



CONSTRUCTION FORUM KICKS OFF
The event's 7th edition focuses on financial efforts involved in international infrastructure development cooperation

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS AGAINST TAIIPA PUBLIC HOUSING
The proposal to use a land plot close to the Macau Stadium to build public housing wasn't well received

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RAMADAN TRADITIONS TO BE PROTECTED IN XINJIANG

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA As a teenager, Wang Keming felt nothing but contempt for the older peasant his village singled out for collective persecution in 1970. Stirred by Mao Zedong's radical ideology and inured to the rampant violence of the Cultural Revolution, he beat the man bloody and saw nothing wrong with it. Decades later, Wang felt... guilt. **More on p10**

PHILIPPINES Communist rebels said they plan to meet with the government of incoming President Rodrigo Duterte to discuss a resumption of long-stalled peace talks, and will demand an end to the U.S. military presence in the country. **More on p12**

PHILIPPINES-US U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the American alliance with the Philippines remains "iron clad," following the election of a new Philippines president who has said his country needs to chart a course more independent of the United States



MH17 The families of six crew members on a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet shot down over Ukraine nearly two years ago file lawsuits against the airline, accusing it of negligence and breach of contract.

JAPAN The search for a boy who disappeared after his parents reportedly left him behind in a Japanese forest as punishment pushes into a fifth day with no clues to his fate.

More on backpage

Hidden VIP-room earpieces show money laundering risks

P4,5 FEATURE

Sands targets Japan in campaign to rebrand Macau

P7 MDT IN TOKYO

Extra times

weekend Guide

INSIDE

'The Gift' concert halted after vocalist faints



A concert featuring pop band 'The Gift' came to a halt yesterday night at the Cultural Center's Grand

Auditorium after vocalist Sónia Tavares fainted. The incident happened around half an hour into the show. The singer was quickly rushed backstage, where doctors from the audience saw to her. This was followed by an announcement that the show would be suspended. The Gift's concert was part of the event "June- Month of Portugal" and was preceded by a speech by the Portuguese Consul in Macau and HK, Vitor Sereno.

MAF: 87pct tickets sold



The overall percentage of ticket sales for the recently concluded 27th Macao Arts Festival (MAF) has reached 87 percent. The event, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, featured 27 shows as well as an outreach program, totaling over 100 activities.

Training courses for speech and occupational therapists

The government plans to offer training courses for speech and occupational therapists, in order to meet the increasing need for such medical specialists. According to a statement issued yesterday, the courses will be jointly offered by the Social Welfare Bureau, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, the Tertiary Education Services Office and the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM). The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, stated this week that an undergraduate program focused on speech therapy would be offered at IPM, most likely at the start of the next academic year.

Men arrested for using forged bank cards

Two Russian men were arrested for using forged bank cards to withdraw money from ATMs, according to a report by TDM. The police announced yesterday that the duo had been arrested at the Macau Ferry Terminal on Tuesday, intending to leave the territory. The police found them to be in possession of 100 forged bank cards as well as a large number of card readers. Both men are suspected of committing a similar crime in February 2015. More than ten banks have reportedly fallen victim to the Russians' scheme, through which they stole a total of HKD 16,900 from local ATMs. Both men denied their crimes, and will be charged with computer bilking and money forgery.

MICE

7th Construction Forum launches at The Venetian

THE 7th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IICF), with the theme "Innovating Construction-Finance Cooperation and Energizing Infrastructure Development", launched yesterday at The Venetian Macao.

Jointly organized by China International Contractors Association (CHINCA) and the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), the forum aims to serve as a platform for international communication, exchange and collaboration between the construction industry and the finance sector.

This year's theme emphasizes the financial efforts involved in international infrastructure development cooperation.

Some 50 deputy ministerial-level officials from various regions, who oversee infrastructure and construction in their



Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, toured the exhibition hall

respective countries, are attending this year's IICF. More than 20 international financial institutions will be at the event, as well as 1,400 delegates from contractors for infrastructure and related services.

The forum features discussions such as "matching for the construction industry and finance sector", "innovative finance models", "risk prevention and control" and "enterprise related transformation and upgrading."

The seminars are intended to boost cultural exchange

and foster business collaboration between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as promote dialogue on new models of collaboration in infrastructure development, equipment manufacturing, agriculture and other sectors.

IPIM President Jackson Chang said such discussions would improve communication and partnership between Macau and global financial institutions.

Chang added that Macau's stable social environment and

solid external financial position make it an ideal city for investment.

"The city has a sound financial capacity, with continuous improvement in terms of the level of savings per household, and in terms of Macau's competitiveness in the regional financial system," he said.

The event was moved from Beijing to Macau in 2012. Chang said the forum has improved over the years and has become "one of the most important and influential events in Macau's meetings calendar."

The IPIM president assured the audience that Macau would continue to draw on the close ties it holds with Portuguese-speaking countries in order to develop its economic role and promote further cooperation with China.

The organizers have also invited vice minister-level officials in charge of infrastructure for countries such as Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Kenya; as well as executives from international financial institutions such as the World Bank, Export-Import Bank of China and the African Export-Import Bank.

The 7th IICF ends today. **Staff reporter**

Auto show to be held over the weekend

THE China (Macao) Automotive and Shipping Equipment Fair (CASEF) kicked off yesterday at the Fisherman's Wharf, marking the first edition of the three-day event.

Organized by the Ministry of Commerce of China, CASEF is supported by the China National Automotive Industry International Corporation (CNAICO), as well as the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

There are approximately 200 participants from several regions, including Brazil and Portugal. Mainland Chinese exhibitors dominate the exhibition hall. The types of car companies in attendance consist of general manufacturers, dealerships, component manufacturers and product maintenance brands.

According to the organizers, items such as car seats, explosion-proof films and lighting appliances will be on display. Around 500 procurement groups have registered to attend.

There will also be interactive ses-



sions on Sino-Portuguese trade, the Pearl River Delta automotive market, and Guangdong and Macau yachts. The event features ten car shows.

China registered 172 million cars in 2015, of which 23.85 million were newly manufactured, according to Han Xiaojun, the general manager of CNAICO. He believes the exhibition will help "lead China to the global procurement market."

"China's car imports and exports have been showing a fierce growing for the past ten years," said Han, adding that Macau, as a platform for trade across the Asia-Pacific region, occupies "a privileged position within the whole nation's automotive industry development."

Staff reporter

EDUCATION

School violence on the rise in Zhuhai

THE Zhuhai Xiangzhou People's Court revealed the city had recorded 209 cases of juvenile delinquency from the beginning of 2014 to May 2016. School violence accounted for roughly 10 percent of cases, with 24 reported incidents, according to mainland media.

The court said most perpetrators of school violence are 15 to 16 years old, and that many are students from occupational colleges, accompanied by non-students. Most of the cases involve armed threats, and normally take place within the school perimeter or nearby campuses.

The judge explained that some of the students committed crimes as part of fights for the leadership of student groups. Others brawled over their girlfriends. Some committed robbery to cover personal expenses. The Zhuhai court admitted that the number of cases of school violence had gradually increased in recent years.

According to a report by Zhejiang University, 87 percent of students surveyed in mainland China last year experienced violence at the hands of fellow students. In May, the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China said that out of 100 incidents of school violence occurring between 2013 and 2015, 49 percent involved the use of knives and 35 percent resulted in the victims' death.

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Urban Planning Committee against public housing lot in Taipa

Renato Marques

THE government's project to use a land plot in Taipa to build public housing was opposed by several members of the Urban Planning Committee.

The committee, which has a consultative role, gathered yesterday to discuss proposals related to fifteen land plots and buildings.

One topic debated was the use of a land plot in Taipa, located at the crossroads between Rua do Desporto and Rua do Colégio next to Macau Olympic Aquatic Center, as proposed by the Housing Bureau.



Raimundo do Rosário

Several members of the committee expressed their disagreement with the project, stating that the location is assigned to sports facilities.

Among them was committee

member Wu Chou Kit. "The people need public housing, I acknowledge that. But there are other facilities that people also need," he said.

"To go ahead with this [pro-

ject] might create a loophole for the future planning."

Another highlight had to do with a long-lasting standoff regarding a privately-owned plot of land located across the Social Affairs Bureau headquarters. A technical report from the Cultural Affairs Bureau rejects the landowner's idea of building a hotel, stating that the land is located within a heritage protection area in which no construction can take place.

According to IC, the land should be made available to the public as a plaza.

On this topic, Wu Chou Kit reaffirmed the need for the committee to establish a cons-

ROSÁRIO: OPINIONS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

ON THE sidelines of the meeting, Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário was questioned by the media about several committee members' unfavorable opinions regarding the public housing in Taipa. "We will always take note of the opinions of the committee members in these meetings. The services will analyze all these opinions," he said.

truction height limit for the land, enabling the calculation of a compensation that should be paid to the landowner.

"The owner can't use the land and he is suffering a loss because of that. But we can't set compensation since we don't know what would be the maximum ceiling for that [land]," he said, urging committee members to reach a solution.

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ERIC JACKSON • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 1 Week Ago

I am pleased to hear that the government of Macau is listening to the world in regards to the Canidrome. The people of Macau should not be judged by what goes on at the Canidrome, but as long as they are racing and killing dogs, the world will look [without] favor upon Macau. Please, stop the racing, close the Canidrome, and work with international groups to place all of the greyhounds in homes.

REPLY



JAMES MILLON • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 5 Days Ago

The Canidrome is a place where people go to see dogs fight. It is a place where people go to see dogs kill each other. It is a place where people go to see dogs suffer. It is a place where people go to see dogs die. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like animals. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like things. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like objects. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like property. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like slaves. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like... [text is partially obscured]

REPLY



GAO • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 5 Days Ago

It is really sad to see that the world is watching and waiting for the Chinese people to do the right thing and close the Canidrome.

REPLY



GAO • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 5 Days Ago

The world is watching and waiting for the Chinese people to do the right thing and close the Canidrome.

REPLY



MARY ANNE CHRISTIAN • Thursday, May 26, 2016 - 5 Days Ago

It is really sad to see that the world is watching and waiting for the Chinese people to do the right thing and close the Canidrome. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like animals. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like things. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like objects. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like property. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like slaves. It is a place where people go to see dogs be treated like... [text is partially obscured]

REPLY

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Daniela Wei

GAMING

Hidden VIP-room earpieces show

HIDDEN inside the private room of a Macau casino's exclusive gaming area, a single player sits at a baccarat table. As the cards are turned, the man, a hired hand, gives a play-by-play account via an earpiece wirelessly connected to his mobile phone. On the other end of the call, hundreds if not thousands of miles away, is the real gambler - a player beyond the border in China.

That was the scenario described by five people who work at Macau's junket operators, which front money to high rollers and bet on their behalf using wireless headsets - in violation of the city's May 9 ban on using phones at betting tables. At least three gaming promoters who conduct business at independently run VIP rooms at Macau casinos operated by SJM Holdings Ltd. and Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. told Bloomberg News they're using headsets to evade the ban, with the proxy players sometimes using their hair to hide the devices. They asked not to be identified because the activities are illicit.

A statement from Melco said its casino facilities, including VIP rooms, are complying with



local regulations. SJM didn't respond to requests for comment. SJM executive director Angela Leong said in a May 17 interview that Macau casinos,

including SJM, have increased monitoring to prevent phone betting.

Macau banned phone bets for a simple reason: money

laundering. Mainland gamblers can get credit lines from Macau junket operators, who are repaid by the players inside mainland China. The ga-

ming credit stays outside China, away from scrutiny by the Chinese government and its currency controls - and where it can be cashed out in Macau as gambling proceeds. While a Macau law banned phone betting in 2001, there was no enforcement as long as operators reported the bets and the identities of the gamblers to the regulator, according to legislator Jose Maria Pereira Coutinho.

"There's a situation of permeability for money launde-

The government is too friendly with casino operators. It doesn't really punish them.

PEREIRA COUTINHO

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local money laundering risks

ring that the government must pay full attention to after the ban," said Coutinho, who called the ban symbolic. "A regulation without effective implementation will create a new loophole as the industry may find a way to avoid it."

It's unclear how the new ban will work. Since there's no longer a system for reporting bettors, phone bets are now clandestine, according to the people. On top of that, the rule doesn't come with sanctions for violators, according to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. Junket operators say phone betting revenue - worth an estimated USD2.6 billion last year - is crucial for their operations as they struggle with a two-year slump. Gaming revenue plummeted 36 percent last year from its 2013 peak as high rollers stayed away from the tables due to China's anti-corruption drive.

Not all phone bets facilitate money laundering, and some countries, including the Philippines, allow the practice.

Melco, which operates the City of Dreams and Studio City casinos, said in its statement that its facilities are fully compliant.

"Macau is a highly regulated market and the gaming authority has a strict regulatory regime aimed at closely monitoring the activities of licensed gaming promoters within casinos," the company said in an e-mailed statement. "This being the case, we can assure you that all of our casino facilities are fully compliant with the local regulations."

Lionel Leong, Macau's Secretary for Economy and Finance, pledged on Tuesday that the government will work to "ensure strict enforcement" of the ban.

"The government's position on the ban on phone betting in casinos is unequivocal," according to a statement by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau in response to Bloomberg News questions on violations in VIP rooms. "If irregularities that contravene the laws of Macau are found, the government will take severe measures against such activities."

Casinos operators and gaming promoters are fully aware of the ban on the use of mobile telephones at gaming tables, according to the statement. The bureau is "also exploring possible legislative amendments to promote the industry's healthy development by raising the thresholds for gambling promoters," it said in the statement.

Coutinho, the lawmaker, said

BLOOMBERG



Kwok Chi Chung, president of Macau's Association of Gaming and Entertainment Promoters

the lack of enforcement points to a less than ideal relationship between the regulator and the \$30 billion gaming industry. Macau is the only place in China where casinos are legal.

"The government is too friendly with casino operators," he said. "It doesn't really punish them."

He plans to propose revising the 2001 phone betting ban to include detailed punishment for violations.

"The government needs to revise the law if they have problems enforcing the regulation," said Coutinho. "They need to block the possibilities for violations."

More staff and security guards will be hired to conduct checks and monitor activities in the VIP rooms through surveillance cameras, Paulo

The junket business has already been struggling so much. The phone betting ban makes the weak market even worse.

KWOK CHI CHUNG

Martins Chan, director of the gaming bureau, said in an interview May 18.

"Casinos and junkets are supportive and are complying with the ban now," Chan, the regulator, said last month. "Just a few gamblers who were still betting by phone were persuaded to stop. Casinos can ask clients to leave if they insist on phone betting."

Under Macau's 2001 law, casino operators are responsible for making sure junket operators obey the regulation even though the gaming promoters operate the rooms independently of the casinos. The May ban doesn't lay out the responsibilities of casinos to enforce the ban.

A week after the ban took effect, only 28 percent of 1,000 casino staff members surveyed by the Macau Gaming Industry Frontline Workers' Union said they thought casinos were "strictly executing" the ban, according to the group. There were 141 gaming promoters licensed by Macau's gaming regulator as of earlier this year, a drop of 40 percent from the peak in 2013.

Singapore's prohibition against phone betting, which took effect last year, calls for a fine of up to S\$5,000 (\$3,600) and six months in jail for the gambler and as much as S\$200,000 and up to five years in jail for those who facilitate remote gambling.

Phone bets have been an ave-

nue for wealthy Chinese to skirt China's currency controls limiting outflows of the equivalent of \$50,000 a year amid a crackdown on corruption by president Xi Jinping. With phone betting, the gambler-cum-money-transferer never leaves the country, making it easier to conceal his or her identity. Other countries, including the U.S. and Singapore, have also banned phone betting due to money laundering risks.

Despite the 2001 law banning phone betting, junket and casino operators were allowed by the regulator in the wake of the severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, epidemic in 2003 to use electronic devices at the tables, which facilitated phone betting, according to junket operators and Coutinho.

Casinos previously needed to fill and send forms to the regulator on behalf of gaming promoters that identified the gambler on the other end of the phone, the junket operators said. The phone gambler was required to put down a minimum of HK\$1 million (\$129,000) to HK\$3 million in each gaming session, according to the junket operators. Casinos sent the forms to the gaming regulator, which approved the use of electronic devices by the junket agent serving as a proxy at the casino for the phone gambler, they said.

Numbers suggest that Xi's corruption crackdown scared China's high rollers away from the gaming tables - and

prompted them to pick up the phone instead. Last year's \$2.6 billion in phone betting receipts was a 15 percent gain from a year earlier even as VIP revenue at casinos dropped 40 percent, according to Daiwa Capital Markets Hong Kong Ltd. analyst Jamie Soo. For smaller junket operators, phone betting potentially accounted for as much as 50 percent of revenue, he said. Over the past year, the industry has faced greater scrutiny, with gaming promoters required to adhere to stricter accounting standards generally. The regulator is working on a proposal to raise capital requirements 100-fold for new junket operators starting business.

In contrast to recreational gamblers often attracted to the excitement and adrenaline rush of the bustle and noise of a casino, phone betting is a serious, high-stakes game that points to the unique trust between the overseas gambler and gaming agent. The game of choice is baccarat, where the player bets whether the value of his hand or the dealer's is closest to nine.

Since the ban, some of the junkets now assign two agents, with one playing at the table and announcing the results loudly while a partner sits near the table with an open phone line to the gambler, according to two junket operators.

To be sure, the regulator is monitoring VIP rooms more strictly and pressuring casinos to help enforce the ban, the people said. Some gaming promoters have closed their operations, while others have moved their VIP businesses to the Philippines and Vietnam, where policies are more favorable for phone betting and junket operators, they said. Some junket operators who are still engaging in phone betting report they are seeing an increase in plays at the table, most of it from gamblers in China, two of the people said.

The regulator will recruit 50 new gaming inspectors, adding to the 120 it now has, according to Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. analyst Vitaly Umansky, who wrote in a May 23 note that the number of enforcement staff is "still quite low" relative to the number of Macau's casinos and VIP rooms.

While enhanced regulations on junket operations are generally good for the industry, the ban on phone betting and other tightening measures makes survival difficult for junkets, said Kwok Chi Chung, president of the Association of Gaming & Entertainment Promoters of Macau, which represents gaming operators.

"The junket business has already been struggling so much," said Kwok. "The phone betting ban makes the weak market even worse." **Bloomberg**

MSAR ranks ninth in competitiveness of Chinese cities

THE latest report released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on competitiveness of cities, has placed Macau at ninth, according to a note published this week by the Macau University of Science and Technology.

The release of the Chinese Urban Competitiveness Report marks the 14th anniversary of the publication. The report includes 294 cities, 287 of which are from mainland, five from Taiwan and two corresponding to SARs.

Macau excels in terms of its overall efficiency in competitiveness, ranking first in this category. In other categories, Macau ranks number 36 in livability, 32 in business at-



traction, and five in sustainable development.

In terms of GDP per capita, the report also shows that Macau is still unsurpassed. However the region sits at 220 place in terms of "incremental competitiveness index". This contradiction, explained Liu Cheng

Kun, associate professor at MUST, is due to the recent gaming slowdown.

"Macau's industry is relatively simple, [...] the whole economy is transitioning to a period of deep adjustments," said Liu, according to whom the decline in both livability and business

attraction are a consequence of the increasing population in the area, including tourists.

"Macau's capability is under pressure. Housing prices dropped slightly but are still high compared to people's incomes. In addition, SMEs struggle to move forward since the gaming industry plummeted," Liu explained.

In terms of knowledge and information competitiveness, Macau ranks 39 and 17, respectively. Liu stated that revenues resulting from government investment in science, technology and education are low. "From a global perspective, cities with relatively high scores in these two previously mentioned categories rank high in overall competitiveness," noted Liu. However, Liu argued that the Chinese central government has been consistently supporting Macau and will keep doing so as usual, which is a major asset for the city.

Hong Kong conceded first place to Shenzhen for the second year in a row. **Staff reporter**

TOURISM

New regulation tries to stop bad manners

THE China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) has issued a new temporary regulation to blacklist tourists and tourism service providers that engage in so-called "uncivilized conduct" abroad.

According to a statement issued by CNTA, Chinese tourists who violate laws and regulations (whether in China or in other regions), or who disrespect other cultures, creating a negative impact on their travel destination, will be listed in the tourism records for inappropriate behavior.

More specifically, this regulation features nine categories – including disturbing public order on transports; breaking public facilities and damaging the environment; disobeying other cultures and habits therein; damaging relics; and participating in gambling, pornographic and drug-related activities. If minors display censurable behaviors, their guardians will consequently be blacklisted.

Tourism service providers are also affected by the new regulation. Service providers who cheat or force tourists to buy, insult them, or who show disrespect towards other religions and cultures, will be blacklisted.

All parties considered to have violated the new policies will see their names, gender, Hu Ji (a household registration record in China), and details of misconduct recorded.

This information will be preserved for the period of one to five years. Behaviors that result in the violation of criminal laws will be kept on record for three to five years.

All the aforementioned records may be made publically available, depending upon the discretion of the CNTA.

Provincial tourism administration departments will be in charge of applying and managing the new regulation.

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THE VENETIAN MACAO

Daniel Beittler, Tokyo
MDT Envoy*

THE Sands China Tokyo roadshow and banquet dinner were held yesterday at the Conrad Tokyo hotel, where around 120 Japanese travel agents and corporate individuals were treated to a variety of performances and promotional activities.

The roadshow is the fourth of its kind in a series of 11 planned by Sands China, each with the intention of driving Japanese tourists and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) activities to the concessionaire's integrated resorts. It is part of a wider move toward non-gaming offerings undertaken by gaming resorts in Macau in response to the government's plan to diversify into other economic areas.

"At Sands China we support the government's vision of Macau as a 'World Center for Tourism and Leisure'," said Sands China vice president for destination marketing and sales, Ruth Boston. "This summer we will offer a variety of entertainment shows for all ages."

Many guests at last night's event expressed an interest in Macau - considering the "diversity of offerings" - however just as many raised alarm bells over the suitability of the territory for their respective needs.

Atsuhiko Kiyonari of Japanese travel agency, Tobu Top Tours, told the Times that they "do a lot of business with MICE organizers who are always looking for facilities that can host more than 1,000 people. Macau is an ideal destination in this sense. Also it is quite easy to get to, being just four hours from Tokyo, so I am comfortable promoting the city to my customers."

However, Yuko Tokada, an event coordinator for retail company Modere Japan, feels differently about the territory. "I last visited Macau in 2007 but I was not impressed. It was a bit of a disappointment actually," she told the Times. "I was staying in Hong Kong at the time and came to Macau for about three days. I remember thinking: I should have stayed in Hong Kong."

Tokada is responsible for planning company incentive

Sands China targets Japan in campaign to rebrand Macau



vacations for around 50-100 people that occur annually outside of Japan. Historically these trips have taken place in destinations across Southeast Asia, such as Thailand and Vietnam. However, since the company's rebranding, high-performing employees are now sent to more far-flung locations, like Paris and New York City.

Tokada said that she would

The image of Macau in Japan is all about Chinese gambling. Some don't want to go [there] because of that negative image.

JAMES KOH
EVENTS AND MEETINGS PLANNER

reassess whether Macau deserves another visit primarily on the success of the banquet dinner and showcased offerings.

James Koh, a corporate executive at Amway Japan, told the Times that he is a meeting and events planner in the city who organizes large-scale events that can exceed 3,000 guests. He is also involved in designing international incentive trips for top-performing distributors that work with Amway.

"For low-level achievers, we normally plan a trip that is [geographically] close to Japan," he said. According to Koh, Honolulu on the Pacific U.S. state of Hawaii has proven exceptionally popular with his clients, because of its reputation in Japan. The executive hinted that Macau might not generate quite as much excitement in comparison.

"The location [of Macau] is great for entertainment and shopping, but it lacks the regular activities [of other destinations]," said Koh. "You need experiences to offer. Seventy percent of our clients on these trips are repeat travellers; that means they are likely to have

been on last year's trip. So you need to keep offering them new things."

"For us, it is about motivation versus satisfaction," he said. The destination must appeal to the distributors in order to incentivize them but must also succeed in rewarding expectations.

The problem with Macau, Koh says, "is that the image of Macau in Japan is all about Chinese gambling. Some don't want to go [there] because of that negative image."

However, the performances and offerings showcased during the banquet dinner may have given James Koh the materials necessary for a rethink.

Aside from presenting gaming theme park, "Planet J", "The Blue Man Group" and "Shrek the Musical" all on offer at Sands China resorts, last night's dinner also featured live performances from the group's entertainers, showing that there is more to the resorts than just slot machines.

A French opera singer-cum-chef, Italian branch manager, and Venetian gondola singer constituted a musical trio with

renditions of classics such as "That's Amore" and "Nessun Dorma" to the delight of the Japanese guests, some of whom waved their napkins in the air to the final piece at the musicians' encouragement.

Other acts featured an unconventional painter who created a "Mona Lisa"-style image within minutes and sparkled golden dust onto a glue-painted black canvas, and a quick-change duo who adorned dozens of glittering costumes between them.

Japan represents a significant market for the gaming operator, which ranks the country among its top five target areas according to Ruth Boston. Currently Japan trails behind mainland China, South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan in terms of visitor arrivals, but Sands China representatives believe that there is significant untapped growth in the market.

Three years ago James Koh organized a trip to the MSAR, encompassing thousands of guests who were hosted at The Venetian Macao. He said that the reaction from his distributors was positive but he is unsure whether his repeat clients would get much more from the city.

"Generally people loved it. They enjoyed it because the hotel was nice. People had a lot to do [on that trip] in terms of having a busy schedule... so nobody was complaining. The problem now is: what next?"

"We looked into the Parisian a few years ago but there was a delay in the project's construction. We had to [abort] our plans because we need to plan three or four years in advance," added Koh.

The Times asked event coordinator Yuko Tokada whether she might return to Macau to reassess the city's suitability, nearly a decade on from her visit in 2007. "Maybe things have changed," she said. "Next year our destination [for the employee incentive vacation] is decided, but the following year is a possibility."

Kazuto Churei of Forever Living Products Japan was somewhat more enthusiastic than the other guests. After the show finished he told reporters that it was an experience like no other. "I have never seen such impressive promotional videos!" he exclaimed. "Maybe they are [reflective of] Macau!"

*The writer is in Tokyo at invitation of Sands China Ltd.

No mention of Parisian gaming tables

DURING last night's banquet ceremony, a promotional video was shown to guests outlining the new Parisian development, which is expected to open to the public later this year. The clip panned around a rendered interior of the soon-to-be latest resort on Cotai Strip, highlighting a host of amenities, but made no mention of gaming services.

Accompanied by stereotypical French tunes played mostly on the accordion, the video revealed the rooms, facilities and services of the resort as well some of the luxurious public areas. Moreover, guests were shown a rendering of what will eventually be a restaurant situated in the lower tier level of the Eiffel Tower replica outside the resort.

However, there was no mention of any gaming facilities even though Sands China has most recently said in February that it is hoping for at least 250 new tables in the resort, down from the 450 signalled by the concessionaire in 2014. The omission might be seen as part of a larger intention to emphasize the group's non-gaming offerings.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Ideas for Small Spaces

Making the most of restricted space

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

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



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The reality for many people living in Macau is the restricted space available, and that means making the most of the space we are given and adapting to a space far smaller than you may have been used to.

Last week we looked at Living Rooms, Kitchens and Bathrooms, and this weeks article is about bedrooms and the general layout.

Bedrooms

- IKEA have some fantastic and comfortable beds with massive lift up storage areas hidden beneath. These are big enough to store shrink-wrapped winter clothes, bed sheets and linen or bicycle parts if you are so inclined.

- Once again, floor to ceiling wardrobes are essential in the bedroom. The top shelf or cupboard is perfect for storing travel bags, luggage or just about anything else that is bulky but not heavy (just in case it falls on you or you have a spouse with a warped sense of humour).

- Bedside tables can hide a multitude of books, electrical equipment, phone chargers etc, provided they have enough drawers. Tables with drawers are far more practical than a table top with just legs.

Mirror, Mirror...

Strategically placing mirrors around the apartment reflects light and enlarges small spaces like you wouldn't believe.

A full height mirror creates the illusion of doubling the space, making the apartment appear far larger than it really is.

Using reflective surfaces such as high-gloss cabinetry where possible will also brighten and enlarge small spaces.

A Unified Colour Scheme

A unified colour scheme helps to make a small room seem bigger, but its a popular misconception that white is the ideal solution for a small space.

Colour stamps an interior

with individuality and it's one of our most favoured tools when rejuvenating a living space. If your stuck with "Macau Chalk White Walls", go for a for a sophisticated neutral look by using different textures, shiny and flat, fluffy and silky etc.

More Duplicity

Housing visitors can cause a real headache in a small unit. One solution is to use the 2nd or 3rd bedroom as a relaxation area or study during the day, switching to a bedroom in the evening.

Orienting the bed sideways will allow it to be used as day bed, and a second 'trundle' bed beneath the bed doubles accommodation capacity.

Another way to increase sleeping space is to use a Sofa that can be turned in to a bed at night.

We hope we have given you some inspiration and enjoy putting some of the ideas in to practice!

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SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC



SATURDAY SUPER STACK

Every Saturday, until July 16, PokerStars LIVE Macau will be hosting the HK\$1,000 Saturday Warm-up (20k GTD) at 2pm and the HK\$3,000 Saturday Superstack (100k GTD) at 6pm

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Uber receives USD3.5b investment from Saudi wealth fund

Eric Newcomer and Glen Carey

SAUDI Arabia's sovereign wealth fund made its highest-profile deal, investing USD3.5 billion in U.S. ride-share company Uber Technologies Inc. as the country seeks to diversify its assets with more overseas acquisitions.

Yasir Alrumayyan, managing director of the Public Investment Fund, will take a board seat at the San Francisco-based company after the deal, which values Uber at \$62.5 billion, the company said in a statement. It's the biggest investment in Uber to date and in line with the company's previous valuation.

Uber's biggest global competitor, Chinese ride-hailing company Didi, is working on closing a funding round of more than \$3.5 billion, according to comments made Wednesday in California by company President Jean Liu. Didi said last month it would raise \$1 billion from Apple Inc. while Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and its finance affiliate invested another \$400 million. India's Ola is also spending aggressively on expansion.

The unusual pairing between the Saudi fund and the top Silicon Valley startups fits the needs of both. Uber, in no hurry to hold an initial public offering, gets an unprecedented cash infusion to fund costly global expansion against a slew of well-funded competitors. Saudi Arabia, which has a wealth fund with about \$200 billion in assets, moves forward with a strategy of overseas expansion after a more than four-decade focus on domestic investments.

The fund plans to boost its share of overseas holdings to about half by 2020 from five percent now, with Alrumayyan



spearheading a drive to recruit international bankers, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Founded in 2009, Uber has won over investors with a promise to remake transportation. In addition to upending the taxi industry, the company has been researching self-driving cars and other services that CEO Travis Kalanick believe diminish the need for people to own a car. Other Uber investors include mutual fund Fidelity Investments, Chinese search engine company Baidu Inc. and venture capital firms including Benchmark Capital.

Uber joins competitors in securing investment globally as the popularity of ride-hailing services surges. Lyft Inc., the second-largest ride-hailing company in the U.S., has raised

at least \$100 million from Saudi Arabian billionaire Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal's Kingdom Holding Co.

In July, Saudi Arabia's wealth fund took a 38 percent stake in Korea's Posco Engineering & Construction Co. for \$1.1 billion and also plans to invest in Russia. The fund may eventually control \$2 trillion once ownership of oil giant Saudi Aramco has been transferred, according to Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Uber expanded its previous financing round to include the investment from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. The money brings Uber's total balance sheet, including cash and convertible debt, to more than \$11 billion, the company said. The cash infusion helps

the company push off the need to go public.

Uber is currently operating in nine countries and 15 cities in the Middle East and North Africa. The company said it has committed to investing \$250 million in the region. It's continuing to spend much more than that in China and India.

Uber is expanding in Saudi Arabia, where the app's popularity among women has created one of its fastest-growing markets. The company is aiming for growth of 50 percent to 60 percent in trips per month in 2016, versus estimated gains of 25 percent to 40 percent last year, Majed Abukhater, head of Saudi operations, said in January.

"Uber has a dynamism inside Saudi Arabia and the region," John Sfakianakis, Riyadh-based

■ The unusual pairing between the Saudi fund and the top Silicon Valley startups fits the needs of both

director of economic research at the Gulf Research Center, a think tank, said in a phone interview. "It's one of many international investments that will be undertaken given the fund's stated strategy."

There's some opposition to its services, which offer alternative transport options for women, who can't drive in the kingdom but have an increasing role in the economy, Abukhater said. Some Saudi municipal and business-lobby leaders have said services such as Uber and regional competitor Careem are illegal or need closer oversight.

PIF, which was set up in 1971, holds the government's stakes in companies including Saudi Basic Industries Corp., the world's second-biggest chemicals manufacturer, and National Commercial Bank, the Middle East's second-largest lender.

Since the fund was transferred last year to the Council for Economic and Development Affairs from the Ministry of Finance, it has started playing a prominent role in the country's investment strategy. A unit in February established five joint ventures with international defense companies to make military hardware.

Bloomberg

Borges Nhamire

AIRPORTS of Mozambique plans to restructure loans of USD500 million after a slide by the nation's currency against the dollar undermined the state-owned company's ability to repay loans, its chairman said.

The southern African nation has said it is in the process of restructuring another \$535 million loan extended to state-owned Mozambi-

Airports of Mozambique plans to reorganize USD500m debt

que Asset Management after the company failed to meet a \$178 million interest payment last month. The government admitted in April that it had hidden \$1.4 billion in debt from investors.

"Last year we achieved an operating profit, but

because of the exchange rate and its impact, we had losses," Chairman Emmanuel Chaves told reporters in the capital, Maputo, on yesterday.

The metical depreciated by 32 percent against the dollar in 2015 and has extended

that loss by a further 16 percent this year. S&P Global Ratings, which estimates Mozambique's net general debt at 90 percent of gross domestic product this year, and Fitch Ratings in May lowered the country's credit assess-

ment, saying the nation was at a greater risk of default.

The loans, which were backed by state guarantees, were taken in order to build or modernize four airports, including those in Pemba and Tete towns, Chavez said. The

company planned to privatize the airport in Nacala, in the northern Nampula province, he said.

The Brazilian Development Bank lent the company \$80 million in 2011 for the Nacala facility, according to a statement on Airports of Mozambique's website. The company also received \$130 million from China in the same year, according to government news agency AIM. **Bloomberg**

CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Five decades after the 'catastrophe' few say sorry

Didi Tang, Beijing

As a teenager, Wang Keming felt nothing but contempt for the older peasant his village singled out for collective persecution in 1970. Stirred by Mao Zedong's radical ideology and inured to the rampant violence of China's Cultural Revolution, he beat the man bloody and saw nothing wrong with it.

Decades later, Wang felt something that few of the millions of people who committed abuses have publicly acknowledged: guilt. He expressed remorse to his victim and later shared his apology in a national journal, in what is believed to have been the first public apology by anyone for personal acts committed during the Cultural Revolution's violent decade.

"I realized that what I did was an individual political act, and I must take responsibility for it," the retired newspaper editor said in an interview at his suburban Beijing home. "Otherwise, my heart would be troubled for the rest of my life."

The party closed the book on the era in 1981 without holding Mao responsible

Since Wang's 2008 public apology, dozens of other participants have accepted responsibility and shown contrition. The vast majority have not, though an entire generation was almost wholly caught up in the events. About one million people were estimated to have died from execution, persecution, extreme humiliation, factional warfare and savage prison conditions — often at the hands of their fellow country people.

The Communist Party, which still rules China with an iron fist, also has yet to apologize five decades after Mao launched the movement to realize his radical communist egalitarian vision.

The party closed the book on the era in 1981 without holding Mao responsible. It called the movement a "catastrophe" caused by mistaken policies and a few self-serving political radicals. A further re-examination of the decade might threaten the party's legitimacy to rule; last



Wang Keming holds a photo of himself as a youth at his home in Beijing

month's 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Cultural Revolution was met mostly with stony official silence.

Advocates of greater openness say that without an honest accounting, wounds will never heal and the movement's unaddressed history will impede China's political development. Xu Youyu, a liberal Chinese intellectual, said that by failing to admit its mistakes, China's leadership set the wrong example.

"Such an attitude has affected the masses, giving individuals an excuse not to apologize, because those with graver mistakes have not said sorry," Xu said.

Wang was among millions of city youths sent to the countryside at the height of the Cultural Revolution in 1969. By then, schools had been shut down and urban teenagers were wandering the streets with little to do but pick fights with each other, so Mao sent them away, ostensibly to spread revolution and learn life lessons from the peasantry.

Wang found himself in Yujiagou in northern Shaanxi province, a stark area of loess hills where he would be forced to endure back-breaking work plowing fields of buckwheat, millet, wheat and sorghum on the arid slopes.

"I really wanted to join the revolution. I thought it was a meaningful thing," Wang said. "The collective education instilled in me had sowed hatred in me against enemies."

He never had a second thought about using violence. "Revolution is violence," he said, citing a common saying from the Cultural Revolution years.

So, when the village picked peasant Gu Zhiyou to meet its quota of bad elements, Wang enthusiastically joined the farce of shaming the man, whose alleged revolu-

tionary crimes had included quoting an ancient Chinese proverb linking a weather pattern to mass deaths. His critics said Gu was hoping for an invasion by what was then the Soviet Union, whose relationship with China had soured.

At an Aug. 14, 1970, denouncing session, Wang shouted slogans against Gu. The group took a break, and Gu sat on a grindstone, but Wang felt a need to continue hounding the man.

"But every word I heard (from him) was defiant, and I told myself, 'You can't be kind to enemies.' So I suddenly shouted, 'You are still resisting,'" Wang wrote in his public apology. "I stepped forward, raised my right arm and slung it at him. I hit his face with my fist."

Gu was left splayed on the grindstone, his nose and mouth bleeding. "I was a bit taken aback that I beat him to the point of bleeding, but then I told myself, 'He is an enemy, and I can beat him as long as he is an enemy.'"

Wang remained in Yujiagou for several years and even worked alongside his victim, who was kind to him.

In 1978, he returned to Beijing and landed a job at a newspaper.

Wang came to realize the Cultural Revolution was a mistake, and concluded that he bore personal responsibility.

"When we put collective values ahead of individual values, there can be no place for human rights, and no respect for humanity," Wang said. "Because of people like me, a totalitarian regime gets to be stable."

In 2004, Wang apologized to Gu, who died four years later.

"Hey, it was a political movement," Wang quoted Gu as saying in his 2008 public apology. "You were only a kid and didn't know anything." AP

RELIGION

Beijing says Muslim practices to be protected during Ramadan

CHINA'S government won't interfere with fasting and other standard religious activities in the traditionally Muslim region of Xinjiang during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan that begins this month, officials said yesterday.

Restaurants will be allowed to keep their own hours and authorized activities in mosques and private homes will be legally protected, the officials said at a news conference on religious policy in Xinjiang, despite complaints from rights groups and others of past government interference during the religious holiday.

Xinjiang is home to China's Muslim Uighur minority group that is culturally, religiously and linguistically distinct from the Chinese majority. It has seen waves of violence against civilians in recent years which authorities have blamed on radicals seeking independence from Beijing.

China maintains tight restrictions over Islamic observances in the area, in part to maintain government control and stem the influence of radical Islam.

However, human rights groups and Uighurs in exile say restrictions on dress, prayer and fasting during Ramadan have exacerbated ethnic tensions, while government efforts to assimilate Uighurs have stoked resentment. President Xi Jinping recently stated that members of the ruling Communist Party should be "unyielding Marxist atheists," and the state imposes strict rules on participation in religious by students, teachers, public servants and others.

Chinese officials routinely dismiss criticism of religious policies, and Tuergan Pida, director of Xinjiang's ethnic affairs committee, said at the news conference that religious freedoms are at an "unprecedented" high.

The regional government helped arrange emergency prayer sites following an earthquake during Ramadan last year, while Communist Party officials ate with religious leaders to mark the end of the holy month, Pida said.

Chinese claims of unprecedented religious freedom in Xinjiang are "deeply ironic and troubling" given recent events, said James Leibold, a scholar of China's ethnic policy at Australia's La Trobe University.

Leibold cited the sacking last month of Wang Zhengwei, the Muslim chairman of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission, amid speculation that top Chinese leaders opposed the building of mosques under his watch.

"This illustrates the deep divisions at the top reaches of the party over the value and place of religious and ethnic diversity within Chinese society," Leibold said by telephone. AP



Two Chinese Hui Muslim girls read the Quran, Islam's holy book, at the Niujie Mosque as they wait for their fast on the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in Beijing

CHINA'S visiting foreign minister publicly berated a Canadian journalist yesterday [Macau time] for asking a question about his country's human rights record.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said it was "irresponsible" of a journalist from the web outlet IPolitics to ask about human rights and the jailing of a Canadian, Kevin Garratt, who is charged with espionage.

Wang appeared visibly angry as he delivered the scolding in the lobby of Global Affairs headquarters at a joint news conference with Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion.

"Your question is full of prejudice and against China. ... I don't know where that comes from. This is totally unacceptable," Wang said through a translator.

"Other people don't know better than the Chinese people about the human rights condition in China and it is the Chinese people who are in the best situation, in the best position to have a say about China's human rights situation," he continued.

"So I would like to suggest to you that please don't ask questions in such an irresponsible manner. We welcome goodwill suggestions but we reject groundless or unwarranted accusations."

The IPolitics question was agreed to by a number of journalists representing several news organizations at the event. Wang asked the journalist if she'd ever been to China.

"Do you know that China has lifted more than 600 million people out of poverty? And do you know that China is now the second-largest economy in the world from a very low foundation? ... And do you know China has written protection and promotion of human rights

DIPLOMACY

Human rights question prompts scolding from Wang Yi



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, left, and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion pose for photographers in Parliament Hill in Ottawa

ts into our constitution?"

Earlier, in response to the question that offended his counterpart, Dion said he raised Garratt's case with Wang and never misses an opportunity to raise human rights and difficult consular cases.

Garratt was indicted by prosecutors in Dandong, a city on the North Korean border where he and his wife ran a popular coffee shop and conducted

Christian aid work for North Koreans. He and his wife Julia were arrested in August 2014 by the state security bureau. His wife was later released on bail.

Dion said he and Wang had honest and frank conversations on human rights and consular affairs. Wang also met Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Wang said he believes Cana-

da and China are headed for a "new Golden Age" in relations, citing Justin's father's establishment of diplomatic relations with China in 1970 and gains made by former liberal prime ministers Jean Chretien and Paul Martin.

Wang made no mention of former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper, whose near-decade in power started on a frosty note when

he was accused of snubbing Beijing.

Trudeau made positive strides with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his first round of international travel last fall. The Chinese leader praised the vision of Trudeau's late father, Pierre, for establishing diplomatic relations with the People's Republic in 1970 during a meeting at the G20 in Turkey. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Report says tensions to drive defense spending



In this May 6, 2016, file photo, soldiers from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy watch as the USS Blue Ridge arrives at a port in Shanghai

GROWING tensions in the disputed South China Sea will drive up defense spending in the Asia-Pacific region by almost 23 percent by the end of the decade, consultancy IHS Jane's said in a report yesterday.

Combined regional defense budgets will grow from USD435 billion last year to \$533 billion in 2020, furthering a shift in global military spending away from Western Europe and North America toward emerging

markets, especially in Asia, the report said.

"A number of the South China Sea's littoral states appear to be responding to China's more assertive stance in the region and there is no sign of this trend coming to an end," Janes' principal analyst, Craig Caffrey, said in the report.

Tensions have been rising steadily over the South China Sea, driven largely by China's military buildup and more robust assertions of its claim to virtually the en-

tire crucial water body, along with its islands and reefs. Following years of double-digit annual percentage increases, China has far-and-away the region's biggest defense budget at \$146 billion last year, according to the government.

That growth is now slowing and Janes' said it expects China's budget to rise by about 5 percent to \$233 billion by 2020.

Over recent years, Beijing has created new islands and built airfields

and other military infrastructure on them, although Beijing says they are intended largely for civilian use.

Beijing in turn accuses the U.S. of increasing tensions with frequent naval operations in the area, activity that goes back decades. While China says it has no objections to freedom of navigation in the area, it has frequently interfered with or issued warnings to fishing vessels and military planes and vessels. **AP**

AD



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Graffiti Display Area

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Paper Craft & Puppet Making



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水上單車
Pedal Boat



▶ 餐飲 Dining

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IFT Café



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湖



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澳門博物館
Macao Museum

PHILIPPINES

Communist rebels to discuss peace talks with new government

Jim Gomez, Manila

PHILIPPINE communist rebels said yesterday that long-stalled peace talks could be resumed with the government of incoming President Rodrigo Duterte as early as July, and that they will demand an end to the U.S. military presence in the country.

Rebel negotiator Fidel Agcaoili told a rare news conference in Manila that the demand "is non-negotiable." He said government and rebel negotiators are preparing to meet in Europe this month to discuss the resumption of talks, which have been stalled for years.

Duterte, who takes office June 30, has offered two Cabinet posts to allies of the rebels, who in turn have freed kidnapped policemen to encourage the resumption of talks.

"We have always stood on the basis of principled self-respect and national sovereignty," Agcaoili said. "We cannot allow the presence of U.S. military bases here."

The rebels, he said, would also negotiate an end to two Philippine security pacts with the United States, including the 1999 Visiting Forces Agreement, which allowed American forces to return to the Philippines for large-scale combat exercises nearly a decade after the closure of sprawling U.S. military bases in the country.

Another pact, the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, grants American forces, warships and fighter jets access to five Philippine military camps.

The accords have helped the U.S. reassert its presence in Asia, which dovetails with Philippine hopes for American help in countering China's increasingly as-



Communist rebel negotiator Fidel Agcaoili, right, gestures during a rare news conference in Quezon city

sertive claims to areas of the South China Sea also claimed by the Philippines.

Agcaoili said the rebels' demands also include a land reform program that would free farmers from decades of poverty and a national industrialization effort that is not dependent on Western governments or multinational corporations.

■ The rebels would also negotiate an end to two Philippine security pacts with the US

Duterte said earlier this week that he will chart an independent foreign policy for the Philippines "and will not be dependent on the United States," the country's longtime treaty ally.

In another sign of rapport between Duterte and the rebels, Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison said in a video conference with

Manila-based journalists yesterday that he will return to the Philippines soon to meet Duterte, his former political science student at a local university.

Sison, 77, was detained during the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos but was freed by then President Corazon Aquino after Marcos' 1986 ouster. Sison later went into self-exile with other rebel leaders in the Netherlands.

Duterte, who has described himself as left-leaning, "is still unfolding," Agcaoili said.

"The fact is, there is ground for guarded optimism," Agcaoili said.

The rebels have been fighting for a Marxist state since 1969 in one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies. They have accused successive Philippine administrations of subservience to U.S. interests and failing to ease poverty. Their numbers have dwindled to a few thousand amid battle setbacks, surrenders and factionalism, although they remain the country's foremost security concern.

Norwegian-brokered peace talks stalled early in outgoing President Benigno Aquino III's six-year term because of a dispute over the release of several rebels. AP

Youkyung Lee & Yong Jun Chang,
Busan

BEFORE they show a baby bump, what some pregnant women in South Korea can expect when expecting is accusing glares when they take subway seats meant for pregnant, disabled or elderly passengers.

One South Korean city is testing a wireless technology it hopes can alleviate such problems and perhaps help address one of the biggest challenges facing the Asian country: a stubbornly low birthrate.

In April, the southeastern port of Busan, South Korea's second-largest city, began testing a small, round device called a beacon. Equipped with a wireless sensor, it activates a pink light attached to another sensor installed on a metal bar next to special priority seats, usually at the end of subway cars. The idea is to alert all nearby that the person carrying the beacon has a baby on the way.

The "Pink Light Campaign" can help non-pregnant passengers who might be occupying a seat designated for riders who are expecting to yield the spot without having to guess, is she or isn't she? In theory, pregnant women also can claim a seat without having to ask.

"It is hard to tell if a woman is pregnant, and give up a seat, when she doesn't have a baby bump," said Lee Gyeong-eon, a 23-year-old college student who frequently travels by subway.

Other South Korean cities also are trying to make travel by public transportation friendlier to pregnant women. Seoul, the capital, has installed bright pink seats designated for women who are expect-

AP PHOTO



SOUTH KOREA

Busan uses technology to help pregnant women get seats

ting.

With one of the lowest birthrates in the world, South Korea is eager to encourage larger families. South Korean women had 1.21 children on average in 2014. The average for the wealthy nations belonging to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development was 1.68.

The Busan experiment is part of the trend toward the "Internet of Things," which uses wi-

reless technology in products not usually associated with internet connectivity, such as toothbrushes or socks.

"I have felt a bit uncomfortable about getting a seat or claiming a seat reserved for pregnant women," said Ock Si-yoon, a 33-year-old who is expecting a baby. "Early on, there is a risk of miscarriage, so I'm a bit uneasy about using public transportation, since subways or busses shake a lot

and it is difficult to get someone to yield a seat for me."

"These days, people are usually looking at their phones and they are not really aware that a seat is reserved for pregnant women," she said. "But now, with the 'Pink Light Campaign,' it is easy for people to notice when the sensor blinks."

For now, Busan's trial of the technology is limited to a few sections of the city's transit

system. But the city plans to expand it to more subway lines and to buses.

"Consideration for pregnant women should prevail and they should be able to use public transportation more easily and conveniently with this policy," said Suh Byung-soo, Busan's mayor.

"Women should be able to use city facilities easily even when they are expecting," he said. **AP**

AU.S. congressional committee is investigating how hackers managed to divert USD101 million from Bank of Bangladesh accounts held at the Federal Reserve in New York.

The February theft led the Bangladesh central bank's chairman to resign, and added to worries about the security of online bank data.

In a letter to the Fed's president dated Tuesday, the Science Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives asked for "all documents and communications" about the cyberattack and the security of the Fed's SWIFT Alliance Access money transfer system.

In the attack, the ha-

BANGLADESH

US Congress committee investigating bank cyber heist

ckers tried to steal a total of \$1 billion through 35 international money transfer orders, 30 of which were stopped. The Bangladesh Bank later recovered some money from a Sri Lankan bank and from a Chinese casino junket operator based in the Philippines.

"Weaknesses existed within the computer network of the Bangladesh Bank and based on research done by a third party, cyber criminals

were able to exploit these vulnerabilities," says the letter, posted on the committee's website. "Then, the cyber criminals covered their tracks using malware" that was able to manipulate money transfer request records as well as account balances as shown in logs, as well as to intercept messages verifying transfer orders.

Bangladesh authorities had said earlier they were considering suing

the Reserve Bank over the loss of the funds.

The Fed has said it found no evidence its own systems were compromised in the attack, and attention increasingly has focused on suspected vulnerabilities in Bangladesh Bank's cybersecurity.

But any international cyber system is only as strong as its weakest link, said the letter signed by the committee's co-chairmen, Lamar Smith of Texas and Barry

Loudermilk of Georgia.

"This is deeply troubling, and it is Congress' responsibility to ensure, through its oversight, that the NY Fed is taking all precautions to protect American finances and aggressively execute its own role as overseer of SWIFT," the letter says.

Amid the fallout, the Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman resigned in March, saying he had tried after the theft to close loopholes and boost

the bank's online security, but that the bank's team lacked experience.

Authorities in the Philippines, meanwhile, are also investigating how some \$81 million of the stolen funds were transferred online to four private accounts at a branch of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., or RCBC, and who could be criminally liable.

And in Sri Lanka, a court banned six people from traveling abroad after their foundation allegedly received some of the stolen money. The private bank where the foundation had an account alerted the Bangladesh central bank about the transfer and returned the funds. **AP**

USA

Washington adopts near total ban on African elephant ivory sales

Kevin Freking, Washington

THE federal government will enact a near total ban on the domestic sale of African elephant ivory under federal regulations issued yesterday.

It's been illegal for decades to import African elephant ivory for commercial use and to export raw ivory. The final rule largely focuses on sales inside the U.S. It restricts the sale of elephant ivory across state lines.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials said that once illegal ivory enters the market, it becomes nearly indistinguishable from the legal ivory used in products such as knife handles, billiard cues and furniture, so it was necessary to put more restrictions in place. The rule also prohibits the export of ivory products, with exceptions for antiques.

The administration is encour-



An elephant crosses a river in Samburu national park in Kenya

aging other nations to follow suit, and the final rule was announced just days before Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew visit China. Demand for ivory there has helped fuel the illegal trade in African elephant ivory.

The U.S. delegation can now say Obama has fulfilled his

pledge to nearly ban domestic ivory sales and can challenge Chinese President Xi Jinping to do the same, said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe.

"We still have much to do to save this species, but today is a good day for the African elephant," Ashe said.

The final regulation varies little from the proposed rule Obama announced last summer when visiting Kenya. That proposal generated more than 1.3 million responses from the public, said Ashe, second only to a proposal to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list.

The rule allows for some exceptions to the ban on interstate sales, namely musical instruments, furniture pieces and firearms that contain less than 200 grams of ivory and so long as the ivory makes up less than half the value and volume of the product. The rule also allows exceptions for antiques more than 100 years old.

The final rule also continues to allow for the import of sport-hunted African elephant trophies, but limits the number to two per hunter annually.

Ashe said that hunting can bring an economic value to ele-

phants. They can be difficult to live with, but if that animal can have value, local people will seek to sustain the population rather than seek its removal.

The population of African elephants in the wild is estimated at 470,000.

The National Rifle Association has opposed the rule, saying that while it supports efforts to stop poaching and the illegal trade of ivory, the rule would do nothing to protect elephants and instead destroys the value of property held by countless gun owners and others.

Various environmental and animal rights groups are largely supportive of the new rule.

"This U.S. ban should be the catalyst for China's own ban, be the model for nations in Asia and Africa, and finally break down the world's trade in ivory," said Cristian Samper of the Wildlife Conservation Society. **AP**

AD

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FRIDAY

- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 18:30 Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
- 19:20 TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
- 19:50 Soap Opera
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:15 Documentary Series
- 21:45 Miscellaneous
- 22:10 Helena's Shadow
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Portuguese Movie

SATURDAY

- 10:30 Young Children
- 11:00 Drama
- 11:30 Young Adult
- 12:00 Documentary Series
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 15:00 Soap Opera
- 17:00 Documentary Serie
- 18:35 Contest
- 19:30 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 2016 Macau International Dragon Boat Races - Highlights
- 23:55 Brother's & Sister's S5

SUNDAY

- 10:25 Young Children
- 11:00 Sunday Mass
- 12:00 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Wild Life (Repeated)
- 15:25 Zig Zag
- 16:15 Miscellaneous
- 16:55 Documentary Series
- 17:50 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 18:45 Miscellaneous
- 19:40 Comedy
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Contraponto
- 22:00 Documentary
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 23:50 2016 Macau International Dragon Boat Races - Highlights
- 00:15 Miscellaneous

offbeat

FORBES: FORMER RICHEST SELF-MADE US WOMAN NOW WORTH NOTHING



Forbes has revised the net worth of the woman it crowned America's richest self-made woman last year from USD4.5 billion to nothing.

Forbes says its estimate of Elizabeth Holmes' wealth is based entirely on her 50 percent stake in troubled blood-testing startup Theranos.

The company acknowledged in April that it's under investigation by several regulators and agencies following a series of reports by The Wall Street Journal in which former employees said the company's tests were unreliable. The tests use only a few drops of blood.

Theranos said the articles were inaccurate when they were published.

Forbes says its previous estimate of her wealth came from a \$9 billion valuation for the company in 2014.

The 32-year-old Holmes started Palo Alto, California-based Theranos in 2003 and remains its CEO.

cinema



CINETEATRO

02 JUN - 07 JUN



X-MEN: APOCALYPSE_

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.00, 4.40, 9.50 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Bryan Singer

Starring: James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender,

Jennifer Lawrence

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 144min



THE JUNGLE BOOK_

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Jon Favreau

Starring: Neel Sethi, Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley

Language: Cantonese(Cantonese)

Duration: 106min



ANGRY BIRDS_

ROOM 3

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 7.30 pm

(3D) 9.30 pm

Director: Clay Kaytis, Fergal Reilly

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min

MACAU TOWER

02 JUN - 22 JUN

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:

OUT OF THE SHADOWS_

2.30,4.30,7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Dave Green

Starring: Megan Fox, Will Arnett, Tyler Perry

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min



this day in history



1982 ISRAELI AMBASSADOR SHOT IN LONDON

The Israeli ambassador to Britain is critically ill in hospital after being shot on a London street.

Shlomo Argov, 52, was leaving a diplomatic function at the Dorchester Hotel in Mayfair when a young man who had been seen loitering outside the building attacked him.

The gunman fired two shots with a machine pistol - one narrowly missing Mr Argov's police protection officer and the other hitting the envoy in the head.

The assailant was shot by the bodyguard and also has serious head injuries. Two other men fled the scene in a car but were later stopped and arrested by police in Brixton.

Pergamon Press chairman Robert Maxwell was in the hotel when the shooting occurred.

"It happened so suddenly and so unexpectedly that we really only noticed the consequences after it was over - we came out, there were shots and a man fell," he said.

Assistant Commissioner Gilbert Kelland - a senior police officer also at the party - said Mr Argov's protection officer had then pursued the assailant into nearby South Street and shot him.

Both the injured men were taken to Westminster Hospital and a witness told BBC correspondent Peter Snow they were in a "very serious state".

Mr Argov - a career diplomat who is married with two daughters - was later transferred to a specialist unit at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Bloomsbury, for an emergency operation.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Shlomo Argov survived the attack but was permanently paralysed.

Two Jordanians and an Iraqi linked to Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal were convicted of the attempted murder of the envoy in March 1983.

Israeli Prime Minister Menachen Begin retaliated with "Operation Peace for Galilee", a full-scale invasion of Lebanon. The war lasted for 11 months and Israeli forces did not begin to withdraw from the country until June 1985.

Shlomo Argov died on 23 February 2003, aged 73, in Jerusalem.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Tired of begging for assistance at the last minute? Try planning ahead for a change. Not only will you be less desperate, but you may find you're able to do it all yourself.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
As the token office worker not rubbed the wrong way by others, you'll be called on to adjudicate. But don't let yourself get sucked into the weirdness of others. Continue staying out of it.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
If you need a change, go for something major. Anyone can buy a new suit or pair of shoes, but how about changing your opinion or attitude? Now, that would leave things radically different!

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
It's all about money these days. For once it's forcing everyone in the office to react in intellectual ways. Cold, hard reality has that effect on even the most emotional among you.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You're clinging to your strategy for all it's worth. There should be no ego involved in admitting you need to try a different approach. Once you swallow your pride, you'll have no trouble finding better solutions.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
It's more than just the office. When the entire landscape is changed, you need to scramble to fit in. Being open minded is more than just laudable. It's a survival strategy.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Assuming you understand others is a big mistake. Don't base your assessment of colleagues on your own motivations. Bypass the analysis and stick to your own work.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
It's the wrong time to redecorate the office. If nothing else, it just looks plain wrong to be spending money on scratching an itch when those around you are facing radical financial changes. Resist the urge.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Exploring your options and putting out feelers is never bad, but in today's market, it's mandatory. Don't sit around preparing to prepare. The time to reach out and connect is now.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Of course, your vision of the future is completely different. You have no choice but to change your approach to retirement, whether it's strategy, style or length of service. Be realistic.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Things don't have to be all doom and gloom. Without being a Pollyanna, you can think of your current circumstance as just another challenge. You're up for it, so share your excitement.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Giving yourself a break isn't the best strategy today. Spending too much time daydreaming about the future might force you to address it sooner than you'd like to. Stay focused on the tasks at hand.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

	8	7						
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2	5	4				7		
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Medium

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Hard

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			6	8				
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			3		4			
			2					
							4	6
7				5				
								2

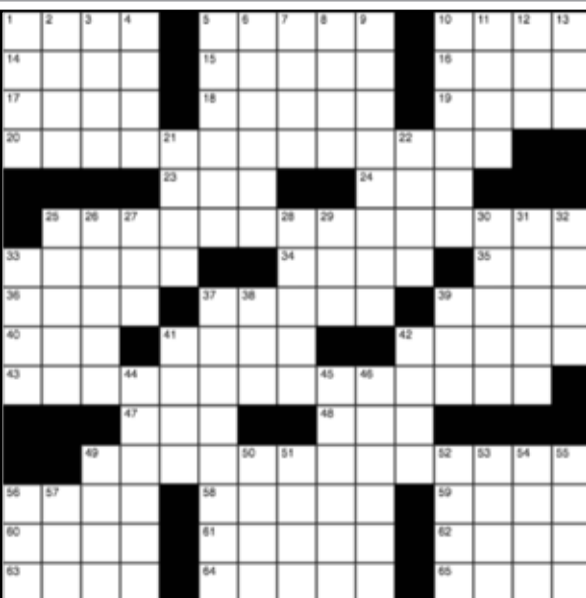
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	18	29	cloudy/overcast
Harbin	14	28	cloudy/thundershower
Tianjin	20	31	cloudy
Urumqi	19	30	clear
Xi'an	14	28	cloudy/clear
Lhasa	7	21	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	19	31	cloudy/clear
Chongqing	20	30	overcast/cloudy
Kunming	17	25	moderate rain
Nanjing	19	21	shower/drizzle/rain
Shanghai	19	22	drizzle/heavy rain
Wuhan	17	22	moderate rain/overcast
Hangzhou	19	22	moderate rain/heavy rain
Taipei	27	34	drizzle
Guangzhou	27	35	clear/thundershower
Hong Kong	29	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	13	22	cloudy/drizzle
Frankfurt	12	20	drizzle
Paris	12	20	drizzle
London	8	18	clear
New York	17	25	cloudy/overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Rumpole; 5- Roughage; 10- Numerous; 14- Dog star; 15- France; 16- Author Seton; 17- Prepared to drive; 18- Actor Delon; 19- Nerd; 20- Apportionment; 23- Cooling units, for short; 24- Terre Haute sch.; 25- Management of large amounts of resources; 33- Greek fabulist; 34- Spheres; 35- Dawn Chong; 36- Singer k.d.; 37- Capital of Vietnam; 39- Religious ceremony or ritual; 40- Before, to Burns; 41- Routine; 42- Poles for sails; 43- Disease of the heart muscle; 47- Dawn goddess; 48- Droop; 49- Cosmopolitan; 56- Monetary unit of the Netherlands; 58- Overcharge; 59- Burkina; 60- Sports figure?; 61- Like some furniture; 62- PC programs; 63- Alley; 64- Take away by force; 65- Political cartoonist Thomas;

DOWN: 1- Hari; 2- Previously owned; 3- Wineglass part; 4- "The Sweetest Taboo" singer; 5- Ignominious failure; 6- Treat badly; 7- Wall Street pessimist; 8- "What I Am" singer Brickell; 9- Chinese money; 10- Large wine bottle; 11- Work without; 12- TV's "Science Guy"; 13- Shaggy-haired wild ox; 21- Seniors' org.; 22- Those, to Juan; 25- Stillier's partner; 26- "Lou Grant" star; 27- Gear tooth; 28- New York's Island; 29- Acapulco gold; 30- Notre Dame's Fighting; 31- Spiteful; 32- Matches a bet; 33- Sir Guinness; 37- Jail; 38- PIN requester; 39- Squealer; 41- Civil disturbance; 42- Biblical trio; 44- Signify; 45- Siouan speakers; 46- Evident; 49- OPEC member; 50- Jungle warning; 51- Microwave; 52- In the blink eye; 53- Wine valley; 54- Snakes; 55- Missing; 56- Night school subj.; 57- Tony-winning Hagen



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
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<p>Houston Court Coloane Village 2 Bedroom Apartment Lovely Roof Terrace HKD 11,000 / 740 sq ft Ref: 15110549</p>	<p>Nam Long F Unit Taipa 2 Bedroom Apartment With Italian Furniture HKD 14,000 / 900 sq ft Ref: 16050585s</p>	<p>Studio In Soi Cheong Old Taipa 1 Bedroom Apartment Convenient Location HKD 8,250 / 600 sq ft Ref: 16020568</p>	<p>One Grantai Tower 3 N unit Taipa 3 Bedrooms Apartment Beautiful Green Views HKD 19,500 / 2,167 sq ft Ref: 16050578</p>

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MESSI AFFAIRS

'El Mago' says he signed documents under father's instructions

Tales Azzoni

LIONEL Messi denied having knowledge of the tax issues that led to fraud charges against him, saying yesterday he signed documents without reading them because he trusted his father and the advisers responsible for managing his finances.

"I didn't know anything," Messi said while testifying in his tax fraud trial. "I only worried about playing football."

Wearing a dark suit and tie, Messi sat alongside his father in front of the judge and listened to other testimony for nearly four hours before being called to testify in the third day of the trial.

The Barcelona player looked impatient in court at times, looking down and trying to stretch his legs. The left foot that helps him thrive on the soccer fields kept bouncing impatiently underneath the chair.

Speaking for less than 15 minutes, he said he never suspected of any wrongdoing when his father would ask him to sign contracts or documents.

"I signed what he told me to sign because I trusted my father," Messi said. "I trusted my father, and the lawyers said that I could (sign the documents)."

He said he didn't know that part of his income was going through companies created in countries such as Uruguay, Switzerland and Belize, which authorities alleged was done to lower the player's tax burden in Spain.



Barcelona soccer player Lionel Messi arrives at a court in Barcelona, Spain

"The only thing I knew is that we signed deals with different sponsors and they paid for me to do advertisements, photos and things like that," Messi said. "But I didn't know how this money arrived or where it was going."

Messi's father, Jorge Hora-

cio Messi, had reiterated in his testimony that his son didn't know the details of his contracts or the structures created in other countries to handle his income from image rights.

"I didn't think it was necessary to inform him of every-

thing," Messi's father said.

Messi and his father are facing three counts of tax fraud and could be sentenced to nearly two years in prison if found guilty of defrauding Spain's tax authority of 4.1 million euros (USD4.5 million) from 2007-09. They

■ The Barcelona player looked impatient in court at times, looking down and trying to stretch his legs

are not likely to face any jail time but could be fined and made to forfeit possible future tax benefits. Both deny wrongdoing, and the money owed was already paid back.

The trial is expected to end today, and the verdict and sentencing are expected next week.

Hundreds of journalists and a few onlookers were in front of the Barcelona court house when Messi and his father arrived. Authorities had prepared a special operation to control the crowd and protect the player. Some people showed their support to Argentina star, while a few yelled words against him, including asking him to "give the money back" and telling him to "go play in Panama."

Messi was also being investigated by Spanish tax authorities after his name was among those released in the probe of international offshore accounts, known as the Panama Papers, although he was not charged for those allegations.

When the player left the court house, many fans applauded. **AP**

AD



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Eric Sautédé



THE PLUMBER AND THE ARCHITECT(S)

In the latest stages of the protracted public consultation regarding the amendment of the electoral law for the Legislative Assembly — remember, we have elections next year — the voice of the people has finally been heard. Over the noise of the complacent faithful, the message is loud and clear: there should be more seats, and of the kind that is directly elected by the people — a sovereign body of citizens. Ironically, it is the multitude that is proving to be the architects, with a design for the future in mind, a better one for all. In contrast, the powers that be are acting like plumbers, of a fix-it Felix sort who would have lost his enchanting capabilities.

During the first consultative meetings, only members of the legislature and supporters of well-established associations and corporations were asked to participate, and of course, apart from subdued outbursts by a few isolated participants, the sessions followed to the letter a very predictable pre-written script.

Pro-establishment figures of the society insisted on minor adjustments or additional restrictions, with the occasional decorous pro-business “trouble-maker” making a “bold” suggestion: why not have additional “functional constituencies” now that the society has grown in size and complexity, proposed Angela Leong; feasibly a record-holder as the most absent directly-elected lawmaker.

Never mind that in Hong Kong many people are now challenging the validity of “functional constituencies” for their uneven size and composition, denouncing these so-called representatives who hold multiple votes, sometimes in multiple constituencies, and condemning the fact that 16 out of 35 candidates in these constituencies ran uncontested in 2012, thus casting a shadow on the concept of electoral competition.

In Macao, a quick look at the registered associations supposed to “indirectly elect” legislators representing only five “sectors of activity” reveals that most of them are intertwined, with such-and-such legislator, or even member of the executive council, being on the board of dozens of these “collective personalities” with the right to vote. Ultimately, in Macao, none of these “indirectly elected” legislators is ever contested in his constituency: they systematically run unopposed! What is an election without a choice? What is the meaning of a contest without candidates to opt for?

And then, when pro-democratic and independent legislators suggest that there is a need for more directly elected seats, why is the idea being rejected on the ground that “it is not adequate to go forward with reform too quickly in [Macao’s] political development”? Why is it objected by legislators who are themselves all appointed by the Chief Executive?

Article 68 of the Macao Basic Law indicates that “the majority of [the legislature’s] members shall be elected”: we have 33 members, 14 are returned by universal suffrage whereas 12 run uncontested and 7 are still appointed (something that existed only in colonial Hong Kong), so we are either missing six additional directly-elected legislators or the electoral law should be in for a far deeper revamping than the four-fold limited adjustments presented to us.

The claim is that these highly sophisticated fine-tunings of our electoral rules are based on reports and observations made by different governmental agencies since the last time we held legislative elections in 2013. Is that really so?

Monitoring expenses and capping them: yes, correct. Strengthening the supervision of electoral activities and updating the rules for candidacy: yes, indeed, but not necessarily the way it is proposed. Defining more clearly what is meant by promotional efforts associated with an electoral campaign and regulating such promotional efforts: sure, but certainly not by completely letting go with the opening of a pre-campaign period during the six months prior to the official campaign.

On the banning imposed to elected members of the Legislative Assembly to hold any political position in a foreign country, well, this is only logical, and I find it absolutely proper, especially because it could be far more stringent and indeed impose a strict Chinese nationality upon all legislators—an extra step not many would rejoice about, I am sure, in the present legislature.

THE MAN WHO GOT 1ST US PENIS TRANSPLANT RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL

A man who received the first penis transplant calls the operation a success and is going home.

Thomas Manning left Massachusetts General Hospital yesterday [Macao time], three weeks after the grueling 15-hour surgery. The 64-year-old traveled with his mother and a family friend back to his home in Hali-

fax, where he looked forward to a spaghetti dinner and a night in his own bed.

After two follow-up surgeries, Manning said, he can urinate normally and he’s back to walking around. Sexual function is still months away, though, and reproduction won’t be possible because he did not receive new testes.



Giant panda Hao Hao holds her newborn baby in her mouth at the park in Bruges

Panda born in Belgium’s Pairi Daiza zoo

Raf Casert, Brussels

A baby panda was born in Belgium’s Pairi Daiza zoo yesterday just three months after Chinese experts artificially inseminated its mother Hao Hao.

Screaming seemingly well beyond the power of his 171 gram frame, the tiny pink male cub was tenderly cared for, washed and cradled by his mother in her black-and-white fur and carried around in her mouth.

Since panda births are such a rarity, some guardians were overcome by emotion and cried at the zoo, which is around 30 miles south of Brussels.

Still, zoo director Eric Domb had mixed feelings. “It was very intense for

us all. The utmost joy to see the birth,” Domb told RTL network. “It is also a big worry since the chances of survival of a panda are only one out of two in the first three months.”

With the help of the Chinese government, Hao Hao and her mate Xing Hui arrived in Belgium two years ago. Pairi Daiza adapted its zoo to build a

bamboo forest and a cave to recreate their natural habitat.

The zoo said that “less than 2,000 pandas can be found in the wild, making every birth a true miracle.” Austria and Spain are the only other two European countries where pandas have been born. Ever since their arrival, the pandas have been a huge hit at the zoo, and the newcomer will no doubt add to its popularity.

Yet even now, no one was ready for a name for the little cub. And it had to do with Chinese superstition, said Domb.

“So in no case whatsoever would we have considered a name before several of the first weeks have passed. We will think about it,” he said. AP

It was very intense for us all. The utmost joy to see the birth.

ERIC DOMB
ZOO DIRECTOR

times square by rodrigo



Station		
Roadside	15-35 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	😊
Ambient	25-45 Good	😊

WORLD BRIEFS



THAI police yesterday stopped a truck carrying two tiger skins and other animal parts as it was leaving a Buddhist temple where monks have been accused of being involved in illegal wildlife trafficking. Soon afterward, authorities found 20 jars containing young tigers at the temple — a day after 40 dead tiger cubs were found in a freezer at the temple.

VIETNAM-LAOS An explosion on a bus in southern Laos near Vietnamese border has killed eight people and injured three others. All the victims were Vietnamese returning to their home province of Nghe An in central Vietnam, a border guard official at the Cha Lo checkpoint said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.



US-SINGAPORE President Barack Obama will mark 50 years of diplomatic relations with Singapore by hosting its leader at the White House. The White House says Obama will welcome Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong for an official visit and state dinner on Aug. 2.



PRINCE A law-enforcement official told The Associated Press that tests show Prince died of an opioid overdose. The 57-year-old singer was found dead April 21 at his Minneapolis-area estate. The official, who is close to the investigation, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. The findings confirm suspicions that opioids played a role in the musician’s death.