



MILLENNIALS UNLIKELY TO FIT GENERATIONAL MOLD

A seminar will be held today in Macau discussing the topic of Millennials, expected to make up as much as 50pct of the workforce by 2020

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FEWER BIRDS TO BE SEEN IN MACAU

Events across the globe are being held to mark tomorrow's World Migratory Bird Day. Macau is no exception

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BARCELONA AND REAL MADRID FIGHT FOR TITLE

P19 FOOTBALL

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA A navy fighter jet on a nighttime training mission crashed into buildings in an eastern city, but the pilot ejected safely and there were no reports of casualties. *More on p10*

AUSTRALIA All 46 people aboard a tourist catamaran were rescued after the vessel caught fire and sank off Australia's Great Barrier Reef, police said. A police statement said 19 of those rescued were taken to hospitals in Bundaberg and Gladstone for treatment of non-life threatening injuries after the vessel, Spirit of 1770, sank. Most of those on board were Chinese tourists, Nine Network television reported.

MALAYSIA The government says that two more pieces of debris, discovered in South Africa and Rodrigues Island off Mauritius, were "almost certainly" from Flight 370, bringing the total number of pieces believed to have come from the missing Malaysian jet to five. *More on p12*



BRAZIL Speaking hours after the Senate voted to impeach her yesterday, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff blasted the process as "fraudulent" and promised to fight what she characterized as an injustice more painful than the torture she endured under a past military dictatorship. *More on p15*

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Hong Kong property market in 'free fall'

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Doubts raised over MOP6 million rubber duck price tag

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DEMOGRAPHICS

Chinese Millennials unlikely to fit generational mold set by West

Daniel Beitter

MILLENNIALS, also known as “Generation Y,” are the demographic cohort termed by experts in the West as those born between 1980 and 2000. Exhibiting shared traits that according to some are characteristic of the generation itself, Millennials have become a subject of intense controversy online and in the media over the last decade as they have increasingly entered the workforce in droves.

According to multiple sources, Millennials may make up as much as 50 percent of the workforce by 2020 in countries such as the U.S. and the U.K.

Across China, those born between just 1984 and 1996 number around 250 million, representing more than 18 percent of the population of the world’s second largest economy.

For managers and employees outside of this generation, understanding what drives this demographic cohort is proving a significant challenge, especially as generational differences drive wedges between the respective expectations of Millennials and non-Millennials.

In China, and even Macau, there are some who doubt that the demographic cohort model

An American Gen-Y does not tick in the same way as a Macau Gen-Y with parents from Xiamen, nor the same as a Macau-born Macanese Gen-Y.

LEANDA LEE



can be applied here with equal accuracy as in the West. The reasons are twofold: firstly, the distinct socio-economic status (and change in status) of populations in countries such as China over the last half-century; and secondly the question of whether these theories can indeed be applied cross-culturally.

Macau-based human resources expert, Leanda Lee, notes that although there is a great deal of interest in generational theory in Macau, she has “not seen a great deal of evidence that the theory is not culturally bound.”

“That’s the problem with a lot of management research, it hasn’t been tested cross-culturally and much of it has come out of North America. Applying Western theories to local contexts is hazardous,” warns Lee.

For example, a common characteristic applied to Millennials in Western countries is that a greater proportion of them choose to live at home with their parents well into their 30s than did previous generations.

Those who argue that the mold equally applies to China,

Macau or Hong Kong, point to an even larger proportion of young people living at home with their parents in the HK-SAR – as many as 76 percent according to an article in the Financial Times earlier this year.

The point raised however, does not apply enough weighting to the cultural characteristics of countries like China, where multi-generational households have been the normal cultural practice for immeasurable time.

Indeed, the little research that has been undertaken so far on Millennials in China has pulled up results unlike that in the West, where the theories originated, leading some to assert that generational theory in China is far more nuanced.

Eric Fish, a Content Producer at New York-based organization Asia Society, wrote a book last year entitled, “China’s Millennials: The Want Generation.”

Fish is not describing China’s Millennials as “The Want Generation” in a negative sense, but rather he is seeking to categorize a group who are unsatisfied with the opportuni-

ties that the country currently offers them.

He found that generations in China were better categorized as every five years, as opposed to the traditional (up to) 20-year periods defined in the West. If Fish is correct, any management strategy seeking to develop a policy for Millennials in China would need to be far more nuanced in its approach than in the West.

“Are people aware of these generational differences? Yes. But to the extent that they understand the theoretical underpinnings or name each group, probably not,” said Leanda Lee.

“I’ve not heard them discussed by HR [human resources] professionals, although I have heard them discuss different

groups [...] in Macau over the years at different times being discussed as [...] less motivated, money-grubbing, less aspirational, [and] not loyal,” she added. “But this also changes with the economic climate.”

Numerous studies have shown a direct link between socio-economic status and expectations for quality of life. In other words, the wealthier a population is, the higher the expectations of quality of life, including in areas such as basic necessities, education and work.

It’s arguable that Macau’s level of socio-economic development places it closer to the West than to China, but its culture is overwhelmingly Chinese, both in origin and in influence today.

“Macau’s workforce is mixed generationally, it’s also mixed culturally, and in other senses very diverse,” proposed Lee. “An American Gen-Y does not tick in the same way as a Macau Gen-Y with parents from Xiamen, nor the same as a Macau-born Macanese Gen-Y.”

Understanding and finding ways to engage with young workers in the MSAR is regarded as a significant challenge for employers, especially with a limited local labor force in the city and restrictions imposed on the hiring of non-locals for certain roles.

Whether Macau youngsters can be categorized as “Millennials” in the traditional sense or not remains open to debate, but with thousands of them entering the workforce each year employers will be increasingly looking to better understand what makes them tick.

SEMINAR ON MILLENNIALS TODAY IN MACAU

A **SEMINAR** will be held this afternoon at the Mandarin Oriental Macau discussing the topic of Millennials. Organized by the France Macau Business Association, Mark Cosgrove, director of Training at Dale Carnegie Training HK & Macau, will give a presentation

entitled, “Learn How to Engage Millennials.” The talk will focus on sharing tested “employee engagement drivers that are unique to Millennials,” and will explain how organizations can develop strategies and an environment that helps to better engage and retain them.

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RENATO MARQUES

RUBBER DUCK MACAU TOUR

Floating artwork raises doubts over hefty MOP6m price tag

THE giant rubber duck, situated close to the Macau Science Center, has made quite the splash in Macau since its arrival at the end of last month; but not everyone thinks that bringing the art project to the MSAR was worth the hefty price tag.

The brainchild of Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman, 'The Duck,' has been the center of attention in its public appearances worldwide. Today it is perhaps one of the most recognizable examples of modern art, with hundreds of thousands of people across the world flocking to take pictures with the lovable character; Macau has been no exception.

Today marks two weeks since the giant rubber duck's arrival and it has been incredibly popular among locals and tourists alike, even earning a special mention in this year's 'Patuá Comedy Show' by local group, 'Dóci Papiçám di Macau.'

However, the Rubber Duck Macau Tour has reportedly cost organizers more than MOP6 million, leaving some critics to ponder whether the amount was worth it and if the money could have been better spent.

On the other hand, the staggering figure of MOP6 million or more has been justified by organizers of the project, who say that their aim is "to bring happiness" to the city.

"It's not our target to increase income for shops in the area, we



just want to bring happiness to Macau," a representative of C-Vision Culture Development Company, and co-organizer of the Rubber Duck Macau Tour told the Times.

The representative, who identified herself as July, was equally hesitant to concede that commercial interests were involved in the project, as representatives from other participating non-profit organizations and government bodies turned out to be.

"Part of the reason is to drive tourism," another representative admitted to the Times: "The government wants more diversified tourism offerings, however, this was not our main interest."

This is despite the government's policy to both commercialize cultural and creative industries and to transform Macau into a "World Center for Tourism and Leisure," which will necessarily be of benefit to retailers in the city.

Instead, July informed the Times that the project's impact and success in Taiwan and Hong Kong was the major factor that resulted in their decision to welcome the project to Macau.

"Making money is not our priority [...] most of the money goes to the artist," she added.

But how much money? Susana Lee, director of the Macau Culture Creativity and Arts Association (MACA) who holds the title of "main organizer," told the Times that the project's costs were in the range of MOP6 million to MOP7 million.

Contrary to other reports that put the contribution of main sponsors Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Macau Foundation at 50 percent, Lee informed the Times that their input was closer to one-third of the cost.

"There are many costs involved. The authorization costs [for the artist], the set-up fees and a lot of additional deve-

lopments," said Lee. "The authorization costs are by far the largest [...] but I don't think the agency would like [me] to expose [the amount]."

A representative of MGTO told the Times that they have "supported the promotion cost of the Rubber Duck Tour project, totaling 2 million patacas."

They propose that the benefits have been felt in terms of an increase in visitors to the ter-

ritory: "We have observed an increase of total visitor arrivals and Mainland tourist arrivals [...] and an increase] of people and traffic in that district, which helps to further promote community tourism," the representative wrote in a message to the Times.

The steep cost of bringing the project to cities worldwide has been criticized before. The giant yellow duck's debut visit to the U.S. was ridiculed in 2013 when rumors circulated that authorities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had paid a hefty amount to the artist for the privilege of the artwork's display there.

Figures for hosting the popular duck were not made public, but according to numerous sources, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is rumored to have paid a laughable USD20,000 (MOP160,000).

This pales in comparison with the more than MOP6 million paid by Macau organizers, but nevertheless drummed up quite a controversy in Pittsburgh with residents complaining that the money could have been used to improve public services.

The organizers have still not confirmed Hofman's fee but stated at the time that it was required to pay for the logistics of the piece, including fabricating, launching and docking the artwork.

However, when quizzed about the HKD1 million figure that Hong Kong organizers reportedly paid last year for the honor of hosting the character, July from C-Vision Culture Development Company said: "I am not sure about Hong Kong because they have a company that negotiates with the artist and they arrange [their own] contract. As I said, most of the money goes to the artist."

MARREIROS: 'MISUSED' INVESTMENT

ARCHITECT AND artist Carlos Marreiros told Ponto Final that the investment made into the project has been "very misused," adding that it could have been used to "support training or street cultural activities or in organizing a competition for local artists." According to the Macanese architect, the rubber duck is "déjà vu."

When you see people outside, smiling and laughing with all the family, I believe that it was worth it.

SUSANA LEE
DIRECTOR MACA

A controversial artist

FLORENTIJN Hofman has generated controversy through his conduct in tenaciously pursuing copyright protections for his artwork – in spite of the fact that Peter Ganine patented the design for the original bath toy (that the contemporary art project closely resembles) back in 1947.

He has also come under fire for simultaneously commercializing the project and criticizing authorities of doing the same thing – most notably in Taiwan, where he publicly complained about the sale of unlicensed merchandise and then criticized organizers for turning the initiative into a "commercial circus."

It was reported in the Taipei Times



in 2013, that Hofman had received more than TWD10 million (MOP2.45 million) in royalties for staging his artwork on the island alone.

In Macau, the Fisherman's Wharf has

secured the permission to host a sideline cultural event in their Rubber Duck Garden, accompanied by a range of other themed offerings. According to MACA, the Fisherman's Wharf was also a sponsor in bringing the giant duck to Macau, though representatives of the complex were not able to confirm this with the Times.

Financially worth it or not, the duck has made a huge splash in Macau, proving immensely popular with locals and tourists alike. It will remain in the MSAR until May 27.

"The duck has been exhibited in many places; in Hong Kong, Taipei and many places across China. It seems that, in the Greater China region, Macau is the only place that was left out [...] When you see people outside, smiling and laughing with all the family, I believe that it was worth it," said Susana Lee.

French Film Festival to run until May 18



The Macau 3rd French Film Festival, which kicked off on Wednesday at the UA Galaxy Cinemas, is set to showcase one French film per day until May 18. The opening screening of "April and the Extraordinary World," shown on Wednesday, was awarded Best Feature Film at Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2015 and nominated for Best Animated Film 2016 at César Awards, according to a statement from Galaxy. The movie "The Brand New Testament" will be shown tomorrow at the cinema at 7 p.m., followed by the "Beauty and the Beast" (May 15, 4.30 p.m.); "The Wakhan Front" (May 16, 7.30 p.m.); "French Blood" (May 17, 7.15 p.m.); and "Marguerite" (May 18, 8.40 p.m.).

Nevada high court ruling keeps judge on Las Vegas Sands case

Ken Ritter, Las Vegas

A state court judge in Las Vegas will continue to handle a lawsuit headed for trial involving billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson's company and a former Sands China Ltd. chief executive, the Nevada Supreme Court said Wednesday [US time].

The ruling dealt a blow to Adelson and Las Vegas Sands Corp., whose lawyers argued that Clark County District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez had a conflict of interest and should be removed.

Jury selection had been scheduled to start June 27 in a wrongful termination case poised to air boardroom decisions about how the publicly traded corporate owner of the Venetian and Palazzo resorts in Las Vegas developed its lucrative interests in the Chinese gambling enclave of Macau.

But that trial date has been canceled, according to the court docket. A new date wasn't immediately posted.

Attorneys for fired former



District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez

Sands China executive Steven Jacobs argued the challenge to Gonzalez was an effort to stall or scuttle a case filed in 2010 that Adelson doesn't want a jury to hear. Attorneys for Jacobs, Adelson and Las Vegas Sands didn't immediately respond to messages about the ruling.

The high court ruling upheld a finding by supervising Clark County District Judge David Barker that Gonzalez didn't exhibit bias when she was interviewed for a Time magazine story in January about the Adel-

son family buying the Las Vegas Review-Journal newspaper.

Harvard University Professor Alan Dershowitz, representing Sands China, told the state Supreme Court during oral arguments that judges shouldn't make public statements about cases, and Gonzalez "should have known she was inviting trouble."

Gonzalez answered questions about her background, the public nature of the Jacobs-Sands lawsuit, and her observations about Review-Journal reporters in her courtroom, the justices said. She maintained that she didn't talk about the lawsuit itself.

The magazine story emerged amid revelations that Adelson family members were the previously undisclosed buyers of the Review-Journal, and that reporters from the newspaper had been assigned last year to watch Gonzalez's work on the bench.

In court, Gonzalez has clashed numerous times with Adelson and Sands lawyers in the Jacobs case.

She fined Las Vegas Sands and Sands China USD25,000 in 2012 for not turning over records as required to Jacobs and his lawyers. Last year, she fined Sands China \$250,000 for similar violations.

Gonzalez also admonished Adelson during his testimony in open court last year, telling him that he didn't get to argue with her.

The high court noted that in court filings in response to a Las Vegas Sands Corp. request that Gonzalez recuse herself, the judge stated that she had no bias or prejudice toward Las Vegas Sands or its officers.

The court ruling came the same day the Nevada Gaming Control Board announced in a separate case that Las Vegas Sands faces a \$2 million fine for failing to properly account for millions of dollars paid to a Chinese consultant and received from a high roller with a suspicious past. The company admits no wrongdoing under the settlement slated for Nevada Gaming Commission approval May 19. AP

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World Migratory Bird Day marked in Macau

EVENTS across the globe are being held to mark tomorrow's World Migratory Bird Day. Macau is no exception and local birdwatchers will organize activities to draw people's awareness to the protection of both birds and their habitats. The Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), along with the "Macau Aves Society" are going to organize a bird watching event on Sunday at several locations in the Cotai area.

The organizers expect citizens will extend their knowledge about the ecology of birds, and also to promote the protection of wetlands in the city. Lectures on basic birdwatching skills will be offered to applicants.

Chris Tai notes a decline of 20 sighted species during 2016 compared with that of five years ago

Chris Tai, president of the bird watching association since 2010, has consistently attended birdwatching events over past years. When asked about the reasons why he loves watching birds, Tai replied by saying that his hobby



Migratory birds pictured in Macau (inset photo: Chris Tai)

allows him to cultivate his mood. Moreover, he is aware that local environmental changes can be deduced from observing the birds and their behavior.

Tai told the Times that "the government does not pay close attention to bird's habitats," and remarked that urban development is restricting the habitats of birds. According to him, the number of birds landing in Macau has decreased every year since 2011, back when several plots of land started to give way to construction projects.

He exemplified his message with the Cotai area, which, when under construction, took over shoals around the area. Consequently, birds that used to spend their migration period on these spots started to disappear gradually. Tai noted a decline of 20 sighted species during 2016 compared with that of five years ago.

"Some species can't be

seen now, for instance the black tail godwit and the Terek sandpiper," indicated Tai. Most noticeably, according to him, the total number of migratory birds dropped 50 percent compared to 2011, "with the exception of some stable species."

Each year, during the months of March, April, September and December, birds stop in Macau before heading to their final destination. In Macau, Tai acknowledged that people who consider birdwatching a hobby "probably do not exceed 200," a number that stems from registered participations in relevant birdwatching events. "Very few people pay attention," regretted Tai, adding that most people who are interested "age from 30 to 60-years-old." The older ones have more spare time to fully enjoy their hobbies.

According to the birdwa-

ter, the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is responsible for the disappearance of seagulls from the shoals around the border gate.

Staff reporter

June to become the month of Portuguese culture

PORTUGAL aims to strengthen its cultural presence in Macau by organizing the event "June-Month of Portugal" on a regular basis. The program for the inaugural edition of the event was presented this week at the Portuguese Consulate General in the MSAR, which will organize it together with the House of Portugal, Orient Foundation and the Portuguese Institute of the Orient (IPOR).

The festival includes about 15 events that, according to the Portuguese Consul Vítor Sereno constitutes "the largest program [of its kind] ever, and also the one that represents the largest investment." During the presentation of the event, the diplomat mentioned that the event represents "a moment of effective mobilization of several cultural agents around the promotion of Portugal and its close relationship of friendship and cooperation with the MSAR." It also hopes to "strengthen the awareness of contributions from various Portuguese quarters to the establishment of Macau as a buzzing center of cultural activities."

Among other initiatives, the program includes an exhibition of the well-known painter Graça Morais (June 1 to 12, Military Club); a festival of Portuguese gastronomy and wines (June 3 to 13, also at Military Club); a movie festival (to be held at Cinematheque-Passion), a concert featuring the pop band 'Gift' (June 2, Cultural Center) and a showcase of books to be held at the Portuguese Bookshop.

Football is also not forgotten with all matches of the Portuguese national team at the UEFA European Championship to be broadcast at Café Oriente (at IPOR's headquarters). **PB**

AD

STATISTICS

Loan approvals increased in March

BOTH new approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) and commercial real estate loans (CRELs) increased simultaneously in March, according to new data released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau. With regard to the outstanding balance, RMLs and CRELs both witnessed increases.

New RMLs rose by 31.4 percent month-to-month in March to a value of MOP3 billion, of which 93.5 percent was extended to residents. In terms of value, new RMLs to residents and non-residents grew by 33.7 percent and 5.3 percent,

respectively. However, when compared with the same period in 2015, new approvals of RMLs fell by 39.9 percent.

New CRELs grew by 13.8 percent month-to-month, also to MOP3 billion, of which 97.7 percent was granted to residents. In terms of value, new CRELs to residents rose 26.4 percent whereas those to non-residents dropped 78 percent. On an annual basis, new approvals of CRELs fell by 68.7 percent.

At the end of March, the outstanding values of RMLs and CRELs stood at MOP174.8 billion and MOP167.3 billion, respectively.

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'LGBTI Survey' shows ignorance of the law

RAINBOW of Macau has released its second "Macau LGBTI Survey" results yesterday, revealing that 88 percent of its respondents are unaware of the anti-discrimination legislation in force in Macau.

The survey, conducted between March 27 and April 10, has attracted over 800 respondents, offering 715 valid survey responses. Only responses from people who reside in the city and indicated themselves to be "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and questioning about their gender identity" were accepted as valid.

"The lack of knowledge of the

anti-discrimination legislation in Macau almost undermines the effectiveness of the principle of equality in the city's labor law," says Jason Chao, the spokesperson for Rainbow of Macau.

The study, which was conducted online, found that 6.6 percent of the respondents had experienced violence from an intimate partner. By the standards of the United Nations and the European Union, the occurrence of violence between intimate partners, not necessarily cohabitating is classified as domestic violence, the association argued.

Eighty-one percent of the res-



pondents held the opinion that the government is responsible for the social inclusion of the LGBTI community. The association be-

lieves that the government and education institutions should promote public understanding of the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identities.

"Although the government had emphasized for quite some time that they do not discriminate against sexual minorities, results from this survey show that the communities don't think likewise, [indicated by] the fact that the government hasn't done enough work in this respect," said Chao.

Meanwhile in 2013, the first "Macau LGBTI Survey" had 170 respondents, and 20 percent of them admitted they had considered

[committing] suicide due to feeling "unaccepted by the community," while the latest study shows that 10 percent have also considered resorting to suicide.

"The government should raise public awareness about Article 5 of the Labor Relations Law to ensure that lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Macau effectively enjoy protection," the association claims.

The advocacy group admitted that they have been urging the government to review its petition along with the United Nations' domestic violence law. The Legislative Assembly is set to release its final reading of the bill on May 20.

Recently, the group expressed its concerns over the government's alleged decision to exclude same-sex couples from the domestic violence law. **Staff reporter**

Rental contracts to require legal aide

THE article-by-article discussion of a law that introduces a rental control mechanism continued yesterday, with the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) agreeing to introduce a requirement to have rental contract signatures notarized. This will require the presence of a person authorized by law to draw up or certify contracts, and the contract and rental agreements will have to be registered with the notary.

The new measure will



crackdown on landlords who are avoiding tax payments on their properties.

"The government has no way of knowing how many contracts are signed [at any given time], with this requirement, there has to be a proof of the payment of the due

taxes," argued the president of the committee Cheang Chi Keong, as cited in a TDM report. "As a result, it would be impossible to bypass the finances."

In addition to the stamp duty, landlords will now also be required to pay a tax on rental income as well as an additional urban contribution.

However, lawmaker Cheang maintained that the new measures would not create upward pressures on rental prices: "The landlord has to take up the expenses. How that will work out, we're not yet sure."

Last month Cheang Chi Keong raised a proposal that could see property rental reviews go

up as much as 29 percent, which was hotly contested.

With the intention of limiting the rise in rental prices in Macau, lawmaker Cheang said then that he saw no contradiction between setting the maximum increase at 29 percent and meeting the intention of reviewing rental increases.

The next meeting of the Third Standing Committee of the AL will see lawmakers resume the debate on the issue of the duration of rental contracts. Current suggestions include a two-year minimum for housing contracts and a further one-year extension for commercial contracts.

24 new greyhounds bound for Macau

AS many as 24 new Irish Greyhounds will arrive in Macau this afternoon, according to multiple sources, before they are sent to the Canidrome facility, the center of a raging controversy earlier this month.

A statement from animal rights group, Anima (Macau), said that, according to information received from their "Irish partners," and confirmed by Hong Kong sources and Grey2k USA Worldwide, the Irish greyhounds are set to arrive in the MSAR tomorrow, between 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

"The export of those animals is making a big mess in Ireland and is damaging the image of Macau as a friendly and international city of leisure and enter-

tainment," wrote Anima (Macau) president, Albano Martins.

"Lots of bad publicity all over the world, news in the international media (TVs, radios and newspapers) and in the social networks are destroying all the work done by our government in the last [few] years," he added.

Last week animal rights activists took to the streets of European cities like Dublin, London and Milan to protest the treatment of greyhounds at the Macau Canidrome and the export of the animals from Ireland.

It recently emerged that exports of Irish greyhounds are filling a gap left in supply, created when airlines Qantas and Cathay Pacific decided not to freight the animals to Hong Kong.

Cultural Affairs Bureau renovates webpage

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) launched a new webpage yesterday. The URL of the new webpage (www.icm.gov.mo) remains the same. The new webpage

is compatible with the browsing functions of devices such as mobile phones and tablets.

According to a press release issued by the

bureau, "this new webpage is based on a user-friendly design concept, focusing on the search functions of different activities and query services." IC adds, "the page

makes it easy to search for the latest news about cultural events and different thematic websites, providing clear instructions on using various services and applications."

The webpage is supported in four languages: traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, Portuguese and English.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Tenants: Do You Have Contents Insurance ?

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

www.JMLProperty.com info@JMLProperty.com

Many renters don't stop to think about what happens if there is a fire, a flood, or someone breaks in and steals their new TV or stereo.

As a tenant, you are responsible for the contents of the apartment.

Whilst your landlord has insurance that covers the actual building, that coverage does not include your personal property or liability for injuries which occur in the space you rent.

If a fire should destroy or damage your home, your landlord's insurance will cover the re-build of the structure.

It won't cover damage or loss of your belongings. Neither will it provide for the cost of temporary housing for you and your family.

You may think you don't own enough personal property to make the cost of insurance worthwhile, but that's usually a miscalculation.

If you sit down and add up the cost of REPLACING everything you own, you may be in for a big surprise.

Consider what you have invested in such things as:

- Furniture and accessories
Electronics like TV, stereo, computers

Small appliances like microwaves, toaster ovens, etc.

Clothing

Art work like paintings or prints

Dishes, silverware and cookware

Sporting equipment

Books

Jewelry

Could you afford to replace all of these things?

Are you beginning to see why rental insurance may be a very wise investment?

The cost of rental insurance is based on several factors:

The dollar amount of your coverage

The amount of deductibles (the portion paid by the tenant)

Whether you choose to be reimbursed for Actual Cash Value or Replacement Costs (more about that in a minute)

The number of previous claims made, not only by you, but by others living in the same area.

Let's explore the difference between Actual Cash Value (ACV) and Replacement Costs.

ACV is the value of your property at the time a loss takes place.

For example, if your television set is five years old, it's valued at much less than if it were brand new. The lesser amount is what you are reimbursed.

However, if you opt for Replacement Cost, you're paid whatever it costs to go out and buy a new TV with similar features.

Insuring for replacement cost raises the amount of your premium so it's a good idea to get quotes for both ACV and Replacement Cost policies. Then you can decide which option fits your needs and budget.

Another thing to keep in mind is that jewelry and valuable collections are usually covered under a separate policy or "rider".

If you own these kinds of items, be sure to tell your insurance agent. You don't want to find out after disaster strikes that they aren't covered or that they aren't covered for their true value.

To check on rental insurance prices, we suggest that you consult your bank. They are usually able to recommend an insurance company and some of them even offer insurance products directly.

Rental insurance may be worth the investment just for the peace of mind it offers you.

Advertisement for Delta Bridges featuring a handshake image, text 'new business opportunities are just a handshake away', and logos for Delta Bridges and Macau After Work.

Large advertisement for Saturday Super Stack poker tournament with text 'SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC', PokerStars LIVE Macau logo, and event details.

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Singapore's prime land 'exorbitant,' says leading developer

Pooja Thakur

SINGAPORE'S second-largest developer has taken a potshot at the prices of prime land in the city-state, describing them as exorbitant and predicting that they'll only get even more expensive in years to come.

"In land-scarce Singapore, it is increasingly difficult to secure prime land of this scale and even if available, the asking price for land alone is exorbitantly high," City Developments Ltd. said in an earnings statement. The comments referred to the 16,000 square meter site the company bought for its Gramercy Park project, just off the Orchard Road shopping belt.

The country remains Asia's second-most expensive housing market

While Singapore's residential property prices have been on the slide for 10 quarters after the government imposed an unprecedented series of curbs to cool buyers' enthusiasm starting in 2009, the country remains Asia's second-most expensive housing market. City Developments, run by billionaire Kwek



Leng Beng, said it was fortunate to have secured the freehold Gramercy Park site in the earlier years, which afforded it the ability to offer it at current market rates, according to the statement on Wednesday.

"Future stock in this area is expected to be priced higher," the company said in its results statement, referring to prime land prices. For Gramercy Park, "the group is in the midst of its regional overseas roadshows to promote the property, and interest has been positive," it said.

City Developments put in the highest bid in 2006 and purchased the Gramercy Park plot on Grange Road for SGD383 million (USD278 million), according to an earlier company statement. Singapore is the most expensive place in the region to buy a luxury home after Hong Kong, according to a 2016 wealth report by estate agents Knight Frank LLP.

The developer reported a 14 percent decline in profit to SGD105.3 million for the quarter ended March 31, while revenue slid 11 percent to SGD723.3 million, the company said Wednesday.

The government has repeatedly signaled it is reluctant to lift the property cooling measures for fear such a move will lead to overheating in the market again. Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat said in his budget speech on March 24 that it was "premature" to relax the curbs, reiterating a view expressed in February by National Development Minister Lawrence Wong.

The residential curbs have included a cap on debt-repayment costs at 60 percent of a borrower's monthly income and higher stamp duties on home purchases, after low interest rates and demand from foreign buyers raised concerns prices had risen too far too fast. **Bloomberg**

Hong Kong property market in 'free fall'

Saijel Kishan, Katia Porzecanski

KYLE Bass, the hedge-fund manager who's wagering on a slowdown in China's economy, said Hong Kong's property market is in "free fall" and the credit expansion in Southeast Asian emerging markets will unravel.

"Hong Kong's in a worse position than it was in prior to the '97 crisis today," Bass said at the SkyBridge Alternatives Conference in Las Vegas on Wednesday. He said credit in Asian emerging markets has grown "recklessly," citing Malaysia and Thailand.

Hong Kong property prices have declined and sales are hovering near a 25-year low as the city grapples with the repercussions of a slowing Chinese economy. Home prices have dropped about 13 percent from a peak in September, according to data compiled by Centaline Property Agency Ltd.

The last major housing crash in the former British colony saw prices tumble almost 50 percent in the 12 months from October 1997. They eventually bottomed in mid-2003 when the city was swept up by the severe acute respiratory syndrome epidemic and have almost quadrupled since then.

Bass, famed for betting against U.S.

Hong Kong's in a worse position than it was in prior to the '97 crisis today.

KYLE BASS

subprime mortgages prior to the housing crash, is predicting losses for China's banks and raising money to start a dedicated fund for bets in the nation. He said last week at a conference that investors putting money in Asia should ask themselves if they can handle 30 percent to 40 percent write-downs in Chinese investments.

"China may be able to not tell the truth about specific output levels, or GDP figures - they might be able to fudge those numbers for a while," Bass said at a panel discussion, moderated by Bloomberg TV's Erik Schatzker. "But their trading partners kind of tell the truth, and you're already seeing what's happening in their primary trading partners."

The Chinese credit system, according to Bass, is "one of the biggest macro imbalances the world has ever seen." The fund manager said China is already experiencing a "hard landing as we speak." He said he isn't a "permanent bear" on China, instead describing himself as a pragmatist.

Aggregate financing in China, the nation's broadest measure of new credit, grew a larger-than-estimated 2.34 trillion yuan (USD360 billion) in March amid easing by the central bank. A lending binge before the lunar new year helped credit expand by a record 3.4 trillion yuan in January, People's Bank of China data show.

Paul Brewer, who runs Rubicon Fund Management out of London, said on the same panel that China's economic problems are worse than the U.S. subprime housing crisis.

Ken Tropin, founder of Graham Capital Management, said the recent surge in iron-ore prices is "symbolic that things may become unglued" in China. Tropin said even though it's a crowded trade, he's bullish on gold. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

CHOW TAI FOOK FULL-YEAR PROFIT MISSES ESTIMATES



Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd.'s full-year profit fell as much as 50 percent as weak Chinese consumer demand undercuts revenue and the world's largest jewelry retailer posted hedging losses on gold loans.

Profit for the year that ended March 31 decreased 40 percent to 50 percent compared to the previous year, the company said in a Hong Kong stock exchange filing yesterday, citing a preliminary review. Analysts had estimated

a 36 percent decrease in net income, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The company issued a similar warning in November for first-half earnings, which plunged 42 percent from a year earlier due to weaker sales in Hong Kong and Macau.

China's economic slowdown and anti-corruption campaigns have hurt luxury retailers in Hong Kong and Macau, as Chinese tourists, who account for almost a third of luxury spending globally, are skipping the shopping mecca for other travel destinations. Hong Kong retail sales fell 12 percent in the first quarter, with jewelry and watch sales plummeting nearly double that.

WALMART SHARPENS AMAZON ATTACK

Walmart is sharpening its attack on Amazon.com. The world's largest retailer is trimming its free-shipping pilot program to two days from a three, and it's cutting a dollar off the membership price. Membership is now USD49 per year.

Walmart began testing the new service last year in answer to Amazon Prime's two-day shipping, a big part of its domination of the retail sector.

Amazon membership costs \$99 a year, which comes with a bewildering array of perks, including household product subscriptions, one and two hour Prime Now delivery, streaming music and video, photo storage and more.



"Prime has become an all-you-can-eat, physical-digital hybrid," Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos wrote in his annual shareholder

letter last month. He wants the service to be such a good deal that you'd be "irresponsible" not to sign up, he wrote.

Beware Everest graffiti artists, China is watching you

NEXT time you leave silly messages on the world's highest mountain, beware: China is watching you.

AP PHOTO



Mountaineering officials have scrubbed graffiti from two granite tablets on the Chinese side of Mount Everest's northern base camp and plan to name and shame future defilers.

State-run mobile news site The Paper reported this week that workers removed the signatures, dates, doodles and messages left by scores of visitors. They include "let's wander together," "farewell to the mountain" and "here I come."

The graffiti grew so thick it covered the information about the mountain carved into the tablets in Chinese,

Tibetan and English.

The base camp at roughly 5,200 meters (17,060 feet) is a popular tourist site and has fallen prey to the sort of behavior the Chinese government says is uncivilized and vows to punish.

Along with publicizing the names of those leaving

behind graffiti, base camp management is considering setting aside separate wall space just for visitors to write their names and other messages, a local tourism official, Gu Chunlei, told The Paper.

"It's a way of getting travelers to change their habits without even knowing it,"

Gu was quoted as saying. Similar graffiti walls have been set up at other scenic sites, including the Great Wall outside Beijing that has long been a target for those seeking to leave a mark of their visit.

As personal incomes have risen, Chinese have become avid travelers and bad behavior by some of them has become something of an embarrassment. Along with sharp criticism in the media and online forums, the government has set up an online national database naming those involved in particularly egregious behavior and giving airlines, hotels and other travel outlets the option of refusing them service.

In 2013, a Chinese teenager scratched his name on an ancient Egyptian temple and was roundly condemned by his fellow Chinese.

Everest itself has accumulated garbage, pollution and other ills brought by the vastly increased numbers of climbers and visitors to the peak that straddles China and Nepal.

This week, two Britons and one Mexican reached the Everest peak, the first foreigners to do so in two years. (see report on back page) **AP**

MILITARY

Navy plane hits buildings, no casualties reported

A Chinese navy fighter jet on a nighttime training mission crashed into buildings in an eastern city, but the pilot ejected safely and there were no reports of casualties, the Defense Ministry reported yesterday.

The accident occurred around 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the city of Taizhou in Zhejiang province. The ministry said parts of a sewing machine factory were destroyed in the crash, but the pilot had ejected and no one was apparently hurt on the ground. It said the navy and East China Sea Fleet were investigating the cause of the crash.

The type of plane involved wasn't identified. China's navy operates older J-7 and J-8 fighters along with cutting-edge variants of the Russian Su-27, including a version assigned to China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning.

In a commentary on the crash, the ministry's website said the number of such accidents was likely to grow as the intensity of training increased, including more difficult and physically demanding nighttime missions. **AP**

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Storm at anti-counterfeiting group after Alibaba joins

A controversy over Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba's admittance into a respected Washington-based anti-counterfeiting coalition intensified yesterday when board members received an anonymous email threatening a mass defection unless Alibaba is pushed out, according to a copy obtained by The Associated Press.



porate governance fits the size and scope of the IACC we have become," the statement read.

The letter to board members of the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition outlined a list of concerns, including Alibaba's membership and ties between the coalition's president, Robert Barchiesi, and Matthew Bassiur, who took over as Alibaba's head of intellectual property enforcement in January.

"[T]he majority will not continue on as IACC members if you continue to allow membership to Alibaba," said the email, which was unsigned but contained many accurate details about the group's inner workings. "New governance and complete transparency is needed for this organization to resurrect itself."

The IACC board said in an emailed statement to the AP that it would undertake an independent review of the allegations. "We will use this as an opportunity to review all of our policies and procedures to confirm that they meet the highest standards and that our cor-

Luxury fashion brands Gucci America and Michael Kors have already quit the lobbying group since last month's announcement of the board's decision to admit Alibaba, whose e-commerce platforms are widely criticized for selling counterfeit merchandise. Michael Kors' general counsel said in a letter explaining the company's decision to pull out that IACC had "chosen to provide cover to our most dangerous and damaging adversary."

Wednesday's protest email contended that additional unnamed members of the coalition would pull out unless changes were made. Former IACC board member Deborah Greaves, a partner at a law firm that belongs to the anti-counterfeiting group, said the letter "is arguing sentiments shared by a lot of people." The AP was unable to determine who sent the letter, which circulated widely among IACC's members.

The anti-counterfeiting group said its board has full confidence in its president. **AP**

EU lawmakers reject market economy status for PRC

EUROPEAN Union lawmakers have voted against granting market economy status to China in a blow to Beijing's hopes to win the stamp of economic approval by December.

The lawmakers said in a resolution yesterday that China's excess production capacity and cut-price exports are having "strong social, economic and environmental consequences in the EU."

They noted that 56 of the EU's current 73 anti-dumping measures apply to imports from China.

The resolution was passed by 546 votes to 28, with 77 abstentions.

China is the EU's second biggest trading partner, with daily trade flows worth more than 1 billion euros.

Beijing argues that it should automatically win market economy status after Dec. 11, under the World Trade Organization's accession protocol. **AP**

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Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA'S government said yesterday that two more pieces of debris, discovered in South Africa and Rodrigues Island off Mauritius, are "almost certainly" from Flight 370, bringing the total number of pieces believed to have come from the missing Malaysian jet to five.

The aircraft mysteriously disappeared more than two years ago with 239 people on board, and so far an extensive underwater search of a vast area of the Indian Ocean off Australia's west coast has turned up empty.

Though the discovery of the debris has bolstered authorities' assertion that the plane went down somewhere in the Indian Ocean, none of the parts thus far has yielded any clues into exactly where and why the aircraft crashed. Those elusive answers lie with the flight data recorders, or black boxes, which may never be found, said Geoff Dell, a specialist in accident investigation at Central Queensland University in Australia.

"It shows they're looking in the right ocean — that's about it," Dell said.

The two newly identified pieces of debris were found in March. Malaysian Transport

Two more pieces 'almost certainly' from Flight 370

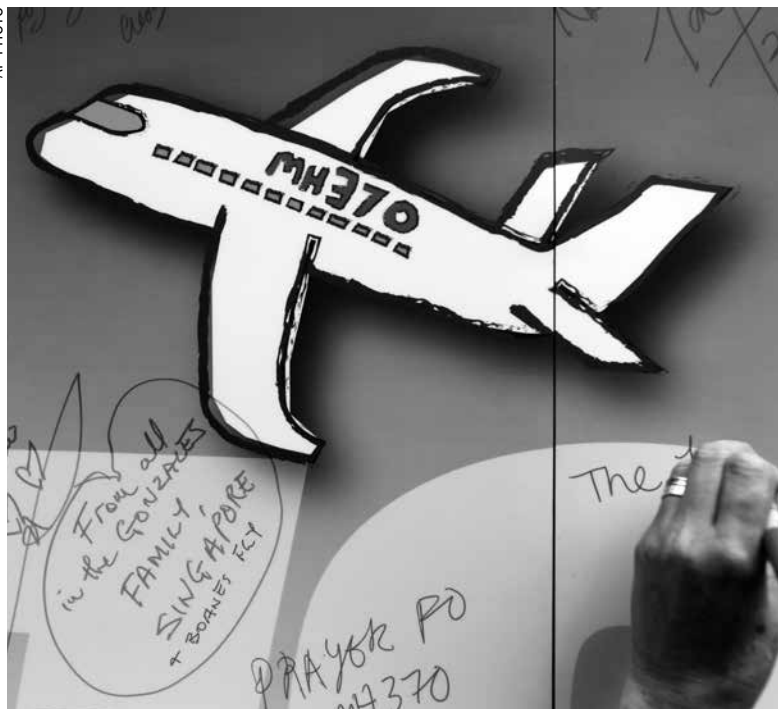
Minister Liow Tiong Lai said one is an engine cowling piece with a partial Rolls-Royce logo, and the other is an interior panel piece from an aircraft cabin — the first interior part found from the missing plane.

An international team of experts in Australia who examined the debris concluded that both pieces were consistent with panels found on a Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 aircraft, Liow said.

"As such, the team has confirmed that both pieces of debris from South Africa and Rodrigues Island are almost certainly from MH370," he said in a statement.

All five pieces have been found in various spots around the Indian Ocean. Last year, a wing part from the plane washed ashore on France's Reunion Island. In March, investigators confirmed two pieces of debris found along Mozambique's coast were almost certainly from the aircraft.

The jet, which vanished on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, is believed to have crashed somewhere in a remote stretch of the southern Indian Ocean about 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) off Australia's west coast. Authorities had predicted that any debris from the plane that isn't on the ocean floor would



Well wishes are written on a wall of hope during a remembrance event for the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in Kuala Lumpur

eventually be carried by currents to the east coast of Africa.

Most of the passengers on the plane were Chinese, and many of their families have refused to give up hope that they could somehow still be alive despite the discoveries of debris.

"I just don't believe what they said and no matter how many pieces of debris they've found, I just don't think it is true," Zhang Qian, whose husband Wang Houbin was on the flight, said in Beijing. "Unless we have

a clear and full explanation of what has really happened from the beginning to the end, solving all the puzzles, we just feel they are still trying to trick us."

Investigators are examining marine life attached to the debris to see if it could somehow help them narrow down where the plane entered the ocean, but haven't discovered anything useful yet.

The interior part, identified by its decorative laminate, is a panel from the main cabin and

is believed to be part of a door closet, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau said in a technical report.

But even this interior piece is also unlikely to prove very helpful to investigators, said Dell, the accident investigation expert. It won't, for example, answer the question that some have raised about whether anyone was still at the controls of the plane at the end of its flight, or whether the plane spiraled uncontrollably into the water after running out of fuel.

"I wouldn't hang your hat too much on what it says, other than it's got to come out of the airplane somehow and that suggests there was a structural failure in the fuselage that allowed it to get out," he said. "But how, exactly — who knows?"

That part was found by tourists on Rodrigues Island, while the piece with part of a Rolls-Royce logo was found by an archaeologist while walking along South Africa's southern coast.

Ron Bishop, head of aviation at Central Queensland University, said the debris may help the investigation in a less direct way: by leading to more debris discoveries.

"The best part about it is, it makes it where now anytime anyone finds something on a beach that's weird-looking [...] they'll turn it in," Bishop said. "I'm sure there's tons of this lying on beaches — we're just not noticing it that much."

"Not all this stuff is going to look like a wing; it's just going to look like garbage."

As for the underwater search, crews have combed more than 105,000 square kilometers (40,000 square miles) of the Indian Ocean to no avail. They expect to complete their sweep of what they have determined to be the plane's most likely location by the end of June. **AP**

[This discovery] shows they're looking in the right ocean — that's about it.

GEOFF DELL
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

PHILIPPINES

Incoming government to continue high-growth path

THE transition team of Rodrigo Duterte, the presumptive Philippine president, said yesterday his administration will continue the macroeconomic policies of his predecessor that put the Southeast Asian nation on a high growth path.

Duterte's team says they also plan to stamp out corruption in revenue collecting agencies, adjust income taxes, lift restrictions on foreign investment and accelerate infrastructure spending as part of their 8-point economic agenda.

Carlos Dominguez, a former agricultural secretary likely to be part of



Front-running presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte clenches his fist during a campaign sortie at Silang township, Cavite province south of Manila

Duterte's cabinet, said the new administration will continue Aquino's target of spending 5 percent of gross domestic product on infrastructure and will remove bottlenecks to private-public partner-

ships projects.

The new government will also focus on eliminating corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs through reforms in the bureaucracy. It will adjust income tax tables to inflation that will lower taxes for lower-income earners. The current income tax rates have not been adjusted since 1997 and are among the highest in the region.

"This will fulfill the president-elect's promise that there will be less corruption in the government," Dominguez said of the revenue agency reforms.

To ensure the attractiveness of the Philippines to foreign direct investments, he said the government will address restrictive economic provisions in the constitution and laws, cut red tape and reduce crimes to increase the security of businessmen and consumers.

It will also focus on supporting small farmers' productivity, improving market access, forging partnerships with agricultural business companies and encouraging more agriculture processing in agricultural areas as part of a rural development strategy.

"We are going to focus

on the two-thirds of the population that are poor and who live in the rural areas," Dominguez said. "This also means that we are going to promote tourism in the rural areas."

Dominguez said basic education will also be strengthened and college scholarships offered. The new administration will also expand and improve the implementation of a program offering direct cash aid to poor families on the condition they keep their children in school and have them get health check-ups. Aquino has said that program has lifted 7.7 million Filipinos out of poverty. **AP**

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Speaker: **David Zweig**, Chair Professor, Division of Social Science, and Director, Center on China's Transnational Relations, HKUST

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Jenny Barchfield &
Mauricio Savarese, Brasilia

BRAZIL

Senate impeaches president Rousseff; trial ahead

BRAZIL'S Senate voted yesterday to impeach President Dilma Rousseff after a months-long fight that laid bare the country's fury over corruption and economic decay, hurling Latin America's largest country into political turmoil just months before it hosts the Summer Olympics.

Rousseff's enraged backers called the move a coup d'etat and threatened wide-scale protests and strikes. Her foes, meanwhile, insisted that she had broken the law, and that the country's deep political, social and economic woes could only be tackled without her.

The 55-22 vote means that Rousseff's ally-turned-enemy, Vice President Michel Temer, will take over as acting president while she is suspended. The Senate has 180 days to conduct a trial and decide whether Rousseff should be permanently removed from office.

"Did anyone think that we would get to 2018 with a recovery under this government? Impos-

Did anyone think that we would get to 2018 with a recovery under this government? Impossible!

JOSE SERRA
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
(OPPOSITION)

sible," said Jose Serra, the opposition Social Democratic Party's failed presidential candidate in the 2010 race that brought Rousseff into power. "The impeachment is just the start of the reconstruction."

Rousseff, 68, was impeached for allegedly using illegal accounting tricks that critics said were meant to hide ballooning deficits and bolster an embattled government.

Brazil's first female president, who was tortured under the country's dictatorship, has frequently blasted the impeachment push as modern-day coup, arguing she had not been charged with a crime and previous presidents did similar things.

She has also suggested that sexism in the male-dominated Congress played a role in the impeachment.

Rousseff's suspension and likely permanent removal ends 13 years of rule by the left-leaning Workers' Party, which is credited with lifting millions out of abject poverty but vilified for being at the wheel when billions were siphoned from the state oil company Petrobras.

Analysts also say Rousseff got herself into trouble with a prickly manner and a perceived reticence to work with legislators that may have alienated possible allies.

Temer, a 75-year-old career politician, has promised to cut spending and privatize many



Pro-government demonstrators shout during clashes with the police outside Congress, in Brasilia

sectors controlled by the state. For weeks, he has been quietly putting together a new Cabinet, angering Rousseff supporters. The lower house voted 367-137 last month in favor of impeachment.

The marathon debate in the Senate began Wednesday morning and took 20 hours as dozens of lawmakers rose to give their opinions.

Humberto Costa, the Workers' Party leader in the Senate, brandished a photo of Rousseff from her days as a young Marxist guerrilla during the country's 1964-1985 dictatorship at the military proceedings against her.

Costa called yesterday's impeachment the second unjust trial Rousseff had endured, saying it was a bid by Brazil's traditional

ruling classes to reassert their power and roll back Workers' Party policies in favor of the poor.

"The Brazilian elite, the ruling class, which keeps treating this country as if it was their hereditary dominion, does not appreciate democracy," Costa said.

When the impeachment measure was introduced last year in Congress, it was generally viewed as a longshot. As late as February, experts were predicting it wouldn't even make it out of committee in the lower Chamber of Deputies.

But the momentum built as Brazilians seethed over numerous corruption scandals linked to Petrobras and daily announcements of job losses added to a growing desperation. The Brazilian economy is expected

to contract nearly 4 percent after an equally dismal 2015 and inflation and unemployment are hovering around 10 percent, underscoring a sharp decline after the South American giant enjoyed stellar growth for more than a decade.

Polls have said a majority of Brazilians supported impeaching Rousseff, though they also suggest the public is wary about those in the line of succession to take her place.

"Dilma is a bad president and waiting until 2018 was a horrible option," said cab driver Alessandro Novais in Rio de Janeiro, minutes after the vote. "I don't think Temer will be much better, but at least we can try something different to overcome the crisis."

Temer has been implicated in the Petrobras corruption scheme as has Renan Calheiros, the Senate head who is now No. 2 in the line of succession. Former House Speaker Eduardo Cunha, who had been second in line, was suspended from office this month over allegations of obstruction of justice and corruption.

Rousseff has vehemently denied her administration's budget moves constituted a crime and argued that such maneuvers were used by prior presidents without repercussions. She has stressed that — unlike many of those who have pushed for impeachment — she does not face any allegations of personal corruption. **AP**

FRANCE

Cannes, on high alert, tries to balance security, festivity

Jake Coyle, Cannes

COMING six months after the Paris attacks in November, the 69th Cannes Film Festival has elevated security measures, swarming the French Riviera resort town with an increased police presence. But particular care has been made, festival organizers say, to preserving the spirit of the annual cinema celebration.

Bomb sweeps and bag checks have been stepped up. A dramatic, unnerving drill was held last month in which mock gunmen stormed the festival's palace hub. And festival president Pierre Lescure has said that about 500 highly-trained security agents will be on guard around Cannes' red-carpeted headquarters, the Palais des Festivals. That's in addition to around 200 police and extensive surveillance cameras throughout Cannes.

But the festival, which opens Wednes-



A police officer patrols in front of the entrance of the Festival Palace in Cannes, southern France

day, has also sought to counter the heightened state by continuing with business as usual. The party will most definitely go on.

"The atmosphere is good," festival director Thierry Fremaux said in an interview this week. "Cannes is a celebration of life, of cinema."

"These films have a big fighting spirit," he added. "This is also what makes Cannes and we still want to show that."

Perhaps signaling that maintaining such a balance will have its difficulties, moments after Fremaux spoke, alarms rang out inside the Palais, forcing an evacuation.

But on the eve of the opening festivities — including a new "welcome party" for festivalgoers on the beach — beefed up security was far from omnipresent. The most striking change, as many noted, weren't security agents but a wardrobe change for the ubiquitous festival ushers. To glowing reviews from critics, their traditionally beige suits have been replaced with blue ones.

"The French public statement was very clear, is very clear," Fremaux said. "The festival is as usual, the same way as usual, so everything will be fine."

That was consistent with earlier state-

ments made by Lescure, who pledged that "the maximum" has been done to balance security and ensure "that the festival remains a place of freedom."

Others have emphasized that Cannes, the world's pre-eminent film festival, must be diligently guarded.

"We must keep in mind as we prepare to open this festival that we are faced with a risk which has never been as high, and faced with an enemy determined to strike us at any moment," French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said in Cannes.

"We must demonstrate extreme vigilance at all times," he said.

Traditions rigorously guide Cannes, which runs through May 22, culminating with the presentation of the Palme d'Or. Onlookers will be paying close attention to see if the customary pageantry of the festival red carpet changes even slightly.

Kicking off the festival yesterday were Woody Allen's 1930s Hollywood comedy "Cafe Society." On tap are films from Steven Spielberg ("The BFG"), Jodie Foster ("Money Monster"), Pedro Almodovar ("Julieta") and Jim Jarmusch ("Paterson"). Julia Roberts, George Clooney, Sean Penn, Ryan Gosling, Kristen Stewart and Russell Crowe are among the stars expected to attend. **AP**

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

- 18:05 Fillers
- 18:10 Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
- 19:00 TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
- 19:30 Soap Opera
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:15 Documentary Serie
- 22:10 Helena's Shadow
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Portuguese Movie

SATURDAY

- 10:30 Young Children
- 10:55 Drama
- 11:30 Young Adult
- 15:00 Soap Opera
- 16:30 Documentary Series
- 18:40 Contest
- 19:30 GloboDoc: Wild Life
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Drama
- 22:00 Revenge S.3
- 22:45 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Brother's & Sister's S5

SUNDAY

- 10:30 Young Children
- 11:00 Sunday Mass
- 14:30 Zig Zag
- 16:40 Comedy
- 17:25 Documentary Series
- 18:20 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 19:10 Documentary Serie
- 19:40 Comedy
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Contraponto
- 22:00 FIFA Sepp Blatter & Me
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 23:45 UEFA Europa League 2015/2016 - Magazine Programme

offbeat

'THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!' NEW YORK MAN WINS HIS 2ND USD1M LOTTERY

A construction worker who won USD1 million in a lottery scratch-off game four years ago has defied enormous odds by hitting a \$1 million jackpot again.

But don't call him lucky.

After Bruce Magistro hit the jackpot the first time in 2012, his wife, Yvonne, lost a three-year battle with cancer. Much of the prize money went to pay for her medical bills.

"She passed away two years ago today," Magistro's son, Nick Mayers, said yesterday [Macau time]. He said he was sure the second jackpot was her way of sending help back to the family.

"This is definitely a gift, from her to him," Mayers said.

State lottery officials introduced Magistro at a news conference at the Long Island gas station where he bought the second winning ticket April 11.

Magistro said he plays the lottery every day and plunked down \$20 at Mike's Super Citgo in West Babylon for a set of 10 Win for Life scratch-offs.

"This is impossible," Magistro said he thought as he scratched off a lottery ticket and realized he won \$1 million. "I just couldn't believe I hit it two times." He now plans to share his winnings with his three children and his fiancée.

Magistro won \$1 million on a different lottery scratch-off game he played at the same gas station in 2012.

The latest win came the first time he had played the Win for Life game, which will pay him \$1,000 each week — with a minimum of \$1 million — for the rest of his life.

Lottery representative Yolanda Vega, who had presented Magistro with a ceremonial check for his first win, said even then she felt he could win a second time.

State gaming officials said the odds Magistro beat to get the Win for Life grand prize were 1 in 7,745,600, and they were 1 in 2,520,000 when he won the Extreme Cash scratch-off in 2012.

cinema



CINETEATRO

12 MAY - 18 MAY



CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

ROOM 1

2.30, 9.15 pm

Director: Anthony and Joe Russo
 Starring: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan
 Language: English (Cantonese)
 Duration: 147min

BOOK OF LOVE

ROOM 1

6.45 pm

Director: Xue Xiaolu
 Starring: Tang Wei, Wu Xiubo
 Language: Mandarin (Cantonese/English)
 Duration: 130min



MONEY MONSTER

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.40, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Jodie Foster
 Starring: George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Jack O'Connell
 Language: English (Cantonese)
 Duration: 98min



THE INERASABLE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Yoshihiro Nakamura
 Starring: Yuko Takeuchi, Ai Hashimoto, Kentaro Sakaguchi
 Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)
 Duration: 107min

MACAU TOWER

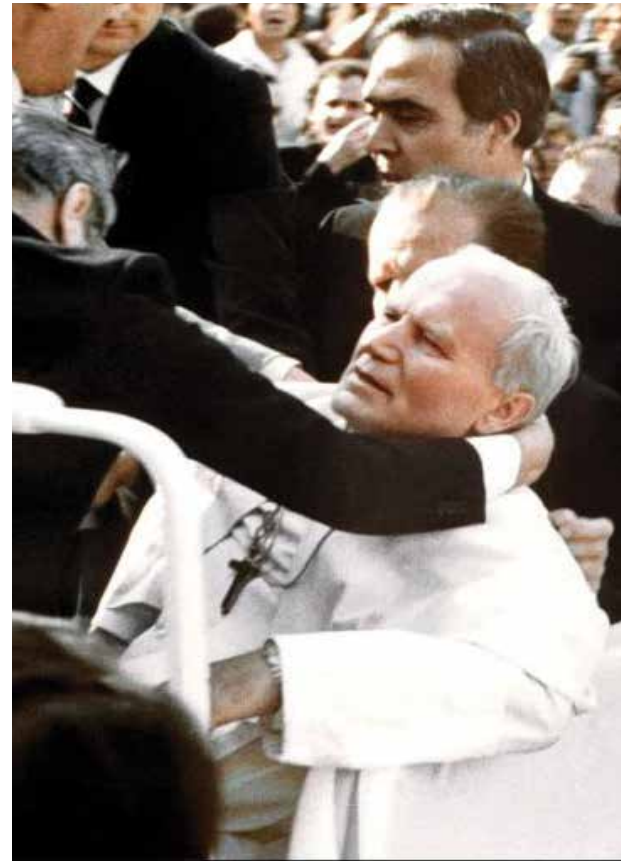
27 APR - 18 MAY

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Anthony and Joe Russo
 Starring: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan
 Language: English (Cantonese)
 Duration: 147min

this day in history

**1981 THOUSANDS SEE POPE SHOT IN ROME**

The Pope has been shot four times as he blessed the crowds in St Peter's Square in Rome.

Surgeons have performed a five-hour operation and say they hope he will make a full recovery.

At about 1715 local time, the Pope was being driven in his Popemobile through a crowd of about 20,000 worshippers when he was hit by four bullets fired from a 9mm pistol some 15 feet away.

Two struck him in the stomach, one in his right arm and the fourth hit his little finger.

Police arrested a 23-year-old man who said he was a Turkish citizen and gave his name as Mehmet Ali Hagca.

He kept repeating: "I couldn't care less about life."

The Turkish press has reported Hagca was jailed for the killing of Turkish newspaper editor Abdi Ipecki in February 1979. But he escaped from prison and left behind a letter vowing to kill the pontiff just before the Pope visited Turkey in 1979.

Many of those who witnessed the shooting in the crowded square burst into tears, or screamed and fell to their knees in disbelief.

The Pope collapsed and was driven at speed into the Vatican complex and from there by ambulance to hospital.

Vatican Radio has appealed to the world to pray for his survival.

The Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury have expressed their shock and deep sympathy for the Pope and his followers.

Pope John Paul II, formerly Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland, became Pope in 1978. He is the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

He is also the most widely travelled pontiff in the Vatican's history. Vatican officials have often said in private that they feared for his safety during his frequent contacts with enthusiastic crowds wherever he goes.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Pope came out of hospital two weeks later but was re-admitted on 21 June with a lung infection.

He did eventually make a full recovery and went on to visit 50 countries in the first decade of his pontificate.

Mehmet Ali Hagca was sentenced to life imprisonment in July 1981 for the shooting.

The Pope later publicly forgave Agca and even visited him in prison. In June 2000, with the agreement of the Pope himself, Agca was pardoned by the Italian president after serving 19 years.

On his return to Turkey he was re-arrested and forced to serve the rest of his sentence for the killing of a Turkish journalist in 1979. He was released in January 2006.

The Pope died at 2137 (1937 GMT) on Saturday 2 April 2005 after he failed to recover from a throat operation due to breathing problems.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Try to look for good deeds to do today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Dive into your daily routines - they don't feel boring in any way...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You are having fun with someone new - or maybe a new project or job...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're going through some home-related issues today that may drag your attention away from other aspects of life...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You should find that a close friend or colleague gets a little closer today...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're tempted to spend too much money on too little of value today...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It should be a terrific day for you - as long as you're mixing it up with new people...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your mind may be spinning with all the options you face - but that's not such a bad problem to have!

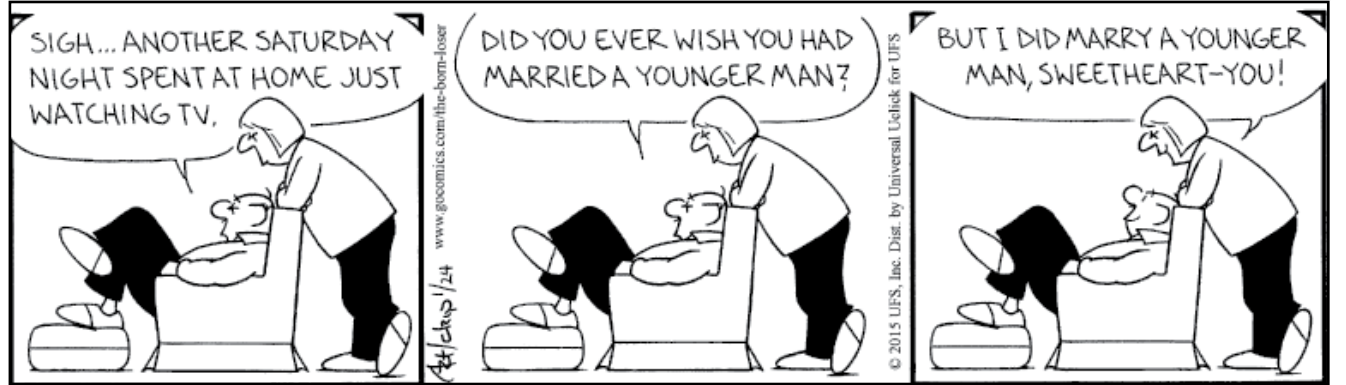
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your people are backing you up all the way - even if they had their doubts just yesterday...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to deal with job dissatisfaction today - most likely your own...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 All this brainy energy needs an outlet - so hunt down problems that need solving!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Partnerships are tough today, so make sure that you're paying close attention to what your work buddy or sweetheart is doing...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Dame ___ Everage; 5- Autocratic Russian rulers; 10- Duo; 14- It's over your head; 15- Homerun king Hank; 16- Part of A.D.; 17- Beginning on; 18- Plant life; 19- How sweet ___; 20- Occupant; 22- Tranquility; 24- Actor Davis; 25- Building material; 26- Stagger; 28- Free of frost; 32- Lays down the lawn; 35- Morse "E"; 37- Sharon's land; 38- Yes, to Yves; 39- Moral principle; 41- Year in Edward the Confessor's reign; 42- Made use of; 45- Legal conclusion?; 46- Castaway's home; 47- Fall flower; 48- Nest eggs, briefly; 50- Reduce; 54- Goddesses of the seasons; 58- Signal that danger is over; 61- Slander; 62- Scott of "Charles in Charge"; 63- Triple; 65- Lab gel; 66- Tiny particle; 67- Folded food; 68- Bandleader Puente; 69- Nota ___; 70- Scarlett of fiction; 71- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon;

DOWN: 1- Muse of poetry; 2- Medicine measures; 3- High times?; 4- Business matters; 5- 27th president of the U.S.; 6- Actor Mineo; 7- Got out of bed; 8- Composer Ned; 9- Animal trap; 10- Artist; 11- Dissenter; 12- Monogram ltr; 13- Promising; 21- Society page word; 23- Winds up; 25- Coagulate; 27- Utopia; 29- Alpo alternative; 30- Prison room; 31- Writer Wiesel; 32- Pop; 33- Yours and mine; 34- Cut calories; 36- Common article; 37- Bakery worker; 40- The doctor ___; 43- Greeting; 44- Baseball's Hershiser; 46- Quarantine; 49- Eureka!; 51- Brief fight; 52- Mother of Isaac; 53- "Fear of Flying" author Jong; 55- Inflexible; 56- Playing marble; 57- Sign up; 58- Simple rhyme scheme; 59- Not punctual; 60- Large cat; 61- City near Phoenix; 64- Neither partner;



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Honda Macau



Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

FOOTBALL | LA LIGA

Saturday, 11pm
Granada v Barcelona
H 31, D 13.5, A 1.11

Barcelona's pedigree at stake as league title goes to wire

ONE team is fighting to protect its championship pedigree. The other is playing it cool with an eye on an even bigger prize.

Barcelona and Real Madrid are gearing up for the decisive final round of the Spanish league, when both face critical away matches that will decide the title.

Barcelona leads Madrid by one point and holds the head-to-head tiebreaker, but the team led by Lionel Messi is also under more pressure to come through.

A win at Granada would give Barcelona back-to-back titles and an eighth league title in 12 years.

A loss, however, combined with a Madrid victory, would culminate a spectacular collapse for a Barcelona side that established a Spanish record with 39 games without a loss across all competitions midway through the season. That run was brought to an end by a 2-1 loss to Madrid at Camp Nou in early April, a result that rekindled Madrid's title bid.

"We have to be strong mentally," said Barcelona forward Luis Suarez, who leads the league with 37 goals, four more than Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo. "We are playing in the best team in the world. We know that the pressure exists, but we only depend on ourselves."



Real Madrid players work out during a training session at the team's Valdebebas training ground in Madrid

Saturday, 11pm
Deportivo v Real Madrid
H 15, D 8.5, A 1.22

Madrid, meanwhile, needs both a win at Deportivo La Coruna

and for Barcelona to drop points in order to snatch the trophy.

In the role of spoiler, Madrid is placing most of its hopes for a major piece of silverware in the subsequent Champions League final against Atletico Madrid on

May 28.

Barcelona also has the Copa del Rey final still to play against Sevilla on May 22, but there is more at stake for the Catalan club after it bowed out of the Champions League quarterfinals against Atletico.

Losing a league title after leading the competition for 17 consecutive matches and enjoying a 12-point advantage over Real Madrid just a few weeks ago would be nothing less than a catastrophe.

Fortunately, for Barcelona, it stopped a bewildering slide of four winless matches just in time and has run off four consecutive victories by a combined score of 21-0 to remain in control of its own destiny.

"If at the beginning of the season we were told that we would have our fate in our own hands on the final day, we would have taken it without a doubt," Barcelona defender Javier Mascherano said. "We have a great squad, with incredible people. We always have it clear in our minds that we are going out there as a team and we must continue working as a unit."

Amid the tension of the buildup to the league finale, Barcelona coach Luis Enrique gave

his players two days of rest this week. They returned to training yesterday.

Madrid is riding high on an 11-match winning streak in the league that has propelled it back into a title hunt that looked over following its last loss to Atletico in February.

Madrid will also be aspiring to avenge the two league titles that Barcelona won by leapfrogging them in dramatic fashion after the Spanish capital's biggest team lost season finales against Tenerife in 1992 and 1993.

The health of its star forwards will be Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane's main concern for the trip to Deportivo in northwestern Spain.

Ronaldo and Karim Benzema have been nursing right-leg injuries, but they scored all three goals in a 3-2 win over Valencia last weekend that lifted Madrid ahead of Atletico and into second place. Gareth Bale missed that match with a leg injury of his own.

Otherwise, Zidane and his players know that no matter what happens tomorrow, the success of their season rests on the result of the European Cup final in Milan. AP / Oddschecker.com

ATHLETICS

Gatlin hopes for solid Shanghai race in build-up to Olympics

JUSTIN Gatlin's last competition in China ended in huge disappointment he came second to Usain Bolt not once, but twice, in both the 100 and 200 meters at last year's world championships.

Gatlin won't face Bolt again until later this season, but his mind is firmly on his longtime rival as he prepares for his first Diamond League race of the year in Shanghai tomorrow.

"As a runner, competitor, sprinter, you know, you have to prepare yourself for a win or a loss," Gatlin said yesterday. "I gave the best I could give at that point in time in Beijing. Now I'm training to be a better athlete and make sure I stay focused within myself when it comes to

competition and I hope it will turn around for me when it comes to Rio '16."

Gatlin is coming off a win Sunday in the 100 meters at a Golden Grand Prix race in Japan, but unlike last year when he opened his season with a scorching 9.74-second win at a Diamond League event in Doha, Qatar, he finished this race in a more pedestrian 10.02 seconds.

The American is coming back from an ankle injury in the off-season, but he said that wasn't a factor in the race.

"Every day it's gotten stronger and better," he said of his ankle. "I think if I had to roll my ankle, the best time was to roll it in the off-season or fall, so now getting into competition, I just need to worry

about keeping my muscles loose and be able to perform well."

He's also trying to pace himself so he peaks at just the right time at the U.S. Olympic trials and the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

"I have two tough tasks in front of me so I don't want to get too burnt out before the season even kicks off to the important part where I need to be at my top form," Gatlin said.

In the men's 800, Olympic champion David Rudisha will also be looking to improve on his start to the season a victory at a meet in Australia in March where the Kenyan ran 1 minute, 44.78 seconds, well off his world record of 1:40.91.

"I'm looking for a good race because after Aus-

tralia, I'm having a good training back in Kenya," Rudisha said. "Of course, my ultimate aim is to be at the top form in August for the Rio Olympics."

The marquee event on the women's side in Shanghai, the 200 meters, took a hit when two-time Olympic gold medalist Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica pulled out with a toe injury.

In her absence, Veronica Campbell-Brown will be the sprinter to beat after posting a time of 22.29 seconds at the end of April, third in the world this year.

The veteran Jamaican, who turns 34 on Sunday and will be competing in her fifth Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, faces a trio of Americans in Shanghai: Candyce McGrone, Jene-



Justin Gatlin of the United States

ba Tarmoh and Tiffany Townsend.

The 1,500 meters also saw a prominent withdrawal when Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands, the silver medalist at last year's worlds in Beijing, was forced to pull out with a hamstring injury. Faith Kipyegon of Kenya, who beat Hassan in Beijing, will now be the favorite in the race.

The men's 110 hurdles, always a fan favorite in Shanghai because of strong performances in recent years by Chinese hurdlers Liu Xiang (2011, 2012 champion) and Xie

Wenjun (2014 champion), has again drawn a top field.

David Oliver, the 2013 world champion, and Aries Merritt, the 2012 Olympic champion who is working his way back into form after undergoing a kidney transplant in September, will try to improve on their respective fourth- and sixth-place finishes at the season-opening Diamond League event in Doha last week. Also in the field is Omar McLeod of Jamaica, who won the Doha race in a season-leading time of 13.05 seconds, and local hope Xie. AP

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



THE MACAU REVIEW

What was to be of interest in Wednesday's presentation of the gaming industry's mid-term review was not so much the content but how it was to be framed, its justification and purpose, and for whose benefit, or even demise.

Most of what was reported was as expected. There was the focus on the prioritisation of local human resources; diversification to family-oriented entertainment options; and impacts upon the social structure, the business environment and macro-economic indicators of Macau.

Macau regulation is notoriously opaque and the implementation of it confounding. Exceptions and discretionary powers make this so and what may have been common practice at one time changes with prioritised issues of the day, policy shifts, community rumblings or new people at the helm. We have an uncertain regulatory environment in which to do business. So, we expected some underlying agenda in this data-gathering exercise.

Organisations and individuals are used to social and institutionalised coercive and disciplinary approaches to government driving required behaviours. The acceptance within the community of a multitude of penalties for misdemeanours from fines for late bill payments to demands for compensation for even minor traffic accidents is indicative of this: rarely seen is inspirational encouragement, sometimes the carrot, most often the stick.

So it is with some relief - and perhaps disbelief for many - that the mid-term review has been delivered as not so much of a warning to those concession operators that have not complied with contractual and operating conditions but as a baseline report, a state of play. Indeed, there was even a nod of approval towards the casino operators that have, on the whole, met their obligations. The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, would not be drawn into making any link between the review and gaming concession renewal, suggesting instead that environmental factors impacting upon the industry would require investigation first. This foretells of deep and profound change, the outcomes of which are to be reflected upon before the renewal conversation is to be had.

What we are seeing is that as long as compliance is maintained - entertainment offerings continue to be meaningfully diversified and local employment concerns are catered for - concessionaires will be less directly managed by government. Gaming industry oversight will be managed through stronger regulatory control of the nerve centre, - to date the real business behind the business (and under the table) of gaming in Macau - the junket operators.

However, far from being let of the hook - "anticlimactic for casino operators" or "quite benign" as some commentators are want to purport - such regulatory control of and heightened governance over what has been a major conduit of gaming capital means that concessionaires potentially have a very large hole to plug in terms of customer base to bring gaming revenue back up to earlier levels. Junkets, through their capital structures, networks and marketing infrastructure, have contributed substantially to casino operator profitability for many a year. The concessionaires' own marketing reach beyond China has thus been understandably negligible. This costs money and resources of which relatively very little investment has been required to date as the junkets have been more than merrily carrying that burden, drawing to the tables the major China market. Depending upon how far governance oversight on junket operators goes, the customer mix and marketing investment requirements will change dramatically for casino operators. Need a job in marketing? Here's your opportunity.

I have a renewed confidence in Macau. The relatively subtle and understated tone of the message imbued in the review obscures a thoughtful, professional and insightful determination to normalise and make transparent the workings of our main industry. If the trajectory continues and at this pace both within and beyond the gaming regulator, we are looking at a new Macau.

THE BUZZ POPE SAYS HE'S WILLING TO STUDY WOMEN DEACONS, IN MAJOR STEP

Pope Francis says he's willing to create a commission to study whether women can serve as deacons in the Catholic Church, signaling the possibility of letting women serve in ordained ministry.

Deacons are ordained ministers but are not priests. Currently, the church allows married men to be deacons but not priests. The pope in no way signaled during a meeting yesterday with su-

periors of women's religious orders that he would allow women priests. But asked if he would create a commission to study whether women could be deacons, as in the early church, Francis said he was open to the idea, the National Catholic Reporter reported.

The publication quoted Francis as saying: "It seems useful to me to have a commission that would clarify this well."

INTO THIN AIR

Two Brits, Mexican are first foreigners on Everest in 2 years



Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

Two British and a Mexican climber yesterday became the first foreigners to scale Mount Everest in two years together with three Nepalese guides, officials said.

The six climbers reached the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) peak early yesterday and were heading to lower camps, said Ang Tshering of the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

The Brits are Kenton Cool and Robert Richard Lucas, and the Mexican is David Liano Gonzalez.

For Cool, 42, it was his 12th successful climb of

Everest. Gonzalez, 36, is the record holder with six successful ascents of Everest from both northern side in China and southern side in Nepal in the same season.

The Nepalese government has issued permits to 289 climbers to attempt to scale Everest. They have to do it in the next few weeks before the monsoon rains bring in bad weather.

A group of nine Nepalese guides fixing ropes for their foreign clients reached the summit on Wednesday.

The successful climbs this week come after two years of back-to-back disasters.

An avalanche triggered

■ **The six climbers reached the 8,850-meter peak early yesterday and were heading to lower camps**

by a powerful earthquake killed 19 climbers and injured 61 others at base camp last year. In 2014, 16 Sherpa guides were killed by an avalanche above the base camp.

Last year's climbing season was scrubbed, and nearly all of the climbers in 2014 abandoned their attempts after the avalanche. The only team who reached the summit that year from the Nepal side was a Chinese woman and her five Sherpa guides.

Earlier this week, two Nepalese Sherpa guides died of complications due to high altitude sickness at a lower camp on Mount Makalu, the world's fifth highest. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Good
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



USA Donald Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan pledged to work together despite their differences after a meeting yesterday aimed at repairing their breach and unifying a party torn over Trump's rise to the cusp of the GOP presidential nomination.

IRAQ A twin suicide bombing hit a police station in Baghdad's westernmost suburb yesterday, killing at least five policemen a day after a wave of attacks by the Islamic State group killed nearly a hundred people in the Iraqi capital. The IS-claimed bombings were the deadliest in Baghdad this year, coming at a time of turmoil and deadlock in Iraq's government and parliament.

ITALY joined the rest of Europe yesterday (Macau time) in giving some legal rights to gay couples after a years-long battle and opposition from the Catholic Church to anything that smacked of authorizing gay marriage. The lower Chamber of Deputies voted 372-51 with 99 abstentions to approve legislation already passed in February by the Senate.



EUROPE A U.S. missile defense system aimed at protecting Europe from ballistic missile threats is moving into higher gear this week, with a site in Romania becoming operational yesterday and officials breaking ground at another site in Poland a day later.

HOLIDAY TIMES
 Macau Daily Times will not be published on Monday. The Times will be back on the stands on Tuesday, May 17. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.

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