12	19	cloudy/drizzle
Tianjin	15	22	dusty/cloudy
Urumqi	10	17	cloudy/drizzle
Xi'an	11	27	clear/cloudy
Lhasa	3	17	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	12	24	clear/cloudy
Chongqing	14	23	cloudy
Kunming	10	24	clear
Nanjing	10	24	cloudy
Shanghai	11	22	cloudy/clear
Wuhan	12	26	clear/cloudy
Hangzhou	11	27	cloudy
Taipei	19	25	cloudy
Guangzhou	21	27	cloudy
Hong Kong	19	24	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	0	8	drizzle
Frankfurt	4	13	moderate rain/drizzle
Paris	5	8	drizzle/cloudy
London	1	10	cloudy/clear
New York	14	17	drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Killed; 5- Taiwan Strait island; 10- Annapolis inst.; 14- "Give that \_\_\_ cigar!"; 15- Crazy as \_\_\_; 16- Scottish refusals; 17- Self-centered; 19- Folk singer Burl; 20- Albanian coin; 21- Yours, in Tours; 22- To show a different surface; 24- Sibelius's "Valse \_\_\_"; 26- Spanish dance; 27- Capital of Utah; 33- Give it \_\_\_; 36- Macho types; 37- Future fish; 38- Deities; 39- Destined; 40- Mountain lake; 41- Deserter; 42- Festive occasions; 43- Reposes; 44- Extrinsic; 47- Okinawa port; 48- Half-hour funny show; 52- Missouri feeder; 55- Principal; 57- Somme summer; 58- German river; 59- Property; 62- Beget; 63- Hermit; 64- I'd hate to break up \_\_\_; 65- Family diagram; 66- Approvals; 67- Sun. speeches;

**DOWN:** 1- Refine metal; 2- Pilsner; 3- Japanese mushroom; 4- WWII female enlistee; 5- Construction framing a fireplace; 6- Chorus member; 7- Singer Amos; 8- \_\_\_-disant (self-styled); 9- Raw; 10- Early computer; 11- Rescue; 12- Not e'en once; 13- Gal Fri.; 18- Really bother; 23- Bingo call; 25- Flat sound; 26- Son of Mary, Queen of Scots; 28- Muse of comedy; 29- Free to attack; 30- Some nest eggs; 31- Civil wrong; 32- Cravings; 33- Mogul capital until 1658; 34- Highway; 35- 1999 Ron Howard film; 39- Paternal; 40- Trial balloon; 42- Little pest; 43- Debris; 45- Dinner course; 46- Willows; 49- Quit; 50- Aquatic mammal; 51- Confronts; 52- Hey, you!; 53- Lion's den; 54- River in central Switzerland; 55- \_\_\_ best friend; 56- Sheltered, nautically; 60- Fair-hiring abbr.; 61- Univ. aides



**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	



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HKD 0sq ft  
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Ref: 15050514

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

**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

**Tai Nin**  
Macau  
**1 Bedroom Apartment**  
Near Senado Square  
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Ref: 15090536

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Coloane Village  
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FOOTBALL | 2022 WORLD CUP

# Amnesty report alleges labor abuse at Qatar venue

**M**IGRANT laborers faced abuse that in some cases amounted to forced labor while working on a stadium that will host soccer matches for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, a new report released by Amnesty International alleged yesterday.

Rights groups and news organizations have previously raised serious concerns about working conditions in Qatar, but the latest Amnesty report stands out because it links alleged mistreatment directly to work on a World Cup venue.

The group's findings will intensify pressure on Qatar to accelerate labor reforms as the tiny and immensely rich Gulf country races to transform itself with sweeping infrastructure projects ahead of the games.

Amnesty compiled the 52-page report based on interviews from February to May last year with 132 construction workers at the Khalifa International Stadium, one of several arenas that will host World Cup matches. The London-based group also interviewed 99 migrants doing landscaping work in a surrounding sports complex that is not directly related to the games, and three other gardeners working elsewhere.



In this Sunday, May 3, 2015 file photo taken during a government organized media tour, cafeteria food servers work at a government-run accommodation facility for laborers, in Doha

## ■ One worker told Amnesty his boss threatened to withhold his salary and told him to “keep working or you will never leave”

Foreigners account for roughly 90 percent of the 2.5 million people living in Qatar, many of them low-paid migrant workers from South Asia. Most of the workers interviewed in the Amnesty report were from Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

All of those interviewed reported some kind of abuse, including squalid or crowded living quarters, salary payments being withheld for months, and measures including passport confiscation that make it difficult to leave the country. Migrant workers elsewhere in Qatar have reported similar problems previously.

Many in the Amnesty report said their sponsoring employer failed to obtain or renew their working permits, leaving the workers subject to fines and detention.

Each reported going into debt

to pay recruitment fees — illegal under Qatari law — ranging from USD500 to \$4,300 to secure work. Most discovered on arrival that they would be paid less than promised by recruiters back home. Some of those interviewed reported earning basic salaries of well below \$200 a month, plus allowances of around \$50 a month for food.

The report's most damning findings center on what Amnesty says is evidence of forced labor involving workers employed on the refurbishment of the Khalifa stadium, a venue first built in the 1970s that is being overhauled to host World Cup matches.

The forced labor allegations involve workers employed by at least one small labor supply company contracted to provide manpower on the stadium project. The report includes comments from five workers who described being forced to work against their will after trying to leave or refusing to work because of pay disputes.

One worker who told Amnesty he tried to return home because of consistently late pay alleges his boss threatened to withhold his salary and told him to “keep working or you will never leave.”

Mustafa Qadri, Amnesty's Gulf migrant rights researcher, said he believes many other workers face similar situations, but confirming that is difficult because of the challenges in reaching workers and the risks they face in speaking to research-

chers.

He acknowledged that Qatari authorities have taken some steps to improve labor conditions, but said they must put far more priority on the issue as preparation for the games intensifies.

“Clearly there's a problem here. Whatever they've done has not been enough to prevent abuse,” he told The Associated Press. “What we'd like to see is not excuses but actual action.”

Qatar has announced planned changes to its “kafala” employee sponsorship system, which critics say leaves workers open to exploitation and abuse. The system, versions of which are used throughout the oil-rich Gulf states, gives bosses considerable power over workers by effectively binding them to a given employer and, in Qatar's case, forcing them to secure exit permits before they can leave.

Changes signed into law by Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani last October are designed to make it easier for employees to change jobs or leave. Workers still won't be able to immediately change jobs or depart whenever they want, however, and the changes don't take effect until later this year.

The government has already made other changes, including moving some laborers into improved accommodations and instituting a “wage protection system” to tighten oversight of salary payments.

It says it is committed to doing

more, calling its reform efforts a “work in progress.” It said in a statement yesterday that worker welfare is a top priority.

“Though many of the points raised by Amnesty have already been addressed through recent legislative changes, we are concerned by a number of allegations contained within the report,” the government said in a statement. The government ministry overseeing labor issues will investigate contractors named in the report, it added.

The labor regulations at World Cup sites are meant to be particularly stringent.

The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, which is leading Qatar's development of tournament venues and other projects, requires contractors to adhere to specific worker welfare standards that it and outside auditors monitor.

The Supreme Committee acknowledged in a statement to The Associated Press that Amnesty “identified challenges in worker conditions existing during early 2015,” but said many of the issues raised in the report were addressed by June because of its own monitoring and enforcement efforts.

Problems cited by Amnesty “were not representative of the entire workforce” and were limited to four out of more than 40 companies working on the stadium — three of which are currently banned from World Cup projects, it added.

“The tone of Amnesty Interna-

tional's latest assertions paint a misleading picture and do nothing to contribute to our efforts,” it said. “We have always maintained this World Cup will act as a catalyst for change — it will not be built on the back of exploited workers. We wholly reject any notion that Qatar is unfit to host the World Cup.”

Still, pressure is mounting. The International Labor Organization earlier this month gave Qatar one year to act on findings by an ILO delegation or face the possibility of a formal “commission of inquiry” by the U.N. labor agency.

Concern over Qatar's human rights record also extends to FIFA, soccer's world governing body, as it works to rebuild its scandal-tarnished image. In December, FIFA tapped Harvard professor John Ruggie to draft human rights requirements for World Cup hosts and sponsors.

FIFA said in a statement it remains “fully aware of the risks facing construction workers in Qatar and of the opportunity that FIFA, together with other stakeholders, has to facilitate the improvement of working conditions.”

FIFA's head of sustainability, Federico Addiechi, added that he is confident steps taken by the Supreme Committee are “appropriate” and have improved workers' situation.

“Of course many challenges remain, but we are on the right track,” he said.



opinion

**Bizcuits**

Leanda Lee



**MINDFULNESS, ATTENTION AND BALANCE**

What especially highlights the intrusion of modern technology into our daily lives is when work routines are disrupted by holidays. Summer holidays, Christmas and the more recent holidays over Easter and Ching Ming bring with them a clash of expectations, demands and desires – our own and those of the people around us.

Some unusually productive people are able, and give themselves permission, to switch off from work roles over holidays breaks; they successfully compartmentalise life, sending clear messages to their colleagues, their managers and clients that there is time for work and time for other life roles, and ne'er the two shall meet. At the other end of the spectrum are those that are simply incapable of shifting priorities and fiercely remain colluding and complicit in the intrusion of corporate and business demands upon their families and friends. Meals, family gatherings and, in the worst cases, even sleep are disrupted because we have the technology, the technology is used and used mindlessly.

The choices managers make in how they use their downtime for work sends messages of value to family and friends. Allowing phone calls and 'just one more email' to remove mindful presence from the people we are physically present with can send damning messages of priorities. There will always be reasons - and also times of extraordinary need to focus on work tasks – but should these interruptions into our daily lives become the rule, rather than the exception, relationships suffer in a mindless cycle of justification of busy-ness, self-importance and misguided focus.

I was recently at a book launch as part of a global gathering of Melbourne Business School alumni held simultaneously in dozens of locations all over the world. The author of the book, Professor Amanda Sinclair, has been researching, consulting and influencing leaders for nearly three decades with her innovative ideas on leadership, change, ethics and diversity. Her thinking and contributions to leaders in many spheres has continued to be innovative precisely because she dares to bring emotional and human qualities into the mostly economic-rationalist, data-based analytical world of Harvard-type business schools and hard-nose business and medical domains. She does so with genuine passion, a depth of insight, formidable intellect and grit that has enabled her to reflect upon responses of her naysayers that in turn has facilitated an audience for her ideas.

Professor Sinclair's most recent book 'Leading Mindfully', brings the mindfulness literature together with the leadership literature, but although grounded in academic rigor, the book draws from the author's own life and leadership experiences, those of her students and many very senior executives that she consults and works with.

Mindfulness is "the very simple act of choosing to be present." It is about turning down our own thoughts, our own 'stuff', judgements and history, keeping our tongues under control and simply listening. It's about being pleased and even delighted to be (working) with others, to move from a judgement culture to one of even playfulness and permissiveness. We can all acknowledge that being listened to, having time given to us and feeling cherished opens up conversation and dialogue which develops trust in all relationships. We know about this in our interactions at home and with friends but we irrationally disregard the efficacy of this knowledge in the workplace.

Managers would do well to remember this message; turn down the noise, turn down the need to fix, judge and do, turn down the ego and just be there, giving attention to those that matter. Attention is said to be the real currency of a leader. It is the choice of when and to what and to whom to give focus and attention, and in turn where the business and everyone in it gives their attention. Those choices send messages about what is important and meaningful. The wise leader and the busy business executive will understand that those signals extend to all roles in our lives.

**THE BUZZ** ATM GONE CRAZY, PEOPLE POCKET THOUSANDS

A street ATM machine downtown started to spit out HKD1,000 bills last night after a customer used it to withdraw three thousand Hong Kong dollars.

Bystanders, including many tourists, eventually turned to the 'rogue' ATM picking up the bills from the floor near the machine, and running away with the much unexpected "lay-see", as some mainlanders referred to the free

flow of cash. Most of them went straight to the nearest casino floor with a pile of cash in their hands.

Eventually, the lucky crowd attracted police attention. The agents immediately sealed the area and made several arrests. It is a crime to keep lost valuables in one's possession. For some however, it was just like another win at the baccarat table.

**Brazilian opposition leader: Government's power is waning**



Demonstrators march along Paulista Avenue holding a giant banner that reads in Portuguese: "Impeachment now" during a protest against Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff in Sao Paulo

Barry Hatton, Lisbon

**T**HE leader of Brazil's main opposition party contended yesterday that embattled President Dilma Rousseff is losing her grip on power amid a corruption scandal that is compromising her ability to pull Latin America's biggest country out of its worst recession in decades.

"What we can see happening in Brazil is that the government has lost its legitimacy, the ability to run the

country," said Sen. Aécio Neves, the leader of the Social Democracy Party, during a visit to Lisbon, Portugal.

Impeachment proceedings over allegations that Rousseff's administration infringed fiscal rules have eroded her political support and made it hard for her to pass legislation that could improve the economy.

Rousseff has said she did not commit any crime that would warrant her ousting, but supporters of her coalition government are deser-

ting her. The biggest coalition partner, the Democratic Movement Party, announced Wednesday it was quitting the government.

"There is no easy way out" of the crisis, said Neves, who narrowly lost to Rousseff in a 2014 presidential runoff.

Vice President Michel Temer is first in line to assume the presidency in case of impeachment. Neves said his party wanted Brazil to maintain its schedule of presidential elections in 2018, insisting that Temer's interim government should be staffed by the best-qualified people, not party faithful.

Neves was attending a three-day legal conference at Lisbon University's Law Faculty. The usually obscure academic event drew attention because it included other Brazilian participants seen as opponents of Rousseff. They included Supreme Court Justice Gilmar Mendes, who recently blocked former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's nomination to a Cabinet post, and Sen. Jose Serra, an ally of Neves.

About 50 people, mostly Brazilians, protested outside the event against the possibility of impeachment, claiming Brazil's democracy is being hijacked by unscrupulous politicians. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	140-170 Bad
High Density Residential Area	140-170 Bad
Ambient	120-150 Bad

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**INDIA** Rescuers in Kolkata dig through large chunks of debris from an overpass that collapsed while under construction, killing at least 15 people and injuring scores of others in trapped cars, trucks and other vehicles.

**AFGHANISTAN** Senior members of the Afghan Taliban say that a prominent figure within the militant group who had opposed its new leadership has now pledged his allegiance, helping to close internal divisions ahead of possible peace talks with the government.

**U.S.-ASIA** Working to display a united front, the United States and key Asian countries will seek today [Macau time] to put more pressure on North Korea as world leaders open a nuclear security summit in Washington. U.S. president Barack Obama also has plans to meet with the leaders of China, India, Japan and South Korea to discuss means of countering the threat of nuclear terrorism. **More on page 15**

**FRANCE** Security forces clashed with demonstrators in the cities of Nantes and Rennes while police say around 10 people were arrested in Paris, following anti-labor reform protests. The proposals, which include changes to France's 35-hour working week, have been bitterly opposed by students and unions.

**ARGENTINA's** President Mauricio Macri has won approval for a controversial repayment deal that should put an end to the country's 15-year battle with holdout creditors. The debt crisis in the country has restricted Argentina's access to international credit markets and made doing business in the country difficult.

**times square by rodrigo**

