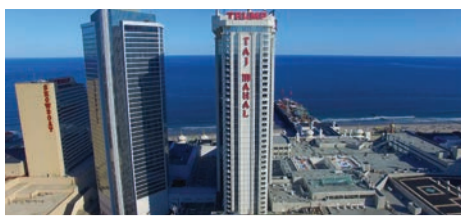




**DOG-THEMED MUSICAL HITS CULTURAL CENTER'S STAGE**  
Spot, one of the most famous dogs in children's literature, will be arriving for a musical show in the region tomorrow and Sunday

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**NO MORE TRUMP CASINOS IN NEW JERSEY**

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**N. KOREA HOPES TO PLANT FLAG ON THE MOON**  
North Korea's version of NASA hopes to see the secluded country's flag on the moon within the next 10 years

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# Times

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**WORLD BRIEFS**

**CHINA** A Chinese lawyer was sentenced to seven years in prison in the third in a series of subversion trials demonstrating the ruling Communist Party's determination to silence independent human rights activists and government critics. *More on p11*



**DUBAI** Video footage of the evacuation scene on the Emirates flight that crash landed in Dubai showed some travelers collecting luggage before they escape. In the worst scenarios, nonsense such as this can end with injury or death, especially through delaying the evacuation of other passengers. *More on p15*

**MYANMAR** At least 30 children have died in northwestern Myanmar since mid-June from an unknown disease that causes breathing difficulty, officials said yesterday. A local administrator said the deaths have been recorded in Nanyun and Lahe towns in the Naga region, one of the poorest in the country, about 1,300 kilometers from Yangon.



**BANGLADESH** Two men who had not been heard from since last month's restaurant attack in Bangladesh were arrested yesterday on allegations they were involved in the deadly siege carried out by radical Islamists. *More on p12*

More on backpage

**SECRETARY APOLOGIZES FOR FAILURE TO KEEP PUBLIC WELL INFORMED**

# SMG slammed over Typhoon Nida assessment

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**Local drone regulation still up in the air, remains contentious issue**

▲ P2-3 MDT REPORT



**Extra** times  
weekend Guide  
INSIDE

Renato Marques

NO SPECIFIC LAW ON THE USE OF DRONES

**R**EMOTE-CONTROLLED unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), commonly known as “drones”, are flying through skies around the world, delivering high-impact images (both still and motion) and increasingly enjoying usage by both professionals and hobbyists.

Approximately two years ago, some countries and regions – including the US – began imposing restrictions and bans on the use of drones, with reasons ranging from fears of surveillance and privacy violations to concerns about potential accidents.

In fact, the reception has been so mixed that some governments have had difficulties imposing a law to control the use of these “gadgets.”

Back in April 2013, the northwestern state of Idaho was one of the first states in the US to pass a law that drew little distinction between private citizens’ drones and law enforcement drones. Idaho State Senate Bill 1134 declares: “No person, entity or state agency shall use an unmanned aircraft system to photograph or otherwise record an individual, without such individual’s written consent, for the purpose of publishing or otherwise publicly disseminating such photograph or recording.”

But are these concerns really founded? Julius Santos, a passionate local hobbyist and one of the first people in Macau to own a drone, doesn’t believe so. He says most drones have a 28-millimeter [wide angle] lens. “You have to be pretty close, really, to see anybody. It is really for aerial photography, mapping and other stuff,” Santos said.

“People who don’t understand it – of course they want it deeply regulated, which is normal in this world. They worry about privacy and many other things. But I can say that I never took



Julius Santos

a picture of any building where you can see people. You just can’t see people; it’s a wide angle lens, not a zoom lens.”

Santos, who works in the local hotel industry, thinks that there are no reasons for so much concern about flying safety. He says that the manufacturers have already considered this issue from the start and equipped the UAVs with technology that is capable of recognizing potentially dangerous situations.

“What’s interesting with these new drones is when you get within a certain distance of a plane, the drone comes back to you. It will not fly anymore; it just comes back, which I think is part of the technology. They have a kind of geomap that alerts you when you get close to a restricted area and if you insist, it just goes back to the base,” he told the Times.

According to Santos the beauty of flying drones is that “when you are up there, you see things from a different perspective I took pictures of things in Macau that I’ve never seen and people

would have never seen before. I’ve made a little album on Facebook that has been shared over one thousand times by people that used to live in Macau and a lot of Macau people.”

For him, his hobby is “a way of relaxing” and unwinding after work. “I find it very relaxing. Some people go to the bar. I just take pictures. It’s therapeutic.”

Besides leisure, drones have proven useful in many fields and Santos highlights some relevant examples: “I think you can use it when there is a disaster, to fly over the area to see what’s going on [...] Imagine that there is a fire on top of Coloane mountain. You are not going to climb up there to see what’s happening, so you can set a drone in about three minutes and fly it to see what would be the best approach to take. Besides that, it can map things. A lot of people use it in large farms, for instance, to check what’s going on or to look for lost cattle. Other uses include something that is quite useful in Macau – that is, to check on

“I can say that I never took a picture of any building where you can see people. You just can’t see people; it’s a wide angle lens, not a zoom lens.”

JULIUS SANTOS

large construction sites in real time.”

In the hobbyist’s opinion, the call for more regulation is due to lack of public knowledge about UAVs.

“I think it’s mostly misunderstood. Of course there are some crazy people out there that push the drone to its limits. But in any industry (or activity sector) you always have people that push things to the limit. It is like allowing people to drive. Some will drive drunk, and others might speed. It’s a matter of being responsible and having good common sense, like, you don’t fly over a lot of people! But that would be the same as not driving fast when we have a lot of people in the middle of the road.”

“Unfortunately,” he continued, “we live in a world where there are people that are not of sane mind and body, so no ma-

ter how it is utilized [or potentially misused] you can’t ban [UAVs] for that. If a guy drives a car into a crowd, you can’t ban all the cars because of that. The issue is not with the motor transportation but the driver. I think you need to learn how to fly it so you can be responsible for it.”

André Branco, creative director and CG artist of Crane Productions, uses drones professionally. “Every week we’re called out for something, whether it is for photography or video filming. One good shot from a drone can do all the work of one crew on the ground. A bird’s eye view creates wonderful imagery that we are not used to [seeing] from the ground.”

In his opinion, drones and “aerial shots” bring more interest to their work as “more clients are starting to call on us to create this sense of awe,” he said.

Some of the great advantages acknowledged by the company are “not only the replacement of helicopters – [UAVs] are easier, cheaper and more versatile” but also the fact that “we are showing the world and our environment in ways we’ve never seen before.”

Branco cited a recent documentary about George Chinery, where drones helped to get what he calls the “money shots”. In the video production industry, drones often replace camera cranes because of their freedom of movement and comparatively low cost.

Regarding the current regulations and the possible implementation of further restrictions, Branco believes that “it’s important not to over-restrict [the gadgets] because drone

### MAKING DRONES USER-FRIENDLY

**KEVIN ON** says drone technology is seeing new developments. “We are focused on improving things like battery life, smart features like collision avoidance and more accurate navigation, form factor (size and weight) and most importantly, making our technology easier for people to use,” he said.

JULIUS SANTOS



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# the air, remains contentious issue

**It's important not to over-restrict because drone filming offers unprecedented views that we couldn't even get with helicopters.**

ANDRÉ BRANCO

filming offers unprecedented views that we couldn't even get with helicopters."

The producer thinks that the territory offers filmmakers "wonderful views, both day and night, of historic urban areas; as well as the modern views of the world-class resorts."

However, he is not completely opposed to the idea of introducing a requirement for "licensed operators" with flying experience and awareness of safety needs and standards.

Nevertheless, Branco argues that major restrictions on the use of drones on the video production industry would only have a negative impact.

"Our best tourism imagery would be denied a chance to grow and develop in line with the rest of the world [...] nowadays, a drone is as important as any other piece of equipment of a video production crew."

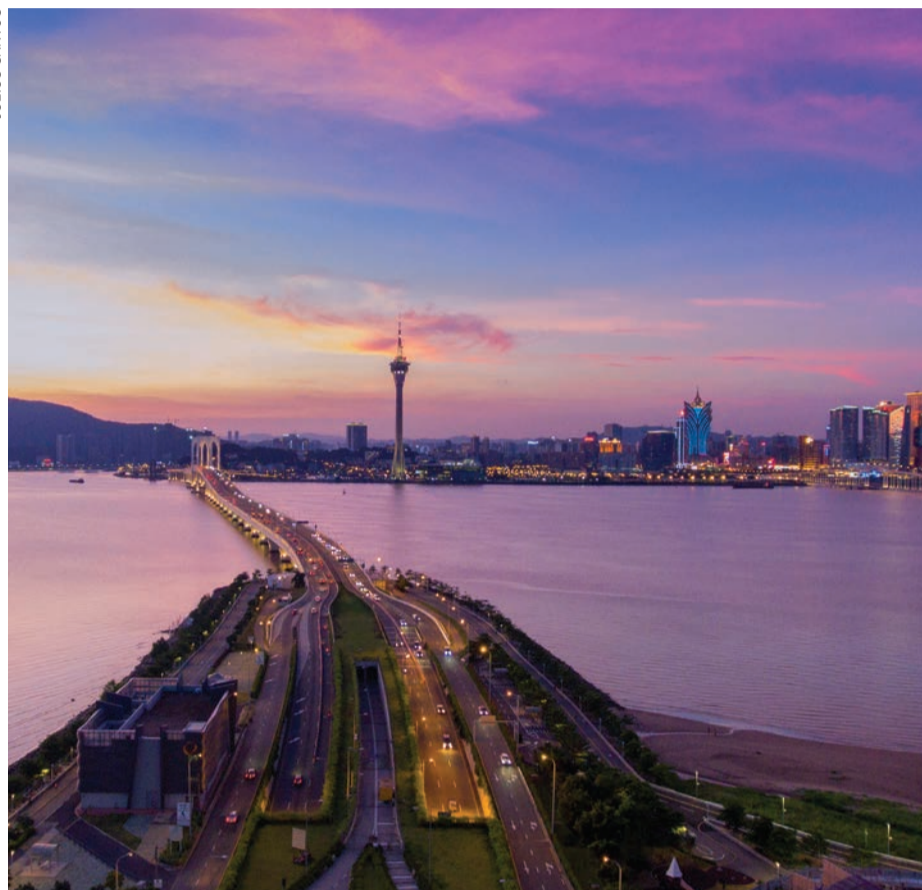
The Times also spoke with Kevin On, associate director of communications for DJI in the APAC region. DJI is a global developer and manufacturer of camera technology and aerial robotics for recreational and commercial use. According to Oppenheimer's February 2016 Drone Industry Report, it holds approximately 70 percent of the global UAV market.

"DJI was founded and is run by people with a passion for remote-controlled helicopters and experts in flight control technology and camera stabilization," he says. Although sales figures are a "well-kept secret", On says the company's revenue has more than doubled from 2011 to 2015.

"Like smartphones, it is difficult to determine how the drone is being used, whether it's for recreation, work or both. As an example, a customer could be using their drone to do aerial mapping for their construction business and for recreational



André Branco



JULIUS SANTOS

**Like smartphones, it is difficult to determine how the drone is being used, whether it's for recreation, work or both.**

KEVIN ON

purposes with family on the weekend," On said, revealing that consumer products are still the most popular.

In terms of usage, he said people, businesses and organizations are mainly using drones for emergency response, ma-



CRANE PRODUCTIONS

pping, inspection, agriculture, construction and broadcasting. However, the drones have many other uses, from firefighting to

sports training. On sees the future of UAV as dependent on the ways people start integrating the devices into

their daily lives, and how companies find new ways to incorporate the products into their work.

## 'Both the company and regulators seek the same thing – safer skies'

**S**AFETY is a "top priority" for the DJI. According to Kevin On, the company welcomes the introduction of new regulations, as "both the company and regulators seek the same thing – safer skies."

To ensure that safety rules are not breached, DJI "has been doing its utmost to educate customers and operators through different channels, including a 'New Pilot Experience' program, online safety tutorials, and geo-fencing technology," he added.

Speaking to the Times, the Office for

Personal Data Protection (GPD) said, "there is no specific law on the use of drones" relating to personal data protection.

However, under paragraph 2 of Article 3 of Law 8/2005, the 'Data Protection Law', the processing of personal data in drones is subject to this regulation, except when their use "falls within the course of a purely personal or household activity that is not intended for mass communication or dissemination."

Euphemia Lam, a senior public relations officer from the Civil Aviation Au-

thority (AACM), told the Times that the draft of a bill to revise the regulation on drone usage for aerial filming and photography is "going through the legislative process."

The amendment that specifically aims to control the use of these equipment was reportedly submitted to the Chief Executive by the president of the AACM, Simon Chan, earlier this year. There is still no precise date to discuss the amendment.

Details on the bill and which restrictions will be imposed have yet to be released. Chan said previously that it would "aim to strike a balance between public safety and the needs of drone users."

Until then, local UAVs will just have to wait for bluer skies in which to explore their full range of possibilities.

ARTS

# Dog-themed family musical to hit CCM's stage this weekend

Lynzy Valles

**SPOT**, one of the most famous dogs in children's literature, will be arriving for a musical show in the region tomorrow and Sunday at the Macau Cultural Center (CCM).

Based on Eric Hill's "Spot the Dog" series of children's picture books, Dutch company Theatre Terra will bring "Spot" to the CCM in a production that uses puppets, actors and colorful sets to portray the story.

Theatre Terra's take on "Spot" is a family musical that will feature lively songs, simple dialogue and Dutch clog dancing.

At a press briefing with the cast of the upcoming musical show yesterday, Eric Jan-Lens, who plays the father of "Spot," said that the show aims to encourage children to be more inventive and creative.

"Spot the dog is, in a way, like a small child [who's] very enthusiastic, very happy," he explained. "I think that's the message. That even if you're small,



Desi van Doeveren (left), Anne de Blok (center) and Eric-Jan Lens

you can still do your best and contribute."

The show, which the cast described as "interactive", has just finished its run in Hong Kong. The cast expressed their hopes that Macau audiences would also welcome "Spot" with the same "energy and participation."

After its performance in the region over the weekend, "Spot" will head to Australia for shows

in Sydney and Perth.

Hill's "Spot the Dog" series has been published in more than 30 countries and has been adapted into a cartoon series.

Theatre Terra creates and performs new shows every year, ranging from family musicals and puppetry to theatre. Founded in 1977, the company has since grown into one of the Netherlands' leading theatre groups for children and families.

# UM prof makes 'rediscovery' of Jesuit journal

**ANTÓNIO** Vasconcelos de Saldanha of the University of Macau's (UM) Department of History has recently presented the rediscovered personal journal of the Jesuit priest and scientist, Sabatino de Ursis (1575-1620), one of the successors of Matteo Ricci in the Ming court of China.

The discovery, presented at a conference held in the Department of Sinology at Germany's University of Tübingen, brings a new understanding of the history of how Western science was introduced to China, according to a statement from UM.

After further analysis of the important historical document, it will be presented at an international conference which is to be held in Beijing in November this year, UM also reported.

The newly rediscovered document shows how Sabatino de Ursis systematically discussed practical problems and a number of selected theoretical questions related to hydrology, water technology, and water management in his "Hydromethods of the Great West", a treatise published in Beijing in 1612.



António Vasconcelos de Saldanha (left)

The journal used to belong to the Jesuit archives in Macau, however sunk into oblivion in the famous Jesuit collections in the royal library of Ajuda in Lisbon starting from the mid-18th century, where it was recently rediscovered and identified by Saldanha.

Professor Vasconcelos is a renowned specialist on the history of Macau and the history of the Jesuits in China. His research is currently being developed in association with another research project on the transfer of Western science, technology and medicine to the Ming dynasty China, which is being conducted by Professor Han Ulrich Vogel from the University of Tübingen. DB

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# Civil Servants Association criticizes SMG over typhoon assessment

Renato Marques

**T**HE Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM) have submitted a petition yesterday to the office of the Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, to launch an investigation into the operations of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG). ATFPM's petition follows the controversy over the bureau's failure to hoist a "signal 8" on Tuesday morning when typhoon Nida struck Macau.

Speaking to journalists on the sidelines, ATFPM president José Pereira Coutinho said that "the goal is to understand how the services work, the responsibilities of each of the leaders, and why a staff member in charge of important services related with the weather forecast and the typhoons of Macau quit [those duties] to be a simple technician."

According to Pereira Coutinho, "the three [SMG] centers have had open positions, including heads of the department of Administration and Finance" for a long time, and that "it's been a while [...] the services are operating with [internal] problems that have consequences [for society]."

Pereira Coutinho named several issues like "the appearance of signal 10 warnings [that in] reality should be 1; errors committed by the staff of the SMG due to



Pereira Coutinho (2nd left) pictured during the petition handing

poor infrastructure in terms of software; and when they propose changes to improve the internal working conditions, this results in retaliation against employees and [...] disciplinary proceedings for the fact that they had the courage to raise questions that, in the view of the director [of the SMG], should not be raised."

Pereira Coutinho said the SMG's problems and operations are highly relevant, not just for SMG staff, but for the general public.

In his opinion, the situation escalated after the retirement of former SMG director António Vizeu, leaving in position a "deputy director [Leong Ka Cheng] that looks like [she] is not able to handle the situation, and the director who for a long time stopped taking responsibilities for the classification of the typhoons [...]. But it seems like he also has some difficulties in this speci-

fic area."

The journalists also questioned Coutinho about a statement made earlier yesterday by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, who apologized for "communication failures" by SMG.

"Let me apologize to all citizens and residents of Macau regarding the controversy surrounding the typhoon. We need to apologize because we haven't done enough and we haven't done our best," Rosário said during a visit to the Pac On area.

"We also didn't [perform] well regarding the communi-

cation levels."

According to Coutinho, Rosário's apology is a positive development but still not enough.

"We want to know more than that. After all, how does the SMG work?" he asked, saying that the ATFPM only made its decision because of the "worsening of these problems."

Nevertheless, according to the lawmaker and ATFPM head, "the mistakes of the SMG involve many other public services"; namely, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), the services of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) and the Transport Bureau (DSAT), among others.

"During this particular case, the DSAT has issued a warning telling the motorcycle riders not to use the two bridges while T3 signal hoisted. So I ask, how can the workers go to work if they can't use the two bridges? This is not right at all. We think that now is the right time to know what is going on inside this service and to put the right people [in charge]," said Coutinho.

## GAMING ASSOCIATION CALLS ON CCAC TO INVESTIGATE

**THE MACAU** Civil Servants Association was not the only group to hand in a petition yesterday. The Gaming Employees Advance Association, meeting at the offices of the CCAC, has also called on the corruption watchdog to investigate malpractice at the weather bureau and why 'signal 8' was not hoisted this week.

## Melco Crown's revenue increases

**MELCO** Crown Entertainment Limited yesterday reported its unaudited financial results for the second quarter of the 2016 financial year. According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, net revenue for the quarter was USD1,070.4 million, demonstrating an increase of approximately 17 percent from USD916.8 million in the previous corresponding period.

"The increase in net revenue was primarily attributable to the net revenue generated by Studio City, which star-

ted operations in October 2015; and the increase in casino revenues at City of Dreams Manila, partially offset by lower casino revenues at City of Dreams and Altira Macau," said Melco.

The company's board approved the declaration and payment of a quarterly dividend of USD0.0063 per share.

"We delivered a 20 percent year-over-year increase in adjusted property EBITDA during the second quarter of 2016 as a result of our commitment to controlling costs and increased exposure to



Lawrence Ho smiles

the higher margin mass market segment in Macau, together with a strong performance at our integrated resort in Manila," commented Lawrence Ho, chairman and chief executive officer of Melco Crown Entertainment.

## Money supply increases

The currency in circulation grew 1.7 percent in June, whereas demand deposits dropped by 2.8 percent, according to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macao. As total deposits increased at a faster pace than total loans, the overall loan-to-deposit ratio of the banking sector dropped from a month earlier. Concurrently, the non-performing loan ratio – an indicator for bank asset quality – was mostly stable. Resident deposits increased 0.8 percent from the preceding month to MOP466.0 billion, while non-resident deposits grew 6.7 percent to MOP292.7 billion. Domestic loans to the private sector increased 1.4 percent from a month ago to MOP403.3 billion.

## Sports events to be held at Jardim de Lou Lim Ioc

The Sports Bureau (ID) has called on the public to participate in a sporting event at Jardim de Lou Lim Ioc, on August 7, 14, 21 and 28. The ID will arrange for instructors to demonstrate different sports, including Tai Chi and line dancing. Medical professionals will be present to provide free physical tests to the residents, including heart rate and blood pressure analysis. The event is expected to encourage residents' participation in sports.

## Police officer prosecuted for accepting gambling chip

On Wednesday, the Judiciary Police (PJ) handed over one of its police officers to the Public Prosecutions Office. The officer is suspected of having accepted a HKD10,000 gambling chip after mediating a fight between a couple. After the brawl, the officer released the couple instead of taking them to the police station for further legal procedures as required by law. Afterwards, the suspect continuously called the couple in an attempt to follow up on their situation and to cover up any evidence, however the couple later reported him to the police.

## 44 MICE subsidy programs approved since last October

Between last October and this July, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) approved 33 applications for the Convention and Exhibition Simulation Program, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The application subsidies amounted to roughly MOP13 million. The department also gave passes to 11 applicants to attend the International Meeting and Trade Fair Support Program, this time for MOP9 million. One application was rejected for the first program, while two applicants were rejected for the second, said IPIM.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

## IAS supports elderly woman whose story was portrayed on TV

**T**HE Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) responded yesterday to a case reported by Lotus TV of a 80-year old woman living alone without running water at home, saying that it is paying attention to the problems of elderly people in the MSAR.

The report showed the woman sourcing her drinking water from car parks.

The IAS' Elderly Service Division, along with the staff of 'Home Care and Support Team' of the Center for Special Care Rejuvenescer, have been closely following the

case. On August 3, IAS said, "social workers of the bureau, together with the team referred, have visited the elderly woman in order to establish a trusting relationship that enables the monitoring of her situation, and to provide the needed support and

assistance."

The IAS reiterated that it has over the years deployed five support teams to provide essential services to elderly folk in need, such as meals, cleaning services and assistance with medical appointments. **RM**

### 81 illegal workers detained in June

Macau authorities have identified a total of 81 illegal workers during an operation that took place in June. According to a statement issued on Wednesday, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) have detained all illegal workers, including those found independently by the PSP following joint operations with the Labor Affairs Bureau and other departments. The departments carried out inspections of 314 sites, including construction and industrial sites, housing units and stores. The current situation is worse than that registered in May, when the departments carried out inspection of 377 places, resulting in the detention of 58 illegal workers.

### Mars research base established in Qinghai

The Macau University of Science and Technology, together with Pooi To Middle-School, have established a Mars research project experimental base at the Qaidam Basin in mainland Qinghai province, according to a report by TDM. The project came around as a result of the cooperation between the said schools with China University of Geosciences and Suzhou Xinghai Experimental Middle-School. For the duration of a week, the four schools collected geographical samples from the basin, whose properties are similar to those on geographical landscapes of Mars. It was this similarity in surface that had prompted the group of schools to choose Qaidam Basin as a location for their research.

# 'Sound & Image Challenge' participants on the rise

**T**HE Sound & Image Challenge International Festival 2016 has garnered 1,659 film entries from 85 regions and countries, doubling last year's figures, Creative Macau revealed in a statement.

The short film and music video festival consists of two distinct competitions. The short-film contest, "Shorts", will award the best short films in the categories of fiction, documentary, animation and advertisement. The music video contest, "Volume", will award the best music video clip using full-length song by a local band.

Organized by Creative Macau - Center for Creative Industries and Institute of European Studies of Macau, the Festival called for submission for "Shorts" from March until June; while the submission period of the contest "Volume" was extended to August 31.

The "Sound & Image Challenge International Festival" will be running for nearly a week



on December 6 to 11 at Dom Pedro V Theatre and Cinematheque Passion.

The first four days of the Festival will take place at Dom Pedro V Theatre with programmes including the opening ceremony, concerts, public screenings of nominated films and music videos from the Festival's contest, as well as

public screenings of selected films from other international festivals. Talks by local and international directors and producers will also be held during the Festival.

Further, according to the statement released, the public will also be involved in determining the winner of the "Public Favourite Award." The audience

may vote for their favourite films from "Shorts", among the four categories - Fiction, Documentary, Animation and Advertisement.

The winners of "Shorts" and "Volume" will be awarded on December 9, thus from December 10 to 11, winning films of the event will be screened at Cinematheque Passion.

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**REAL ESTATE MATTERS**

**Did You Know...?**

**20 Interesting Facts About Macau Property – Part 1**

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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**JULIET RISDON**

**1. The law on security deposits**

The usual security deposit (or 'bond' as it is sometimes called) in Macau is an amount equivalent to 2 months rent.

The law states that the security deposit is negotiable between the landlord and the tenant. As such, the amount of the deposit may vary according to the contents and value of the property. If you rent an apartment unfurnished, it is more likely that you will be able to negotiate a different deposit than if the apartment is full of expensive furnishings and appliances.

**2. Tax on rental income**

Landlords are duty bound to pay tax on the rental income they receive from a property.

Originally, this tax was 16% of the rental income, but the government reduced the amount to 10% in order to encourage owners to register tenancy agreements.

There are thresholds and allowable deductions for maintenance and upkeep that reduce the overall effect of the tax.

If tax remains unpaid, the government will accrue the back tax, and add a daily interest rate. Non-payment can be expensive!

**3. Property insurance**

In general, owners pay 'building' insurance, which is the amount of money that it will cost to re-build the property in case of some major event.

However, it is up to tenants to insure the contents of a property as they are the 'guardian' of those contents during the term of the tenancy.

Insurance can be arranged through most local banks, and tenants living in older buildings are well advised to protect themselves in case of loss.

Generally, Macau is one of the safest on earth places to live, and content loss is more likely to come from burst pipes, electrical fires and typhoon damage than anything else.

**4. Different levels of stamp duty**

Stamp duty in Macau has been revised in the past few years, and varies according to the price of the property.

For the first MOP2,000,000 the stamp duty is 1%.

For the next MOP2,000,000 the stamp duty is 2%

For everything over MOP4,000,000 the stamp duty is 3%

Hence if you buy an apartment for MOP3,000,000 the stamp duty is Mop 40,000 (MOP2,000,000 x 1% plus MOP1,000,000 x 2% = MOP 40,000).

If you buy an apartment for MOP 5,000,000 the stamp duty is Mop 90,000 (MOP 2,000,000 x 1% plus MOP 2,000,000 x 2% plus MOP 1,000,000 x 3% = MOP 90,000).

**5. Why bank valuations vary dramatically from bank to bank**

The value a bank puts on the property is not just about the property itself, but also reflects how the bank feels at that time about the property market and financial markets as a whole.

Prices are based on the size of the property, recent transaction prices and the location only. They do not reflect the level of the interior or fit out.

You can request and pay for a full property valuation from professional valuation companies, who will come and visit your property.

They will account for the quality of the interior and any potential the property might have to expand.



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A visitor takes a photograph outside the Trump Taj Mahal casino and hotel, owned by Trump Entertainment Resorts

## Icahn to close Taj Mahal leaving no more Trump casinos in New Jersey

Christopher Palmeri

**B**ILLIONAIRE Carl Icahn will close the Trump Taj Mahal resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey, citing ongoing labor strife 18 months after acquiring the one-time flagship of Donald Trump's casino empire in bankruptcy court.

The casino, once the top-grossing property in Atlantic City, will shut down after Labor Day, according to a statement Wednesday by Tony Rodio, chief executive officer of Tropicana Entertainment Inc., an Icahn-controlled company that manages the casino on behalf of owner Icahn Enterprises LP. The resort has been the subject of a

summer-long strike led by Unite Here, a union that represents casino workers. Icahn Enterprises "to date has lost almost USD100 million trying to save the Taj when no other party, including the prior equity owners who put it into its recent bankruptcy, was willing to invest even one dollar to save it," Rodio said in the statement. "Currently the Taj is losing multimillions a month, and now with this strike, we see no path to profitability."

The Taj is poised to become the fifth of 12 casinos to close in Atlantic City over the past two years. Once the second-largest gambling market in the U.S. after Las Vegas, Atlantic

■ **The Taj is poised to become the fifth of 12 casinos to close in Atlantic City over the past two years**

City has been battered by competition from new casinos in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland.

The Taj Mahal is the last casino operating under the Trump name in the city, where the developer

and Republican presidential nominee once operated three properties. Remaining operators in Atlantic City include Caesars Entertainment Corp. and MGM Resorts International, as well as privately-owned casinos.

"I would never have thought Carl Icahn was so one-dimensional," Bob McDevitt, president of Unite Here local 54, said in a statement. "For a few million bucks he could have had labor peace and a content workforce, but instead he'd rather slam the door shut on these long-term workers just to punish them and attempt to break their strike."

**Bloomberg**

## Evergrande invests USD1.4 billion in competitor China Vanke

**E**VERGRANDE Real Estate Group Ltd., controlled by billionaire Chairman Hui Ka Yan, paid 9.1 billion yuan (USD1.4 billion) for a 4.68 percent stake in China Vanke Co., the competitor embroiled in an ownership tussle with a key shareholder.

The Guangzhou-based developer bought Vanke's Shenzhen-traded shares through a unit, it said in a filing to Hong Kong's stock exchange after the market close yesterday. Evergrande cited Vanke's "strong" financial performance as China's largest developer as a reason for its investment, according to the filing.

Vanke, China's biggest residential developer by sales, has been in a battle for control since last year when Baoneng Group displaced China Resources (Holdings) Co. as the property company's largest stakeholder. The entry of Evergrande as a shareholder is the latest twist in a dispute that has even drawn scrutiny from China's securities regulator.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission last month urged Vanke's management and shareholders to end their dispute and reprimanded them for ignoring market stability and tarnishing the company image.

Evergrande earlier yesterday denied a media report saying that the developer had purchased a stake in Vanke. The A-shares of Vanke surged by the 10 percent daily limit yesterday, advancing for a fourth day, to close at 19.67 yuan on the Shenzhen exchange. That was the biggest increase since trading resumed July 4 after a six-month suspension.

Evergrande, based in Guangzhou in southern China, has been one of the most acquisitive developers in the country. It paid 3.6 billion yuan earlier this year for a stake in Shenzhen-listed China Calxon Group Co. and acquired Mass Mutual Tower in Hong Kong last year, as well as agreeing to buy assets from New World China Land Ltd.

The company's buying spree went beyond real estate. In April, Evergrande boosted its stake in Shengjing Bank Co. In November, it bought a 50 percent stake in Great Eastern Life Assurance Co.'s Chinese joint venture for 3.9 billion yuan. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### MGM COTAI RECEIVES AWARD FROM CHINA GREEN BUILDING



The China Green Building and Energy Saving (Macau) Association have awarded MGM China Holdings Ltd. a two-star certification under the China Green Building (Macau)

Design Label for its second resort in Macau, the MGM Cotai. Set to open in early 2017, MGM Cotai is reportedly the largest property in Macau to achieve this certification and

is also the first private-sector project to be recognized by the association.

MGM Macau said its pursuit of a local green building certification is in line with MGM China's efforts to realize its global vision for green business in a manner relevant to the peninsula.

The China Green Building (Macau) Label evaluates projects in six key areas: land usage, energy, water, building materials, indoor environmental quality and operations and management.

The finished property will showcase numerous eco-design features that will holistically tie the company's operations to environmental responsibility.

#### THE PARISIAN TO BRING NEW LUXURIOUS BRANDS TO THE REGION

The Parisian Macao has announced its retail line-up for Shoppes at Parisian in the run-up to its opening on September 13.

With over 320,000 square feet of retail space, Shoppes at Parisian will add another 170 stores to the Sands Shoppes Cotai Strip Macao's portfolio, and many brands will open their first stores in the region.

Shoppers will be able to enjoy a French-themed street atmosphere in the mall, featuring an eclectic mix of street artists, mimes and buskers.

The Shoppes will also install a "Place Vendome" ceiling projection, featuring a series of artworks that will transform the plain white ceiling into a moving art piece.



To celebrate the opening of the resort, the "Shop & Stay" retail promotion is also available until October 16.

Shoppers who spend more

than MOP20,000 at Sands Shoppes Cotai Strip Macao will be able to redeem stays at luxurious hotels based on their spend.



ANGOLA

# Difficulty obtaining currency affects cement production

**T**HE difficulty of obtaining foreign currencies to import raw material means the Secil Lobito cement company's production and sales should this year drop 25 percent to 150,000 tons, company managing director Augusto Miragaia said.

Miragaia told the Angolan newspaper O País that the company did not have enough exchange resources to import clinker, a raw material used in cement production, or to acquire other materials and hire skilled labor.

Other challenges include tripled fuel costs and the doubled price of electric power, factors which affect production costs, he said.

During the last three months the factory has been operating with clinker purchased from the Cuanza Sul Cement Factory, which stopped supplying it in late June.

Angola currently has five cement plants and an installed capacity of about 8 million tons per year, which in 2015 exceeded demand by 2.7 million tons.

The Lobito cement plant is controlled by Secil-Angola – Investimentos e Participações, with a 51 percent stake; the remaining 49 percent pertain to Angola's state-held Empresa Nacional de Cimentos. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

# Brazil's Vale group closes agreement on coal, railway line

**B**RAZIL'S Vale group has completed the process of renegotiating the deal reached in 2014 with Japan's Mitsui & Co group for the sale of a percentage in coal-related interests in Mozambique, reports the Brazilian newspaper Valor Econômico.

Mitsui & Co, a shareholder of the Vale group, should pay less than the originally agreed amount, which sources indicate may be reduced by 30 percent, the respective article states.

In 2014 Mitsui & Co agreed to pay USD763 million for stakes in Vale's projects in Mozambique: 15 percent in the



Moatize coal mine and 50 percent in the logistics corridor comprising the railway line from Moatize in Tete province via Malawi to the terminus

in Nacala and that city's port. Vale CEO Murilo Ferreira recently said that the agreement with Mitsui should be concluded by

this September.

He highlighted that the process was "in a very advanced stage" with only Malawi government approval still required, "something that is in the final negotiation phase" following last month's approval by the Mozambican government.

The Brazilian newspaper reported that negotiations still also under way with the banks financing the operation, specifically the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank group and the African Development Bank.

Coal mining at Moatize in Tete province has accounted for losses of \$500 million per year for Vale, down to \$112 million in the first quarter and \$100 million in the second quarter of 2016.

Impairments assumed by the group for Mozambique – \$2.4 billion – were the second highest included in the accounts, and the larger ones – \$3.46 billion – were for a nickel mining project in Canada. **MDT/Macauhub**

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THE VENETIAN MACAO

# Taiwan is Asia's hottest investment as China, tech concerns fade

Justina Lee

**G**LOBAL investors can't get enough of Taiwan. Overseas funds poured USD5.4 billion into the island's equities last month, taking inflows for the year to \$11.6 billion and making Taiwan the most popular destination for investors among nine Asian markets tracked by Bloomberg. That's helped send both the benchmark stock gauge and the currency to one-year highs.

Fueling gains are bets that the imminent release of Apple Inc.'s iPhone 7 will boost profits at Taiwan suppliers and relief that the new political era under President Tsai Ing-wen hasn't led to a conspicuous deterioration in ties with China. While a stronger currency may crimp overseas earnings for exporters, Prudential Financial Inc.'s local unit sees room for further gains as Asia's second-highest dividend yield and below-average valuations lure investors.

"Taiwan is especially strong because everyone knows the new iPhone will be launched in September or October, and production begins in the second quarter," said Hsienwen Yeh, head of greater China investment at Prudential Financial Securities Investment Trust



Pedestrians walk past stores at the local market in Taipei

Enterprise in Taipei.

The increased investor enthusiasm toward the island's stocks is a reversal from May, when global funds rushed for the exit amid concern slower smartphone sales growth would hit the local supply chain and the new president would strain ties with China. Tsai has avoided provoking China directly, saying in her inauguration speech that Taiwan will maintain peace and dialogue.

Since Tsai assumed the presidency on May 20, the Taiex

index has rallied 15 percent on a dollar basis, the fifth-biggest gain among 94 global benchmark indexes tracked by Bloomberg. The Taiwan dollar has strengthened 3.4 percent, the most in Asia after the currencies of Japan and South Korea.

Technology companies have driven the advance. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the island's largest listed company and a major Apple supplier, climbed to a record this week after forecasting third-

quarter sales that beat estimates as the new iPhone's release neared. Apple added to positive sentiment after reporting sales that fell less than projected in the April-June period.

"I will increase allocation to some names related to iPhone 7 production" after reducing exposure in the first half, said Stevie Chou, Taipei-based head of equities at Manulife Asset Management (Taiwan). "The third quarter is a hot season for information technology products."

Chou sounded a word of caution, saying the index's rally may be limited by the island's lackluster economy. Gross domestic product expanded 0.69 percent on a yearly basis from April through June, after three straight quarters of contraction. A stronger Taiwan dollar is also a threat to exports, which have shrunk for 17 months in a row.

The Taiex gained 0.3 percent at the close, while the Taiwan dollar rose 0.1 percent.

Global investors have overlooked these challenges of late as they hunt for high yields amid receding returns around the world and decreasing odds of a Federal Reserve interest-rate increase this year. The island's 4.02 percent dividend yield is Asia's highest after Australia, and its 16.3 price-to-earnings ratio is still less than its five-year average of 17.4.

"Taiwan's dividend yield is better than most emerging markets," said Peter Tzeng, senior vice president at IBTS Investment Consulting Co. in Taipei. "While there's some uncertainty over global economic growth, the earnings of Taiwan's listed companies haven't been too bad. So when there's a lot of money around, funds come to Taiwan." **Bloomberg**

## IPOs bring record 400%-a-month returns on supply curbs

**C**HINA'S market for initial public offerings is the hottest it's ever been, thanks to the securities regulator. The 62 new stocks that have completed their first month of trading this year soared 420 percent on average in the span, the steepest such rally on record, data compiled by Bloomberg show. For a clue as to why: the average size of this year's offerings has dwindled to USD88 million, the smallest since 2005.

While huge returns on mainland IPOs aren't new, the numbers are getting even more eye-watering as the China Securities Regulatory Commission seeks to stabilize the nation's \$6.1 trillion equity market. Officials asked arrangers and companies to limit their deal sizes in the first half to avoid an oversupply of shares, according to people with knowledge of the matter, and a proposed

registration system that would have given firms more flexibility on IPO pricing and timing has been delayed. The Shanghai Composite Index is down 16 percent in 2016, one of the world's biggest declines.

"Regulators are carefully watching and testing market reactions as they approve IPOs," said Dai Ming, a money manager at Hengsheng Asset Management Co. in Shanghai. "They tend to tighten approvals when the market slumps and release more deals when sentiment improves."

More than 800 companies have filed IPO applications and are waiting for approval, according to the CSRC's website. The 78 completed sales this year compares with 219 in all of 2015, and the value of the deals is about a quarter of the 2015 amount, Bloomberg data show.

Wuxi Honghui New Materials Technology Co. was one of the lucky ones, raising \$39 million in June. The shares soared 553 percent in their first month on the Shenzhen exchange, and are now up 580 percent from their IPO price.

The company is typical of Chinese IPOs in that it priced at a multiple below the market average - nearly all initial shares sold in the past two years were valued at less than 23 times profit, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Wuxi Honghui's listing valuation of 22.98 times earnings compares to an average multiple of 43.3 for firms in the chemical products industry, the company said in a June 17 filing.

"Investing in A-share IPOs is highly profitable because regulators keep prices low," said Hao Hong, chief strategist at Bocom International Hol-

dings Co. in Hong Kong. "The odds of winning initial shares are falling as returns surge."

For the 13 stocks that started trading last month, the average chance for a retail investor to be allocated any shares in an offering was 0.04 percent, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

The CSRC has been signaling a tougher stance on letting companies list in China, warning brokerages last month to improve their standards when helping clients raise money. The regulator is also said to be considering measures to curb the flow of overseas-traded Chinese companies seeking backdoor listings on the mainland.

As the market stabilizes, the CSRC is set to approve bigger deals for the second half, the people familiar with the matter said. China Film Co. has raised \$628 million and

is waiting for the regulator's green light for a debut slot.

Bank of Jiangsu Co. started trading Aug. 2 after raising \$1.1 billion in the biggest IPO this year. The stock has surged 74 percent from its offer price through yesterday, taking its valuation to 1.7 times the book value, the highest among lenders listed in China.

Bank of Jiangsu was the first A-share banking IPO since August 2010, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Lenders that received CSRC's initial approval more than six months ago and are still waiting for a listing slot include Bank of Hangzhou Co., Bank of Shanghai Co., Jiangsu Jiangyin Rural Commercial Bank Co. and Bank of Guiyang Co.

Some companies have gone to Hong Kong instead. Postal Savings Bank of China Co., one of the few state-owned gian-

ts remaining unlisted, is preparing for an \$8 billion IPO in the former British colony this year.

Bank of Tianjin Co. and China Development Bank Financial Leasing Co., which raised a combined \$1.8 billion in Hong Kong initial offerings this year, had both considered A-share listings, separate people with knowledge of the matter said.

While IPO approvals are hard to come by, regulators appear more lenient towards listed companies selling additional shares. Companies have completed 320 additional offerings on the mainland this year, raising \$99 billion. Both the deal count and the fundraising are the second highest in the past decade.

Bocom International's Hong says the outlook for China's IPO market remains in the CSRC's hands.

"The IPO fever will continue if regulators keep delaying a registration system and capping prices," he said. **Bloomberg**

**W**EARING dapper suits and a beaming smile, Raymond "Shrimp Boy" Chow presented himself as a reformed San Francisco Chinatown gangster who went from dealing drugs and running an escort service to mentoring troubled youth.

But that image could crumble for good today [Macau time] when a judge is expected to sentence Chow to life in prison in a murder and racketeering case that also brought down a state senator and exposed the underworld of one of the nation's oldest Chinatowns.

Prosecutors say Chow, contrary to abandoning his criminal past, killed a rival in 2006 and took over a Chinese fraternal group that had members that engaged in drug trafficking, money laundering and the sale of stolen cigarettes and top-shelf liquor such as Johnny Walker Blue Label and Hennessy XO.

The murder charge carries a mandatory life sentence. Jurors convicted Chow of an additional 161 charges, including racketeering and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with a second slaying.

"Chow is deserving of a life sentence and nothing less because of his unceasing criminal conduct from a young age, the seriousness and violent nature of that conduct, his mockery of real rehabilitation, his corruption of those around him and those younger than him, and his absolute lack of any remorse even in the face of his most recent convictions," prosecutors said in a sentencing memo.

# 'Shrimp Boy' to be sentenced to life in Chinatown crime case



In this March 26, 2014 file photo, an FBI agent carries out boxes of evidence following a search of a Chinatown fraternal organization in San Francisco

Chow, 56, has maintained his innocence, saying he was the victim of unscrupulous prosecutors who were determined to send him to prison. He renounced his drug-dealing and gangster ways after leaving

prison in 2003 and turned to meditation and was working on a biography when he was arrested in 2014, he testified during the trial.

His conviction was largely the work of an undercover FBI

agent who posed for years as a foul-mouthed East Coast businessman with mafia ties after infiltrating Chow's fraternal group — among dozens of active tongs, or family associations, in Chinatown.

**■ Chow, 56, has maintained his innocence, saying he was the victim of unscrupulous prosecutors**

The agent testified under a false name that he wined and dined Chow and his associates for years. Chow willingly accepted envelopes stuffed with thousands of dollars in cash for setting up various crimes, the agent said.

Chow said he was given the money because the agent was showing his respect, not in exchange for criminal activity.

The investigation of Chow's tong led to the indictment of more than two dozen people, including former State Sen. Leland Yee — a gun control advocate who acknowledged in a plea deal that he accepted thousands of dollars in bribes and discussed helping an undercover FBI agent buy automatic weapons from the Philippines.

A federal judge sentenced Yee in February to five years in prison. **AP**

## Lawyer gets 7 years in 3rd subversion trial this week

**Christopher Bodeen, Beijing**

**A** Chinese lawyer was sentenced to seven years in prison yesterday in the third in a series of subversion trials demonstrating the ruling Communist Party's determination to silence independent human rights activists and government critics.

The sentence given to Zhou Shifeng results from his role as director of Beijing's Fengrui Law Firm, which took on sensitive cases and represented people who dared challenge the party.

Zhou, 52, accepted the ruling and will not appeal, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

His half-day trial in the northern city of Tianjin followed those of two related legal activists earlier this week, both on

charges of subversion. As with the others, Zhou was detained in July of last year during a sweeping roundup of activists and lawyers. About 300 people were initially seized and questioned before most were released.

Zhou was accused of coming under the influence of "anti-China forces" and opposing China's government and political system. He was also accused of opposing the "one country, two systems" policy applied in former foreign colonies Hong Kong and Macau.

Zhou "played a major role in a group of activists who attempted to manipulate public opinion and damage national security by spreading subversive thoughts," state media quoted the verdict as saying.

It said Zhou worked with

activists Hu Shigen, Zhai Yanmin and Li Heping "to encourage lawyers to highlight sensitive cases and hired protesters to disturb the judicial system." Hu was given a 7½ year sentence on Wednesday and Zhai a suspended three-year sentence on Tuesday, while Li is being tried separately.

Zhou also "asked administrative officers in the law firm to post anti-government comments online to stir up public sentiment," the verdict said.

Zhou established Fengrui in 2007, and the following year took on one of the country's biggest dairies in a massive tainted infant formula scandal that the government had tried to squelch. The firm also represented clients targeted by the government, including members of the banned

Falun Gong meditation sect and activist artist Ai Weiwei.

Zhou's final case involved Zhang Miao, a news assistant for the German weekly Die Zeit who was detained for nine months after helping with the magazine's coverage of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. Zhou was meeting Zhang at a hotel in suburban Beijing following her release when he was seized, hooded and driven away by agents.

This week's trials are part of a pattern established under the administration of President Xi Jinping to use more sophisticated legal means to attack perceived opponents as it maintains pressure on activists and non-governmental organizations.

The trials show China is

intent on silencing anyone who "raises legitimate questions about human rights and uses the legal system to seek redress," Amnesty International said in a statement on Zhou's conviction.

"The authorities are using vague legal provisions as a weapon to give their politically motivated assault the veneer of legitimacy. When state security laws are open to such rampant abuse, the law needs to change," Roseann Rife, the group's East Asia research director, said in the statement.

Several of those detained, including Zhou and fellow Fengrui lawyer Wang Yu, have made televised apologies for the crimes they are accused of, saying their legal activism was directed by unidentified "hostile foreign forces" to smear and at-

tack the Chinese government.

Fengrui often worked with activists to gather evidence of government abuses and lead clients in street protests while spreading word online. Their actions were harshly denounced by the authorities as thuggery and interference in the legal process.

Many family members of those being held say they and their retained lawyers have been denied access to the detainees for more than a year, receiving only occasional updates by word of mouth. Some have been briefly detained themselves while seeking information. Zhou and others were assigned government-appointed lawyers who worked closely with the court.

More than a dozen of those detained last year remain in custody, their legal fates still unknown. **AP**

## Two men arrested for alleged involvement in Bangladesh attack

**T**WO men who had not been heard from since last month's restaurant attack in Bangladesh were arrested yesterday on allegations they were involved in the deadly siege carried out by radical Islamists.

British national Hasnat Karim and University of Toronto student Tahmid Hasib Khan were arrested in different areas of the capital, Dhaka, and a court has allowed police to keep them in custody for eight days to question them, said Masudur Rahman, a Dhaka police spokesman.

Five armed gunmen attacked the Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant on the night of July 1, killing 20 people and holding others inside hostage. Security forces stormed the restaurant on July 2, killing the gunmen and rescuing the remaining 13 hostages. Those killed were nine Italians, seven Japanese, three Bangladeshis and one Indian.

Karim, 47, and Khan, 22,



In this July 1 file photo, people help an unidentified injured person after a group of armed gunmen attacked a restaurant popular with foreigners

were known to have been inside the restaurant, but Bangladeshi authorities and police denied having them in custody after the attack. Their families and New York-based Human Rights Watch had appealed for news about them and said the authorities were holding the men.

Karim was in the restaurant with his wife and two

daughters and the family had said they were there to celebrate the birthday of their daughter.

But a South Korean man from a nearby apartment had shot a video of the scene in the restaurant in which Karim was seen talking to the attackers.

Police also said there were photographs showing Karim smoking on the rooftop

of the building with two of the attackers standing behind him.

"We are taking them to a court and we have already sought 10 days police custody for further questioning," Rahman said soon after the arrests.

Hours after his arrest, Karim's family said he was innocent and should be released immediately.

"He had no links to any terrorist group or organization. He and his family were celebrating his daughter's 13th birthday when they became victims of a terrorist attack," Rodney Dixon, the family lawyer, said in a statement.

He said the family was "willing to cooperate fully with the authorities to prove his innocence."

"There is clearly no evidence to charge him and he should be let go without any further delay," the family said.

"He is not a suspect and has not been charged," the statement said. **AP**

## Indonesian court rejects radical cleric's appeal

**I**NDONESIA'S Supreme Court has rejected an appeal by a radical Islamic cleric who was convicted of funding a terror training camp.

Abu Bakar Bashir, known as the spiritual leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah militants behind the 2002 Bali bombings, had sought a judicial review of his June 2011 conviction, for which he was sentenced to 15 years in prison. A higher court reduced it to nine years, but the Supreme Court reinstated the 15-year sentence in February 2012 on appeal by state prosecutors.

Supreme Court spokesman Suhadi said yesterday the appeal was rejected by a three-member judicial panel in a verdict dated July 27. Suhadi, who uses one name, said "the judicial review failed to present new evidence."

"We also did not find any mistakes or irregularities in the verdicts by the district as well as high court," he said. Hearings for Bashir's appeal began in January.

Bashir has neither confirmed nor denied planning attacks. He said the Aceh camp was meant to defend Islam and Muslims.

He acknowledged that the military-style training camp violated the law on firearms but that he was obeying God's orders in supporting it.

The camp brought together men from almost every known extremist group in the predominantly Muslim country.

They were allegedly planning gun attacks on foreigners in the capital, Jakarta, and the assassinations of moderate leaders, including then-President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. **AP**

AD

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Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

# North Korea hopes to plant flag on the moon

**N**ORTH Korean space officials are hard at work on a five-year plan to put more advanced satellites into orbit by 2020, and don't intend to stop there: They're also aiming for the moon, and beyond.

In an interview with The Associated Press, a senior official at North Korea's version of NASA said international sanctions won't stop the country from launching more satellites by 2020, and that he hopes to see the North Korean flag on the moon within the next 10 years.

"Even though the U.S. and its allies try to block our space development, our aerospace scientists will conquer space and definitely plant the flag of the DPRK on the moon," said Hyon Kwang Il, director of the scientific research department of North Korea's National Aerospace Development Administration.

North Korea's official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

An unmanned, no-frills North Korean moon mission in the not-too-distant future isn't as far-fetched as it might seem. Outside experts say it's ambitious, but conceivable. While the U.S. is the only country to have conducted manned lunar missions, other nations have sent unmanned spacecraft there and have in that sense planted their flags.

"It would be a significant increase in technology, not one that is beyond them, but you have to debug each bit," Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics who maintains an exhaustive blog on international satellites and satellite launches, said in an email to the AP.

Hyon said the current five-year plan, at the order of leader Kim Jong Un, focuses on launching more Earth observation satellites and what would be its first geostationary communications satellite — which, technologically, would be a major step forward. He said universities are also expanding programs



A visitor takes photos of an illuminated model of a globe at the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang

to train rocket scientists.

"We are planning to develop the Earth observation satellites and to solve communications problems by developing geostationary satellites. All of this work will be the basis for the flight to the moon," Hyon said on July 28, adding that he personally would like to see that happen "within 10 years' time."

North Korea has marked a number of successes in its space program — and, of course, in its development of ever-more-sophisticated long-range missiles for military use. On Wednesday, it test-fired what was believed to be a medium-range ballistic missile into the seas off Japan, the fourth reported weapons launch it has carried out in about two weeks.

It launched its latest satellite — the Kwangmyongsong 4, or Brilliant Star 4 — into orbit on Feb. 7, just one month after conducting what it claims was its first H-bomb test.

That brought new sanctions because nuclear tests and rocket launches, which can have military applications, are banned under United Nations resolutions.

Hyon said the sanctions are "ridiculous."

"Our country has started to accomplish our plan and we have started to gain a lot of successes," he said. "No matter what anyone thinks, our country will launch more satellites."

He said North Korea's long-term target is to use its satel-

lites to provide data for crop and forestry assessments and improved communications. It also intends "to do manned spaceflight and scientific experiments in space, make a flight to the moon and moon exploration and also exploration to other planets."

The U.S. made its first lunar flyby in 1959, only six months after its first satellite, Explorer 1, though it took eight more years and several failed attempts to succeed with a lunar orbiter. The USSR made its first moon shot after only three successful Sputnik satellites. Its probe — just a year and a half after Sputnik 1 — reached the moon, but missed its orbit.

"So it's not ridiculous to attempt a moon mission early in your space program," McDowell said.

"Given their low flight rate of one mission every few years, I think it is hard to see them succeeding in this in the next five years, but possible to see them attempting it," he said.

North Korea currently has two satellites in orbit, KMS-3-2 and KMS-4. It put its first satellite in orbit in 2012, a feat few other countries have achieved. Rival South Korea, for example, has yet to do so.

Hyon said that as of July 27, KMS-4 had completed 2,513 orbits, and that within one day after its launch it transmitted 700 photographic images back to Earth. He said it is still working properly and sending data whenever it passes over North Korea, which is four ti-

still be quite a challenge," he said in an email from Munich, where he is based.

"Judging from what I have seen so far with their space program, it will take North Korea about a decade or more to get to lunar orbit at best — if they really pursue this mission," he said. "My personal guess, however, is that they might try but they will fail, and we will not see a successful North Korea lunar orbiter for at least two decades, if ever."

Hyon said claims that North Korea's space plan is a military program in disguise are hypocritical, considering the history of space exploration. The U.S., Russia and China all built their space programs out of military technology. Many of the rockets they use today were initially developed as ICBMs.

"It is the U.S. that militarized space," he said.

He said the North Korean military has already succeeded in developing long-range missiles that can reach anywhere on Earth, "especially to American territory," and so "there is no need for our state to use the space program for ballistic missile development."

That argument isn't likely to sway sanctions advocates in Washington or Seoul. But Schiller said the claim is plausible, given the advances in weaponry North Korea has displayed through its overtly military missile tests and the specific designs of the Unha rockets that are used to launch its satellites.

"I agree they [the military] will not learn any essential new things from launching another Unha rocket," he said. "Of course, there are lessons learned that you can also apply for the missile program. But the whole missile program shows so many different characteristics that they seem to be separated to a certain degree." AP

**Our aerospace scientists will conquer space and definitely plant the flag of the DPRK on the moon.**

HYON KWANG IL  
NATIONAL AEROSPACE  
DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION.



In this July 26, 2013, file photo, North Koreans dance under a flashcard display of an image of a satellite during the Arirang Mass Games celebrations in Pyongyang



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EMIRATES CRASH LAND IN DUBAI

# Crashing, burning planes don't stop passengers from grabbing their luggage

Justin Bachman

**I**F your flight has an emergency and you're told to evacuate, be certain that at least two things will happen. You'll experience the adrenaline rush of a lifetime, for one. But you'll also hear the urgent commands of flight attendants telling you to leave your bags behind. Yes, all of them. Laptops and purses, too.

Maybe the adrenaline is causing temporary deafness. Materialism has been winning out over self-preservation as air travelers often ignore the order to drop everything, a fact illustrated in recent years by laden passengers fleeing a burning 777 in San Francisco or a Delta Air Lines Inc. jet that skidded off a snowy New York runway. The latest example came on Wednesday, when an Emirates Airline flight crashed on landing in Dubai, followed by a severe fire that consumed much of the Boeing 777-300. Video showed some travelers collecting luggage before they escaped. All 282 passengers and 18 crew survived, but an airport firefighter died while battling the blaze.

## Materialism has been winning out over self-preservation as air travelers often ignore the order to drop everything

The scramble for luggage makes flight attendants, pilots and safety experts apoplectic. What many passengers fail to realize is that pausing to pull out a bag endangers not only them, but everyone behind them. U.S. regulators require that aircraft be evacuated in 90 seconds in an emergency, a standard that's taken hold across most of



A family that were passengers onboard an Emirates jetliner that crash landed are helped to a taxi in Dubai

the globe. Some airlines have also incorporated the notice about discarding belongings into the pre-flight safety briefing passengers receive.

Yet, despite the shock from a crash or skid or cabin smoke and the looming potential for fire, bags remain a powerful lure, seen by some as too precious to leave.

"Flight attendants have said they have had to physically grab bags from people and throw them into the galley to get them away from the evacuation," said Sara Nelson, international president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA. "There's a lot of problems with those bags."

One of the most dangerous arises from bottlenecks that occur while flight attendants manage "flow control." This includes helping passengers jump into the emergency slide correctly, said Michael Massoni, operational safety chairperson for the Transport Workers Union Local 556 and a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines Co. "There's all kinds of potential for nonsense if there are a lot of bags."

In the worst scenarios, some of that nonsense can end with injury or death. Putting more bags into cargo holds could lessen the problem, but airlines want to decrease the load of each plane to save on fuel, and passengers don't want to pay those fees or leave things at home. It turns out that, for both passengers and airlines, when it's your money or your life, money wins.

Is there a regulatory fix? Fines or prosecution of crash survivors? Overhead bins the crew can lock if an emergency is declared? Any potential remedy comes with an array of potential problems, from costs to legal issues to operational glitches. Some bins, for example, hold items a flight attendant might need in an emergency.

The possibility of a huge fine "would stick in their mind" and cause passengers to leave their bags as directed, Nelson said. Yet flyers may simply assume those rules are unenforceable unless busy emergency personnel on the ground helped enforce them. "In the chaos of an evacuation, where you're trying to get everyone off an airplane in 90 seconds, you're going to have a hard time identifying who had the briefcase, who had the big bag, and they didn't follow my order," Massoni said.

A study on emergency evacuations in 2000 by the National Transportation Safety Board found that almost 50 percent of people in an evacuation had tried to take a

bag. The report examined 46 aircraft evacuations, and included surveys of passengers and flight attendants on those flights. Two-thirds of the 36 flight attendants who responded said that carry-on bags were an obstruction during the evacuation. The main reasons passengers gave for grabbing their bags was money, wallets or credit cards, followed by work materials, keys and medication. "Although not everyone attempts to retrieve and take carry-on baggage during an evacuation, everyone in the airplane could potentially be affected by these attempts," the study noted.

To date, the Federal Aviation Administration has not pursued civil penalties against anyone who has taken luggage during an evacuation in violation of crew instructions. "I think we could pursue a penalty if failure to obey a crew member's instruction resulted in a significant safety issue — such as blocking an exit so other passengers could not get out in a timely way," FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said in an email.

Nelson, the flight attendants association chief, is a 20-year veteran who works at United Continental Holdings Inc. She likens the bag-evacuation issue to smoking on an aircraft, which the FAA banned in 1990. Without stiff sanctions, people will continue to grab bags despite flight attendants' entreaties. Today, both smoking on board and tampering with aircraft smoke detectors invite federal prosecution and steep fines.

"Smoking is not allowed because it can jeopardize the lives and the health of other passengers and the lives and health of the crew," she said. "And carrying your bag could have the same consequence." **Bloomberg**

### DUBAI RETRIEVING BLACK BOXES OF EMIRATES PLANE

**AUTHORITIES BEGAN** retrieving evidence from the wreckage of a Boeing Co. 777-300 airliner a day after the Emirates plane crash-landed in Dubai and burst into flames, with a focus on the landing gear that didn't deploy

before touchdown. A team of investigators from the United Arab Emirates' General Civil Aviation Authority is working to recover the plane's flight-data and cockpit-voice recorders, the regulator said yesterday in a statement.

## Woman killed, five hurt in London knife attack



A man who stabbed an American woman to death and injured five other people in London's Russell Square is a Norwegian of Somali origin, police said yesterday. They said they have found no signs of radicalization as a motive. Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley said the investigation "increasingly points to this tragic incident as having been triggered by mental-health issues."

## Portugal nabs 40,000 ecstasy tablets at Lisbon airport

Portuguese police say they have arrested an 18-year-old foreigner at Lisbon airport in possession of around 40,000 ecstasy tablets. Police said in a statement yesterday that the 17-kilo haul is the largest Portuguese airport seizure of the drug in the past five years. The suspect, whose name and nationality were not provided, appeared before a judge and was denied bail. The European Union drug agency, which monitors substance abuse in the 28-nation bloc, said earlier this year that ecstasy is becoming popular again among a new generation of users.

## Greek minister: EU unprepared if migration deal collapses



A minister for migration in Greece says European Union countries would not be ready to deal with another surge in migration if a deal with Turkey to limit migrant and refugee arrivals collapses. Yiannis Mouzalas said Greece and other European countries would be "severely tested" if the March agreement failed — in the wake of an attempted coup in Turkey and a government crackdown on its alleged sympathizers that has strained relations with the EU. Mouzalas told private Skai television yesterday that "no country in Europe is ready" for a repeat of the mass arrival of migrants and refugees that occurred last year. He made the remarks a day after a government official told the AP that the EU-Turkey deal was holding so far, with daily arrival numbers remaining low.

## 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
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie

## SATURDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Animation
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	Soap Opera
17:25	Documentary Serie
18:35	Contest
19:30	Wild Life
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Drama
22:00	Revenge S.3
22:45	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Brother's & Sister's S.5

## SUNDAY

11:15	Young Children
11:35	Zig Zag
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Wild Life (Repeated)
15:25	Zig Zag
17:05	Theatre
17:50	Non-Daily Portuguese News
19:30	Comedy
20:10	Ui Di Sabroso S.1
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Show Me Lisbon
22:00	The School That Turned Chinese
23:00	TDM News

## offbeat

## THE IDEAL OFFICE FLOOR PLAN, ACCORDING TO SCIENCE

The open office plan that everybody loves to hate is here to stay. The ideal seating plan still involves sitting almost on top of your co-workers, according to new research from Harvard Business School. What changes, however, is who exactly sits next to whom.

For two years, researchers followed the seating arrangements and output of 2,000 workers at an unidentified technology company, measuring the proximity and productivity of the participants by looking at how quickly they completed tasks. The denser an area is with productive people, the better it was for a nearby worker's productivity, effectiveness, and quality of work, the research found.

The converse also holds true for sitting near "toxic" workers, or people who break the rules at work. The researchers call this the "spillover effect" — people at nearby desks rub off on each other, in both good and bad ways. Workers can't be too far away for this to work: The effect diminishes outside a 25-foot radius.

The open office plan caught on as a way to kick-start creativity and productivity. In the knowledge economy, placing people in close proximity leads to more idea sharing, or so the theory goes. The success of such companies as Google and Pixar was, in part, attributed to their "collaborative" office spaces. "This [study] is very consistent with that idea," said researcher Dylan Minor, a visiting assistant professor at Harvard. "Those within a reasonable space indeed have quite an effect on those around them."

To optimize efficiency, companies should seat employees according to the type of worker they are, the HBS research found. The researchers identified two types of people: high-productivity employees who generally produce lower-quality work and slower people who generate high-quality work. The two types of people have a spillover effect on each other, but only in a positive way, the study found. The productive people made the slow people faster, without compromising quality. And the high-quality producers similarly rubbed off on the high-speed workers. Even if those workers move or leave the company, the effects of their skills last for an additional month or so, the study found. **Bloomberg**

## cinema



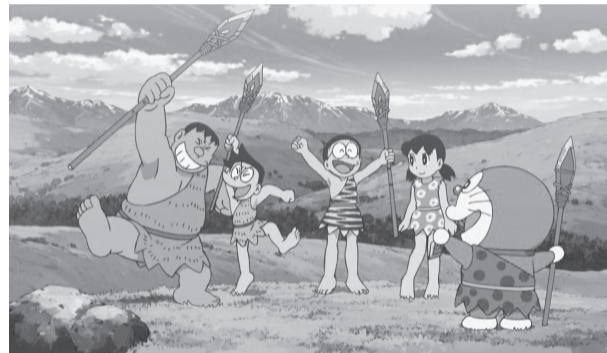
## CINETEATRO

04 Aug - 10 Aug

## ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE

ROOM 1  
(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm  
(3D) 5.45 pmDirector: Mike Thurmeier, Galen Chu  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 97min

## BOUNTY HUNTERS

ROOM 1  
9.30 pmDirector: Shin Terra  
Starring: Lee Min Ho, Chung Hon Leung, Tang Yan, Karena Ng  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 110min

## DOREAMON: BIRTH OF JAPAN

ROOM 2  
2.30, 4.30, 7.30 pmDirector: Shinnosuke Yakuwa  
Duration: 97min

## ONE PIECE FILM GOLD

ROOM 2  
9.30 pmDirector: Eiichiro Edo  
Language: Japanese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 120min

## THE SHALLOWS

ROOM 3  
2.15, 6.05, 7.45, 9.30 pmDirector: Jaume Collet-Serra  
Starring: Blake Lively, Óscar Jaenada, Brett Cullen, Sedona Legge  
Language: English (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 86min

## ONE PIECE FILM GOLD

ROOM 3  
3.50 pmDirector: Eiichiro Edo  
Language: Japanese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 120min

## MACAU TOWER

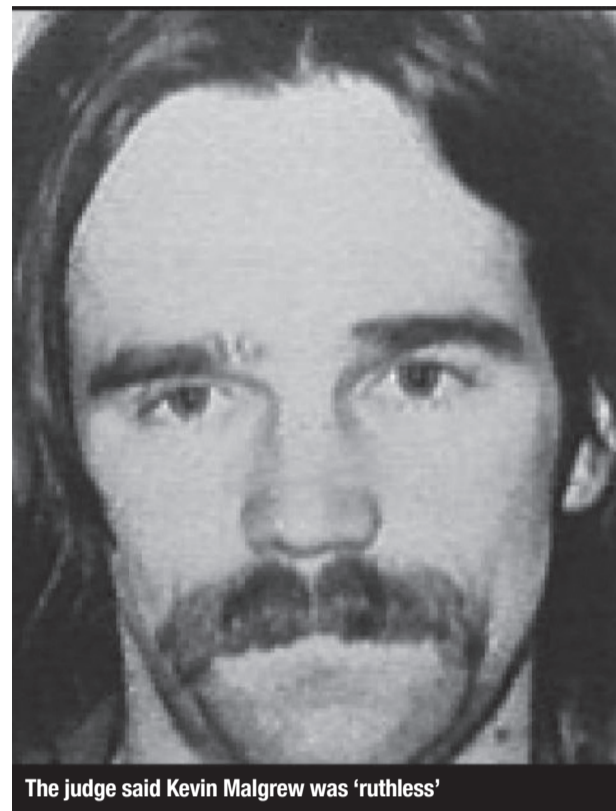
04 Aug - 17 Aug

## SUICIDE SQUAD

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: David Ayer  
Starring: Will Smith, Jared Leto, Margot Robbie  
Language: English (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 123min

## this day in history



The judge said Kevin Malgrew was 'ruthless'

## 1983 IRA MEMBERS JAILED FOR 4,000 YEARS

Twenty-two members of the IRA have been jailed for a total of more than 4,000 years following one of Northern Ireland's biggest mass trials.

Four defendants were given life sentences with 18 others receiving shorter prison terms.

In total 38 defendants faced various charges including murder and attempted murder.

Kevin Malgrew, who faced the most charges - 84 - was sentenced to jail terms totalling 963 years.

Sentencing him the judge, Mr Justice Basil Kelly said: "You are a ruthless terrorist. I do not expect any words of mine will ever raise in you a twinge of remorse."

In spite of the long sentences none of those convicted is expected to spend more than 20 years in prison as the judge ordered the terms should be served concurrently.

The IRA members were convicted largely on the evidence of a police informant, the so-called "supergrass" Christopher Black.

He was granted immunity from prosecution and is now believed to be abroad.

A police spokesman said they believed Black was being hunted by the IRA.

The judge, Mr Justice Basil Kelly wore a bullet proof vest throughout the trial.

Like all judges in such cases he will receive police protection for the rest of his life.

But in spite of some of the long sentences he handed down, Mr Justice Kelly also showed compassion to some of those of trial.

He set 13 people free with suspended sentences or discharges saying he realised the "enormous pressure" placed upon them within their community to help extremists.

Postman Francis Murphy got a suspended sentence for allowing a IRA man to wear his uniform so he could carry out a murder.

And the Mr Justice Kelly gave Mr Murphy's mother an absolute discharge for having later burnt the uniform.

"Very many other mothers would have done the same," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

**Eighteen** of those convicted on Black's evidence had their convictions quashed in 1986.

The IRA trial followed another "supergrass" court case in April involving members of the Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force.

The key evidence in that trial came from Joseph Bennett who was granted immunity in return for his testimony.

It led to 14 men being imprisoned - two for life terms.

Christopher Black and Joseph Bennett were among about 30 former extremists who turned informant.

Their evidence led to the identification of up to 300 people and had a crippling effect on the groups' activities.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Try to reign in what comes naturally to you...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Yes, your coworkers can be amusing. But remind yourself that you work for the financial rewards...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You can have a good day, filled with the best of intentions. Or you can have a great day filled with follow-through...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're feeling overwhelmed. Your boss isn't putting any controls on your output for some reason...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You can't help but listen to your colleagues talk. And by the sound of it, life for them is one big party...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The day has the potential to be either good or bad. Even though you're stuck at the office, work issues don't play a decisive role...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 A new project or work topic rings a bell deep inside you. You're finally discussing your innermost self at work...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're not a pickpocket, exactly, but you're tempted to take what doesn't belong to you...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Watch out for interactions with colleagues - if you want to have a productive day, that is...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Communication at the office is a tricky thing. What you say is just as important as how you say it...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 An intellectual connection with a colleague makes most directions seem like stating the obvious...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your boss may wonder just what's going on. When clarity dissolves, you have no choice but to be vague...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Prepuce; 9- 12th sign of the zodiac; 15- Prepared with almonds; 16- Whole; 17- Leans; 18- Deceive; 19- \_\_\_ yellow ribbon...; 20- Unselfish; 22- Command to the band; 26- Arbitrator; 27- DDE's bailiwick; 29- Compass dir.; 30- Suffix with meteor; 31- Place in order; 33- Provide food for; 38- Dwells; 39- Straddling; 41- One cubic meter; 42- Vitamin B1; 43- Cpl., e.g.; 46- Maze; 47- Summer along the Seine; 48- Aircraft carrier; 52- This is only \_\_\_; 54- Restored; 56- Injure; 59- Prolific inventor; 60- Language letters; 64- Carved image; 65- Portuguese navigator; 66- Not disposed to cheat; 67- Disperses;

DOWN: 1- \_\_\_ accompli; 2- Prefix with present; 3- Horse bred for racing; 4- Zhou \_\_\_; 5- Star Wars letters; 6- Relatives; 7- Having four sharps; 8- Loch \_\_\_ monster; 9- Air rifle projectile; 10- Incompetent; 11- Stagnant; 12- Apple juice; 13- Uneven, as if gnawed away; 14- Inward feeling; 21- "\_\_\_ tu" (Verdi aria); 23- Biased; 24- "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter; 25- Driving aids; 27- Piercing places; 28- Waste allowance; 32- Atmosphere; 34- Altar in the sky; 35- Schedule; 36- Blue-pencil; 37- Russo of "The Thomas Crown Affair"; 39- \_\_\_ girl; 40- Ammo; 44- Trumpet relative; 45- Poetically ajar; 48- Newly made; 49- Resulted in; 50- Pertaining to bees; 51- Sensation provided by buds on the tongue; 53- Commandment word; 55- Beaver creations; 57- Caboose; 58- Range; Abbr.; 61- Fond du \_\_\_; 62- Links org.; 63- Worked (up)

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words. Words include BOAT, ALCOA, SESÉ, RAGA, NOAHS, USED, ATRI, DRESS, NATE, CHILDREN, INDIAN, SO, RROW, UTTERED, CRISP, TIDE, AER, AIT, VAPID, NRA, LOA, ALOT, HITIT, ENSNARE, MESSES, ERIS, ORO, DECREE, NURSING, ELEV, YEENA, AMIE, COLE, ARSIS, TATE, AILS, LASTS, ENER.

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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

Stephen Wilson, Rio de Janeiro

## OLYMPICS

# You're in! Five new sports make Tokyo 2020 cut

**B**ASEBALL and softball are returning to the Olympics in 2020, while skateboarding, surfing, karate and sport climbing are joining the games for the first time.

The IOC approved the addition of the sports on Wednesday for the Tokyo Games, calling it an "innovative" mix of traditional and youth-oriented events that will attract Japanese and global fans.

The five, including a combined baseball-softball bid, were put forward for inclusion last year by Tokyo organizers. Under new IOC rules, host cities can propose additional sports for their own games. IOC members voted unanimously to accept the five sports as a package. The approval was for the Tokyo Games only.

The new sports will add 18 events and 474 athletes to the program. The Tokyo Games will now feature 33 sports and about 11,000 athletes, compared to the usual number of 28 sports and 10,500 athletes.

While men's baseball and women's softball — both highly popular in Japan — will be returning after a 12-year absence, the other sports will be making their Olympic debuts. The IOC called it "the most comprehensive evolution of the Olympic program in modern history."

"Taken together, the five sports are an innovative combination of established and emerging, youth-focused events that are popular in Japan and will add to the legacy of the Tokyo Games," IOC President Thomas Bach said.

Baseball and softball have been off the Olympic program since the 2008 Beijing Games. The two were rejected in separate bids to return for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, so they combined forces to put forward a single bid for inclu-



Skateboarding icon Tony Hawk gestures while speaking at the Executive Marketing Summit in New York in 2011. Hawk thinks his sport will give the Olympics a big lift if it's added to the 2020 Tokyo Games

sion in Tokyo.

Men's baseball was a full part of the Olympic program from 1992 to 2008, with women's softball joining in 1996. The IOC voted them both out in 2005.

Baseball will have a six-team tournament, short of the eight-team format sought by officials from the sport's international federation. Women's softball will also have six teams. The games will be played at a shared venue in Yokohama.

"Today's historic decision by the IOC is a 'home run' for the Olympics, our sport and the Tokyo 2020 Games," said Riccardo Fraccari, president of the World Baseball Softball Confederation.

Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred also welcomed the IOC vote.

"Baseball and softball are global sports that belong in the Olympics," he said, adding that their approval "will allow fans throughout the world to again

enjoy baseball and softball on the Olympic stage."

Craig Cress, executive director of USA Softball, said many young players had suffered after the sport was removed from the games.

"Their hearts were broken that they weren't allowed to participate for their country at the Olympics in the sport that they had a passion for," he said. "Now, that's back. In 2020, it's our job as ambassadors of the sport to put on a great show in Tokyo."

Before the vote, several IOC members questioned whether baseball would have the world's top players at the games. While pro leagues in Japan and some other countries have agreed to shut down their seasons to send their players to the Olympics, MLB has declined to do so.

Franco Carraro, who chairs the IOC's program commission, said he hopes the international federation can still reach an agreement with MLB, in line with the deals with the NBA and NHL that brought pro basketball and ice hockey players into the Olympics.

If not, Carraro said, it will be "difficult for baseball to be included in the future" beyond the Tokyo Games.

Fraccari said talks with MLB are "very open and going in a very good way."

"Our goal is not to appear one time but to be permanently in the program," he said. "The goal is to have the best players possible."

Skateboarding will have street and park events, and feature 80 athletes — 40 men and 40 women. Tony Hawk told AP that the addition of skateboarding in the games will give the Olympics a big lift. "There are more participants in skateboarding than most sports so I feel like they [the Olympics] need our credibility and they need our excitement level in their Summer Games," he said.

"I've always believed that if skateboarding was properly protected and supported, its appearance on the Olympic stage could change the world," International Skateboarding Federation president Gary Ream said.

Skateboarding's approval came despite tensions between rival federations.

For the Olympics, a special "Tokyo 2020 skateboarding commission" was formed to run the sport. It is a collaboration between the International Roller Sports Federation (FIRS) and the ISF.

A lawsuit was filed last week in California by the World Skateboarding Federation (WSF). It alleged the ISF abruptly canceled scheduled drug testing at an event last year because of fears that several riders would test positive.

The lawsuit also alleged that Ream struck up a friendly relationship with Christophe Dubi, the IOC Olympic Games executive director, and provided Dubi's son with free training at a skateboarding camp he owned. **MDT/AP**

## RIO | THE LATEST

## Solo says not bothered by 'Zika, Zika' chants

**T**HE latest from the Rio Olympic games:

— American football goalkeeper Hope Solo says she was not bothered by fans who chanted "Zika, Zika" at her as the U.S. women's team defeated New Zealand in its Olympic debut on Wednesday [yesterday, Macau time]. The crowd of nearly 10,000 fans at the 60,000-capacity Mineirao Stadium jeered the goalkeeper with the reference to the virus. Solo upset some Brazilians before coming to the

Olympics by tweeting a photo of herself wearing a hat with mosquito netting and posting pictures of mosquito repellent that she was packing.

— Olympians can now go for their "Pokemon Go" medals. There had initially been much disappointment among those at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic games that they could not play the "Pokemon Go" game, but as of Wednesday the creatures are popping up everywhere.

— Worried IOC members are grilling the Rio

de Janeiro Games organizers about traffic jams, water pollution, security and the absence of signage to give the games its own distinct look. Organizing committee president Carlos Nuzman and CEO Sidney Levy tried to be reassuring but acknowledged it had been "very difficult" to prepare South America's first games, which have been plagued by slow ticket sales and worries over the Zika virus, crime and security, and costs.

— Russian Olympic

Committee president Alexander Zhukov says he expects "between 272 and 280" Russian athletes to be cleared to compete in the Rio de Janeiro Games. Zhukov says he expects a ruling later Wednesday from the IOC on which athletes have been approved.

— Brazilian riot police have used tear gas and pepper spray to disperse protesters in the path of the Olympic torch relay north of Rio de Janeiro. The military police have not responded to



United States goalkeeper Hope Solo takes the ball during a women's Olympic football tournament match against New Zealand at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte

immediate requests for information. Hundreds of people were protesting in the neighboring

municipality of Duque de Caxias against salary delays of public workers in Rio state. **MDT/AP**

opinion

**Kapok**  
 Eric Sautédé



**TO HOIST OR NOT TO HOIST...**

In this part of the world, and especially at that time of the year, the right meteorological prediction can often be a matter of life and death: our subtropical climate endowed with a humid monsoon regime is characterized by a Typhoon-prone wet season in Summer, and tropical cyclones are not only fortuitous happenings — although they can provide the like of Joseph Conrad with great fictional inspiration — but regular manifestations of the (still) indomitable essence of Mother Nature.

The deadliest typhoons killed in the thousands, and memories of super-Typhoons do not date back exclusively to the nineteenth century: in 2013, Haiyan left a trail of some 6,300 dead people in its path, mainly in the Visayas in the Philippines, and some put the unofficial death toll well above 10,000. Many reasons can help explain such a dreadful outcome: the path of the tropical cyclone itself (a direct hit is always the worst), the quality of the constructions (more shoddy means more risky), the zoning of lands defined as proper for construction (floodable areas or landslide paths provide additional danger) and of course the extent of preventive measures, mostly determined by proper meteorological assessment.

Macao has a long history when it comes to early warnings in relation to tropical cyclones. Any visit to the Guia Lighthouse, now part of UNESCO world heritage, constitutes a clear reminder that the oldest modern lighthouse of the China coast (completed in 1865) was (and still is somehow) not only a precious guide for sailors returning to safety harbor but also the point of reference for Typhoon signals — made of black-painted metal — to be literally “hoisted” beside the proud white tower situated on top of Guia Hill.

The current controversy regarding the non-issuance of the tropical cyclone No. 8 signal as Nida was making its way towards our shores on August 2nd — whereas not only Hong Kong, but also Shenzhen and Zhuhai had issued such a warning — is thus causing a particular worry in our SAR: how come, such a long and well-established level of competence regarding a system of severe weather condition advanced notices could have gone so much astray? Is it a scientific mistake — despite the director of the Weather Bureau (SMG) claiming to the contrary and that everything was done by the book? Is it a blunder — the decision-making process within the SMG proving dysfunctional? Is it the result of outside pressure and thus influence peddling — fingers are being pointed towards the gaming industry? Is it a public relation disaster — the overconfidence of the scientific bureaucrat proving extremely detrimental, as usual? Is it a mix of all these and then what would it take to make things better? José Pereira Coutinho is asking for the head of Mr Fong and some other legislators for an independent inquiry: would that be a start, or the end of the measures to be swiftly adopted?

What is true is that for years Mr Fong and his chief subaltern, deputy director Leong Ka Cheng, had been under the authority of, first, the most corrupt officials of Macao, up to 2006, and then under one of the most incompetent, by some records, up to 2014. No wonder that bad habits — some revealed by a long and detailed article published by “Macao Concealers” — were taken: a sense of complete impunity by the top management, despite the many administrative enquiries, and the ever worsening mismanagement of human resources inside the bureau characterized by extreme forms of favoritism. Some of the shortcomings of the SMG had already started to show in April this year when the bureau was forced to apologize to the public regarding several blunders concerning mishaps related to rainstorm warnings untimely publicized.

Beyond the potential enquiry and the individual culprits that might be found in the end, and beyond the ever apologizing sense of duty displayed by Secretary Raimundo do Rosário, what will need to be restored is the trust within these public departments: only then can the link with the public prove healthy. Competent people need to be rewarded, not the contrary!

THE **BUZZ** BEIJING ON TRACK FOR 2022 GAMES

Organizers of the Winter Olympics in 2022 in Beijing are promising that everything is already on track for the country’s second Olympics, building on experience from the Summer Games in 2008.

Pan Zhiwei, director of international relations, said the games will attract 300 million more Chinese to participate in winter sports. “We know that we have a long way to go to be a strong nation in winter sports. An important reason for

us to bid for the Olympic Winter Games is our desire to popularize and develop winter sports through hosting the games,” he said

Pan made a quick, passing reference to environmental concerns surrounding the Beijing Olympics, including the need for artificial snow production. “We are deeply aware that compared to the Summer Games, holding the Winter Games will present many challenges such as natural conditions,” the director noted.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**AUSTRALIA** Two men have been charged with drug smuggling after methamphetamine valued at 115 million Australian dollars (USD90 million) was shipped to Sydney from Africa hidden in wooden logs, officials said yesterday.



AP PHOTO

**TURKEY** A court in Turkey issued a formal warrant yesterday for the arrest of U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who the government accuses of being behind the failed July 15 coup that left more than 270 people dead. The government says Gulen, a former ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania, masterminded the failed coup attempt by renegade officers in Turkey’s military and wants him extradited to Turkey. Gulen has denied involvement or prior knowledge of the coup attempt.

**CYPRUS’** justice minister says authorities have arrested a 28-year-old Austrian man on suspicion of having links to terrorist organizations. Ionas Nicolaou said yesterday that Cypriot authorities received a tip-off from Poland’s Interpol that the man was seeking to come to Cyprus after Polish authorities deported him.



**NIGERIA’s** Boko Haram Islamic extremists have a new leader who is threatening to bomb churches and kill Christians while ending attacks on mosques and markets used by ordinary Muslims. He also says there is a Western plot to Christianize the region and has accused charities of using their aid for that purpose.



**Trash piles outside bins draw public’s attention**

**COMMUNITIES** in the northern, central and southern districts have filed complaints about trash piling up around garbage bins located in their surroundings. According to a report by Macao Daily News, some of the district residents deposit their families’ waste, as well as construction waste, in spaces adjacent to trash-collecting facilities.

In recent years, the local government has established garbage chambers across all districts in the territory. However, the General Union of Neighborhood Association (Kai Fong) said the areas surrounding these facilities are overflowing with refuse. The association stated

that residents dump large furniture, electrical devices and other waste outside the chambers on a daily basis. As these areas cannot be cleaned immediately, strong smells spread around the neighborhood, especially in extreme weather.

Kai Fong has urged the government to take immediate action before the situation deteriorates. MSAR policies state that any parties responsible for abandoning certain kinds of waste, such as industrial waste, shall be fined MOP600 — a light punishment, according to the association, compared to the fines applied in neighboring regions. The association has suggested that the government increase

the fines and assign those responsible to community service.

Kai Fong also suggested that the authorities establish 24-hour reporting hotlines to help curb unruly behavior. The association said Macao should learn from the Japanese and devise schedules for each household to dispose of their garbage at different times.

Currently, the city relies mainly on garbage chambers for household waste collection. Each chamber has a capacity of 1,100 liters.

Overall, there are 121 garbage chambers across the entire Macau peninsula, according to the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau.

Staff reporter

**times square by rodrigo**



Times