

ZHUHAI SHOP BUYERS SEEK LOCAL HELP

Macau residents are among shop buyers who were promised the leasing of their properties within nine years of the purchase



COMPANY CLAIMS 'WRONGFUL INTERPRETATION' OF LAND LAW



IMPERFECT PORTUGAL PLOTS ANOTHER ESCAPE

Unless Ronaldo can rediscover his scoring touch, Portugal will struggle to find a way past an attack fueled by Bale when it plays Wales

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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-ITALY Silvio
Berlusconi's long quest
to find a new owner
for his soccer club AC
Milan appears to be
close to a conclusion
with the former Italian
prime minister saying
he has agreed to a deal
with a Chinese group.
"Milan now has chosen
this path toward China,"
Berlusconi said in a video
posted on La Gazzetta
dello Sport's website

PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte has named five active and retired police generals as protectors of drug syndicates, and sacked those still in service. Duterte said in a speech yesterday that the generals committed a crime that is tantamount to treason. Two of the men are retired, including one who is now a mayor. The three others are in active service.

INDIA Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expanded his Cabinet by inducting 19 new ministers, several of them from lower castes, as he completed two years in office. President Pranab Mukherjee swore in the new junior ministers at a ceremony at the president's palace yesterday. The expansion is seen as Modi's attempt to woo lower caste voters to support his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

BANGLADESH The violence carried out by a band of young men speaks to a deeper divide within the moderate, mostly Muslim nation that has pitted secularists against those yearning for Islamic rule since the country won independence in 1971. Meanwhile, the bodies of the seven Japanese killed in the attack return home.

AMID CONTROVERSY

Infectious diseases building area fenced off

■ P5 MDT REPORT



Japan denies its jets were provocative in Chinese encounter



Zhuhai property buyers seek help from local authorities



The petitioners display a banner close to the government headquarters



Cheong I Man pictured wearing a mask (right) together with other

ROUND 30 Macau resi-Adents and overseas Chinese citizens delivered a pile of letters to the Macau government headquarters yesterday, requesting support following an alleged breach of contract by a Zhuhai shopping mall.

The buyers had bought shopping units in Zhuhai's MO MALL - located around two kilometers beyond the Gongbei Border Gate - from a consortium comprised of two companies from Zhuhai and Macau in 2012 and 2013.

One buyer, Cheong I Man, said MO MALL prices were above the market's average but the consortium had attracted customers by guaranteeing the successful leasing of all properties in the nine years following the purchase.

The buyers then signed trust

management contracts with MO MALL, entrusting the mall management with any and all rental issues.

The contract stated that rental prices should be adjusted every three years and that a

reduction in prices should not exceed ten percent. The contracts came into effect June 30, 2013 and the first threeyear period ended on June 29, 2016.

However, MO MALL is now asking buyers to reduce rental prices by 50 percent, which the buyers have deemed

We want the company to give us the money back, the same amount as we used to buy the properties.

CHEONG I MAN

unacceptable.

The legal representative of the Macau company is John Lo. According to the buyers, he misled them into purchasing the properties.

"We bought the properties knowing Lo's reputation. He is a Macau businessman," said Cheong.

Cheong said there are 700 people in total – around 200 from Macau and the rest from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Zhuhai – facing similar issues.

The buyers have already sought out the companies who sold the properties, which in turn said they would respond soon to the buyers.

Cheong said that people expect the Macau government to help them solve the problem, namely by granting them an audience with high-ranked officials who are part of these property development companies.

"We want the company to give us the money back, the same amount as we used to buy the properties," said Cheong.

He said two more groups of buyers had gone to the Zhuhai government and to the Hong Kong Liaison Office, asking for help. Staff reporter

One of many protests about Zhuhai property purchases

YESTERDAY'S protest follows several similar instances of local residents who bought properties in Zhuhai and later claimed that they had been fooled. Last month, the Macau Civil Servants Association led a group of pre-sale buyers of properties in Zhuhai's "Hill Beyond the

Sea Condominium."

The group delivered a letter to Chief Executive Chui Sai On at the government headquarters, urging him to make "use of his political influence and formal means" to solve the problems surrounding the purchase of property in Zhuhai.

The letter was signed by over 200 buyers, who claimed that the development promoters had in 2012 and 2013 falsely advertised the condominium as a luxury venue with several amenities, such as a private club and a private forest park with a total area of 150,000 square meters.

GAMING

Gov't expects 2016 GGR to be around MOP200b

THE latest gaming reve-■ nue figures are "in line with the Government's expectation for the gaming industry's performance in 2016," said the Government Information Bureau (GCS) in a statement.

Authorities forecast 2016 gross gaming revenues to be around MOP200 billion, with a monthly average of about MOP16.6 billion.

The region's gross gaming revenue (GGR) in June amounted to MOP15.88 billion, representing a year-on-year decrease of 8.5 percent.

In the first half of 2016, gaming revenue totaled MOP107.79 billion, an 11.4 percent fall from the corresponding period in

GCS said that Macau's GGR in the first six months of 2016 represented 53.9 percent of what the government had forecast for the whole year, amounting to a monthly average of approximately MOP17.97 billion.

"The government expected – based on conditions in the international and regional economy – that the year-on-year decline would narrow, despite gaming revenue growth in the second half of 2016 would remain in negative territory," GCS stated.

The organization also claims that efforts to promote "diversification in the city's gaming industry" have paid off: "In the first half of 2016, revenue from casinos' massmarket segment contributed 53.1 percent of overall gaming revenue, an increase of 10 percentage points compared to the first six months of 2015. In the first half of 2016, VIP revenue recorded a 17.3 percent decline, while revenue from massmarket operations fell 3.6 percent judged year-onyear."

GCS added that two new resorts - The Parisian and Wynn Palace - are likely to open in the second half of this year, and are expected to "enhance

the city's attractiveness to tourists, and bring more of them to the city.'

GOVERNMENT STUDYING IMPACT ON LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

GIVEN THE adjustment period of Macau's gaming industry, the government has pledged to "pay even closer attention than [before] to any possible negative impacts for the city's economy and employment opportunities." The

government said more in-job training opportunities will be offered to local employees "in order to help them improve their upward mobility in career terms, and their horizontal mobility within their chosen jobs."

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Lynzy Valles

FTER eighteen months of renovation works, the Macanese Association (ADM) headquarters will reopen once some "technical procedures" are completed.

Although the president of the association, Miguel de Senna Fernandes, admitted there is no exact date for the reopening, he stressed to the Times that they hope the contractors could put the final touches on the renovation works by the end of July.

Senna Fernandes said that the popular Macanese canteen which operates from the facility is expected to run as it used to before the revamp.

"We will still be doing the workshops [...], we will [still] be serving lunches for the members," he said. "We will be doing these kinds of usual things, nothing really new."

The newly renovated headquarters are also a way of presenting the association to the community. Senna Fernandes described the

Revamped ADM headquarters to reopen soon









renovated premise as "quite pleasant."

The association head added the association has nearly 600 members and that the revamp also includes updating the association's member policies and fees.

"Unfortunately, the fees will be increased because everything else is getting more expensive so the prices will go higher, this is for sure. Even the members' fees we will be revising," he revealed.

The current membership fee of the group is MOP30 per month. Members would also have to pay a one-time sign-up fee of MOP500. Senna Fernandes also stressed that ADM is searching for partnerships with local stores and restaurants to provide its members with discounts.

"We have to reorganize the membership policies in order to not only protect ourselves but to also protect the companies or the institutions that we 'd be partnered with," he claimed.

"There's a good opportunity to change a lot of things that should have been changed a long time ago," the ADM president added.

Meanwhile the association is set to celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. ADM will also hold another "Encontro" [meeting of the Macanese community], which will take place in November.

The association will still cater to non-members. Senna Fernandes revealed that in many cases, members' relatives are not affiliated with the association.

"Having a place where they can go everyday would be great of course. It's good to always keep in touch," he concluded.

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REAL ESTATE

Midland says temporary closures due to licensing problem

Daniel Beitler

MIDLAND Realty – a real estate agency operating in Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China – was forced to temporarily close its office and suspend services in Macau this week following a delay in the renewal of its business license.

The license reportedly expired on June 30, and the company's five Macau branches have to close their doors in the meantime.

"The licensing is currently going through the approval procedure," the company said in an email statement, "and we are confident that it will be solved very shortly."

Services will only resume in the Macau branches once the company's license is approved, but the representative stressed that Midland is not closing shop in the MSAR.

"We have already said that we hope that they [the officials] can expedite the process and that the company will not be exiting the market in Macau," the representative noted.

According to the company, the 60 or so staff employed in Macau have not been affected by the temporary closure, since the offices also serve clients in mainland China and are able to focus on that market during the waiting period.

"The number of successful transactions in Macau is very low," a media representative told the Times via email. "It [the office] has

The number of successful transactions in Macau is very low.

MIDLAND REPRESENTATIVE

always been [equally] responsible for our business in Zhuhai and Jinan, and our staff have been working more in these areas in recent years. [Therefore] the impact to the company will be minimal."

"If this has caused any inconvenience to any customers, then we apologize for that," the representative continued. "According to the information we currently have, there have been no customers impacted [by the temporary closures]."

Midland Macau opened its first branch in 2004 and claims to be the first real estate agent from Hong Kong to settle in the MSAR. Listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, its parent company Midland Realty provides an array of real estate-related services including brokering, surveying, project planning and lease and property management. Midland Realty caters to local communities as well as non-Chinese-speaking expatriates in China.

Macao Orchestra to present concert

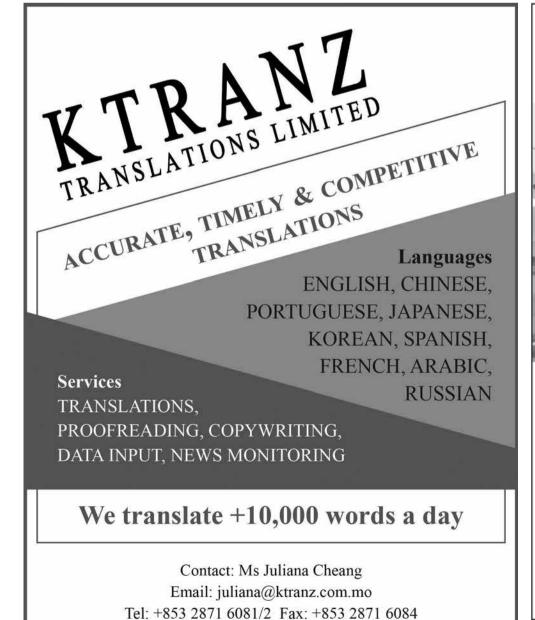


Dom Pedro V Theatre

THE Macao Orchestra will present a chamber music concert of the 2015/16 Concert Season, "Neoclassical Music," at Dom Pedro V Theatre on July 22, with music director Lü Jia conducting the concert for the first time, according to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). In the concert, Lü will showcasing a number of neoclassical works.

Neoclassicism in music is a concept of contradictions. While the innovative tonal harmony and complex use of instruments means that the composition differs from classical music, the melody and composition of such pieces nevertheless echoes baroque and classical music. Among other performances such as "Danses Concertantes" and "suites I & II for Chamber Orchestra," Lü will present Alberto Ginastera's "Concerto for Strings" in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the composer's birth. Tickets are on sale at Macau Ticketing Network outlets and are priced at MOP120 and MOP100, according to the IC.

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Plot of land for infectious diseases building fenced off amid controversy

Lynzy Valles

THE Health Bureau and **▲** Infrastructure Development Office have begun fencing off the controversial land that was chosen for the construction of the infectious diseases building.

The project has drawn criticism from local associations, including the New Macau Association (ANM) and the Macau Civil Servants Association and also neighboring residents.

Back in March, representatives of the associations, along with two lawmakers and concerned residents, held a demonstration at the S. Francisco Garden (close to where the center will be built) to protest the project's construction.

According to the bureau, the eight-floor facility will be essential in preventing the outbreak of infectious diseases, including airborne and waterborne viruses, as well as those transmitted through blood and body fluids.

Lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho stressed to the Times yesterday that pushing the project through is a "bad idea" and that the move is not the way to get the "confidence and trust" of Macau residents.

"Maybe they want to settle the bill earlier because next year, there will be more restrictions on public funds," he said, when asked if the government had ulterior motives for accelerating the project.

Coutinho also revealed that concerned residents are trying to hold a press conference to discourage the



government from setting up the facility in their neighborhood.

president Scott ANM Chiang echoed the same sentiments, citing the absence of a proper administrative process and saying that the public consultation is "fake."

Chiang claimed that the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has refused to listen to the community of the area where the controversial facility will be built, close to the central hos-

"He [Tam] is not actually going to listen to any opinion, he will push his own agenda," said Chiang, describing the move as a "sad develop-

"I don't know why he has to keep repeating this so-called public consultation without actually listening," he added.

"Has the government department actually listened to it [protests]? No," Chiang stated.

Chiang also said that there are speculations that Tam will capitalize on the delayed opening of the region's second public hospital (Islands Hospital in Cotai) to have the infectious disease center completed during his term as secretary.

"Maybe he has to push this one before he leaves [so] he has something to brag about. That's how the rumors go, but I don't know," said the ANM president.

According to him, Tam lacks respect for the public and "always appears as if he knows better than anyone

Although the ANM president believes that the region needs the project, as the city's healthcare facilities are in need of "modernization", he stressed that the building does not need to threaten the neighborhood.

"Maybe he should just focus on that [Anim'Arte project in Sai Van Lake], and not on the controversial argument," he joked.

The Times also interviewed residents in the area. While some disagree with the government's decision – as the site is extremely close to kindergartens and primary schools - one resident argued that the plan should still be entrusted to the government.

"They will solve the problem," the resident claimed.

STATISTICS

Money supply rebounds in May

MACAU'S money supply rebounded in May, according to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau. Total loans increased whereas total deposits decreased, leading the loan-to-deposit ratio of the banking sector to rise from a month earlier.

Including savings deposits and mutual funds, currency in circulation increased 0.4 percent month-to-month to MOP465.3 billion, but dropped by 5.7 percent on an annual basis.

The share denominated in MOP amounted to 30.6 percent, down 0.1 percentage points monthto-month but up 3.8 percentage points annually. Meanwhile, the shares denominated in HKD (51.4 percent) and RMB (6.2 percent) increased by 0.2 and 0.1 percentage points month-to-month, respectively. The share denominated in USD (9.4 percent) decreased by 0.2 percentage points.

Shares of currency in circulation in HKD and USD each saw a slight year-on-year increase of 0.5 and

0.6 percentage points, respectively. Consequentially, shares of currency circulated in RMB dropped by 5.2 percentage points annually.

Resident deposits increased 0.4 percent from the preceding month to MOP452.6 billion, while non-resident deposits dropped 1.9 percent to MOP283.8 billion. Concurrently, public sector deposits with the banking sector increased by 1.4 percent to MOP152.9 billion.

Domestic loans to the private sector grew by 0.6 percent month-to-month to MOP397.9 billion in May, while external loans increased 0.2 percent to MOP367.8

At end-May, the month-to-month loan-to-deposit ratio for the resident sector remained stable at 65.7 percent. The ratio for both the resident and non-resident sectors combined rose 0.5 percentage points to 86.1 percent. The nonperforming loan ratio – an indicator for bank asset quality - was 0.1 percent, virtually unchanged from the previous month as well as the preceding year.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Six companies compete for LRT depot construction

THE Transportation Infrastruc-**■** ture Office (GIT) on Monday accepted six companies' tenders for the construction of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) depot.

A total of seven companies submitted tenders, with bidding prices ranging from MOP888,000 to more than MOP1.38 billion. One company eventually abandoned the bid.

The government will soon commence the evaluation of the final tenders. The construction period is expected to start in the fourth quarter of this year and to create around 550 job opportunities.

The depot will occupy an area of

about 130,000 square meters, and is located south of the Macau International Airport.

Last year, the government ended its contract with the previous contractor after the construction of the depot was delayed.

The depot project is one of five projects comprising the Taipa section of the LRT. It is situated east of the Cotai Strip and south of the airport, with the Avenida do Aeroporto to the west.

The depot will house an operations control center, a factory and maintenance building, a parking and cleaning area for trains, and a 600-meter train-testing track.

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Aspect of yesterday's event

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LAND LAW CONTROVERSY

Nam Van Development Company waiting for fulfillment of CE promise

Renato Marques

concessionaire company of the C and D land plots of Nam Van Lake expects Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On to fulfill his promise of solving the problem created by the "wrongful interpretation" of the new Land Law, said the president of the Nam Van Development Company Ltd., Jorge Neto Valente. The comments were made during the forum organized yesterday by the company on the "Impacts of the Land Law to the Investment, Economy and Society of Macau" at the Macau World Trade Center.

The president of the company was referring to the words of the CE made in late December 2015 during the 16th anniversary of the handover, where he said that the government would not take the initiative to amend the Land Law but would consider it if the Legislative Assembly (AL) members propose amendments.

The words were also recalled in a video recording that was also screened at the event.

"To me, the Chief Executive does not tell lies. I cannot think that a CE lies. I heard him, we all hear him promising a solution. I have to believe that if the CE promises - I want to believe - that he will deliver what he promised," said Neto Valente.

For the company, there are only two possible ways out of the problem, one for short term and another for the longer term.

"In the long term, it's out of

the question – the law needs to be revised. We need to evaluate the situation case by case. We cannot compare what is not comparable. We need to do something and this is in the hands of the government. It is for the government to find a solution that is just, scientific, respecting the truth, economic and that may restore the confidence and the trust in the work of the institutions of Macau," he concluded.

During the forum, several persons related to the company highlighted the reasons behind the non-development of the lands, presenting several documents that support the information.

One of the most active members of the discussion panel was Patrick Wong, the executive director of Nam Van Development Company that claimed that the company did all they could to develop the land in the given time.

"I never wasted one single minute in the development of my land. Why do I need to go to court?" he asked. "This is called stealing!" he cried.

Wong claimed that the com-

pany has always fulfilled its duties and cooperated with the government through the former Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Lau Si Io.

"Can you handle the truth?" he asked, adding, "we not looking for compensation from money that belongs to Macau people. We are looking for a fair solution," he said replying to journalists' questions.

Neto Valente, who is also the president of the Macau Lawyer's Association, was on the same page. He said: "The investors are not looking for compensation. An investor looks to develop a project," adding that any possible indemnities would always be "much smaller than the real damage made by the repossession [reclaiming] of the land. The compensation is the last resort to reduce the losses of the investment and the legitimate and expected profit. But this is not the aim of Nam Van [Development Company]."

The lawyer and legislator Leonel Alves was another of the participants in the forum. In an attempt to justify the company's claims, he reduced the case to a football match in which time lost during the match must be compensated for at the end of the game, through added time.

Gonçalo Mendes da Maia, partner at MdME lawyers firm, said "what shocks me is that the government has the power to act, in fact it has the duty to act and it is refusing to do so, passing the the burden of ruling and governing to the judiciary [institutions]."

"They are simply saying, 'we don't want to act, let's pass this to the courts.' But the courts do

The investors are not looking for compensation. An investor looks to develop a

NETO VALENTE

not exist for that purpose; they exist to interpret the law and to settle disputes, not to make decisions that should be the government's responsibility," he said.

Mendes da Maia added that he hopes that the proposal sent by the legislator Gabriel Tong to the AL to add an "interpretative note" to the law will be approved in the name of a civic law system and justice for all those involved.

On the sidelines of the event, legislator Gabriel Tong explained that his interpretative note aims to fix wording "that is inducing people to a solution that is totally unacceptable, unless we accept the injustice."

"How can we imagine that a government can concede land, never allow [the concessionaire] to build and then say 'hey, the time has elapsed'. It's ridiculous," he continued. "If we have a law that says this, then there is a problem with the law. If there was an intention to operate like this [from the beginning] then the intention was a bad one and cannot be accepted by the legal system," he concluded.

'Procrastination and bureaucracy are familiar to people'

project.

SPEAKING on the sidelines of the forum organized by Nam Van Development Company, Scott Chiang, president of New Macau Association said that "unfortunately the [government's] procrastination and bureaucracy are too familiar to people in Macau."

He said that he might show a "little

sympathy" to the case were he not to recall that this discussion involves only two pieces of land in a universe of plots of land to be reclaimed by the govern-

Chiang also agrees with Wong's assessment that "the mechanism behind the judgment of whether the developer is

guilty is not open and the public is not in the position to challenge [that verdict]."

"As a stakeholder, Mr Wong and his company can go to court and challenge that decision based on administration [misconducts] point of view but Macau citizens can't challenge any decision," explained Chiang.





SATURDAY



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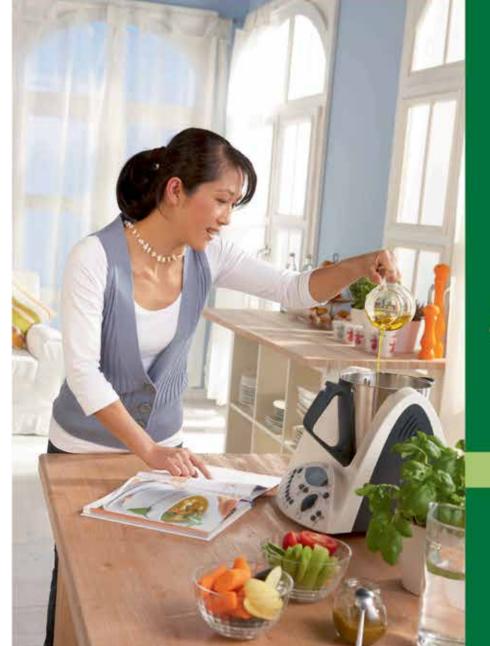
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Jonathan Burgos

HE biggest gainer among Singapore's stocks this year is a foreigner.

Thai Beverage Pcl has jumped 36 percent to a record in

Thai Beverage Pcl has jumped 36 percent to a record in 2016, benefiting from rising consumption in Thailand, where stimulus and low interest rates have driven the benchmark index to the highest level in almost a year. Singapore's equities market, by contrast, is a laggard in Southeast Asia, suffering from lackluster growth at banks, developers and oil-rig builders. Thai Beverage's return this year is almost triple that for the second-best stock in the Straits Times Index.

Malaysia's Affin Hwang Asset Management Bhd. and London's J O Hambro Capital Management Ltd. are buying Thai Beverage shares, convinced the stock has further to climb despite record valuations, as it offers a haven from market turmoil around the world and may benefit from any restructuring plans.

"With slowing global growth, whatever shows potential or sustainable growth attracts a premium," Kar Tzen Chow, Kuala Lumpur-based fund manager at Affin Hwang Asset, which oversees about USD7.6 billion, said by phone. "ThaiBev's spirits business continues to be stable and the beer business has shown a recovery."

Thailand is betting on more than \$18 billion in stimulus measures to help boost local demand and offset an export slump. The nation's central bank has forecast economic expansion at 3.1 percent this year, compared

Beer drinkers in Thailand power Singapore's best stock in 2016



A worker checks bottles of Chang beer on the production line at the Beer Thip factory, a factory of the Thai Beverage Pcl group

with growth of 1 percent to 3 percent for Singapore, whose economy is among the most vulnerable in Asia to swings in global demand. More than 90 percent of Thai Beverage's revenue came from Thailand in 2015, data by Bloomberg show.

"The fundamentals for Thai Beverage are very strong, with earnings supported by increasing domestic consumption in Thailand," Nicholas Teo, a trading strategist at KGI Fraser Securities Pte in Singapore, said by phone. "In contrast, profits at traditional Singapore industries such as banks, shipyards and real estate are deteriorating."

Billionaire Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, who expanded his property business amid government measures to curb alcohol consumption in Buddhist Thailand, was forced to list his Thai beverage unit in Singapore in 2006 after activists and monks held protests to block a local share sale by the company. Thai Beverage, which sells Chang beer, Blend 285 Whiskey and SangSom rum, has grown to become Southeast Asia's largest beverage stock by market value. The surge in Thai Beverage will continue as analysts raise their earnings estimates to reflect greater contribution from its beer business, according to Samir Mehta, who helps oversee about \$1.2 billion at J O Hambro in Singapore.

Analysts increased their average profit forecasts for 2016 by 7.4 percent to 26 billion baht (\$741 million) after its first-quarter net income jumped 30 percent from a year earlier. Beer sales volumes soared 61 percent, lifting the brewery operation's contributions to group revenue to 33 percent from 23 percent. The spirits business remained its cash cow.

Some see the stock rally as overdone. There is "limited upside" at current levels following the stock's recent price run-up, according to Jodie Foo, an analyst at OCBC Investment Research, who cut the stock to hold in a June report.

Thai Beverage is trading at the highest level ever relative to the broader MSCI All Country World Index. The stock is valued at 22 times its 12-month projected earnings, above its average of 16 in the past five years and almost double the multiple for the Straits Times Index, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Speculation

that Charoen will further revamp his beverage businesses in Thailand and Singapore may spur more rallies in the stock, said Religare Capital Markets in a May note. The company's founder and chairman may consolidate his drinks businesses held through Singapore-based Fraser & Neave Ltd. and Oishi Group Pcl into Thai Beverage, according to the report. Company officials couldn't be reached for comment.

The company's strategic road map toward having 50 percent revenue contribution from countries outside Thailand as well as from non-alcoholic beverage by 2020 may be sped up via acquisitions and restructurings, according to OCBC's Foo in her report.

Charoen controls Fraser & Neave through TCC Assets Ltd., which owns 59 percent of the Singapore company and Thai Beverage, which holds another 29 percent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

"We bought the shares because their cash flows are decent," J O Hambro's Mehta said. "The upside could come from the restructuring that the group might undertake. They could simplify the structure and that's going to be beneficial for the minority shareholders." **Bloomberg**

Sands announces MOP14.2b in local procurement

SANDS China announced that its "Local Supplier Support Programme" had purchased around MOP14.2 billion worth of supplies from Macau companies in 2015.

The 2015 figure repre-

sents nearly 80 percent of Sands China's total procurement last year, of which more than 12 percent (MOP1.8 billion) benefited Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). The amount marks a 36 percent increase from that of 2014.

The program, launched as the first of its kind in July 2015, is a joint initiative between Sands China and the Macao Chamber of Commerce. It focuses

on promoting three types of local businesses: Small and Micro Companies, "Made in Macao" companies and young Macau entrepreneurs.

"Supporting the growth of Macau's local enterpri-

ses remains a key area of focus for Sands China," said Wilfred Wong, president and COO of Sands China.

"As Macau continues its rise as a world center of tourism and leisure, it is important that the economic benefits go to all, including Macau's vibrant community of local businesses."

Wong added that he is pleased to see other gaming operators running similar programs, as these collective efforts advance the region's development.

corporate bits

CEM LAUNCHES 'BUILDING BLOCKS' COMPETITION



CEM has launched a "Building Blocks" competition to increase local students' interest in the company as well as to deepen their knowledge of its premises and operations.

According to CEM, students will build a model made solely

of "building blocks" representing CEM's image or any of its premises such as power stations, transformers, substations and its Customer Service Centre.

The competition includes two categories: Primary School Students and Secondary School Students. The top five winning entries from each group will be exhibited during an event titled the "CEM Energy Fun Fair." The creators will be awarded a trophy, as well as cash prizes ranging from MOP200 to MOP3,000.

Students can submit photo entries to CEM by email, in person, or by post. The "building blocks" can be of any type, brand, color and size and the final art piece should not exceed 45cm (H) x 45cm (W) x 100cm (H).

CTM LAUNCHES 'BONUS POINT DONATION SCHEME'

CTM has collaborated with ten local social welfare associations – including Caritas Macau, Fuhong Society of Macau and the Holy House of Mercy – to launch the "CTM Bonus Point Donation Scheme," which started on Friday.

The one-year scheme was originally launched in 2009 to raise awareness for social issues and underprivileged members of the community in partnership with various charities and social welfare associations

In this one-year "CTM Bonus Point Donation Scheme," for every 4,000 CTM bonus points donated by customers in exchange of MOP20 cash donation to a corresponding organization, CTM will top up another MOP20 donation to the same organization. Therefore, a total donation of MOP40 will

made for every 4,000 CTM bonus points.
The scheme raised a total of MOP300,000 in 2015

MGS ENTERTAINMENT SHOW FEATURES 'QUALIFIED BUYERS' SCHEME

The MGS Entertainment Show, which will be held at The Venetian in November, is collaborating with the MSAR Government to attract more international buyers and business partners to the region.

The Asian gaming industry's premier trade exhibition also marks the global launch of the Government's targeted "Qualified Buyers" scheme

The agreement will enable MGS to sponsor extensive travel and accommodation for visitors to the Government-supported exhibition.

The scheme will be open to registered visitors from companies exhibiting at the MGS expo. It includes a travel, transport and accommodation subsidy of up to MOP7,000 for each international visitor to the 2016 exhibition.



MGS chairman Jay Chun



IA Yueting has all the tra-**U** ppings of a successful Chinese tech entrepreneur with global ambitions.

A self-made billionaire who got his start as the IT guy at his local tax bureau, Jia's flagship internet-video company now sports a USD15 billion market capitalization and a buy rating from Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Donning hoodies and t-shirts, he boasts of plans to take on Apple Inc. in smartphones and surpass Tesla Motors Inc. in electric cars. Jia's Faraday Future has lured staff from Ferrari and BMW, and won the backing of Nevada's governor to construct a \$1 billion auto plant in North Las Vegas – about 400 miles from where Tesla broke ground on a giant battery factory in 2014.

Yet for all of Jia's accomplishments, the 43-year-old tycoon has failed to win the confidence of one key man. Dan Schwartz, Nevada's treasurer, says he's skeptical Jia can secure financing for the car plant, a project that needs government support for power lines, water mains and roads. Schwartz, the former CEO of a private-equity research firm in Hong Kong, wants more transparency on the funding before signing off on state bonds for \$120 million of infrastructure improvements.

The crux of Schwartz's concern is Jia's reliance on equitybacked loans, a financing strategy that could leave Nevada taxpayers vulnerable to the whims of China's volatile stock market. Jia has pledged 87 percent of his holdings in Leshi Internet Information & Technology Corp. – his flagship firm – for cash that he then plowed back into his companies, regulatory filings show. The stock, which was halted in Shenzhen for the first five months of 2016, has dropped 11 percent since it resumed trading on June 3, a move that heightens Schwartz's fear that a margin call could prevent Jia from funding the plant.

"You can see where this leads," Schwartz said in a phone interview. "His Internet company is successful, but that doesn't generate the billions of dollars he'd need. Where's he going to get the money?"

The financing questions surrounding Jia's foray into the U.S. electric-car market are becoming more common around the world as China Inc. embarks on an unprecedented overseas shopping spree. The nation's firms, which boosted outbound direct investment by 62 percent in January-May from a year earlier, are branching out even as rising debt levels and weak profits at home cast doubt over their ability to secure stable funding.

Faraday, whose 1,000-horsepower concept car has drawn comparisons to the Batmobile, says it has the full support of Ne-



Faraday Future Inc. FFZero1 concept vehicle

Billionaire's plan to beat Tesla has a Vegas problem

vada's governor and is pushing forward with the city of North Las Vegas on infrastructure planning. The 800-employee carmaker – a separate company from Leshi that's majority-owned by Jia - has sought to address Schwartz's concerns, but could "technically" build the plant without the state bonds, Faraday spokeswoman Stacy Morris said in an e-mailed reply to questions.

Jia has failed to win the confidence of one key man. Dan Schwartz, Nevada's treasurer, says he's skeptical

Jia has invested more than \$300 million of his own money into Faraday and the firm will announce a round of outside funding within weeks, said Winston Cheng, a former Bank of America Corp. investment banker who now runs corporate finance for Jia's companies. He said the size of the funding would be "meaningful" and come from Asian investors, while declining to provide more

"I don't understand why he's trying to kill these high end jobs in the state of California and Nevada," Cheng said in an interview, referring to Schwartz. "It baffles me."

City, county and regional government agencies are already working with Faraday on infrastructure for the plant, and the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development has approved funding for worker training, the GOED said in an e-mailed response to questions from Bloomberg. Tesla – which is named, like Faraday, after a 19th century pioneer in the field of electricity - declined to com-

Leshi, the publicly-traded centerpiece of Jia's empire, shows few signs of financial distress. Profits increased 20 percent in the first quarter, while its quick ratio, a gauge of the firm's ability to meet obligations over the coming year, is in line with the median for Chinese companies as a whole, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Leshi's Altman Z score, a measure of bankruptcy risk, suggests trouble is unlikely.

Analysts are bullish on the stock, with 9 of 11 forecasters tracked by Bloomberg giving it the equivalent of a buy rating. Goldman Sachs issued a price target of 70.22 yuan on June 22, or 35 percent above its Monday close. The bank declined a request to interview its

Leshi analyst.

Investors are less sanguine, with Leshi shares sinking for six straight days after they resumed trading last month. At 105 times projected earnings for this year, the stock is more than twice as expensive as the median China-listed company. The firm has recorded negative cash flow for the past two quarters, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

"It's a matter of time before problems emerge," said Wang Zheng, the Shanghai-based chief investment officer at Jingxi Investment Management Co., which oversees about \$300 million and is avoiding Leshi shares in part because of concerns over its financing strategy. The company's high valuation reflects the appeal of "concept" stocks among Chinese individual investors, Wang said.

Jia and his family have pledged about \$5 billion of Leshi shares as collateral for loans, amounting to a 35 percent stake, according to data compiled by Bloomberg from the company's first-quarter report. Jia also sold 2.5 billion yuan (\$375 million) of Leshi shares in June 2015 and lent the proceeds back to Leshi to "relieve the company's financing pressure." He later entered into a contract with an asset management firm to exchange 100 million shares, or about 5.3 percent of the company, for

cash that he then lent to Leshi interest-free. Jia pledged to repurchase the stake after Leshi repays the money.

"The company is capital strapped," said Dai Ming, a money manager at Hengsheng Asset Management Co. in Shanghai.

For Schwartz, Jia and Faraday Future need to explain more clearly how they plan to provide stable financing for the Nevada project. Only then would he consider supporting a state debt sale to fund the plant's infrastructure. He said it's his role as treasurer to bring the bond before the state's board of finance, whose chairman is the governor, for approval.

Schwartz, an elected member of the Republican party who took office in January 2015, dismissed the notion that his opposition to the Faraday project has anything to do with his political ambitions. He has clashed with the Republican governor before on budgetary issues, according to local media, amid speculation he could mount his own bid for governor.

"I may/may not run for governor, but this project has nothing to do with my political future,' Schwartz said in an e-mail. "It's strictly about whether Faraday has the money/expertise to build a \$1 billion electric car manufacturing facility in North Las Vegas. And, if they don't, whether or not I want the Nevada taxpayer to pick up the tab." Bloomberg

Mari Yamaguchi & Didi Tang, Tokyo

APAN yesterday denied an allegation by China that its fighter jets were provocative in an encounter with Chinese warplanes last month over disputed waters in the East China Sea, rejecting Chinese accusations that the incident could pose a threat to regional stability.

China said earlier that two Chinese Su-30 jets were conducting a routine patrol when two Japanese F-15 fighters approached at high speed and locked fire-control radar on the Chinese planes. It said in a statement that the Chinese pilots took "tactical measures" before the Japanese planes dropped an infrared decoy and fled. It gave no details of the measures taken by the Chinese.

"Such provocative acts by the Japanese jets could easily cause accidents in the air, harming personal safety on both sides and destroying the peace and stability in the region," the Chinese statement said. "We demand Japan to cease all provocative acts."

Japan denied that its fighter jets took any provocative actions during the encounter, saying they were scrambling against Chinese aircraft.

Deputy chief Cabinet secretary Koichi Hagiuda said Japan's Air Self-Defense Force dispatched the F-15s after spotting two Chinese warplanes approaching the disputed waters.

"There is absolutely no evidence of provocative actions against the Chinese military aircraft by the Japanese side as

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Japan denies its jets were provocative in Chinese encounter



Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force P-3C Orion surveillance plane flies over the disputed islands, called the Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China

in the Chinese defense ministry announcement," he said. "There is no evidence whatsoever that fire-control radar was locked on."

The use of fire-control radar in "search mode" to grasp each other's location is common in case of scrambling, Hagiuda said, adding that it is used to avoid accidents and should not be considered provocative.

In the Chinese-language version of its statement, Beijing did not use the phrase "lock on" but said the Japanese jets used the radar to "shine on" the Chinese aircraft. Still, Beijing called the act "provocative."

Citing unnamed government

sources, the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun said last week that the Chinese aircraft refused to retreat despite being warned and that jets from both sides flew at each other several times.

To avoid danger, a Japanese jet then launched an infrared decoy against potential missile attacks and left the area, the newspaper said.

The June 17 encounter took place near a set of barren islets claimed by both countries called Diaoyu in China and Senkaku in Japan. China in 2013 set up an air defense identification zone that covers the islands and overlaps with Japan's claim of air space for defense.

The Japanese defense ministry said yesterday that Japan scrambled against Chinese military planes about 200 times in April, May, and June, up more than 80 from last year in the same period. Tokyo has expressed concerns over China's increased military activities in the region.

In mid-June, a Japanese surveillance plane spotted a Chinese intelligence ship entering-Japan's territorial waters, described then as the first report of a Chinese navy vessel doing so in more than a decade.

In that instance, Japan expressed concern to China that the incident and other recent Chinese military activities were escalating tensions.

Earlier last month, Japanese officials summoned China's ambassador to protest the sailing of a Chinese navy ship near the disputed islands. **AP**

Vietnam protests drills in disputed waters



Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Hai Binh

VIETNAM has protested against a Chinese military drill in the contested South China Sea and has demanded that China stop the actions it says are a threat to security and maritime safety.

China announced that it will carry out the week-long military drills on and around the Paracel islands starting yesterday. They will finish on the eve of a ruling by an international tribunal in a case filed by the Philippines challenging China's claims to most of the South China Sea.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Hai Binh said in a statement posted late Monday on the ministry's website that China's moves seriously violate Vietnamese sovereignty and demanded that China stop the drills.

"Vietnam strongly protests and demanded that China respect Vietnam's sovereignty, behave responsibly, immediately stop and do not take actions that threaten security, maritime safety in the East Sea or escalate tension in this region," Binh said, referring to the South China Sea.

China's military exercise comes as the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague is expected to issue a ruling on July 12 on a case brought by the Philippines in 2013 contesting China's claims in the South China Sea.

Vietnam, China and Taiwan all claim the Paracel islands which are occupied by China, and those three along with the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei claim all or parts of the Spratly islands, which are believed to rich in natural resources and occupy one of the world's busiest sea lanes.

China's massive land reclamation projects and increased militarization of the seven reefs and atolls in the Spratlys over the past two years have raised serious concerns in the region. AP

Philippines ready to talk to Beijing after ruling on sea claim



A protester has her cheek painted with a slogan outside the Chinese Consulate

THE Philippines' new president says Manila is ready to talk to China, not go to war, if an arbitration tribunal rules in its favor in a case it brought against Beijing's claims in the South China Sea.

President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday the Philippines remains optimistic that the tribunal will rule in its favor. But he says if the ruling is not favorable, then the Philippines would accept and abide by it.

He says the country will proceed accordingly after it obtains a copy of the judgment.

The official China Daily reported that China is ready to start negotiations with the Philippines if Manila ignores the tribunal ruling, which is expected to be issued on July 12.

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

Vote counting resumed yesterday in Australia's dramatically close national election, three days after the contest failed to deliver an immediate winner and left the nation's leadership in doubt. But with officials warning that the victor may not be known for days, if not weeks, many were left wondering: What, exactly, is taking so long?

Counting was suspended in the early hours of Sunday morning while the ballot papers were secured and catalogued in a bid to avoid a repeat of a fiasco in 2013 when the mislaying of 1,370 ballot papers forced a re-run of the Senate election in Western Australia state.

Authorities have to wait until 13 days after the July 2 election date for the final mail-in votes to arrive. The Australian Electoral Commission said 400,000 of an expected 1.5 million postal votes had yet to arrive by yesterday.

With about a quarter of the votes left to be counted, neither Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's conservative Liberal Party-led coalition nor opposition leader Bill Shorten's center-left Labor Party had won the 76 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives needed to form a government — raising the prospect of a hung parliament.

"I know many Australians find this sort of frustrating, the wait. And you can imagine that we are among them," Turnbull told reporters with a laugh. "We would like to get a clear result on Saturday night. But the truth is that we've had long waits before. Many times actually, over the years. And in many countries, many other countries, similar western democracies, it takes a long time to determine the outcome of an election."

David Glance, director of the University of Western Australia's Center for Software Practice, said the political standstill demonstrated a need for online electronic voting.

While many countries vote

Counting resumes in Australian election with parties close



Voters fill in their ballots at a polling station at Town Hall in Sydney

with a ballot paper and pencil, Australia is a special case because compulsory voting led to extraordinarily large voter turnouts. Plus Australian politics had become more volatile, with bigger swings and more alternative candidates to the major parties, Glance said.

Australia's complex unique voting system, in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, also made calculating winners more labor-intensive. And Australia has had recent experience in lost ballot papers.

"There's this political uncertainty which can last for days and weeks, and potentially now we've moved into a phase where this is going to become more the norm than the exception," Glance said.

As of yesterday, Australian Broadcasting Corp. election analysts — considered among the most reliable — were predicting that the coalition had 68 seats, Labor 67 and the minor parties and independents were leading in five seats. Another 10

seats were in doubt.

While hung parliaments are rare in Australia, the last occurred at an election only six years ago. Key independents then took 17 days from the election date before declaring they would support a Labor minority government which became chaotic and unpopular. It was wiped out in a landslide election in 2013.

Delays in determining election results are, of course, not unprecedented on a global scale. The notoriously close 2000 U.S. presidential election pitting Republican George W. Bush against Democrat Al Gore led to a recount in the state of Florida, where problems with ballot machines led to confusion over who voters had actually selected. The results were in doubt for weeks until a ruling by the Supreme Court led to Bush being declared the winner.

Turnbull, who became prime minister 11 months ago because his predecessor was unpopular, said yesterday that he would not take Shorten's advice by resigning as British Prime Minister David Cameron did over Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

"The count is continuing and we remain confident that we will secure enough seats to have a majority in the parliament," Turnbull told reporters.

Shorten, who could become Australia's s fifth prime minister in three years, said Turnbull had "promised stability and taken Australia on a roller coaster ride."

"He wanted a mandate for sta-

I know many Australians find this sort of frustrating, the wait.

MALCOLM TURNBULL

bility and he's given us instability," Shorten said.

The makeup of Australia's Senate is likely to take even longer than the House of Representatives to determine. But early signs are that the Senate will be even more unwieldy for whichever party takes government.

Early projections suggest that if the conservatives retain power, they would need the support of eight of 10 crossbenchers to pass contentious bills. These crossbenchers would include senators who oppose the government's free trade agenda and nondiscriminatory immigration policy and could demand concessions in these areas.

Ratings agencies fear the Senate could threaten Australia's chances of balancing its books by 2020-21 by blocking tough savings measures and therefore also threaten its rare AAA credit rating.

"Fitch views Australia's overall credit profile as still consistent with a 'AAA' rating, but political gridlock that leads to a sustained widening of the deficit would put downward pressure on the rating, particularly if the economic environment deteriorates," Fitch Ratings said.

"Irrespective of the political composition of any new government, we would lower the rating if the parliamentary gridlock on the budget continues and Australia's budgetary performance does not improve broadly as we expected a year ago," Standard & Poor's said.

Australian Electoral Commission spokesman Evan Ekin-Smyth said the Senate was likely to take a month to resolve. He said the House of Representatives would not take as long, but he could not give a more specific estimate. AP

HIJ

Severed head found on beach linked to missing Russians

Asid they found a cloth bundle containing a severed head while strolling along a popular Fiji beach in what has become the latest gruesome discovery in a murder case that has captivated the picturesque South Pacific island nation.

Similar tied bundles that washed ashore in late June at Natadola Beach contained two pairs of feet, according to local news reports.

Fiji police believe the victims in the unsolved murder case were Russian couple Yuri and Natalia Shipulin, who went missing from their farm on the main island of Viti Levu last month.

New Zealander Graeme Bickley told The Associated Press by phone yesterday that he and his wife Jan had traveled to Fiji for a weeklong vacation in order to watch a rugby match and relax.

He said they were walking along the beach Monday morning when they spotted a bundle in water that was about 1 meter deep. Having heard about the murder case, he said, the couple joked that the bundle might contain more body parts.

But things soon turned serious.

"I scrambled in and grabbed hold, it was very, very heavy," Bickley said. "I dropped it on the sand and you could hear there were rocks in it. I looked at the shape of it, and thought 'This isn't looking good.'"

Bickley said the bundle was tied with a nylon line. He didn't want to disturb it further, he said, and so they left it until police officers arrived, who later confirmed it contained a head.

The Fiji Sun newspaper reported that the Russian couple was struggling to pay their bills after their farm was severely damaged by Cyclone Winston in February.

The Fiji Sun said the couple, believed to be in their late 40s, had moved to Fiji about five years ago and lived in a converted shipping container, growing pumpkins, watermelons and other fruits and vegetables which they sold to resorts and markets.

The paper said the couple's business partner had first reported them missing and that police had found the couple's car with the keys in the ignition at Natadola Beach.

The newspaper reported that divers plan to search the area for more evidence.

Fiji strengthened its diplomatic ties with Russia after some Western allies imposed sanctions following a 2006 military coup. The country has since returned to a democratic system of government. AP

MacauDaily in the second of th

HE bodies of the seven Japanese killed in a militant attack in Bangladesh returned to home yesterday as investigators in Dhaka searched for clues about the possible masterminds behind the gruesome attack that left 28 dead.

A Japanese government plane took the bodies back to Tokyo's Haneda Airport, where the bodies, in boxes covered with white cloth, were lowered slowly in pairs from the high cargo bay of the 747 and lined up on the

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, Bangladesh Ambassador Rabab Fatima and other officials laid bouquets of flowers in between the boxes.

In Dhaka, authorities were still holding five of the 13 hostages rescued when commandos stormed the restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone Saturday morning, killing six of the attackers and capturing one.

Bangladesh police chief A.K.M. Shahidul Haque said authorities would be interrogating two men, including a suspected militant, who were detained during Saturday's operation. He would not say whether either had been among those counted as hostages, only that they were being treated in a hospital for unspecified injuries.

TERRORISM

Japanese bodies sent home, Dhaka officials search for clues



People offer flowers and light candles to pay their respects to the victims of the attack on Holey Artisan Bakery

A second official said the five former hostages still being held included a Canadian citizen of Bangladeshi origin and a Bangladesh-born British citizen. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, as he was not authorized to speak to the media about the ongoing investigation. The official said authorities were looking into the backgrounds of the five people and questioning their families and friends.

Global Affairs Canada, the government department which manages Canada's diplomatic and consular relations, and consular officials at the High Commission of Canada in Dhaka said they had not received any reports of a Canadian citizen being detained.

It was not clear if all five were suspects, or if they were being held and questioned simply because authorities thought they might offer information in tracing the origins of the attack.

The official confirmed investigators were also speaking with a third man described by local media as a Bangladeshi who was trapped inside the restaurant along with his wife and two children. The man, a teacher at a private university in Dhaka, had returned to Bangladesh recently after living nearly 20 years in Britain.

Some photographs and several crude videos taken from an apartment near the Holey

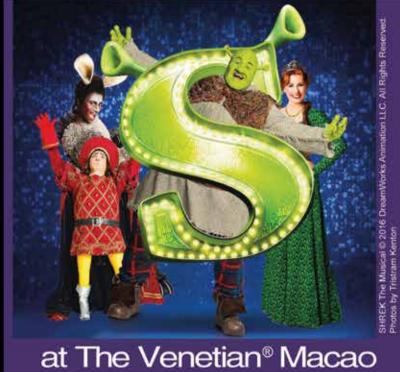
Artisan Bakery show the man talking to someone while attackers allowed him to leave before paramilitary forces launched the rescue operation on Saturday. The man's friends and police said that one of the attackers was a student in the same department at the university where the man teaches.

The attack - the worst convulsion of violence yet in the recent series of deadly attacks to hit Bangladesh - has stunned the traditionally moderate Muslim nation and raised global concerns about whether it can cope with increasingly strident Islamist militants.

That the attackers targeted a popular restaurant in the heart of the diplomatic quarter of Bangladesh's capital signaled a shift in militant tactics. Previous attacks were carried out by gangs of young men wielding cleavers and machetes and hacking individual victims before fleeing. AP

AD

cau Daily Times contest



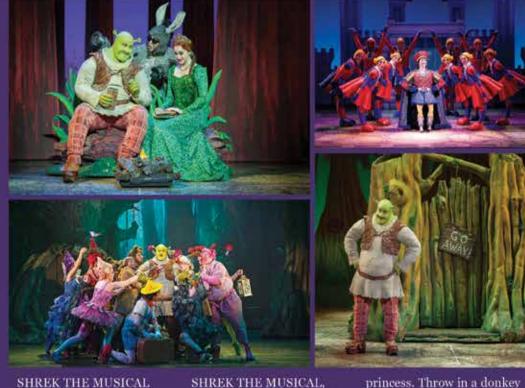
Ouestion for readers:

Who rescues the feisty princess instead of a handsome prince in Shrek the Musical?

Please email the answers to: shrek@macaudailytimes.com Along with your name and contact details.

Tickets-Giveaway

Four sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us more correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for 3 days (Tuesday to Thursday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP580 for a total prize value of MOP4,640.



SHREK THE MUSICAL with book and lyrics by Pulitzer Prize® winner David Lindsay-Abaire and music by Olivier Awardwinner Jeanine Tesori, is coming to Macao for the very first time as part of its first ever international

The Smash Hit Broadway Musical, brings the hilarious story of everyone's favorite ogre to the stage. In a faraway kingdom turned upside down, things get ugly when an ogre - not a handsome prince shows up to rescue a feisty

princess. Throw in a donkey that does not keep quiet, a villain with a short temper, a cookie with an attitude and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand and his name is Shrek.



Freketing Details: Show: SHREK THE MUSICAL Date: July 22 - Aug. 7, 2016 Venue: The Venetian Theatre Ticket Price: MOP180-780 Book via cotaiticketing.com or call 2882 8818



SPACE ODYSSEY

Jupiter has new visitor - a solar-powered spacecraft

Alicia Chang, Pasadena (Calif.)

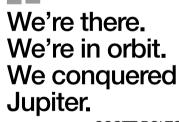
OARING over Jupiter's poles, a NASA spacecraft arrived at the solar system's largest planet on a mission to peek behind the cloud tops.

The final leg of the five-year voyage ended yesterday [Macau time] when the solar-powered Juno spacecraft fired its main rocket engine and gracefully slipped into orbit around Jupiter. Mission controllers celebrated when Juno sent back radio signals confirming it reached its destination.

"We're there. We're in orbit. We conquered Jupiter," Juno chief scientist Scott Bolton said during a post-mission briefing.

In the weeks leading up to the encounter, Juno snapped pictures of the giant planet and its four inner moons dancing around it. Scientists were surprised to see Jupiter's second-largest moon, Callisto, appearing dimmer than expected.

The spacecraft's camera and other instruments were switched off for arrival, so there weren't any pictures at that key moment. Scientists have promised close-up views of the planet when Juno skims the cloud tops during the 20-month,



SCOTT BOLTON JUNO CHIEF SCIENTIST



Scott Bolton speaks in a post-orbit insertion briefing at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory following the solar-powered Juno spacecraft entered orbit around Jupiter

USD1.1 billion mission managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The fifth rock from the sun and the heftiest planet in the solar system, Jupiter is what's known as a gas giant — a ball of hydrogen and helium — unlike rocky Earth and Mars.

With its billowy clouds and colorful stripes, Jupiter is an extreme world that likely formed first, shortly after the sun. Unlocking its history may hold clues to understanding how Earth and the rest of the solar system developed.

Named after Jupiter's cloudpiercing wife in Roman mythology, Juno is only the second mission designed to spend time at Jupiter.

Galileo, launched in 1989, circled Jupiter for nearly a decade, beaming back splendid views of the planet and its numerous moons. It uncovered signs of an ocean beneath the icy surface of

the moon Europa, considered a top target in the search for life outside Earth.

Juno's mission: To peer through Jupiter's cloud-socked atmosphere and map the interior from a unique vantage point above the poles. Among the lingering questions: How much water exists? Is there a solid core? Why are Jupiter's southern and northern lights the brightest in the solar system?

"What Juno's about is looking

beneath that surface," said Bolton of the Southwest Research Institute in Texas. "We've got to go down and look at what's inside, see how it's built, how deep these features go, learn about its real secrets."

There's also the mystery of its Great Red Spot. Recent observations by the Hubble Space Telescope revealed the centuries-old monster storm in Jupiter's atmosphere is shrinking.

The trek to Jupiter, spanning nearly five years and 1.8 billion miles (2.8 billion kilometers), took Juno on a tour of the inner solar system followed by a swing past Earth that catapulted it beyond the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Along the way, Juno became the first spacecraft to cruise that far out powered by the sun, beating Europe's comet-chasing Rosetta spacecraft. A trio of massive solar wings sticks out from Juno like blades from a windmill, generating 500 watts of power to run its nine instruments.

In the coming days, Juno will turn its instruments back on, but the real work won't begin until late August when the spacecraft swings in closer. Plans called for Juno to swoop within 3,000 miles (5,000 kilometers) of Jupiter's clouds — closer than previous missions — to map the planet's gravity and magnetic fields in order to learn about the interior makeup.

Juno braved a hostile radiation environment to reach Jupiter. Engineers prepared by housing the spacecraft's computer and electronics in a titanium vault. Even so, Juno is expected to get blasted with radiation equal to more than 100 million dental X-rays during the mission.

Like Galileo before it, Juno meets its demise in 2018 when it deliberately dives into Jupiter's atmosphere and disintegrates — a necessary sacrifice to prevent any chance of accidentally crashing into the planet's potentially habitable moons. AP

ISRAEL

El Al flight lands safely in Tel Aviv after bomb threat

Ami Bentov, Tel Aviv

AN El Al flight from New York that was escorted yesterday by military jets in Europe following a bomb threat landed safely in Israel.

El Al President David Maimon said Flight 002 from John F. Kennedy airport touched down midday after an anonymous tip was received regarding a potential bomb threat onboard. Following the tip, France and Switzerland deployed military jets over their airspaces as escorts for the Boeing 747 plane flying toward Israel.

The threat was ultimately unfounded but it marked a rare security scare for El Al, generally regarded as one of the world's most secure airlines.

At Ben-Gurion Airport, worried relatives awaited the passengers in the arrival hall. The passengers themselves said they were unaware of the drama until landing.

"We came out of the plane, there was somebody from the news who asked if we know anything and we said we didn't feel anything," said Rivi Aharon. "He said they thought three was a bomb on the plane so I was very nervous."

Another passenger, David Machlis, said he too was surprised.

"I heard that the plane was accompanied by a fighter plane," he said. "But I did not see it [...]

Not knowing was the best situation in my opinion."

The Swiss air force said in a statement that it deployed jets around 8:30 a.m. on a so-called "hot mission," that accompanied the flight. Vladi Barrosa, a spokesman for the Swiss government-run air navigation service Skyguide, said the plane left Swiss airspace safely into Austrian airspace.

The incident caused concern among locals in German-speaking Swit-

zerland after two sonic booms echoed after two Swiss F/A-18 aircraft were deployed for the escort. Barrosa, working in the Zurich area, said he too heard the blasts: "I thought my windows were about to burst."

Barrosa said American authorities had alerted their European colleagues that "there might be a bomb in the galley of the airplane."

He said jets are typically scrambled in these

cases to relay the location of the plane and to establish visual contact with the pilots. They are also in place for the worst case scenario in which they would be required to shoot down the plane if it were hijacked and posed an imminent threat to targets on the ground.

The French air force said it also scrambled jets from an air base in Creil north of Paris after receiving a warning from an ally. **AP**

MacauDaily in the second of th

Michael Balsamo, NYC

WITH gunshots ringing out just feet away, Eddie Justice hid in a bathroom in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and frantically texted his mother for help.

"Call police," he wrote. "I'm gonna die."

Moments later, he texted \(\frac{\text{\text{\text{\text{d}}}}{2}}{2} \) again: "Call them mommy. Now. He's coming."

Justice, who would later be confirmed among the 49 people killed in last month's attack, was among several victims who texted relatives to call 911, fearing they would draw too much attention by making voice calls.

None of them could text 911 directly because Orlando is among the vast majority of U.S. cities that don't have that capability. But as active-shooter and hostage situations become more common, police departments are exploring technology that would allow dispatchers to receive texts, photos and videos in real time.

Out of more than 6,000 dispatch centers nationwide, a little more than 650 can accept text messages, with more than 150 making the text-to-911 upgrade this year, the Federal Communications Commission said.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, of New York, has been **USA**

Too dangerous to talk? Some cities explore 911 texting



Mina Justice speaks to a reporter discussing texting with her son, Eddie Justice, who was in a bathroom during the mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub

pushing for text-to-911 in New York City, which has been studying it for nearly a year. Such a system, he said, can "save lives by informing 911 dispatchers of critical details that can guide

first responders."

Emergency officials stress, however, that a voice 911 call is preferred when possible because a dispatcher can elicit details more quickly than texting back and forth. The major concern for many cities, including some of the nation's largest, is that overuse of texting when it's not absolutely necessary could slow response times and cost lives. In Los Angeles, which doesn't have 911 texting, a police dispatch official last year cautioned that response times for text 911 could be triple that for voice calls.

Nearly every municipality with text-to-911 service has sought to address that concern by promoting the slogan: "Call if you can, text if you can't."

Officials also warn that with text messages your approximate location isn't automatically sent to emergency responders, like it is with voice calls. Instead, they encourage people to give 911 call takers an accurate address or location as quickly as possible.

Supporters of such systems say their use would go beyond active-shooter and hostage situations to scenarios in which a battered spouse, for example, could surreptitiously message police without alerting the at-

44 If someone could snap a photo or a quick video showing the perpetrator that'd be enormously helpful to law enforcement.

> JOSEPH GIACALONE PROFESSOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE

tacker.

"If someone could snap a photo or a quick video showing the perpetrator that'd be enormously helpful to law enforcement," said Joseph Giacalone, a criminal justice professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a retired police detective.

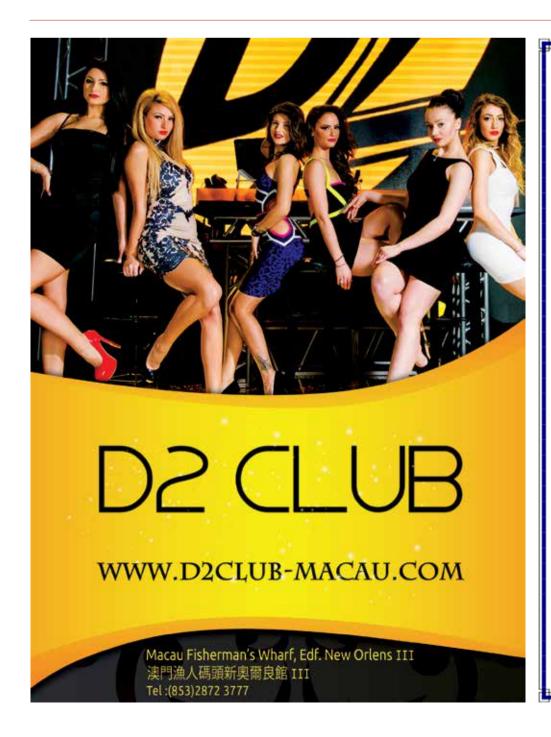
San Bernardino, California, rolled out its text-to-911 service in December about two weeks after an attack at a social services center where a man and his wife killed 14 people at a holiday gathering. In New Hampshire, where text-to-911 service is available statewide, Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan said it was a "common-sense initiative that will help save lives."

Text-to-911 service also has been used by deaf and hard-ofhearing people to get in touch with police.

A deaf woman in Alpharetta, Georgia, texted police to report there were two children locked in a car in a shopping mall parking lot, and police rescued them.

Authorities say 911 texting, like its phone counterpart, has also been abused.

Last year, a teenage girl texted 911 to falsely report there was an active shooter at a high school in Marietta, Georgia, said police, who arrested her at her home an hour later. AP





Wednesday, 20th July Grand Hall, 4/F, Macau Tower 6 - 8 pm

Guest of Honour Ms. Caroline Wilson **British Consul General to Hong Kong and Macao**

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what's ON



Auguste Borget: A Painter-traveller on

THE SOUTH CHINA COAST

TIME: 10am-7pm

(no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2016 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

REMINISCENT - PORTUGAL. MACAU TIME: 10am-6:30pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: July 22, 2016 ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Dare to Dream Gallery, Calcada Da Barra,

No. 16 R/C LJ A, Edif. San Chak ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

Macau Annual Visual Arts Exhibition 2016

- Western Media Category TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 7, 2016 VENUE: Old Court Building ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Abstract Paintings

FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm

(no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2016 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

"Memories of Moments - Macao and Lusophone African and Asian Regions in PHOTOGRAPH POSTCARDS" EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-6pm

(no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Archives of Macao, No. 91-93, Avenida do

Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

EXHIBITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

of Han Tianheng TIME: 10am-7pm

(no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 7, 2106 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(free admission on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

THE SWISS ARMY BATTLES ITS LATEST FOE: BEDBUGS IN DORMS

The Swiss army is working hard to fend off its latest foe: bedbugs.

The defense department said this week that a parents' day event planned for July 16 is being cancelled because bedbugs have appeared in dormitories and fabrics used by three companies at an infantry training school in several parts of French-speaking Switzerland.

It said no one's health was in danger but "several recruits had bites typical of bedbugs."

Disinfection measures have been taken and specialists have been called in to clean up the sites. The three companies will not travel to Bure, along the French border near northern Basel, for the "Parents Day" celebration on July 16 that has been cancelled to prevent a wider contamination.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcas	ct
10.00	Thems (ITTT) Delayed bioadcas	ЭL

15:00 RTPi Live

18:30 Helena's Shadow (Repeated)

Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated) 19:20

19:30 Soap Opera

20:10 Sports

Main News, Financial & Weather Report 20:30

Fairyland of Earth Builing 21:00

21:30 Criminal Minds S9

22:10 Helena's Shadow

23:00 **TDM News** 23:30 Drama

Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) 00:25

01:00 Sports (Repeated)

01:20 RTPi Live

UEFA EURO 2016 - Semi-Finals: TBC (Live) 02:50

CINETEATRO

30 JUN - 07 JUL



THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS

поом 1

(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm

(3D) 5.45 pm

Director: Chris Renaud, Yarrow Cheney Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English) **Duration: 90min**

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

поом **1** 9.30 pm

Director: James Bobin

Starring: Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp,

Helena Bonham Carter

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 113min

INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm (3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Roland Emmerich

Starring: Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum,

Bill Pullman Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min



THE LEGEND OF TARZAN

коом 3

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm (3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Roland Emmerich

Starring: Alexander Skarsgård, Rory J. Saper,

Christian Stevens

Language: English (Cantonese) **Duration: 109min**

MACAU TOWER

23 JUN - 07 JUL

INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE

2.30,4.30,7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Roland Emmerich

Starring: Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum,

Bill Pullman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min

his dav in historv



1997 Mars buggy starts exploring Red Planet

Nasa scientists have freed a robot from the space probe Mars Pathfinder, allowing it to begin its exploration of the Red Planet at last.

The rover, known as Sojourner, has been stuck on Pathfinder since its successful landing on Mars two days ago. It is the first time a man-made craft has travelled over the

surface of another planet. Pathfinder quickly sent back the evidence: an image of the Martian surface showing the tracks made by Sojourner's six studded titanium wheels.

The problem began when a partially-deflated airbag blocked Sojourner's way out of Pathfinder. Then the computers on board the probe and the rover failed to talk to each

Finally, at 0646 BST (0546 GMT) there was a breakthrou-

Flight director Chris Salvo announced to the waiting team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California: "Six wheels on the ground."

There was an ecstatic cheer from the 70-strong team. But they will now have to wait another day for the first high-resolution pictures because an hour after the vehicle moved off the ramp, the sun went down and the rover was left parked until the next Martian morning.

The Sojourner is a tiny robot, about the size of a bread-bin and weighing just 22 lbs (10 kg). It travels on six wheels, each of which can move independently to cope with the uneven Martian terrain.

Most of the power is provided by solar cells on the roof, and there is also a battery power pack for backup. It is controlled remotely from California, millions of miles

away. The Pathfinder probe had a near-perfect landing on 4

July - America's Independence Day - in the Ares Vallis, an ancient channel on Mars that may once have held water. The first reading sent back was of the temperature - a

freezing minus 93 degrees C. The probe has also sent back some astounding pictures of the barren, rock-strewn surface.

It showed massive dust storms in the pink Martian sky, one raging just 600 miles (950 km) south of the landing site. The mission is being followed avidly by millions on the internet through the official Mars Pathfinder website.

There is particular interest in what it may find following the controversial announcement by Nasa last August that it had found evidence of life in a Martian meteorite.

Courtesy BBC News

N CONTEXT

Although Sojourner was designed to operate for just one week, in fact it kept exploring Mars for nearly three months.

It covered more than 50,000 square yards (42,000 square metres) of territory around Pathfinder's landing site and sent back 550 images of the Martian surface. Pathfinder itself also took thousands of pictures.

They revealed new information about geological features on Mars and provided compelling evidence that the planet once contained

liquid water and was warm and wet, like the Earth. The Mars Global Surveyor, which arrived in September 1997, was also a success, providing tantalising hints of possible water beneath the surface.

However, the next missions, Mars Climate Orbiter and the Mars Polar Lander in 1999, were costly failures, putting the future of Mars exploration in doubt.

Then in 2001, the Mars Odyssey revived Nasa's fortunes with a remarkable geological map of the planet which transformed our knowledge of what Mars is made of.

The European Space Agency put the Mars Express into orbit around Mars in December 2003. In 2004, Nasa's Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, discovered

compelling evidence for the prolonged presence of water on the planet's surface.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Someone needs you today. It could be a friend or family member, a colleague or even a hungry kid at the other end of town. Make the most of what you've got!



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

It's hard to cut through the chatter and get to the heart of what's most important. You may just want to give in and let the day take you where it wants to go, but there's more to life than that.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

A money matter comes to the forefront, and it might cause more stress than it's worth. You can find an easy answer if you just push things a little. Someone close has the secret.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You're feeling pretty strange today — $\,$ thanks in part to an odd voice pulling you in a new direction. You're not going crazy, though! It's just a new side of your conscience making itself



Nov. 22-Dec. 21

This is not a good time to make - your energy is better haste parceled out in small doses. In fact, if you try to rush ahead, you'll almost certainly need to backtrack to correct



Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You need to reach out and connect with someone new today - though that may feel awkward at first. Things are actually going well for you, so it isn't that hard to push even harder.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your emotions are running away with you — but make sure that they're not the only force acting on your life. It's a good time for you to see about new outlets for this kind of energy.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Even if you're not quite finished with things, it's still a good time to clean up after yourself. Your energy is better spent on smaller tasks, though a big rush is on the



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your energy is meant for other people - so help out anyone you come across. It's a good time for you to rack up some karma and build up your cred among the



Scorpio

people who matter the most to you.

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

A good friend needs a favor — and you've got the energy to do it right! It's a great day for racking up karma and getting yourself back on track. You know what needs to happen next!



Capricorn

The details are all-important right now, and your great energy means that you've got them all sewn up. Someone in power is quite impressed by your presentation, which could mean a change for the better.



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

This is not a good day for research or trying to figure out what's really going on — if anything, you may find it harder than usual to understand basic information. That passes



SORRY-I THOUGHTYOU WERE TALKING TO YOURSELF.



SUDOKU

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Easy

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			4					

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA -			
Beijing	22	32	haze
Harbin	19	32	clear
Tianjin	22	32	cloudy
Urumqi	21	28	cloudy/shower
Xi'an	23	34	clear/cloudy
Lhasa	13	24	shower
Chengdu	22	25	heavy rain
Chongqing	26	34	cloudy
Kunming	18	25	shower
Nanjing	23	27	moderate rain
Shanghai	26	33	thundershower/cloudy
Wuhan	23	29	rainstorm/moderate rain
Hangzhou	26	36	cloudy/clear
Taipei	26	33	drizzle
Guangzhou	26	34	thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	shower
WORLD -			

Moscow	14	20	drizzle
Frankfurt	11	24	drizzle/cloudy
Paris	11	23	cloudy/clear
London	10	19	clear/cloudy
New York	21	31	drizzle/clear

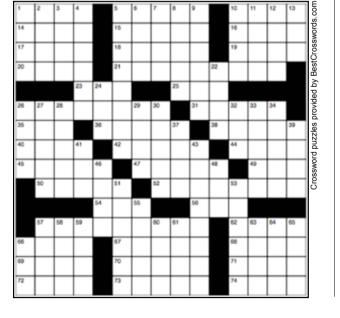
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- After-bath powder; 5- Shallow circular dish; 10- Cookbook amts.; 14- Currency exchange fee; 15- "See ya!"; 16- At the summit; 17- Boast; 18- Unescorted; 19- Turner of "Peyton Place"; 20- Puppeteer Tony; 21- Circumscribe; 23- Wide shoe width; 25- And so on; 26- Group of seven; 31- Word after Anglo; 35- Doc bloc; 36- Twangy, as a voice; 38- Big rigs; 40- Course; 42- Shinto temple gateway; 44- Car scar; 45- Troy story; 47- Nancy Drew author Carolyn; 49- Golyl; 50- Borden's spokescow; 52- Everlasses with titted lense; 54- Pie. 50- Borden's spokescow; 52- Eyeglasses with tinted lenses; 54- Pie ___ mode; 56- Tic-tac-toe win; 57- Lifelike; 62- Marsh bird; 66- Young male horse; 67- Classic Alan Ladd western; 68- "___ Tu" ('70s hit); 69- Amo, amas, ___; 70- Macho types; 71-Ladd western; 68- "__ Tu" ('70s hit); 69- Amo, amas, __; 70- Ma the finish; 72- Musical Horne; 73- It's a plus; 74- Garr or Hatcher; _; 70- Macho types; 71- ___

DOWN: 1- Bar bills; 2- Mogul capital until 1658; 3- Tale teller; 4- Equipped with cogs; 5- Table protector; 6- "Le Roi d'Ys" composer; 7- Like Uptight; 9- Puts up; 10- Anklebones;

11- Attempt; 12- Corn bread; 13- Mineral spring; 22- Some VCRs; 24- Ages; 26-but known...; 27- Author Zola; 28-Pesto ingredient; 29- "Dilbert" intern; 30-Challenges; 32- Crossed (out); 33- Last letter of the Greek alphabet; 34- Dressed 37- In _ __ of (replacing); 39-Canonized Fr. women: 41- Contains: 43-Without sin; 46- Clock face; 48- Big head; 51- Inventor Otis; 53- Go ballistic; 55-Remains of a fire; 57- Trevi Fountain site; 58- Oomph; 59- ___ boy!; 60- Highland hats; 61- Arrow poison; 63- Writer Sarah Jewett; 64- Posterior; 65- Italian wine center; 66- "Silent" prez





ÚSEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944 S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000 Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply - Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000 Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Howard Fendrich, London

It was raining, ever so slightly, and her Wimbledon fourth-round match was slipping away, ever so slightly, when Serena Williams stumbled as she ran to the net, winding up seated on the slick Centre Court grass.

Her opponent, two-time major champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, sent a shot flying past Williams to go up a break at 5-4 in the opening set.

Williams was slow to get up. She wasn't injured, but was worried she could be. Why, she demanded to know from chair umpire Marija Cicak, wasn't the retractable roof shut? Eventually, after one more game and much discussion, action was delayed for nearly 30 minutes while the cover was closed.

Whether it was the transformation to an indoor court, the strategy session the break allowed her to have with coach Patrick Mouratoglou or, as Williams suggested, simply the chance to calm down, she completely dominated the rest of the

TENNIS

Open and shut: With roof closed, Williams rolls at Wimbledon



Serena Williams

way, taking the last nine games to beat the 13th-seeded Kuznetsova 7-5,

"I'm so intense on the

court. I give 200 percent every time I'm out there. Every single point. Sometimes I just need to take a deep breath and relax. I just needed to do that. I can do that on the timeouts," said Williams, who is seeking her seventh Wimbledon title and 22nd Grand Slam trophy overall.

"That's one thing the past four years I've been really doing a lot of, just really taking a deep breath, re-collecting myself," the No. 1-ranked Williams continued. "I had a little more time to do it this time."

She wound up winning 24 of the match's last 29 points, and her 14 aces helped produce a "Did I read that right?" edge of 43-8 in winners.

The 13th-seeded Kuznetsova said she knew closing the roof would help Williams, but agreed it was the right decision, given how wet the grass was, saying: "I was afraid

[...] I'm not ready to risk [an] injury."

Williams moved into her 12th quarterfinal at the All England Club, and she'll be joined by her older sister Venus at that stage of the tournament for the first time since 2010.

A year after that, Venus revealed she had been diagnosed with an energy-sapping disease, and she hasn't approached the level of play that carried her to seven major titles, including five at Wimbledon. At 36 the oldest woman in the field, she eliminated 12th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro 7-6 (3), 6-4.

"It's wonderful when everything is working. But that's not a reality. I don't focus so much on, 'Oh, my gosh, everything feels good,' or, 'Oh, shoot, it feels bad," Venus said.
"It's about, 'Can I make
this play right now? If I
don't feel great, can I still
make this play?' That's
the mentality I go into my
matches with now."

The oldest man left is Roger Federer, who turns 35 on Aug. 8, and he looked in fine form after two days of rest, easily dismissing unseeded American Steve Johnson 6-2, 6-3, 7-5. Federer equaled Jimmy Connors> Open-era record by reaching his 14th Wimbledon quarterfinal and added to his own mark by making it at least that far at a major for the 48th time.

Federer now plays No. 9 Marilic, who beat him en route to the 2014 U.S. Open championship.

"He brushed me off the court," Federer recalled, "like I was nothing." **AP**

AD 🐚



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EURO 2016 | PREVIEW

Imperfect Portugal plots another escape vs. Wales in first semi

Joseph Wilson, Lyon

Thursday, 3:00am Portugal v Wales H 2.2, D 3.2, A 4.2

ON'T let Cristiano Ronaldo's devilish grin and chiseled torso fool you. Portugal is the undisputed ugly duckling of the four teams left standing at the European Championship.

While semifinal rival Wales, along with Germany and France, have all impressed with big wins to deservedly reach this stage, Portugal has only joined them after barely squeaking through each round.

And unless Ronaldo can rediscover his scoring touch, Portugal will struggle to find a way past an attack fueled by Gareth Bale when it plays Wales at the Stade de Lyon today [Thursday, 3am].

Portugal coach Fernando Santos, however, doesn't care about style or statistics.

"I would be bothered if I was at home and they were saying Portugal had played well but was no longer at the Euro," Santos said. "We have a goal and we are doing all we can to achieve it. We are not here to play pretty or ugly.

"We are going to take on an excellent opponent, which has more victories and scored more goals than we have, but we believe we are going to win."



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo stands on the pitch during the Euro 2016 Group F soccer match

How Santos' side has managed to reach its fourth semifinal appearance in the last five continental competitions is something of a mystery.

Portugal has yet to beat an opponent in 90 minutes of regulation play after five matches at Euro 2016.

Portugal limped into the round-of-16 after three draws, finishing third in Group F behind Hungary and Iceland. It then needed an extra-time goal from Ricardo Quaresma to see off Croatia 1-0 in one of the poorest matches of the tournament. Next came a quarterfi-

nal against Poland that Portugal claimed in a penalty shootout following its finish at 1-1 after 120 minutes.

All told, Portugal has been in the lead for a total of 22 minutes over the course of more than eight hours of football in France.

Yet, here they are, one win

away from the final in Paris on July 10.

Understandably enough, Portugal's players are focusing on the product, not the process.

"Criticism gives us more motivation," said midfielder Danilo, who is likely to start against Wales for the suspended Williams Carvalho. "It's not easy, we see it in the news but it motivates us. It makes us determined to prove them wrong."

To assume that credit goes to Ronaldo for Portugal staying in contention is incorrect.

Other than one performance that did meet the incredibly high standards the three-time world player of the year has set for himself, Ronaldo has counted more glaring misses than

Yes, the two goals he scored in Portugal's group match in Lyon were critical to salvaging a 3-3 draw with Hungary and advancing to the knockout rounds. But he has gone goal-less in the other four games, including a missed penalty.

Yet despite all its warts, if Portugal has gotten this far it is because Santos' players have become experts in the art of survival.

The greatest value they have shown throughout the tournament is the mental poise needed to perform error-free as the clock ticks down and the pressure mounts.

On no less than four occasions has Portugal stared at a deficit that spelled elimination; and not once did it flinch as it overcame three one-goal deficits against Hungary and an early goal from Poland.

Nor has it been all gloom on the pitch. Nani and Quaresma have picked up some of the scoring slack for Ronaldo, 18-yearold Renato Sanches is one of the tournament's sensations, and Pepe has played masterfully in defense. AP / Oddschecker.com



Wales' James Chester (left) and Wales' Hal Robson Kanu play with their children on the pitch at the end of the Euro 2016 quarterfinal

YES, it is cute but, no, it is not safe.

UEFA explained yesterday why it does not want players' children to join in post-match celebrations at the European Championship.

The scenes of toddlers in full Wales kit joining their dads on the pitch

after another Euro 2016 win has added to the surprise semifinalist's feelgood story and delighted spectators.

However, UEFA has asked for no more onfield family scenes when Wales plays Portugal in Lyon tomorrow [Thursday, Macau time].

UEFA asks players to keep their children off the grass

"It is a European Championship not a family party," UEFA's tournament director Martin Kallen said at a briefing.

"A stadium is not the most safe place for small kids," Kallen said. There could be problems if fans invaded the field, and stadium staff operating machinery on the playing surface could also be an issue.

Among the most vivid and defining images of Euro 2016 was Wales star Gareth Bale laughing and chasing his three-year-old daughter, Alba Violet, across the Parc des Princes pitch in Paris after a 1-0 win against Northern Ireland in the round of 16.

"To be able to share it with my daughter and my family was emotional for me," Bale said later. "Obviously I haven't seen them for four or five weeks now. It's an amazing experience, one I'll never forget."

After stunning Belgium in the quarterfinals last Saturday, an entire team's worth of players' children had a kickabout in the goalmouth in front of the Wales fans in the

stadium at Lille.

"It is nice pictures," acknowledged. Kallen "We are not 100 percent against it but we are cautious."

UEFA's request to the Wales football federation was first reported on Monday by The Associated Press.

The Wales team is following a recent football tradition of players celebrating with their children, especially after cup finals.

"It is getting more and more a habit that entire family members would

like to go on the pitch or into the technical area," Kallen said. "The principle is how far you go with having other people on the pitch than the players. People with accreditation cards should be on the pitch and not more."

Kallen said UEFA has a responsibility to identify risk and ensure safety inside stadiums.

"Small kids of five, six years — if something happened, what do you do afterwards? What do you say?" he said. "From our side there should be a certain order." AP

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opinion

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WIDENING THE SLOT

The government's decision to renew the concession contract with monopoly sports betting operator SLOT (Sociedade de Lotarias e Apostas Mútuas de Macau) for five more years took many industry experts by surprise. At a time when gaming revenues continue to plummet and the love for sports held by the Chinese, especially with regard to football, is fortuitously on the up-and-up it would only make sense to promote sports wagering as an additional source of mass-market revenue by bringing in new operators. Analysts have long been aware of the negative correlation between major sporting events and Macau's gross gaming revenues. They have once again concurred, singling out the UEFA Euro 2016 as the major factor in the poor performance of Macau casinos during the month of June (which recorded the lowest gross gaming revenue since September 2010).

Macau's loss may be other jurisdictions' gain, but what is more concerning is the gains made by illegal bookmakers who, according to news agency Xinhua, pocketed more than USD2.7 billion during the 2014 FIFA world cup. In that same year, Macau's sports wagering revenues totaled a comparatively meager USD92 million.

However, while the advantages of a competitive sports betting environment are easy to identify, a closer look at the existing framework is needed to understand why Macau lagged behind Nevada by 37% in 2015 sports betting revenues. Historically, Macau has taken a compartmentalized approach to gaming. This means that different gaming activities must be operated by different entities under separate concessions, and that they may not co-exist in the same physical space. It is for this reason that, unlike Las Vegas, you will not find sports betting lounges on a Macau casino floor. Moreover, while Vegas visitors may place bets on just about every sport there is, SLOT is only allowed to offer bets on football and basketball.

These restrictions not only make the Macau gaming experience a lot less fun than what it could be, but also deprives the industry of important sources of mass-market revenue. The removal of such obstacles cannot be achieved by simply scrapping SLOT's monopoly: liberalizing the sports betting market without substantially improving its regulatory framework could very well impair sustainable development of the MSAR.

When the market eventually opens up to other operators, I believe that SLOT will benefit as much from a competitive environment and the volume of business it will generate (albeit at a different scale) as did STDM through its subsidiary SJM, when its monopoly came to an end in 2002. More importantly, the Macau government will benefit from a different source of tax revenue (and potentially other forms of social contributions, like the promotion of local sports) that could partially offset the current drop in casino tax revenues.

However, by extending SLOT's concession contract until June 2021, the Macau government has granted the incumbent operator the opportunity to implement a long-term business plan – which, in all honesty, it had been prevented from doing when still subject to one-year renewals. That in itself will allow the operator to invest accordingly, namely in overcoming the issue of slow internet connection speeds, which is as much of a bottleneck for sports betting as is traffic congestion to Cotai casinos.

At the same time, the Government has pushed back a more thorough revision of the regulatory framework to a time when the renewal of casino concession contracts will be very much on the table. This may signal that they will eventually address these two issues, which in fact are one and the same: the convergence and improvement of Macau's gaming and entertainment offerings. This breakthrough will not come as fast as some would expect but compromises rarely do.

JAMIE FOXX & ANDY COHEN TO PLAY IN MLB CELEB SOFTBALL GAME

Jamie Foxx and Andy Cohen are joining J.K. Simmons and Pete Wentz to play in the 2016 MLB All-Star Legends and Celebrity Softball Game.

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, Olympic gold medalist Jennie Finch, and actors Terry Crews and Morris Chestnut will also participate July 10 at San Diego's Petco Park alongside former All-Star players Trevor Hoffman, Ozzie Smith, Rollie Fingers and Tim Raines. The softball game will air on ESPN immediately following the Home Run Derby on July 11. Tickets are on sale now.

Other celebrity players include actor Mark-Paul Gosselaar, Rico Rodriguez of "Modern Family," former soccer player Landon Donovan, models Nina Agdal and Damaris Lewis, and Disney Channel stars Raini Rodriguez, Peyton Meyer, Karan Brar and Cameron Boyce.

Roadside 10-30 Good High Density Residental Area 20-40 Good Ambient 20-40 Good

Air quality

Station

Japan, US agree to narrow definition of workers on US bases



From (left to right), Lt. Gen. John Dolan, commander of the U.S. military in Japan, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, and Japanese Defense Minister Minister Gen Nakatani

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN and the U.S. announced yesterday that they will reduce the number of civilians working on American military bases who receive immunity from Japanese prosecution, a step toward addressing outrage on Okinawa over a recent murder case on the island involving a Marineturned-contractor.

The two sides said civilians covered by the Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA, will be limited to those who meet more specific criteria than under the current definition. Education and monitoring of American troops and base workers will also be enhanced to try to cut back on crimes.

The largely symbolic change, however, does not involve a formal revision of the agreement.

The arrest in May of a Kadena Air Base contractor accused of raping and killing a 20-year-old local woman sparked renewed anger on Okinawa, where resentment has been simmering over a heavy U.S. troop presence and crime linked to the bases.

A number of drunken driving arrests of American servicemen and contractors in the weeks since, even when disciplinary measures were in place, have aggravated the sense of frustration among Okinawans. On Monday, Okinawan police arrested a technical sergeant at Kadena Air Base for suspected

drunken driving.

The announcement yesterday was made in Tokyo during talks among Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, Defense Minister Gen Nakatani, U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, and Lt. Gen. John Dolan, commander of the U.S. military in Japan.

Under the changes, base contractors, now described vaguely as "civilian component," will be classified in more specific terms, to exclude from preferential treatment those without skills and those who are residents of Japan, like murder suspect Kenneth Shinzato, who is a resident of Okinawa and married to a Japanese.

The new measures "will strengthen and modernize our alliance," Kennedy said. "We strive to be worthy of the trust and friendship of the communities around our bases in the entire Japanese nation."

About 50,000 American troops are stationed in Japan under a bilateral security agreement and about half are based on Okinawa. In addition, 7,000 Americans employed as "civilian components" were at U.S. military bases in Japan as of March, Nakatani said. AP

WORLD BRIEFS



AUSTRALIA Vote counting resumes in a dramatically close national election, three days after the contest failed to deliver an immediate winner and left the nation's leadership in doubt. But with officials warning that the victor may not be known for days, if not weeks, many were left wondering: What, exactly, is taking so long? More on p12

INDONESIA Police say a militant who died in a suicide bombing outside police headquarters in the city of Solo was linked to a leading figure among the Indonesian radicals with the Islamic State group in Syria. One policeman sustained minor injuries in the attack.

THAILAND The Justice Ministry says it has no plan to execute rapists who murder their victims, saying such a harsh penalty would provoke more rapists to kill. An official posted the comments on his Facebook page amid growing outrage over the suspected rape and murder of a 27-year-old teacher.

FIJI A New Zealand couple said they found a cloth bundle containing a severed head while strolling along a popular Fiji beach in what has become the latest gruesome discovery in a murder case that has captivated the picturesque South Pacific island nation. More on p12

PUERTO RICO A nearly 2-year-old girl has drowned at a government-run home for abused children. Police said that Emiliana Del Valle Colon drowned in a plastic pool that was set up without permission in recent days amid a heat wave. The child drowned Monday at the Casa Cuna de San Juan, which cares for abused and abandoned children up to 3 years of age.

LOTTERY The New York Lottery has created a new instant game allowing players to use mobile phones in conjunction with a traditional scratch game - something lottery officials say is a first in the nation. The game is called Gold Castle. It contains a bar code that can be scanned by a smartphone to create an image of a castle on the phone screen. Players then touch the castle to reveal prizes. The USD5 game is sold at traditional lottery retailers.

