



GALAXY NURTURES NEW VIPS

"A VIP can be either a big gambler or a big shopper," Galaxy's chief marketing officer Kevin Clayton told Bloomberg

P2



TAPESTRY EXPERT KEEPS THE TRADITION ALIVE

Arraiolos carpets have been around in Portugal since the 16th century and are now also becoming popular in Macau

P7 MDT REPORT



CHINESE GOV'T SUSPECTED OF HACKING IN THE US

P10

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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-VIETNAM Two Chinese aircraft landed on reefs disputed by Vietnam, and Beijing's coast guard reportedly blocked a Filipino boat from a contested shoal, in acts of defiance after a landmark ruling found China's vast claims in the South China Sea legally baseless. Vietnam protested yesterday that the recent Chinese actions seriously violated Vietnamese sovereignty. [More on p11](#)

AUSTRALIA With the dust still not settled from one of Australia's closest-ever elections, competing political factions have begun issuing demands — from banning Muslim immigration, scrapping a trade deal with China to imposing curbs on gambling — in return for supporting government legislation in the next Senate.

PAKISTAN The founder of Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba warned that violence in Indian-ruled Kashmir will escalate. Hafiz Saeed also said he will lead nationwide demonstrations in Pakistan to force its government to sever ties with the United States if Washington does not intervene in the Kashmir dispute.

UK The Bank of England kept interest rates on hold and refrained from injecting more money into the British economy yesterday, despite some clear evidence of the initial economic damage caused by the country's decision last month to leave the European Union.

More on backpage

AL PLENARY

Proposal to 'reinterpret' Land Law rejected

P5



Indonesian police officers escort suspected militants arrested this year in raids in Malang, East Java. Terrorism experts say the threat from the militants, spread across predominantly Muslim Indonesia, Malaysia and the southern Philippines, should not be underestimated and they could be transformed into a more dangerous force by training and leadership.

IS recruits in SE Asia a rising threat despite weak attacks

P12 FEATURE

Extra

Going for GOLD

times

weekend Guide

INSIDE

Galaxy nurtures new VIPs as Macau gaming rebound elusive

Daniela Wei

AS Macau's gambling slump extends beyond a second year, the casino operator that's benefited the most from the city's decade-long focus on Chinese VIP gamblers is trying to lure a new breed of "very important persons" to prop up non-gaming revenue.

Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. is now rewarding big shoppers with free hotel stays and access to resort facilities, some of the perks once reserved for high-rolling gamblers. "A VIP can be either a big gambler or a big shopper," chief marketing officer Kevin Clayton said in an interview. While high-stakes gamblers remain an important source of income in Macau, the company is redefining its VIP label, he said.

The move comes as Galaxy's operating margins shrink amid an outflow of high-end customers. While VIP gamblers from China helped Macau leapfrog Las Vegas to become the world's largest casino hub over the past decade, the segment has nosedived since 2014 as China President Xi Jinping's crackdown on corruption scared off the high-rollers. Macau has been trying to reinvent itself to attract more tourists and recreational gamblers.

Galaxy Macau, the Hong Kong-based operator's flagship



property that completed a major expansion in May 2015, this month started to reward customers who spend more than MOP10,000 a day with shopping vouchers and free use of the resort's facilities. Those who spend triple that amount enjoy a complimentary night in its hotels.

The promotions come as pro-

A VIP can be either a big gambler or a big shopper.

KEVIN CLAYTON

jects introduced in the past year, including Galaxy's two new casinos and Melco Crown's USD3.2 billion Studio City, failed to bring about a recovery in Macau's gambling receipts. Melco will switch gears from its recent focus on leisure gamblers, as Studio City readies to open its first VIP gambling rooms.

Galaxy's "VIP shoppers" may help it to drive traffic and boost revenue from retail, a business with one of the highest profit margins in Macau, said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang.

If stores in Galaxy's properties generate more sales through the latest promotion, it will help boost the operator's bargaining

power when rentals come up for renewal, she said. These big shoppers are likely to gamble as well, Huang said.

Macau casinos are due to start announcing second-quarter earnings from later this month, and the operators are expected to show declines in gaming revenue, China visitors, and VIP patronage during the period, Huang said in a note yesterday. Sands China Ltd. will kick off the reporting period when parent Las Vegas Sands Corp. holds its investor call in late July, she wrote.

Macau's gaming industry needs to adjust by boosting its revenue share from recreational players in order to develop the city in a sustainable way,

Paulo Chan, head of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, the government regulator, said Wednesday. The city plans to increase the proportion of casinos' non-gaming revenue to nine percent by 2020 from 6.6 percent in 2014, according to the city's five-year development plan.

Resorts in Macau need to refine the collection of retail brands in their malls to get the right mix, said Clayton, who used to work for Galaxy competitor Sands China Ltd. and Australia-based gaming company Tabcorp Holdings Ltd.

In addition to top luxury stores for high-spending clients, stylish brands similar to that by British designer Alexander McQueen will be introduced in Galaxy's properties to capture the "significant growth" of middle-class Chinese shoppers, he said.

Capturing the fancy of China's middle-class will be an uphill struggle, as Chinese consumers can now spend on an expanding buffet of options, including leisure trips to neighboring Japan and a new Disney resort on their doorsteps. Shanghai Disneyland, which opened June 16, is a concern for Macau as it could result in fewer visits by the Chinese due to overlapping customers, according to a Morgan Stanley research note this month.

"With gambling and retail, Macau is a one-night stay destination. It needs to provide more entertainment," said Jacques Penhirin, partner and head of Greater China of management consultancy Oliver Wyman on Wednesday. "We need big concerts, big shows and conventions." **Bloomberg**

THE Tourist Price Index (TPI) for the second quarter of 2016 has dropped by 7 percent year-on-year to 125.19.

According to data released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service, a significant decrease in hotel accommodation charges and airfares resulted in the price index of Accommodation going down by 29.27 percent, with the year-on-year decline increasing since the fourth quarter of 2014.

The price index of Transport & Communications also plunged by 11.32 percent year-

Tourist prices plunge in second quarter

on-year, while the price index of Restaurant Services and Miscellaneous Goods rose by nearly 2 percent.

In comparison with the previous quarter, TPI for the second quarter of 2016 has decreased by 8.25 percent.

The price index for Accommodation and Transport & Communications fell by 32.37 percent and 17.13 percent respectively as a result of the marked decrease in hotel room

rates and airfares after the Lunar New Year.

However, by contrast, the price index of Clothing & Footwear rose by 4.74 percent quarter-to-quarter.

The average TPI for the previous four quarters ending with the second quarter of 2016 fell by 4.86 percent from the previous year period, with a significant decrease being observed in the price index of Accommodation (-18.32 percent)

and Clothing & Footwear (-3.10 percent).

For the first half year of 2016, TPI went down by 6.83 percent year-on-year. Within this figure, price index of Accommodation and Transport & Communications decreased by 26 percent and 4 percent respectively.

The price index of Food, Alcoholic Drinks & Tobacco and Restaurant Services saw an increase of 2.4 percent and 1.7 percent respectively.



Tourists walk past a clothing stores at Studio City casino resort

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Grand Prix Museum to temporarily close

HELENA de Senna Fernandes, Director of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), says that the Grand Prix Museum will be closed possibly starting from the first half of next year for renovation. The initial budget to revamp the facility comes in at MOP300 million, she said, speaking on the sidelines of an American Chamber of Commerce event (see below).

Earlier this year, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, had announced



Helena de Senna Fernandes

that Macau will spend two to three years to complete the renovation process of the museum to rebuild it into a Grand Prix themed museum.

According to Senna Fernandes, the new theme of the museum will occupy the whole space of the Tourism Activities Centre, which is currently loca-

ted solely at the basement level.

The construction will start with simple renovation works undertaken inside the building, such as maintenance of the cooling system, because, as told by Fernandes, "we need to prepare for this year's Grand Prix." This comment indicates that large-scale renovation works will only be initiated after the next Grand Prix.

Opened in 1993 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Macau Grand Prix, the current museum showcases several racing cars and motorbikes alongside

other memorabilia related to the famous local race.

The themed museum will continue to have an exhibition section in addition to establishing an experience section, where visitors can experience 4D driving. "It will be changed from head to foot," said Fernandes, who also revealed that her department is discussing with facilities' suppliers, as well as with some large companies, in order to understand if all the aforementioned projects can be achieved and if new inspiration can be drawn.

By the time the renovation project commences, the Wine Museum, located in the same building, will be moved to Coloane, although "a definite location hasn't been settled yet," according to Senna Fernandes.

The protection of the Coloane village requires the department to first assess the situation of Coloane, as explained by the bureau's director.

The MGTO plans to invite bids for the construction contract of the future museum in the first half of next year, and hopes the project can be completed by 2018. **Staff reporter**

American Chamber foresees second investment boom

THE head of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), Paul Tse, claimed that Macau's American partners are ready to continue contributing to a healthy partnership. Tse believes that the government's plan for the tourism sector will lead to a positive outcome, according to TDM.

Earlier this week, the AmCham hosted a luncheon where there were talks about tourism and the economic diversification of Macau.

Tse noted that Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, the director of the Government Tourism Office (MGTO), said in her presentation that "after a total reliance on gaming for so many years, Macau is now on a very concrete path to diversify its economic activities from gaming into other auxiliary areas." Tse also noted that Macau's American partners have benefited from cross-continental investments, particularly after Macau's handover in 1999.

Official data shows that US investment in the city has already topped ten billion US dollars. Nevertheless, Tse foresees a second boom of investments in the near future that is not simply driven by the casinos and the hospitality sector.

"Even more important is the fact that the breath and depth of tourism in Macau are going to be greatly enhanced over the next few years through careful planning and effective execution," observed Tse.

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AL PLENARY

Proposal to 'reinterpret' Land Law rejected

Renato Marques

THE president of the Legislative Assembly (AL), Ho Iat Seng, revealed yesterday that the proposal to add a so-called "interpretative note" to the Land Law, submitted to the assembly by lawmaker Gabriel Tong, has already been rejected by the board.

The assembly's board, which consists of the president and vice-president of the AL and their two assistants, considered that Tong's proposal is not just an interpretative note but an "innovative" input to change the current law in at least one of its regulatory norms. Such a change would require authorization from the Chief Executive (CE) and would need to be discussed at the plenary, they concluded.

"The board reached a consensus that this proposal is not just for an interpretative effect of the law but, instead, aims to add a new regulatory norm on the Land Law for which we must gain first the permission and authorization from the



Ho Iat Seng

CE because this falls under the exclusive powers of the government," Ho Iat Seng said. He added: "We already spoken to the legislator [Gabriel Tong] in order to request him to [secure] the CE's authorization, but he has refused."

According to the AL president, the lawmaker Gabriel Tong wrongly claims "his proposal is just a motion for the reinterpretation of the law, [but that opinion] conflicts with the understanding of the AL board."

Ho separately said that he

has solicited to the AL staff to start preparing the relevant documents and recordings from the committee meetings that analyzed the bill, in order to advance the discussions in case the proposal gets the "green light" from the CE.

New Taxi regulation under discussion

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) was gathered yesterday to discuss the new taxi regulation currently being prepared by the government. An earlier government intention for the bill to enter into the legislative process in May never transpired.

The initiative was started by a solicitation to the AL by the lawmakers Mak Soi Kun and Zheng Anting to debate on the matter of public interest that has been gathering both support and criticism from several sectors of society.

In his presentation to the plenary, legislator Mak Soi Kun expressed concerns, namely regarding the penalties to be applied to taxi drivers at fault and the taxi license owners, as well as the use of "undercover passive agents" and a "voluntary sound recording system."

Many legislators were keen to address the issue. Ella Lei remarked that the "bad image" built up over the years is in her opinion "due to a number of bad taxi drivers that tarnish the image of the whole profession." Many other legislators shared the opinion.

As for the government side, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário informed that a public consultation on the topic was conducted in 2014 and since then "we have been making some improvements, helped by police actions that also contributed to improve the quality of the taxi service."

Eventually the secretary also agreed with the lawmakers including Ella Lei, expressing his hopes that "we don't focus too much on the sanctions as not all taxi drivers have problems." He also claimed that the new licenses issued and to start operating shortly will increase the number of taxis from the current 1,400 until the 1,600 expected to be in operation by the end of this year.

On the other hand, lawmaker Chan Iek Lap did not agree with the idea of having more taxis on the roads.

"More licenses will further jeopardize the survival of taxi drivers," he claimed.

In response, Zheng Anting said that "Macau isn't lacking in the number of taxis but in their distribution," clarifying that, "there are places with many taxis and others with none."

But the matter in which lawmakers are furthest away from reaching an agreement is in regard to whether penalties should be applied to license owners whose taxi drivers are found at fault. Mak Soi Kun at the end of the debate counted [at least] "eight legislators that do not agree with [the implementation of] this measure." **RM**

Graft watchdog report under analysis from DSSOPT

WHEN questioned by the press on the sidelines of the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário said that the Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) is currently analyzing the report released by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) regarding the investigation on the Iec Long Firecracker Factory land swap case.

"DSSOPT is already analyzing the process and will propose or take the measures that they will find necessary and convenient," said Rosário adding that right now it is too early to arrive at conclusions on the analysis within the report released by the graft watchdog on Wednesday. He also mentioned that no deadline has been set for detailed study of the report by the Public Works and Transport Bureau.

"The report was published only yesterday and after only 24 hours I still don't have conclusions. There isn't a deadline [I haven't set one] but I think in a reasonable time there will be conclusions of that analysis that is being



Raimundo do Rosário (center)

done," he said, not excluding the possibility of disciplinary procedures being taken by the DSSOPT.

The high-ranked official reaffirmed his position about the case saying "if I proposed to the Chief Executive [CE] that the process would be sent to the CCAC it would be because I thought that there were justifiable reasons for that." He further remarked in the observation of the law, that the bureau will follow the same procedure for any cases that might arise in the future.

"When I detect any situation like this I will do the same," he said, adding that "for now the only situation that has been brought to my attention and that I have proposed to the CE during in the last 18 to 19 months was this one. I'm not saying that there aren't others. I'm just saying when and if any others arise I would do the same and would propose the same to the CE. I don't have to have any feelings about this, I just need to receive the report, read it and observe the indications stated there," he concluded.

The president of the AL, Ho Iat Seng, also commented on the results of the report saying "I haven't made a complete reading yet [of the report], but from what I read in the press I consider that: first - the analysis of CCAC was correct; and second - I must say that I consider that the communication was on the right timing and that many works will follow after this report is released." He indicated that he agreed with the words of the CE, stating that "in case irregularities are detected, the person at stake must assume their responsibilities." **RM**

Horse racing revenues continue to decrease



The Macau Horse Racing Company has announced that its losses in 2015 have increased 72.7 percent compared to 2014. According to a notice published in the Official Gazette, the company, which runs the Macau Jockey Club, lost more than MOP88m last year. The accumulated losses of the horse racing company (that has not seen a profit since 2005) are inching closer to MOP4b. The company's management has provided no comment on the reasons behind the negative results. Last month, SJM executive director Angela Leong informed that they were investigating new strategies in order to improve business for the next horse racing season.

REAL ESTATE

JLL: Property market expected to stabilize

JONES Lang LaSalle (JLL) Macau believes that the city's property market will move forward as part of the current economic transformation.

The real estate agency held a press conference yesterday at the FIT building to give a mid-year property review in which they forecasted the market conditions for the coming year.

According to the company's representatives, the volume of transactions within Macau's residential market rebounded slightly in the first quarter of 2016, with transactions being dominated by residential units valued at less than six million patacas, which accounted for roughly 80 percent of total residential sales.

With respect to the leasing market, high-end residential rental values saw a significant decline of 29 percent. In turn, rental values for mass-to-medium residential properties fell by 24.6 percent during the same period due to the conclusion of



Jeff Wong (2nd left) pictured with other JLL executives

several residential conglomerates in 2015 that increased the market's supply.

"Given the low unemployment rate in Macau and the new gaming facilities scheduled for completion in 2016, we expect residential prices in the second quarter of 2016 to remain stable around current levels with only minor fluctuations," said Jeff Wong, the Head of Residential at JLL Macau.

Wong added that the mass-medium residential market will continue to be sustained by the demand from end-users, however "the lack of new supply in the mass-medium sector may lead to

a future mismatch between demand and supply."

According to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the total number of new incorporations registered in Macau during the first four months of 2016 was only 1,476, down 29.3 percent year-on-year. The overall office leasing market also saw a decline. Nonetheless, according to Alison Yip, the Associate Director of Capital Markets at JLL Macau, some international insurance companies were willing to commit to larger office spaces in order to carry their expansion.

As of the end of June 2016, the

overall office vacancy rate edged up to about 8 percent, while office supply remained at a low level. The investment yields for the overall office market and for the Grade A office market rose to 2.7 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively.

"We expect to see some gaming operators relocating their operations from the existing offices to the new projects. This may lead to a rise in office vacancy rate," explained Yip.

The DSEC statistics show that total retail sales fell by 11.2 percent. According to the JLL Macau Retail Index, overall retail capital values dropped by 23.6 percent. Local consumption accounts for 63.5 percent of Macau's total retail sales.

Oliver Tong, the Associate Director of Retail at JLL Macau, considers that "some gaming operators and developers have already changed their strategies and have started to explore the development of retail projects targeting local residents and families visiting Macau."

Overall, JLL takes a positive stance in regards to Macau's property market in the near future. In particular, Wong believes that the Macau government is putting efforts into the city's economic transformation, which he considers to be a good sign for the city's property market. **Staff reporter**

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Lynzy Valles

Portuguese tapestry expert keeps the tradition alive in Macau

ARRAIOLOS carpets have been around in Portugal since the 16th century and are now also becoming popular in Macau. A locally based Portuguese woman who grew up producing such rugs with her family brought the practice over to Macau hoping to preserve her family's heritage.

Vera Fernandes, who moved to Macau in 2011, brought the Portuguese traditional tapestry into the region three years ago, starting up the project Handmade Arraiolos with the sole intent of keeping her parents busy, as she had convinced them to move to Macau with her.

In collaboration with Casa de Portugal, Fernandes and her mother, Isabel Fernandes, hold weekly tapestry workshops. Isabel Fernandes used to have two ateliers in Portugal together with her late husband and expertise on reconstructing old Arraiolos carpets. Vera mainly manages the promotion of the traditional tapestry while Isabel is keener on recreating and creating the traditional tapestry in the region.

Most of Handmade Arraiolos workshops students are Macanese. "It's good because it feels that people want to know more about [the tradition of] Portugal," Vera Fernandes told the Times.



Isabel Fernandes pictured sewing a carpet



Isabel Fernandes, Vera Fernandes and other family members

She says that the main purpose of the project is not business related, because they would prefer to set up exhibitions of their works outside the region.

"It's not something that we're going to open [and do it as] a business because this art has been in our family for so many years."

Fernandes said that most of their clients are locals or from the mainland, and that the number of people attending her workshops is increasing.

Although she explained that Arraiolos (the name of a village in Portugal) tapestry is similar to cross-stitch, she stressed that there are specific techniques that make the production unique.

Fernandes also admitted that there have been challenges in sharing the techniques to those attending the workshops since there are similar types of works done in China.

"In China they do it without technique [...] and we teach our

students to understand the difference in the materials," she explained, adding that all the materials they use are imported from Portugal.

Fernandes said that some of the workshop's students currently make and sell Arraiolos carpets, something that she considers very rewarding.

"This is something that we've passed on through generations. [...] We teach our students to share the image and culture of

Portugal," she said.

Fernandes admitted that they do not make a substantial amount of money from selling their work and holding the workshops.

"We drive it with [our] hearts, not with the goal of making a fortune out of it. It's something that I don't want to die in our family," she stressed. "It's part of our origin. My kids are growing up here but in the end, we're still Portuguese, so I try to push them a little bit into their roots."

Fernandes believes that the region's education system should bring back home economics lessons to local schools. "It's incredible because some people who come to our classes don't even know how to put the wool inside the needle," she said.

She stressed that such activities should still be taught in school because they are the "basic things in life."

"There's such a lack of this kind of knowledge [nowadays] that schools should be teaching," she noted.

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THE VENETIAN MACAO

REAL ESTATE MATTERS
Is my security deposit safe?
Part 1 of 3

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



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There are some horror stories and rumors about how tenants are unable to recover their security deposits from unscrupulous landlords.

With rents being as high as they are and the security deposit usually consisting of two months rent, it is a significant amount of money.

When a tenant is moving to a new apartment, the deposit is often relied upon to cover the deposit on the next rental property.

In order to reduce concerns over your security deposit there are some elements to consider. In this article we look at:

- 1. Where is the deposit held?
2. What deductions can be made against the deposit?
3. What steps can you take to ensure you get your deposit back?
4. What happens if something goes wrong?

Where is the deposit held?

When you agree the terms of the lease and secure the property, you will pay a security deposit usually equal to 2 months rent.

Depending on who you are dealing with, your deposit will be recorded and a receipt given which should be kept for future reference.

Prior to handing over the money,

you should also ask who would hold the deposit?

If you are dealing through an agency, the deposit may be held by the agent on behalf of the landlord as they can act as a neutral party.

If however your landlord does not pay for a managed service you may find the deposit is passed on to them, in which case they will hold the deposit.

What deductions can be made against a security deposit?

Whilst you want to have your whole security deposit returned, there are some deductions that are unavoidable. Let's examine the different elements;

A- Utility Charges - Unavoidable

When you check out of your apartment, there will be an amount of electricity, water and gas consumed since the last bill was paid.

To calculate the amount, take the last paid bill and check the meter reading on that bill. Then check the meter's current reading, and the difference between these two numbers is the amount of units consumed.

You then calculate the amount of money owed for utility usage based on the charge per unit.

B- Wear & Tear charges - Avoidable

Wear and tear means the deterioration of an item through everyday usage. For example, a floor will show wear and tear through people walking on it. However, should there be any other marks on the floor such as dents or gouges, this would be considered damage.

C- Damage and breakages - Avoidable

Damage is anything outside of reasonable 'wear and tear' as described above, and of course breakages are self-explanatory.

There are some grey areas in this category. For example, if the washing machine no longer works but it is already 6 years old, it would not be reasonable to pay for a brand new machine.

D- Outstanding Rent - Avoidable

According to Macau Law, the security deposit cannot be used to cover back rent. Simply put, a deposit should only be returned once all rents are paid and up to date.

Next week we look at steps that you can take to get a full refund of your security deposit, and what choices do you have if the deposit is not refunded.

Advertisement for MACAUCLOSER.COM featuring the slogan 'KNOW MORE LIVE BETTER' and '活得更好'. It includes social media icons and the website URL.

Large advertisement for PokerStars LIVE Macau featuring the text 'SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC' and 'SATURDAY SUPER STACK'. It includes details about the tournament schedule and location at Cotai Macau SAR.

China's love for SUVs hits maker of Chairman Mao's Red Flag limo

THE maker of Chairman Mao's Red Flag limousine is finding it tough to compete as Chinese buyers increasingly desert sedans for SUVs.

FAW Car Co., a publicly traded unit of state-owned China FAW Group, will post a loss of as much as 850 million yuan (USD127 million) for the first six months after turning a profit of 168.8 million yuan in the year-earlier period. The company's sedan-heavy lineup has performed poorly in today's market, where consumers favor sport utility vehicles and crossovers for their higher ride and bigger space.

"The company's products are concentrated on sedans and the segment has slowed down even as overall passenger-vehicle sales maintained steady growth in the first half," the Changchun, China-based company, which also produces vehicles with Mazda Motor Corp., said in a statement to the Shenzhen stock exchange. "Sales have also declined in line with competitiveness given the aging models. In the second half, the company will strive to accelerate the introduction of new models and try its best to increase sales."

Demand for SUVs has been

rising as increasingly affluent Chinese buyers opt for more spacious vehicles, a trend that may continue with the scrapping of the country's decades-old one-child policy. The introduction of cheaper SUVs has also forced automakers to cut prices on sedans, crimping profit margins.

SUVs accounted for 35 percent of total passenger-vehicle sales in the first six months, compared with 27 percent in the same period a year earlier, according to Passenger Car Association data. Sales of SUVs surged 45 percent in the period, outpacing the 9.5 percent gain in the broader passenger-vehicle market. Sedan deliveries, by contrast, fell 3.1 percent, outpaced in decline only by mini-commercial vans.

FAW, whose predecessor First Automotive Works was started in the 1950s to spearhead the development of an auto industry in China, produced the first Hongqi, or Red Flag, on Aug. 1, 1958. Today, it produces the L5, used to ferry senior officials, and the H7 sedan. The automaker's other brand, the Besturn, features five main models, four of which are sedans.

Bloomberg

SARs residents surge into Zhuhai's property market

ZHUHAI has made 34 land transactions in the first half of 2016 in to an enclosing area of approximately 2,303,400 square meters. This represents an increase of 24.59 percent year-on-year. The land turnover was approximately RMB8.075 billion, according to a report by Southern Metropolis Daily.

On average, the price per square meter in the whole city reached RMB16,432 in June, ranking ninth most expensive in mainland China.

The most expensive properties in the city are located in the Jinwan district (part of the west district). According to a report by Herogoo International, a real estate consultation company from Zhuhai, the Jinwan district alone saw 3,892 units sold in the first half of this year, which corresponds to an 80 percent growth compared to the same period last year. The average price per square meter sits at RMB 14,057, also a significant jump of 70 percent.

Zhuhai Housing, Urban and Rural Planning Construction Bureau (ZHZZGJ) revealed that the most expensive land was sold for one billion RMB at the Jinwan district, wherein 11 residences will be built, each comprising 34 stories.

The Herogoo International report pointed out that



Cranes operate at a residential construction site in the Gongbei district of Zhuhai

the Jinwan district has been attracting a large number of investors from mainland China, as many of them are charmed by the proximity to Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai. The report also revealed that also in the Jinwan district, residents of Macau and Hong Kong also constitute the largest source of customers, in addition

to other investors from the Pearl Delta River regions.

Earlier this year, Zhuhai lifted all home purchasing restrictions on house units for both residents and non-residents. Now, anyone is allowed to buy residences of less than 144 square meters without providing social security and tax payment proofs. **Staff reporter**



A man climbs out from the Yuan, BYD's latest Plug-in Hybrid mini SUV, introduced at the BYD Dreams Conference in Beijing

corporate bits

MANDARIN ORIENTAL ANNOUNCES NEW CHINESE EXECUTIVE CHEF



Mandarin Oriental Macau appointed Wong Tak Wing as its new Chinese executive chef. Bringing over 22 years of expertise, the chef aims to bring the dining experience to the next level by overseeing the hotel's Chinese culinary operations and launching his signature menu at Vida Rica Restaurant.

The newly-launched menu highlights a modern approach of

healthy and green eating within traditional Cantonese cuisine.

A Hong Kong native, Chef Wong was born into a fishing family, has a profound knowledge of seafood, and is well-known for his seafood specialties.

The chef has worked in some of Hong Kong's most popular Michelin-starred restaurants, including Lei Garden, Ming Garden and Nanhai No. 1.

BIG BAND TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN

Big Band, a South Korean boy band, will make their triumphant return to the region with "2016 Big Band Made [V.I.P.] Tour In Macau" on September 3 and 4 at The Venetian's Cotai Arena.

The two shows will be held at 8 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively.

Big Band held their first ever concert at The Venetian Macao during their 2015 world tour.

According to a joint press release of Elf Asia, Live Nation and The Venetian, the band's tour will bring together elements of an amazing mini-concert performance along with an interactive fan meeting in one show, which is sure to deliver a brand new experience to their audiences.



Ticket sales to the public will begin on August 5 through Cotai Ticketing outlets and The Venetian's website, while tickets will also be sold at Hong Kong Ticketing Box Offices, K11 Select and Tom Lee Music Stores from August 6.

MCE'S BLOOD DRIVE SEES INCREASE IN PARTICIPANTS

Melco Crown Entertainment Limited held a blood drive last week which received a great response from its employees, as the participation has hit a new record this year of 200.

The gaming operator has been organizing the annual blood drive since 2013. Over the years, more than 1,300 employees have participated in the activity, according to a press release issued by MCE.

This year, practice nurses from the Macau Blood Transfusion Services Center set up a temporary blood donation station at both Studio City and City of Dreams.

"We are very supportive of the noble cause to give the gift of life, and to replenish the blood



bank in Macau. Over the past few years, MCE has built a very good relationship with the team at the Macau Blood Transfusion Services Center. We endeavor to organize another major blood drive later this year," said Akiko Takahashi, executive vice president, chief officer of human resources and CSR of Melco Crown Entertainment.

Marcy Gordon, Washington

Gov't suspected of hacking into FDIC computers

THE Chinese government is believed to have hacked into computers at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in 2010, 2011 and 2013, including the workstation of then-FDIC Chair Sheila Bair, a congressional report says.

The report issued Wednesday by the Republican majority staff of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee cites a May 2013 memo from the FDIC inspector general to agency Chairman Martin Gruenberg. The memo described an "advanced persistent threat," said to have come from the Chinese government, which compromised 12 computer workstations and 10 servers at the FDIC.

In addition to those incidents, the committee staff has been investigating the FDIC's response to a number of what it calls major data breaches at the agency and whether it is properly safeguarding consumers' banking information.

Zhu Haiquan, the spokesman at the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said he didn't have detailed information on the report's findings. "China firmly opposes and is committed to combatting all forms of cyber-crimes," Haiquan said in a statement. "China and the United



States have already established a high-level joint dialogue mechanism on fighting cybercrime and related issues. This is the best channel for both sides to address this challenge. Making unfounded accusations is counterproductive."

The issue of suspected Chinese government hacking has been sensitive since the disclosure last year of a massive breach of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's databases, which the U.S. believed was carried out

by Chinese cyber spies. In one of the worst data breaches in U.S. history, the personal files of 21 million Americans were stolen, and the federal personnel agency came under fire for neglecting to put in basic cybersecurity protections to prevent the plunder.

The OPM breach dealt the U.S. a major national security blow, experts say, by exposing the personal information and foreign contacts of millions of people with security clearances.

Chinese and U.S. officials held talks last month in Beijing to bridge differences on cybersecurity amid complaints over China-based hacking operations that the U.S. says may already have cost U.S. companies tens of billions of dollars. U.S. officials have been especially eager to build on an agreement forged during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Washington last September under which neither government will support commercial cyber-theft.

Created during the Great Depression to insure bank deposi-

ts, the FDIC maintains a multi-billion-dollar insurance fund. It monitors and examines the financial condition of U.S. banks, keeping confidential information on about 9,000 banks and savings and loans.

The House committee's chairman, Republican Lamar Smith of Texas, said the staff report shows the FDIC's "lax cybersecurity effort." He accused the agency of trying to stonewall the committee in its investigation.

On the suspected Chinese ha-

cking, the report says the "advanced persistent threat" compromised FDIC computers in 2010, 2011 and April 2013. "In essence, a foreign government penetrated FDIC's computers and the workstations of high-level agency officials," including Bair, the then-chief of staff and the then-general counsel, it says.

The agency watchdog inspector general criticized the FDIC in the 2013 memo for violating its own policies, according to the report. **AP**

BUSINESSMAN GETS NEARLY 4 YEARS IN US HACKING CASE

A CHINESE businessman was sentenced to nearly four years in prison this week for conspiring to export sensitive military information to China after accessing the computer systems of U.S. defense contractors, including Boeing. Su Bin was sentenced to 46 months in prison in federal court in Los Angeles. He had faced 30 years

in prison before reaching a plea agreement with prosecutors in March. His attorneys were requesting two and a half years. The 51-year-old Bin admitted to conspiring with two unnamed hackers in China to export U.S. military information to the communist nation between 2008 and 2014, according to Bin's plea agreement.

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Vietnam protests Beijing's activities in South China Sea



does not recognize the decision. Vietnam Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Hai Binh demanded Beijing cease actions that complicate the situation.

"Despite the opposition of Vietnam and concerns by the international community, those actions conducted by China have seriously violated Vietnam's sovereignty and are unlawful and cannot change the fact about Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes," Binh told reporters, referring to the Paracel and Spratly islands in the South China Sea.

Binh reiterated that Vietnam has all "legal basis and historical evidences" to affirm its sovereignty over the two island chains.

Six regional governments have overlapping claims in the South China Sea, waters that are rich in fishing stocks and potential energy resources and where an estimated USD5 trillion in global trade passes each year.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said yesterday that "if anyone challenges China's rights and interests by taking provocative actions" based on the ruling, "China will surely make a resolute response."

Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin on Wednesday said that said Beijing could declare an air defense identification zone over the waters if it felt threatened, a move that would sharply escalate tensions.

Although it claims some of the same land features as the Philippines, Vietnam welcomed the arbitration process initiated by Manila and took a strong position against Beijing in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The government said it will study the ruling before commenting on it. AP

VIENTNAM yesterday protested China's recent activities in the disputed South China Sea, saying they seriously violate Vietnamese sovereignty.

disputed reefs and was launching a fifth.

The latest developments came as a U.N. arbitration tribunal this week ruled that China's vast territorial claims are violating international maritime law. The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled in favor of the Philippines, which challenged Beijing's expansive claims to virtually the entire South China Sea. Beijing says it

ONE SHOT NEWS



The "We're All Smurfs" exhibition opened at the Harbor City in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong. A total of 35 Smurfs will be presented during the exhibition which will last until Aug. 9



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美高梅

SINGAPORE Exchange malfunction ruins CEO's first anniversary



It's safe to say this isn't how Loh Boon Chye pictured his one-year anniversary as chief executive officer of Singapore Exchange Ltd. Not only was Southeast Asia's biggest bourse forced to halt stock trading at 11.38 a.m. local time yesterday because of a technical malfunction, it failed to follow through on two pledges to restart the market. SGX eventually said trading would remain closed for the rest of the day. Loh, who took over at the company on July 14, 2015, replaced Magnus Bocker just a few months after the Swede was forced into a public apology in the wake of two trading disruptions in the space of a month. Those mishaps led to a reprimand from the Monetary Authority of Singapore. The latest breakdown was at least the second malfunction at the exchange operator in the past year, after a near two-hour disruption in derivatives trading in August.

SOUTH KOREA Central bank lowers growth outlook on Brexit

South Korea's central bank lowered its growth outlook on Asia's fourth-largest economy yesterday, citing Britain's decision to leave the European Union. South Korea's economy will likely expand 2.7 percent this year, compared with its April prediction of 2.8 percent, Bank of Korea said. Next year, it will eke out 2.9 percent growth. The downward revision follows the Finance Ministry's outlook cut last month. It confirms worries that South Korea's once dynamic economy will go through a period of slow growth. The bank blamed a drag in the global economic recovery due to increased uncertainties caused by Britain's decision to leave the EU.

INDIA Increasing demand for air bags

The increasing demand for vehicular air bags in India has prompted Japanese automotive parts manufacturer Toyoda Gosei Co. to set up another plant to provide them. The new factory will cost about 900 million yen (USD8.5 million) to build and supply air bags and other parts to parent Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co. and Suzuki Motor Corp.'s India unit, said Takatomo Abe, a spokesman for Toyoda Gosei. While India doesn't have laws requiring automakers to install air bags in vehicles, an increasing number of automakers, especially foreign brands, have taken to equipping even lower-end models with them to attract car buyers.

IS recruits in SE Asia a rising threat despite weak attacks

Stephen Wright, Jakarta

INEFFECTUAL attacks by the Islamic State group's followers in Southeast Asia have shown them to be fragmented and lacking in the expertise that has produced devastating death tolls elsewhere in the world.

But terrorism experts say the threat from the militants, spread across predominantly Muslim Indonesia, Malaysia and the southern Philippines, should not be underestimated and they could be transformed into a more dangerous force by training and leadership.

There are plenty of signs radicals in the region have been animated by IS leader Abu Bakar al Baghdadi's call for attacks and the group's ambition to create Southeast Asian provinces of the IS caliphate even as it loses territory in Syria and Iraq.

A grenade blast at a bar outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in June was acknowledged by police as the first IS attack in the country, where more than 150 people have been detained for involvement with the militant group since 2014. It injured eight people but caused no deaths. Subsequent arrests of people linked to the attack included two police officers.

A suicide bombing directed against police last week in the Indonesian city of Solo killed only the bomber, who police said was a friend of Bahrudin Naim, one of the hundreds of Indonesians with IS in Syria and who has been linked to other plots in Indonesia. Both attacks occurred during the holy month of Ramadan but attracted little notice at a time when a wave of militant violence in several countries, including the U.S., Turkey and Bangladesh, killed about 350 people.

"The IS threat has increased across the region but from a relatively low base," said Sidney Jones, director of the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict. "We are seeing more connections. The like-

■ ■
We need to be open to the possibility that both the method and the professionalism of attacks could increase.

SIDNEY JONES



Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abu Sabaya (right foreground) stands with militants in Basilan, the Philippines

hood of communications across national boundaries is higher," she said. "We need to be open to the possibility that both the method and the professionalism of attacks could increase."

So far, the success for IS in Southeast Asia has been the power of its slick propaganda and online savvy to recruit predominantly young followers much more quickly than the face-to-face contact that older militant groups relied on.

A professionally produced IS news site, *alfatihin.com*, using the Malay language understood throughout Malaysia and Indonesia began publishing in May in an apparent attempt to broaden the group's reach. The power of the group to inspire lone-wolf style attacks such as Orlando or San Bernadino where the perpetrators have no known connections to other radicals is also a potential threat for the region.

"Radical movements are benefiting from information technology," said Brig. Gen. Hamidin, director of prevention at Indonesia's counterterrorism agency.

Traditional recruitment

through indoctrination at Islamic study groups that can be easily detected and monitored by authorities has been replaced by instant messaging and social media, said Hamidin, who goes by one name. "This is the problem we are currently facing."

IS has also attracted the support of long-established networks of fighters. Abu Sayyaf, a group in the southern Philippines that professes radical Islamic ideology but which is better known for banditry and kidnappings, has declared allegiance to the Islamic State. So too have the militants who follow Santoso, Indonesia's most wanted radical, who is under siege from government forces in his jungle hideout on Sulawesi.

But the attacks IS has inspired in Southeast Asia have had less impact because of the inexperience of the recruits combined with the vigilance of security forces in Malaysia and Indonesia. Plus, many of the hardened Indonesian militants who were part of the Al-Qaeda linked Jemaah Islamiyah network behind the 2002 Bali bombings and other attacks are in prison or opposed to IS ideology and tactics.

Even the Jan. 14 suicide bombing and gun attack by IS followers in the Indonesian capital Jakarta that killed eight people including the four attackers was regarded as amateur by experts and in militant circles.

The June grenade attack

near Kuala Lumpur was an example of the low level of IS capability in Malaysia but also a sign it is training to make a bigger impact in the future, said Badrul Hisham Ismail, an analyst with Iman Research, a Malaysian group that studies religion and society.

"The threat level has risen because IS has shifted focus to build an Islamic state in this region," he said.

IS recruitment has become more aggressive and some Malaysian militants have joined Abu Sayyaf in the southern Philippines, Badrul Hisham said.

Indonesians are also known to have joined Abu Sayyaf, making it a potential nexus for the region's militants.

IS released a video in June showing an Indonesian, a Malaysian and a Filipino in Syria acknowledging an Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon as the head of IS in Southeast Asia

According to Jones, the ranks of Abu Sayyaf might in future provide the hardened militant who can train Indonesia's would-be jihadists in bomb making and other skills. Another source could be Indonesian militants released on parole who converted to IS while in prison.

"One would think there would be some introspection among Indonesian leaders in Syria about how to be more effective," she said. "The only answers are training and leadership and the question is where they will come from." AP

JAPAN'S royal palace has denied reports that Emperor Akihito intends to relinquish his title in the next few years and retire, but the news still raised questions about the possibility of a succession while the 82-year-old emperor is alive. Some key points about the monarchy and what could happen:

A MONARCHY TRANSFORMED: Akihito is the 125th emperor in a line believed to date to the fifth century, making it the world's oldest hereditary monarchy. In the past, the emperor was worshipped as a deity, though that changed after World War II, and Akihito remains a head priest of Japan's indigenous Shinto religion. The emperor is a purely symbolic figure with no political power today, and Akihito has brought the imperial family closer to the public. In addition to performing ceremonies and greeting foreign dignitaries, he has visited towns to comfort residents following deadly earthquakes. He was the first emperor to marry a commoner, Empress Michiko, and has decided to be cremated upon his death, a plan that will break a centuries-old burial custom.

NEXT IN LINE: Crown Prince Naruhito, 56, is the el-

What may happen next if Japan's emperor decides to abdicate



Japan's Emperor Akihito, third from left, waves with Empress Michiko, right, Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako to well-wishers from a balcony during a New Year's public appearance

der of Akihito's two sons and first in the line of succession. An expert of medieval-era water transport systems, Naruhito is an avid hiker and skier and plays the viola. His marriage to former diplomat Masako Owada raised expectations of adding a modern face to imperial institutions, but Masako is still recovering from stress-induced mental conditions she developed after giving birth to

their daughter. The succession law only allows male emperors, so Naruhito's only child, Aiko, 14, cannot inherit. Instead, Naruhito's younger brother Akishino is second in line and his son Hisahito, 7, is third. Discussions on changing the law to allow female succession ended with the boy's birth.

THE PROCEDURE TO ABDICATE: The Imperial

House Law stipulates imperial matters including succession but lacks a provision regarding an abdication by a reigning emperor. That omission virtually allows only posthumous succession. Experts say if Akihito does wish to retire, changing the law and taking other steps to allow it would take a few years. The law, enacted in 1947 along with the Constitution, does allow for a

regency to be established if an emperor is seriously ill, physically or mentally, and is incapable of performing state duties. The reports that Akihito was considering retiring cited his wish to not keep the title if he could not fully perform his duties.

OTHER ABDICATIONS: In Japan, the last abdication was about 200 years ago during the feudal Edo period, when Emperor Kokaku abdicated to son Ninko, while he ascended to a superior title. Abroad, Spain's former King Juan Carlos abdicated at age 76 to King Felipe in 2014 amid scandals, and the succession laws to allow it were changed in just two weeks. In the Netherlands, Queen Beatrix in 2013 at age 75, citing old age, abdicated to her son Alexander, who became the country's first male successor in more than a century. In Belgium, the former King Albert, then 79, abdicated to his son Philippe in 2013 due to health reasons. **AP**

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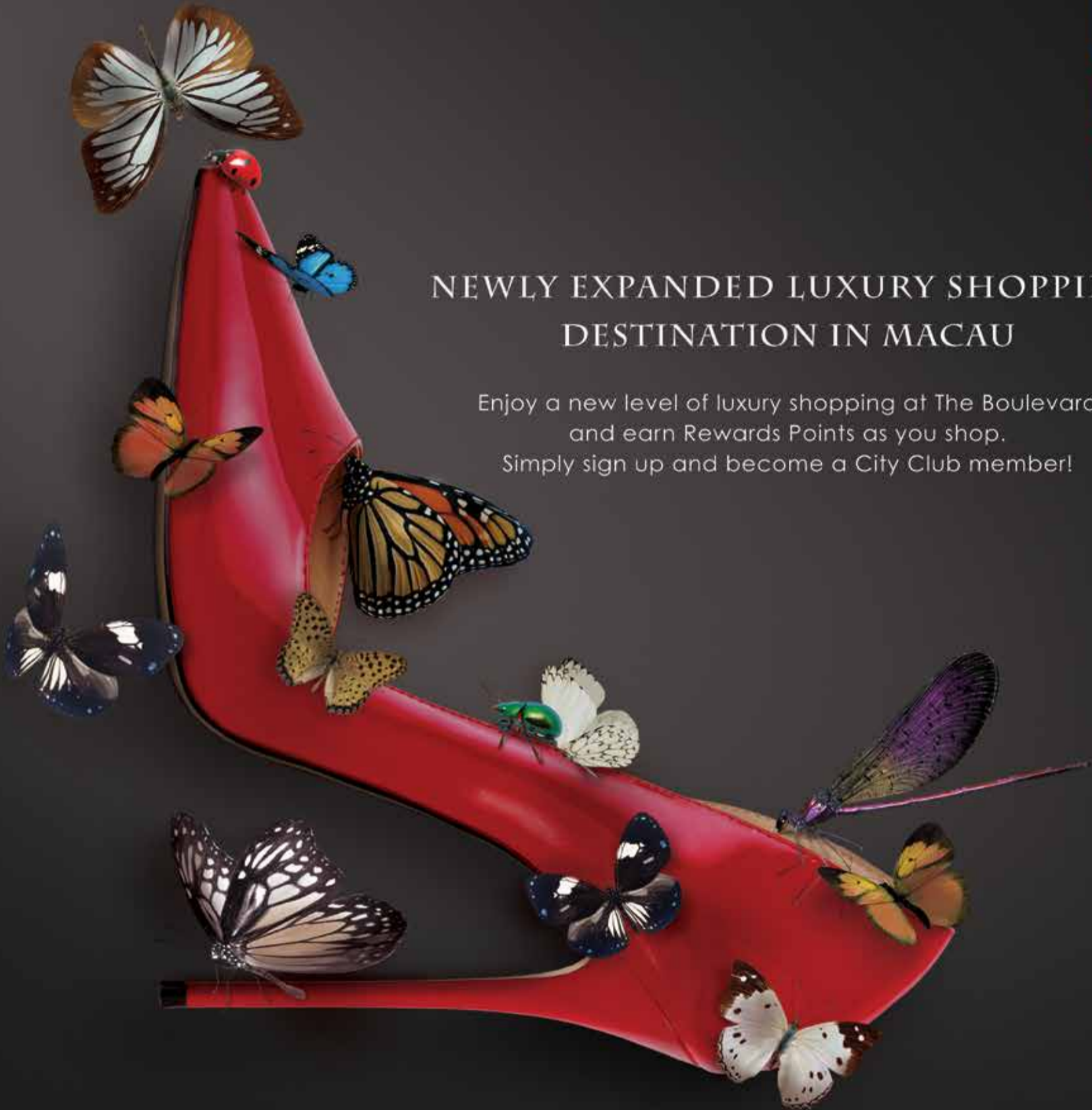
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US offering Russia military pact in Syria

Bradley Klapper, Paris

THE United States is offering Russia a new military pact against the Islamic State and al-Qaida in Syria, according to a leaked U.S. proposal that, if finalized, could dramatically alter America's role in the Arab country's five-year civil war.

The document, published by The Washington Post, calls for joint bombing operations, a command-and-control headquarters and other synchronized efforts. U.S. and Russian officials with expertise in intelligence, targeting and air operations will "work together to defeat" the extremist groups, the eight-page paper states.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who was to discuss the proposal in Moscow yesterday, declined to comment.

"I'm going to Moscow, meeting with President [Vladimir] Putin tonight," Kerry told reporters. "We'll have plenty of time to talk about it and I'll give you all a sense of where we are."

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said only that joint U.S.-Russian efforts were key to fighting terrorism in the region.

Such a partnership would undercut months of U.S. criticism of Russia's military intervention in Syria. And it would put the U.S. alongside Syrian President Bashar Assad's chief international backer, despite years of American demands for Assad to leave power.

Russia would be getting what it wanted since it first intervened in Syria on Assad's behalf last September — to be a leader in an international alliance.



Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu (second right) visits the Hemeimeem air base in Syria last month

Washington has rebuffed Moscow's requests for military cooperation, accusing the Russians of using anti-terrorism objectives as a pretext for protecting Assad's position, of repeatedly violating truces and attacking moderate rebel groups backed by the U.S. or its allies as well as civilian targets.

Much of Washington is wary about working too closely with Russia. A dissent cable signed by 51 State Department officials last month showed a sizeable part of America's diplomatic establishment believing a U.S. military response against Assad's forces was necessary, given Moscow's increased leverage as a result of its intervention.

Opposition to this latest Syria plan is shared by a significant number of officials at the State Department, Pentagon and U.S. intelligence community, according to several American

officials.

But the administration has few other options right now. Suggestions of U.S. force don't carry much weight, given the unfulfilled threats throughout the war — from Obama's declaration five years ago that Assad's days were "numbered" to his vow of a military response if chemical weapons were used, only to back down in 2013.

U.S. officials said no agreement with Moscow has yet been reached.

The proposed, U.S.-Russian "Joint Implementation Group" would be headquartered near Amman, Jordan. At its most basic level, the former Cold War foes would share intelligence and targeting information. But they "should coordinate procedures to permit integrated operations," if the U.S. and Russia decide such operations are in their interests, the document said.

Russia would confine air strikes to vetted targets and not let Syrian forces bomb "designated areas." Some exceptions apply.

In exchange for U.S. cooperation, the Russians would pressure Assad into ending a bombing campaign against moderate militant groups and civilians, and allow unfettered aid to besieged, rebel-held areas. Washington also wants Russia's help in forcing Assad to start a political transition that would ultimately end his family's four-decade hold over the country.

Russia supports the vague idea of "transition," but has never publicly spoken of Assad having to resign.

The proposal would address one of the most persistent problems with enforcing a ceasefire in Syria: the Nusra Front, al-Qaida's Syria affiliate. The group is engaged in a variety of

local alliances with other rebel groups the U.S. and its Arab allies want shielded by the so-called cessation of hostilities. And Nusra's fighters are often embedded with such groups on the battlefield or move between various fighting formations.

For that reason, the U.S. has almost entirely avoided bombing Nusra targets in recent months. Russia hasn't hesitated. But in taking out Nusra forces, the U.S. says Russia also has killed hundreds of moderate, anti-Assad fighters and civilians — undermining chances for peaceful diplomacy.

Captain Abdelsalam Abdurrazek, a spokesman for Nur al-Din Zenki, a CIA-vetted rebel entity fighting near Aleppo, decried the U.S. for offering "to support an ally of the Syrian regime and an enemy of the Syrian people." He said his group would continue fighting alongside Nusra.

Yesterday's talks in Moscow were held fewer than three weeks before an August ultimatum by President Barack Obama's administration for diplomatic progress. All signs augur poorly for a breakthrough in a war that has killed as many as a half-million people since 2011, contributed to a global migration crisis and spawned the Islamic State's international expansion.

Two months ago, Kerry said the transition had to start on Aug. 1, or Syria and its backers are "asking for a very different track." But any Plan B has remained undefined beyond vague hints of a military intervention involving Saudi troops. The White House and Pentagon have resisted a greater U.S. role. AP

UK

May makes undiplomatic figure top diplomat

BRTAIN'S new top diplomat is shaggy-haired, Latin-spouting Boris Johnson, who has made insulting and vulgar comments about the presidents of the United States and Turkey. And those are just his recent gaffes.

Johnson, 52, has made a long string of racist and insensitive comments dating back to his early career in journalism. He has apologized before and seems likely to do so again — he said after his surprise appointment that "the United States of America will be in the front of the queue" for his next apology, apparently because of his comments about President Barack

Obama's ancestry.

Johnson was a prominent leader of the successful referendum campaign to take Britain out of the European Union who harbored his own leadership hopes, making him a factor for Prime Minister Theresa May to deal with as she tries to unify the sharply divided Conservative Party.

But her decision to put Johnson on the world stage dealing with foreign leaders is raising questions, largely because of his propensity for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time, sometimes in the most vulgar way.

Liberal Democrat leader

Tim Farron said he could not believe Johnson will now represent Britain abroad. He said Johnson must first apologize to Obama for referring to his "part-Kenyan" ancestry and then apologize to EU leaders for saying their plans for Europe were similar to Hitler's.

"At this incredibly important time that will determine Britain's economic and cultural relations with Europe, it is extraordinary that the new prime minister has chosen someone whose career is built on making jokes," Farron said.

Some of his wounds seem self-inflicted.

During the referendum campaign, Johnson chose to enter a British magazine's competition for an offensive poem about Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

He "won" — but the sexually oriented limerick was not well received in Turkey, a strategically important, predominantly Muslim ally.

In 2007 he described Hillary Clinton's appearance as "like a sadistic nurse in a mental hospital." And last year he said: "The only reason I wouldn't visit some parts of New York is the real risk of meeting Donald Trump." MDT/AP



Boris Johnson leaves 10 Downing Street in central London, after being appointed Foreign Secretary, by Britain's new Prime Minister Theresa May

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
18:30	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:20	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Documentary Serie
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie

SATURDAY

10:45	Young Children
11:10	Animation
11:30	Documentary Serie
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:40	Soap Opera
17:15	Documentary Serie
18:10	Miscellaneous
18:30	Contest
19:30	Wild Life
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Drama
22:00	Revenge S.3
22:45	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Brother's & Sister's S.5

SUNDAY

10:40	Young Children
11:40	Zig Zag
12:10	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Wild Life (Repeated)
15:25	Zig Zag
15:45	Miscellaneous
16:30	Theatre
17:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
18:30	Miscellaneous
19:20	Comedy
20:10	Ui Di Sabroso S.1
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Contraponto
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News

offbeat

FUGITIVE POLYGAMOUS LEADER WANTS CHARGES DROPPED

Polygamous leader Lyle Jeffs is a fugitive after slipping out of a GPS ankle monitor last month, but that isn't stopping his attorneys from asking a judge to drop food stamp fraud charges against him.

Jeffs' religious freedom rights allow him and others in the sect to share food stamp benefits as part of their communal living, his attorneys contend in a new court filing Tuesday.

Like Amish who don't send their children to public high school, members of the polygamous group on the Utah-Arizona border believe not donating their food stamp benefits would go against their religious beliefs and "endanger their own salvation," attorneys wrote.

The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a radical offshoot of mainstream Mormonism, has been using a community storehouse model since the 1970s, attorneys say.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Utah declined comment, saying it will respond in an upcoming filing to the court.

Lyle Jeffs and 10 others were arrested and indicted in February on charges of diverting at least \$12 million worth of federal benefits.

Prosecutors say sect leaders instructed followers to buy items with their food-stamp cards and give them to a church warehouse, where leaders decided how to distribute products to followers. They say food stamps were also cashed at sect-owned stores without the users getting anything in return. The money was then diverted to front companies and used to pay thousands for a tractor, truck and other items, prosecutors say.

cinema



CINETEATRO

14 Jul - 20 Jul



FINDING DORY

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.15, 4.05, 7.45 pm
(3D) 9.30 pmDirector: Andrew Stanton
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 97min

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS

ROOM 2
6.00 pmDirector: Chris Renaud, Yarrow Cheney
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 90min

COLD WAR 2

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pmDirector: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk
Starring: Aaron Kwok, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Chow Yun Fat
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 110min

THREE

ROOM 2
4.30, 6.00, 7.45, 9.30 pmDirector: Johnnie To
Starring: Zhao Wei, Louis Koo, Wallace Chung
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 97min

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS

ROOM 2
4.15 pmDirector: Chris Renaud, Yarrow Cheney
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 90min

MACAU TOWER

08 Jul - 20 Jul

COLD WAR 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk
Starring: Aaron Kwok, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Chow Yun Fat
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 90min

this day in history



1997 VERSACE MURDERED ON HIS DOORSTEP

Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace has been shot dead on the steps of his Miami mansion.

The incident happened shortly before 0900 local time (1400 GMT) as the 50-year-old designer returned from the fashionable News Café where he bought breakfast and Italian newspapers.

Witnesses described a white man in his mid-twenties taking a gun from a backpack and shooting Versace twice in the back of the head as he unlocked the gates to his Ocean Drive home.

A gun was found with discarded clothes in a red Chevrolet pick-up truck abandoned in a car park.

Police have traced the weapon to Andrew Cunanan, 27, a gay prostitute with an "affluent clientele".

He is already on the FBI's most wanted list in connection with four other murders - all of the victims were, like Versace, homosexual.

Miami police chief Richard Barreto described Cunanan as the sole suspect, but he did not know if he had any relationship with Versace.

Hundreds of people have gathered opposite Versace's three-storey, Mediterranean style home, the only residential building in the art deco section of Ocean Drive.

Police have sealed off the area round the blood-stained steps to the house - Casa Casuarina - where Versace lived most of the time with his friend Antonio D'Amico.

Around the world Versace's stores have been closing as they received news of the tragedy.

Tributes are pouring in from the many rich and famous friends who enjoyed wearing Versace's flamboyant designs.

Amongst them Princess Diana has issued a statement saying she was "devastated at the loss of a great and talented man".

Versace had just released his new winter collection and a glamorous television launch planned for the Spanish Steps in Rome has been cancelled.

With the help of his sister Donatella and his brother Santo, Versace transformed the family firm into a multimillion-dollar fashion empire.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following America's biggest manhunt, detectives traced Andrew Cunanan to a houseboat three miles from the murder scene on 25 July 1997.

After a five-hour siege a swat team stormed the boat and found Cunanan dead.

He had shot himself in the head with the gun he used to kill Versace.

His motive and any clues to his links with organised crime went with him to the grave.

There were some press reports which suggested he had been diagnosed HIV-positive, but a post mortem examination showed this was not the case.

Versace was his fifth victim, at the end of a killing spree which began in April 1997.

Versace launched his fashion label in 1978 and the year before his death made pre-tax profits of £60m from a global turnover of £300m.

The label has continued under the direction of Donatella and Santo Versace.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's a good day to hash out disagreements at work or nearly anywhere else.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Take a second or third look at your situation - is it really as bad as you had feared?

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Don't get too excited about how much you've got to do - your energy is better spent on dreaming up new ideas and making plans.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try not to miss the point of whatever news comes your way - though it may be hard to discern which bits are most important.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Its time for you to make a new friend! That doesn't mean you have to force anything, but you should at least open up to new coworkers or chat with folks in new social situations.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Work - or the lack of it - may cause problems today, but there's good news: You're on the way back into balance!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your fierce, brainy energy is making life easier for you today - but not in a boring way! Your great ideas and big plans help you to see the best way to cut through the bureaucracy and get your way.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The little details really matter - so make sure you're paying close attention! If you have to sign anything, read it twice and get someone else you trust to do the same.

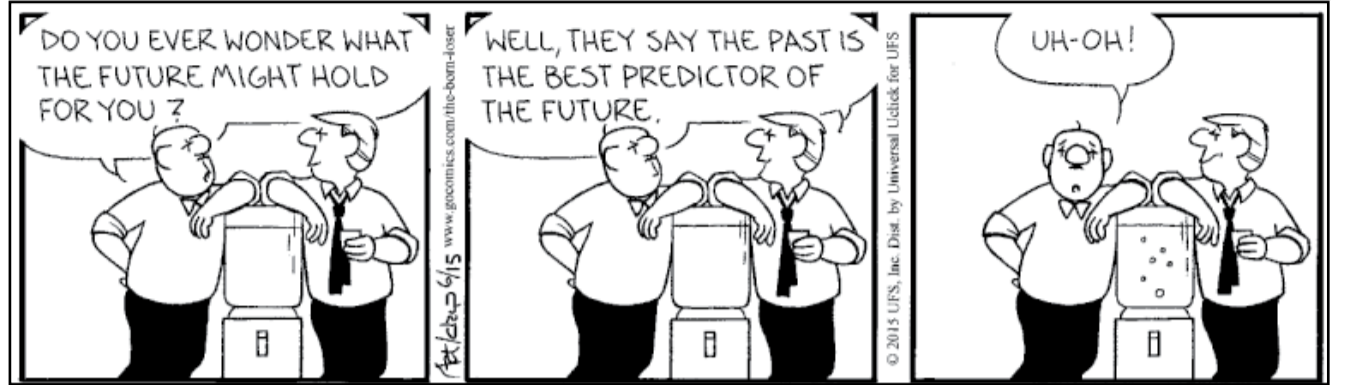
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People are not to be trusted today - though that's not to say they are actively trying to stab you in the back!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You may be a little more social than usual today, but there's no need for you to go nuts. If anything, you may find that your energy is better spent on parties than on work projects or other stuff.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your unique take on today's events makes you perfect for finding solutions - or opportunities! It's a great day to advance your agenda, whatever it may be, and to show others where to go.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You have two conflicting goals today, but you don't have to worry too much about choosing just yet. If anything, you may be able to find a way to have your cake and eat it, too!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

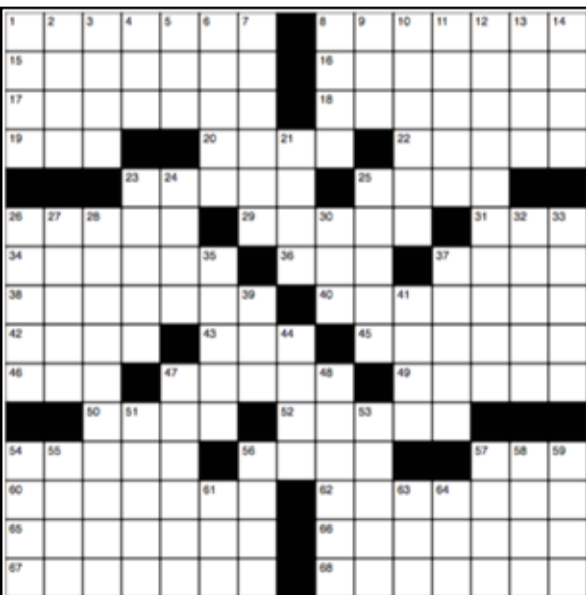
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Russian aircraft designer; 8- Intoxicating liquor; 15- Unintelligent; 16- Where the head of Humanities lives, e.g.;

DOWN: 1- 27th president of the U.S.; 2- Voice of America org.; 3- Fishing reel; 4- Undivided; 5- Women's ...;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including Nova Taipa, Family apartment, Va Nam Unit B, St. Paul Ruins, Coloane Village, Modern Apartment, Tou Un, and Wan Yu Villa.



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Stephen Wilson, London

OLYMPICS

Bach cites 'right to individual justice' in Russian doping

INTERNATIONAL Olympic officials will try to find "the right balance between collective responsibility and individual justice" in dealing with Russian doping allegations ahead of the games in Rio de Janeiro, IOC President Thomas Bach said on Wednesday.

Bach spoke in an interview five days before the release of a report by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren into allegations of a state-sponsored Russian doping conspiracy at the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi.

Some officials, including the CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, have said Russian athletes in all sports should be barred from competing for their country at the Rio Games if McLaren's report produces evidence that Russia's sports ministry was involved in subverting the Olympic drug-testing system.

Bach said he could not speculate on what the report might say or what the consequences might be, but stressed that the International Olympic Committee would take the rights of individual athletes into account.

"It is obvious that you cannot sanction or punish a badminton player for infringement of rules or manipulation by an official or lab director in the Winter Games," he said in a phone

For us it is very clear, everybody implicated in a doping case has to be sanctioned and will be sanctioned.

THOMAS BACH
IOC PRESIDENT



In this August 19, 2015 file photo, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach speaks during a press conference in Seoul, South Korea

interview with The Associated Press and two other international news agencies.

"What we have to do is to take decisions based on facts, and to find the right balance between collective responsibility and individual justice," Bach added. "The right to individual justice applies to every athlete in the world."

Bach said if the report highlights doping in summer sports, it would be up to international federations to decide on the eligibility of Russian athletes or coaches on an "individual basis."

"Everybody not implicated cannot be made responsible for the misbehavior of others," he said.

McLaren was commissioned by the World Anti-Doping

Agency to investigate allegations made by Grigory Rodchenkov, the former director of Moscow's drug-testing lab. He told the New York Times that he doped dozens of athletes, including at least 15 medalists, before the 2014 Olympics and helped switch clean samples for tainted ones through a concealed hole in the wall of the Sochi lab during the games.

Rodchenkov, who is now living in the United States, said he operated on instructions from Russia's sports ministry, which denies the claim.

"We have to see the allegations," Bach said. "We have to see how far it goes, what the evidence is and then we have to evaluate the report. If, at the end of this procedure, there should be proven infringe-

ments of the anti-doping rules or manipulation of tests, then together with the winter sports federations we will take the necessary measures."

Bach said measures could be taken against athletes, officials or others.

"This can include further institutional measures, in particular on the level of the international federations," he said, suggesting the possibility of Russian winter sports bodies being suspended.

McLaren's report, however, is also expected to look into doping in other sports in Russia.

Last month, McLaren said his preliminary findings supported allegations that the Russian sports ministry was involved in manipulating test results before, during and after the track

world championships in Moscow in 2013.

Bach noted that a recent Olympic summit agreed that the presumption of innocence has been reversed in the case of Russian athletes, meaning they have to prove they are clean.

"For us it is very clear, everybody implicated in a doping case has to be sanctioned and will be sanctioned," he said.

Russia's track and field athletes remain banned by the IAAF based on a WADA investigation last year that detailed alleged state-sponsored doping.

Russia has appealed, and a ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport is expected next Thursday. Asked whether the IOC would accept the ruling if it upholds the exclusion of the Russians, Bach said, "Yes."

The IAAF also passed a rule allowing for Russian athletes who have been outside the country and subject to reliable testing to apply to compete as neutral athletes. Only one athlete, U.S.-based long jumper Daria Klishina, was accepted among 68 applicants.

While the IAAF says she should compete under a neutral flag, Bach reiterated the IOC position that, if deemed eligible, Klishina would "be a full member" of the Russian Olympic Committee team and come under the national flag.

In a separate case, Russian 800-meter runner Yulia Stepanova, a former doper who helped blow the whistle on systematic cheating in her country, has been cleared to compete as a neutral athlete under an IAAF "exceptional eligibility" rule. The IOC is currently studying her case and whether it merits "an exemption" from the Olympic Charter. **AP**

A Ukrainian weightlifter was stripped of her bronze medal from the 2012 London Olympics on Wednesday, the first athlete formally disqualified by the IOC after the retesting of doping samples from the past two Summer Games.

Yulia Kalina, who finished third in the 58-kilogram division in London, tested positive for the steroid turinabol in reanalysis of her stored samples and was retroactively disqualified from the games, the International Olympic Commit-

IOC strips 2012 bronze medal from Ukrainian weightlifter

tee said.

A three-man disciplinary panel stripped her of the medal and ordered her to return it.

The IOC asked the international weightlifting federation to revise the results and consider any further sanctions against Kalina, who could face a two-year ban.

The IOC recorded 55

positive results — 32 from Beijing and 23 from London — in the retesting program, which used enhanced techniques to catch cheats who escaped detection at the time. The Russian Olympic Committee has said 22 of the cases involved Russian athletes, including medalists.

The IOC stores Olym-

pic doping samples for 10 years, allowing them to be reopened and reanalyzed when improved testing methods become available.

Kalina finished third behind gold medalist Li Xueying of China and Pimsiri Sirikaew of Thailand. Fourth-place finisher Rattikan Gulnoi of Thailand is in line to be

bumped up to the bronze.

The latest retesting program targeted athletes who were in contention to compete at the upcoming Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, but has also been widened to cover many medalists.

The International Weightlifting Federation reported last month that

its sport had produced 20 positive cases. Four Olympic gold medalists from Kazakhstan and medalists from Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Belarus have already been provisionally suspended by the IWF.

Entire teams from Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Azerbaijan could be barred from the Rio Olympics because three or more positive cases from each country were discovered during the retests. Each national federation faces a possible one-year ban. **MDT/AP**

opinion

Bizcuits
 Leanda Lee



WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY

A new sign of the summer holidays arriving are those emails from BNU promoting their foreign banknote online ordering system. In my rare moments of need for currency at this time of year, I used to take pot-luck at the branches, which had been a successful strategy in the past, but then luck dwindled as the travelling population and demand increased. In more recent years the main branch could drum up a spare Pound or Euro or two upon request over the counter but then an unusually helpful teller somewhere suggested pre-ordering, but, as these things go, it would take up to 5 working days. Now we have the on-line system. Macau, we have progressed.

What these promotions and maturing processes signal is the increased seasonality of demand for such services: The summer exodus is underway.

Since my summer downtime is in a different hemisphere, I've tended to keep working during July and August while bidding a bon voyage to a major proportion of my peers and colleagues. It can be a fabulously productive period for professionals left behind. The interruptions are fewer, meetings all but disappear from the calendar, those reports can be written and projects put underway or finalised. It's an introvert's paradise; the thinking person's equivalent to savouring delights of the slow food movement – at a table for one.

Frustrations start when inflexible bureaucratic organisational systems and decision making protocol get in the way of initiative, and there is no-one around to sign the cheque or MOU or give the final approval to move forward on that project you have been working on. When we are told "You'll have to wait until Prof./Dr/Mr/Madam S returns next month", when managers disappear and leave a void, afraid to empower others and distrustful of delegation, productivity grinds to a halt. The void that is left amplifies the void that was always there – a void of leadership, trust, empowerment and encouragement of proactivity, group cohesion and self-directedness. There is little excuse for this in a professional environment. Professional people can generally be trusted and left to their own devices for a while to get on with their jobs as long as their roles are clearly defined and authority levels appropriately designated to enable rather than restrict work, even without temporary ones being established.

A sign of a sure-footed leader and leadership team is one does not have to be there. The business of the business will be done regardless. Such a leader selects, develops and manages the team for these moments. Indeed, leaders and key players will obligingly disappear every now and again to give the team a chance to demonstrate what they are made of.

I know little about football but I do know that offering Portugal's Euro 2016 win as an exemplar of anything in a place like Macau risks being shouted down from all points of the compass for ignorance and wacky opinion. However, I am partial to analogies so I'll risk it. Portugal's captain, Cristiano Ronaldo, forced off with a knee injury in the first half, by denying Portugal their larger than life key player, gave the team the opportunity to show their grit and gravitas, and be acknowledged and analysed for their strengths as a side of skilled individual professionals rather than as a one-man-team with sidekicks (pardon the pun). The transitory void, ironically, likely enabled such a stunning performance.

And that's how it should be; that's what managers and leaders are there to achieve – the creation of a team that's better able to perform without them and their key personnel than with them, at least for a while.

Bon voyage.

THE GREEK MYTHOLOGY MAY BE FORCED INTO SALE TO COVER DEBTS

The company that runs the Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel could now push for the sale of the Greek Mythology casino that shut down last year, reported TDM, since the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has rejected an appeal over unpaid VIP gaming commissions. The company is fighting a dispute over money allegedly owed to Hoi Cheng Nga, who runs Macau-based Energy Travel Agency. She is now in a position to demand the sale of the hotel in order to recuperate the debt. Her

lawyer, Lou Weng, told TDM that Hoi "just wants to get back her money," in response to being asked about a possible sale. Operators of the casino have previously said that the shutdown was temporary and that the resort would shortly be reopening. However, the operating company's financial woes have caused mounting problems for owners, including protests from hotel staff who claimed last year to be missing multiple months of wages.

HEALTH

Digest this: heavy people may die up to 3 years early



Maria Cheng

BEING too heavy may cost you your life – literally. Scientists say overweight people die one year earlier than expected and that moderately obese people die up to three years prematurely.

Doctors have long warned that being overweight can lead to health complications including heart disease, stroke and cancer, and previous studies have already found that extra pounds can take years off your life, based mostly on data from Europe and North America.

In the new study, which the authors say is the largest-ever such analysis, researchers sifted through data for nearly 4 million non-smoking adults in 32 countries published from 1970 to last year. They compared the risk of death to people's body mass index, or BMI, a measure of body fat that is calculated using

height and weight.

They defined a BMI from 18.5 to 25 as normal, 25-30 as overweight, 30-35 as moderately obese and over 40 as severely obese. A person who is 5 foot 4 is considered obese at a weight of 174 pounds or more.

Overweight people lose a year of life on average and moderately overweight people lose 3 years, said Richard Peto of Oxford University, one of the study authors. A previous study found that being severely obese could cost as much as 8 years of life.

The study also found that being obese is far more dangerous for men than for women.

"The excess risk of premature death is about three times as big for a man who gets fat as for a woman who gets fat," Peto said. Men tend to be higher risk for earlier death in general, and the risk worsens when obesity is added to the equation, he said.

According to the World Health Organization, 15 percent of women worldwide and 11 percent of men are obese. Overall, the WHO estimates that more than 1 billion adults are overweight and another 600 million people are obese.

Carrying too much weight is now second to smoking as a cause of premature death in North America and Europe; smoking causes about a quarter of all premature deaths there while being too heavy now causes about 14 to 20 percent of such deaths.

Peto acknowledged that more is needed than to simply advise people to lose weight, because dropping even a few pounds and keeping them off is notoriously difficult.

"It might be easier to recommend that people try very hard not to put on weight in the first place, particularly before they hit middle age," he said.

Tam Fry, spokesman for Britain's National Obesity Forum, said the new study was further proof of the dangers of tipping the scales.

"We've known for some time that if you're not looking after yourself, then being fat will kill you," Fry said. "If you don't want to die earlier, then you should take steps to do something about your weight." AP

Station		
Roadside	15-35 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	😊
Ambient	15-35 Good	😊

WORLD BRIEFS



AFGHANISTAN has no plans to revive a peace process aimed at bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table after a four-nation effort earlier this year produced no results, Afghan officials said yesterday. The remarks reflect the Kabul administration's disappointment over what it has described as half-hearted efforts by neighboring Pakistan to jumpstart the peace process.

KUWAIT has set a minimum monthly wage for maids working in the country. A notice published on the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry's website yesterday listed the minimum salary as 60 Kuwaiti dinars (USD198) a month. The notice comes after Kuwait's parliament approved a law in 2015 giving domestic workers rights such as a weekly day off, 30 days of annual paid leave and a 12-hour working day with rest.



ZIMBABWE A court on Wednesday freed a pastor who organized the largest nationwide strike against the government in nearly a decade, ruling that police violated his rights. Mawarire was charged with inciting violence when he was arrested on Tuesday, but prosecutors then changed it to more serious charges of attempting to overthrow a constitutionally elected government.

NETHERLANDS A Dutch court has sentenced a 44-year-old man to 30 days imprisonment for calling the country's king a "murderer, rapist and thief," in a rare use of a law against insulting the monarch.

times square by rodrigo

