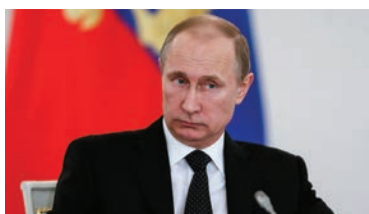




UBER REASONS TO BACK OR NOT TO BACK

Andrew Scott, president of Taxi Passengers Association, explains why he's (reluctantly) not supporting Sunday's Uber rally

P4 LETTER TO THE EDITOR



PUTIN'S GAMBLE: WHAT HAPPENS IN VLADIVOSTOK STAYS IN VLADIVOSTOK

P9



HONG KONG: OCCUPY FACTIONS ADD UNCERTAINTY TO SUNDAY'S ELECTION

Two years after chaotic pro-democracy protests, a number of young activists hope to keep the spirit of Occupy alive by running for political office on Sunday

P11

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Manufacturing activity grew at its fastest pace in nearly two years in August, according to an official survey yesterday, in a possible sign that the world's No. 2 economy is steadying thanks to government stimulus. *More on p10*



INDONESIA is screening travelers from neighboring Singapore for the mosquito-borne Zika virus as the city-state reports a growing number of infections and its first case of a pregnant woman testing positive. *More on p12*

PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN Pakistan's military says a key border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan has reopened, nearly two weeks after it was closed in response to Afghan protesters burning the Pakistani flag at a border rally. At a news conference yesterday, army spokesman Lt. Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa says the decision to reopen the border was made after Afghan officials apologized for the incident.



SYRIA With the killing of Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, the Islamic State group lost one of its most powerful figures, a militant with multiple roles. In a statement announcing his death, IS described al-Adnani as a descendant of Prophet Muhammad's family and tribe.

More on backpage

AUGUST TO REMEMBER

Gaming positive results end epic two-year drop

P3,7



THE SEVENTH

Macau among most expensive cities for business travelers

P2



Extra

times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

editorial

Paulo Coutinho



OFFICIALDOM

THIS week, on Tuesday evening, August 30, I received in my mailbox an unusual (not unique) request from a media agency. I guess I wasn't the only editor in that blind carbon copy because of the way it was addressed:

Dear Sir/Madam,

On September 6, 2016, 20:00 local time, the World Cup Qualification match Syria - Korea Republic will be played at the Macau Olympic Complex in Macau.

[Company name] has been contracted by FIFA's New Media department to supply the live match data for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Qualification matches for FIFA.com. We will have correspondents at every World Cup Qualification match in the world.

We are looking for a reporter at the stadium who can provide us with the following details:

- The line-ups of both teams: names, shirt numbers, position and officials (30-60 minutes before kickoff);
- Start and end of first and second half (live, at the moment);
- Goals with scorer, shirt number of the scorer and minute (live, during the match);
- Yellow and red cards with booked player, shirt number of the player and minute (live, during the match);
- Substitutions with players names, shirt numbers of both players and minute (live, during the match).

[Company name] is, of course, willing to pay for this information. Our correspondent will receive [sum of money] for sending the live match details from the stadium.

If you know someone who can provide this information and is willing to be at the stadium for the match, please let us know.

Kind regards...

The assigned reporter was more than happy to do it for FIFA - not only would he be covering an historic moment in Macau but he was paid extra dough.

The next day, when I was about to reply to the gentleman/lady saying that we would be covering the match with all due attention and that we could provide the service, news of the cancellation broke out in Korea.

As we first reported, along with SCMP, it had been a done deal. Moreover, not only would the Syria-Korea game be played in Taipa's stadium, but all Syria's five "home" matches, including one against team China, were to be played here. It seemed like a weird deal because China would actually be the country playing on home soil. Some visitors to our Facebook post of that story were shocked, scandalized and speechless ("senza parole").

Niall Fraser, a seasoned journalist covering Macau for decades, wrote on the front page of the SCMP (Monday, 29) that according to his sources, "Beijing brokered the deal," now defunct, between Macau football authorities and the giant international regulators of the "beautiful game".

"Bringing Syria to play their matches in Macau would have been a win-win [situation]," Daniel Sousa, vice president of the MFA, said on Wednesday night.

Well, no doubt about that. But it was exactly that win-win situation (I suppose Macau and China would be the "winners") that didn't echo so nicely in Iran, Qatar or Uzbekistan..., the other national teams in Group A, along with China, Korea and our Syrian "friends".

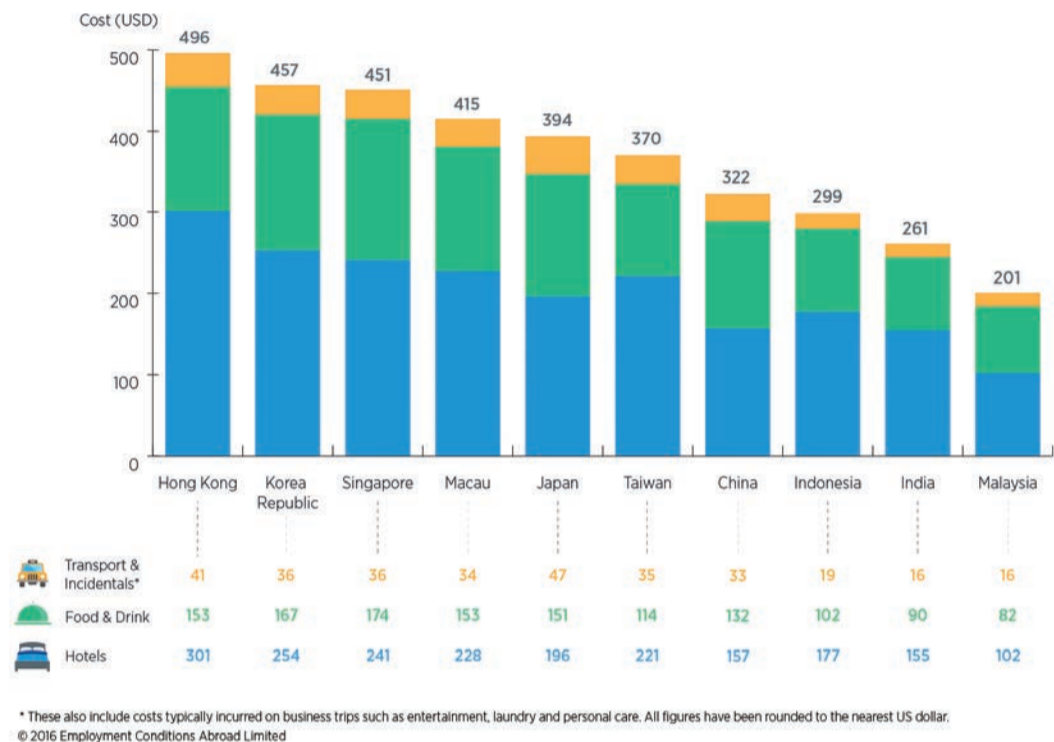
A Korean soccer association spokesperson put things in perspective. While "trying to find out why Macau decided not to stage the match," he speculated that money may be the problem.

Money is always "the" problem in Macau, as we all know - it's no matter that our GDP is roughly 20 times that of Syria.

Money obfuscates minds in this gambling town where the prevailing mindset is that which gets inspiration from strong Northern winds: what's official is right. I would say that we live, more and more, in a system of rules of officialdom as opposed to truth, justice and the rule of law.

Macau ranked 7th on ECA's most expensive cities for business travelers in 2015

Daily Rates - Asia's top business destinations



MACAU has been placed seventh on the ECA International annual ranking for the most expensive cities in Asia Pacific for business travelers in 2015. On this same list Hong Kong was ranked first.

To determine the annual rankings, International Human Resource Consulting and Expatriate Management ECA International studied a combination of living and lodging costs.

As mentioned in the ECA report, the result comes from "Daily Rates research" that aims to study "business trip costs such as accommodation, meals, drinks, laundry, taxi fares, and other day-to-day necessities."

The ranking places Hong Kong as the most expensive city, followed by Dhaka, Seoul, Tokyo, Singapore and Busan ahead of Macau.

The same report found the results to be driven primarily by accommodation rates. Hong Kong has daily rates that are at least 20 percent higher (in four-star hotel accommodation) than Singapore.

In order to establish a real comparison on the accountability of hotel rates in the final

results, the company developed a comparative ranking that did not take into account the cost of accommodation. In this ranking, Macau drops from 7th to 14th position and Hong Kong drops to 8th position, with Seoul ranked first. Tokyo and Sydney are ranked second and third on the list, respectively, with Sydney climbing eight spots with the exclusion.

Explaining the results, Lee Quane, regional director - Asia for ECA International said, "Seoul and Tokyo's high rankings are a reflection of the general high cost

of goods and services in these two cities, combined with the fact that language issues may limit business travellers in terms of their choices for meals out."

On the opposite end of the spectrum sits Kuala Lumpur as the cheapest location in Asia Pacific for business travel.

The cheapest locations in the region for business travelers, once hotel costs are excluded, are Karachi, Islamabad, Kathmandu and Ulaanbaatar, with costs in Karachi approximately 33 percent less than in Seoul. **RM**

TOP 10 RANKING OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES FOR BUSINESS TRAVELERS

City	Ranking	Ranking excluding hotels	Difference
Hong Kong, HKSAR	1	8	- 7
Dhaka, Bangladesh	2	24	- 22
Seoul, South Korea	3	1	+2
Tokyo, Japan	4	2	+2
Singapore	5	4	+1
Busan, South Korea	6	11	- 5
Macau, MSAR	7	14	- 7
Sydney, Australia	8	3	+ 5
Shanghai, China	9	5	+ 4
Perth, Australia	10	7	+ 3

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SIGNS OF RECOVERY

Gaming snaps two-year drop to rise 1.1 pct on new resorts

MACAU reversed its 26-month slump in gaming revenue as new resorts attracted visits from recreational gamblers.

Casino shares rose, as investors now look to see whether operators can sustain the momentum through a key holiday week. Gross gaming revenue rose 1.1 percent in August to 18.8 billion patacas (USD2.4 billion), according to data from Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) released yesterday. That followed a 4.5 percent decrease in July and beat the median estimate of a 1.5 percent drop by eight analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

Gambling revenue in Macau has been falling since June 2014 amid China's economic downturn and the government's crackdown on corruption, which has scared off high-rollers from the mainland. Operators in Macau have been shifting focus to tourists and recreational gamblers by adding more non-gaming facilities as competition to attract visitors intensifies.

"We need to wait for at least one more month to see if growth can be sustained, and if new casinos will bring more visitors during the peak Golden Week," China International Capital Corp. analyst Chris Kwai said in a telephone interview after the results. "Compared with no growth or even a slight drop, a slight uptick is a big impact on market sentiment."



Wynn Macau Ltd. rose as much as 8.2 percent, the biggest intraday gain in more than a month, while Sands China Ltd. advanced as much as 4.6 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng Index rose 0.8 percent.

Macau's nascent gaming recovery is being led by recreational gamblers, also known as the mass market. Gaming revenue for the segment recovered in July, rising 3.2 percent, compared with an 11 percent drop for the high-roller VIP market, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Intelligence.

There also concerns the raft of casino resorts being com-

pleted in the newer Cotai district will result in intense competition, especially for existing casinos on the Macau peninsula. Sands China Ltd.'s Parisian casino is due to open later this month, while MGM China Holdings Ltd.'s resort in Cotai is scheduled to open next year.

Wynn Palace, the \$4.2 billion luxury casino featuring a \$100 million synchronized fountain show and \$200 million in art and Chinese antique pieces, is seen to be off to a slow start after its Aug. 22 opening. With Macau's high-stake gambling segment still in decline, new projects such as Wynn's are taking market share from the existing base, said Union Gaming Group LLC analyst Grant Govertsen.

"It has largely cannibalized other properties, including their own on the peninsula," CLSA Ltd. analyst Marcus Liu said, referring to Wynn Palace. "The October holiday will be the true test of whether the new property, together with The Parisian, can grow the market." **MDT/Bloomberg**

The October holiday will be the true test of whether the new [Wynn] property, together with The Parisian, can grow the market.

MARCUS LIU
ANALYST, CLSA

MONTHLY GROSS REVENUE FROM GAMES OF FORTUNE IN 2016 AND 2015

	Monthly Gross Revenue*			Accumulated Gross Revenue*		
	2016	2015	Variance	2016	2015	Variance
Jan	18,674	23,748	-21.4%	18,674	23,748	-21.4%
Feb	19,521	19,542	-0.1%	38,195	43,290	-11.8%
Mar	17,981	21,487	-16.3%	56,176	64,777	-13.3%
Apr	17,341	19,167	-9.5%	73,517	83,944	-12.4%
May	18,389	20,346	-9.6%	91,906	104,289	-11.9%
Jun	15,881	17,355	-8.5%	107,787	121,645	-11.4%
Jul	17,774	18,615	-4.5%	125,560	140,259	-10.5%
Aug	18,836	18,623	+1.1%	144,396	158,882	-9.1%

* Revenue in million MOP

Source: Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau

Syria v South Korea to be played in Malaysia



As the Times reported yesterday, South Korea and Syria will not play their World Cup qualifier in Macau as previously scheduled. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said the match will now take place at Paroi Stadium in Malaysia's Seremban state next Tuesday, September 6. The measure is a solution to the deadlock created when the agreement between the Macau Football Association and Syrian Football Association was called off on Wednesday. The Korea Football Association (KFA) had initially said that the final Asian qualifying round match for the 2018 FIFA World Cup could not be played in Lebanon as originally planned. This was due to the difficulty of acquiring air tickets on such short notice, in addition to existing security concerns.

Health Bureau reinforces preventive 'sexual' measures against Zika virus

The Health Bureau (SSM) is calling on residents to take preventive measures regarding the Zika virus, in measures specifically related to their sex lives. In a statement issued yesterday, the Bureau is appealing to "pregnant women or women of child-bearing age that do not adopt trusted contraceptive measures to avoid 'sexual activities' with men that have been in areas affected by the virus or impose the use of contraceptives during the sexual act." In the same statement, the SSM warns people who have been in potentially affected areas not to donate blood in the 28 days following their departure from those locations. The statement is in response to a significant rise in the number of Zika cases in South Asian countries. **More on p12**

Portugal, Thailand to open Fireworks 2016

Teams from Thailand and Portugal will present fireworks displays to open the 28th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest, which will take place this Saturday at the lake area in front of the Macau Tower. This year's edition marks Thailand's fourth and Portugal's sixth participation in the annual contest. Both teams' displays will be accompanied by traditional musical performances from their respective countries. The contest, organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), will be held on September 3, 10, 15, 24 and October 1. Each of the five nights will feature a special theme: "Pyro Fantasia", "Tribute to Bond", "Mid-Autumn Harmony", "Stars from afar" and "Celebration in the Sky." In order of appearance, the teams hail from Thailand, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Japan, Korea, Italy, Canada, Romania and China.

Federation of Trade Unions delivers petition calling for harsher smoke ban

THE Federation of Trade Unions handed yesterday morning a petition to the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong.

The petition calls on authorities to enforce measures relating to the Casino smoke ban in order to protect workers' health.

The organization claims that some casinos have been violating local regulations by allowing its visitors to smoke occasionally and that, in order to bypass the law, they have also been installing VIP rooms in their central areas calling

them "smoking lounges." In some cases, these arrangements are made without permission from the authorities.

The Federation also said that in order to help affected workers, they have been collecting relevant information in the casinos and have launched a platform for reporting such cases.

According to data disclosed by the Federation, some 90 complaints have already been made since the platform was launched on July 21. Some of these complaints have been forwarded to the relevant law enforcement authorities,



but the problems have persisted, the Federation informed.

According to the association a total of 86 smoking lounges have been authorized and another 21 requests are still being processed. **RM**

Daniel Beitler

UBER CONTROVERSY

Love Macau demands app legalization citing public opinion

REPRESENTATIVES of the Love Macau Association met outside the Government Headquarters yesterday afternoon to present a letter to authorities lobbying for Uber's legalization and regulation in the MSAR.

The association cited the local community's broad and popular support for the ride-sharing app as their rationale for demanding that the government take measures to regulate the sector.

The association presented a survey it had conducted which showed that 97.2 percent of some 3,069 respondents said that they support Uber in Macau. Only a minority indicated that were against the firm's continued operation or had no opinion on the matter.

In another online survey, more than 90 percent of approximately 20,000 respondents said that they support the continued operation of Uber, according to the association's leaders.

As of last night, the official Uber ePetition has reached 19,745 signatories, just over 250 shy of its target of 20,000. Organizers posted a notice to inform the public that the petition had garnered 15,000 signatures within the first 24 hours of being uploaded.

Among the activists yesterday afternoon was Love Macau Association president Cloee Chao, who argued that the popular service provides



Love Macau Association leaders gathered outside the Government Headquarters, including Cloee Chao (center)

tourists and residents with a level of convenience not offered by the traditional taxi firms in the city.

"If [traditional] taxi services satisfy the community then people would not be interested in ride-sharing companies," a

statement issued yesterday afternoon noted. "Taxi services [today] damage the reputation of the city and its image," the statement added, due to the bad behavior of some drivers.

"The government cannot solve this problem, but Uber can solve it."

Chao also responded yesterday to the suggestion that legalizing services like Uber would only add to the number of road vehicles in the territory, exacerbating traffic congestion. She argued that the vehicles

will be in the territory – and on its roads – whether they are affiliated with Uber or not.

Love Macau Association has urged the government to rethink the issue "more carefully" and create reasonable legislation to tackle the pressing issues of Macau's taxi sector.

■ As of last night, the official Uber ePetition has reached 19,745 signatories

Another demonstration outside the Government Headquarters, organized by some of the leaders of yesterday's meeting, is being planned for Sunday in Tap Seac Square. The demonstration will begin at 3 p.m. and will involve a march on the Government Headquarters at an unspecified time later in the afternoon. Organizers anticipate at least 600 attendees.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why I am (reluctantly) not supporting Sunday's Uber rally

Dear Editor,

To say I am conflicted is an understatement. All those around me are crying at the probable demise of Uber in Macau, and vowing to kick up a storm at the protest rally to be held Sunday in support of Uber. But I am not so sure.

As an administrator of the Macau Taxi Driver Shame Facebook Group and the President of the Macau Taxi Passengers Association, I am absolutely dedicated to the cause of fixing Macau's shockingly bad taxi industry. The long-standing despicable practices of the industry are well documented. Fishing, refusing rides, taking the "scenic route", tricking and lying to customers, horrible taxi maintenance, poor driver hygiene, zero service culture, frequent violence and even indecent assault are, sadly, all too common. In practice, you can't even call a taxi by phone in Macau – who ever heard of a situation like that in a modern progressive city?

There is absolutely no doubt Macau needs an Uber-like service, where riders and drivers are connected efficiently and payment is made via a phone app. This is the way of the future and how on earth can Macau be the world-class tourist destination

the government says it wants our fine city to be without this? It's fast becoming the norm in today's modern world. The old taxi model, which has changed little since the days of the Hansom cab, is dying.

When some executives from Uber visited me many months before Uber launched in Macau, I was excited. Here at last was the solution! These guys would give Macau taxis a run for their money. Everyone knows competition improves service for the customer, and Uber's presence in Macau could well be the game-changer we needed.

I was vaguely aware of Uber's poor corporate reputation and the controversies surrounding its maverick CEO Travis Kalanick – but to be honest I didn't care much. I just wanted Uber to work in Macau, and enthusiastically started to tell them about the unique quirks of Macau and how if they were to succeed here they needed to get the government on side. I also explained some of the vested interests of powerful people in Macau and the delicate negotiations required to make it all work. My underlying message was that if the government didn't want Uber the government would stop Uber – one way or the other! So they had to get the government on side. To my extreme dismay, these pleas of

taking a conciliatory approach to entering the market fell on deaf ears. Uber entered the Macau market pretty much the same way it enters every market – as so-called "disrupters" who would show everyone who's boss and how things should be done, trying to force the law to change in their wake. This is the absolute worst way for any business to enter Macau, and quite frankly is very bad for society. Imagine if every business took the "I'll do what I like and you change the laws to catch up with me" approach.

Let's be honest, you catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar. No one likes being told what to do, least of all the powers that be in Macau. Just look at some of the angst that occurred in the early days of gaming liberalisation a decade ago when the foreign resort operators first entered the Macau gaming market.

Sadly Uber eschewed the idea of working with the establishment in a conciliatory way, and chose to barge on in uninvited and "shake things up". As Uber has sown, Uber has reaped. The powers that be showed they can move very quickly when they want to. They declared Uber illegal within 24 hours of the shingle being hung out. They have methodically

strangled Uber's business model through endless police stings and fines. They have made life inconvenient for Uber drivers and passengers unlucky enough to be caught in Uber sting operations. All of this was absolutely predictable.

Uber is not the right fit for Macau. Their corporate culture is antagonistic and aggressive, even arrogant. Just google "Uber Kalanick horror stories" and you'll see what I mean.

The concept of an app-based ride hailing service is fantastic, and Macau desperately needs it. Perhaps in the wake of Didi Chuxing's legalisation in mainland China, we will see Didi enter the market. Perhaps one of the existing taxi organisations will create an Uber clone. Perhaps an Uber competitor will enter the market and not make the mistakes Uber made. I do not know which, if any, of these things will happen – but one thing I do know for sure.

Someone, someday, maybe sooner than we think, will fill the void created by Uber's departure.

Andrew Scott
President, Macau Taxi
Passengers Association

Forum to discuss music and art as agents of cultural development



To mark the 30th anniversary of the Macao International Music Festival, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will host the "Macao International Music Festival Forum", themed "Music and Arts Festival as Drivers of a City's Cultural Development", on September 30 and October 1.

The two-day forum will feature a number of sessions with themes ranging from city branding, programming and audience development to cultural tourism and Internet marketing. The sessions will explore the links between music and art festivals and urban cultural development across several regions.

Several prominent practitioners from surrounding regions and further abroad were invited to conduct the talks. The speakers hail from Hong Kong, Singapore, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, among other regions.

Admission to the forum is free and all are welcome to register. Seats are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The IC has also invited industry practitioners and members to register. **Staff reporter**

Gov't suspends restaurant project in Taipa Houses-Museum

THE Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) said yesterday that the parties behind the project to revitalize the Taipa Houses-Museum will not open a Portuguese restaurant on the site. According to IFT, the interdepartmental group - led by the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture in charge of the project management - had based its decision on "a significant number of opinions from concerned citizens about the possibility of such a project affecting the surrounding environment."

The group had decided to "suspend the plan, keeping the original function of the building as a touristic interest house."

However, IFT added that an environmental impact assessment study by the Institute for Development and Quality, Macau had indicated



the project's "strict compliance with the instructions on the protection of Macau's environment during the operation [of

a restaurant] in the house, the catering service would not [have caused] a great impact to the surrounding environment."

The site will reportedly continue to host the Lusofonia Festival, as well as other cultural activities. **RM**

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GOV'S SPENT MOP4 BILLION IN RENTS

Commission of Audit urges DSSOPT to safeguard public funds



Rosário's troubled lands

Lynzy Valles

THE Commission of Audit (CA) criticized the Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) for its lack of commitment in planning for the construction of government buildings, which caused around MOP5 billion to be paid out in rental and renovation works.

The CA stated that between 2004 and 2014, 68 public services that rented facilities and parking spaces clocked up a surprising MOP4 billion while the re-

novation works for the permanent spaces was undertaken for MOP1.03 billion.

Describing the amount of money spent on government buildings as staggering, the commission said the situation is "quite rare internationally."

The commission stressed that they already pointed out the problem in 2006 when they urged the government to find permanent spaces for its services.

However, after over six years, construction of permanent public facilities has not yet commenced. The CA thus implied that there is an

absence of 'logical justification' for the continuation of the status quo.

Between 2012 and 2014 the Chief Executive reviewed two proposals regarding the substantial fees the government covers annually on the rental of its public services.

The proposals, which were presented by the Financial Services Bureau (DSF), were then forwarded to DSSOPT, however the department said there were no lands available for constructing office buildings.

According to the CA, since then DSSOPT has sugges-

ted that new reclaimed lands should be used, but the proposals were archived.

The commission also noted that DSSOPT "has revealed it did not exercise its legal obligations by not practicing the necessary steps for the resolution of the public services installations."

In response to the CA's criticism of the bureau, DSSOPT issued a statement on Wednesday implying that the reclaimed land was reserved for the construction of public housing in line with the Secretary for Transport and Public Works' previous announcements.

Although the bureau admitted they recognize the importance of the CA report and will follow up necessary works, it noted that respective departments are conducting a study on urban development to create an overall plan.

In the meantime, DSSOPT has indicated that they are following up on the construction of buildings, namely the new facilities of the Court of First Instance (TJB), Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA), the Public Prosecutions Office and the police department site in Taipa.

It noted that it is has been making efforts to build more facilities for public services, as per the government request.

New building for ash and bone boxes to be ready



A new building to preserve ash and bone boxes will commence operations by the end of this year.

According to a report by Hou Kong Daily, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) said a total of 8,295 boxes – comprising 6,270 ash boxes and 2,025 bone boxes – will be available to the public.

IACM claims that the boxes will meet local demand for the next ten years and that it is also offering environmentally-friendly tree burials. The department currently offers 440 tree burial positions.

Last September, IACM rolled out free eco-burial services in a park inside a municipal cemetery in Taipa. IACM has received 29 applications for tree burial service, and has provided the service to 28 applicants to date.

IACM administration committee member Leong Kun Fong said 70 percent of local residents choose cremation as opposed to tomb burial, where the price of private graveyards ranges from 40,000 to millions of patacas, depending on the area.

People are increasingly interested in 'green' funerals like tree burials, and dozens of citizens have registered in advance for their late relatives. **Staff reporter**

corporate bits

MGM PRESENTS SEPTEMBER'S SUMPTUOUS MENU



MGM Macau will delight both Western and Chinese food lovers with two limited delicacies this September. Aux Beaux

Arts French Restaurant is bringing its fourth Belle Epoque prix fixe menu, while Imperial Court Chinese Restaurant is

presenting the seasonal Giant Marbled Eel.

To revisit the artistic ambience of Nouvelle Athènes and align with the Edgar Degas: Figures in Motion exhibition currently at the MGM, Aux Beaux Arts has crafted a brand new five-course menu as the fourth chapter in the five Belle Epoque menu series, which is only available in September.

The menu includes a refreshing aperitif cocktail "Clair de Lune" and a set of collectors' cards as souvenir.

Meanwhile as Giant Marbled Eel is ranked highest among the different varieties of eels for its rarity and exceptional nutritional benefits, Imperial Court will present a menu of the valued eels, available only on September 9, 10, 23 and 24.



HONG KONG

Chinese shares gain on manufacturing, Macau gaming improvement



CHINESE stocks in Hong Kong rose, led by financial companies, as improving manufacturing data boosted confidence in the nation's economy. Macau casino operators climbed after gambling revenue in the city increased.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index gained 0.7 percent at the close, erasing an earlier loss of 0.7 percent. China Merchants Bank Co. rallied to the highest level since November. The nation's official factory gauge unexpectedly climbed last month to the highest level in almost two years. Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. jumped the most since March after a slump in Macau's gambling revenue came to an end in August. The Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.7 percent to a three-week low.

The manufacturing data extended a rally that made the H-share gauge the world's best performer in August (more on p10). Chinese stocks have come under pressure in recent days on concern the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates this year, boosting borrowing costs and weakening the yuan. U.S. jobs data due Friday could provide clues as to whether that policy tightening will come sooner rather than later, while investors are also awaiting the Group of 20 meeting in China this weekend.

"The PMI data were positive for China's risky assets," said Tim Condon, head of Asian research at ING Groep NV in Singapore. Even so, investors are "cautious about a September rate hike and tomorrow's payrolls report could push the Fed to follow through."

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose to 9,606.08. The gauge's 6.5 percent gain last month masked recent weakness, with the measure of Chinese companies traded in Hong Kong rising on only three of the previous 12 days. The Hang

Seng Index added 0.8 percent as HSBC Holdings Plc advanced to the highest level since January.

China Merchants Bank advanced 2.8 percent, extending a 14 percent rally in August, which was bolstered by higher first-half earnings. Bank of China Ltd. added 1.7 percent, rising for a third day, as the lender reported a 3.4 percent increase in profit on Tuesday even after setting aside extra loan-loss provisions. HSBC added 2.8 percent, the biggest contributor to the Hang Seng Index's gains by points.

Galaxy Entertainment and Sands China Ltd. jumped at least 6.4 percent after Macau reversed its 26-month slump in gaming revenue as new resorts attracted visits by gamblers and tourists. The industry's gross gaming revenue rose 1.1 percent in August from a year ago, beating the median estimate of a 1.5 percent drop in a Bloomberg survey.

China Gas Holdings Co. sank 10 percent after the National Development and Reform Commission said it will strengthen supervision of natural gas distribution prices.

A measure of property shares led declines in Shanghai after jumping more than 12 percent in August for its biggest monthly increase since April 2015. Future Land Holdings Co. slumped 6.6 percent after rising the most in two weeks on Wednesday, while Poly Real Estate Group Co. retreated 4.1 percent.

The Shanghai Composite hasn't moved more than 1 percent on a closing basis for more than two weeks, a far cry from the first half of the year when 2 percent daily swings were regular occurrences. Its drop yesterday pushed a gauge of the price gap between dual-listed shares in the mainland and Hong Kong to the lowest level since October. **Bloomberg**

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Expo Internacional de Turismo (Indústria) de Macau
Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo

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China National Tourism Administration

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<http://www.cmitc.com>

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The dirtiest word in Macau; Diversification

The impossible task...

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.



JULIET RISDON

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We published an article in February this year that touched on the issue of diversification and what it means to Macau. This article expands on the original, which at the time was one section of a four part series.

Anyone living in this part of the world is familiar with the extraordinary pace of change that has become a trademark of Macau over the past ten years.

Macau residents (and by resident we mean 'people living in Macau') have seen an evolution that has been nothing short of spectacular, and it is mostly of course, if not completely, a product of the opening of the gaming licenses.

So what can we expect over the next 10 years?

The new Wynn Palace has opened within the last two weeks, and the Sands 'Parisian' resort is scheduled to open later this month. MGM and SJM integrated resorts are expected to open sometime in 2017.

An opportunity to diversify?

Overall, and despite the slow down in gaming industry revenue, the long-term future for Macau looks positive. There is the bridge linking Macau

with Hong Kong and Guangdong, and something that we cant help feeling does not get as much attention as it should; the growth of the 'MICE' or convention business.

Sands alone will have 12,000+ rooms on the Cotai strip within 2016, and with critical mass achieved, Macau has a golden opportunity to become the venue of choice for regional conventions, shows and exhibitions.

But Macau faces some serious challenges, and these challenges will almost certainly affect property prices either directly or indirectly.

One of the most telling surveys was the exit poll of mainland Chinese tourists earlier this year, asking thousands of visitors whether or not they will return to Macau.

The result? Approximately 1 person in 12 or just 8% of those asked said they would return.

When 92% of your customers don't want to repeat the exercise, it does not take an economist to figure out that any business would be in trouble!

Small Business Growth or 'diversification'.

'Diversification' seems to be a difficult word to understand for a lot of people.

Is staging a sports event at a Ca-

sino 'diversification'? No, it most certainly is NOT. This is 'vertical integration', another economic term for adding a supply chain to an existing business. In this case it is the supply of customers into the hotels and casinos.

Companies use vertical integration in all walks of life and there is nothing wrong with it. But it is important to understand the difference.

Diversification in Macau means creating services and products not directly dependent on or related to Casinos.

Make no mistake, diversification in Macau is almost impossible under the current circumstances.

Why? In the original article we pointed out that a small business needs 4 things. In fact we have been forced to add a 5th point to this list;

1. An entrepreneur to conceive, create and launch the business
2. Money to fund the business
3. A place to start the business
4. People to work in the business
5. The ability to anticipate bureaucratic government requirements

Continued next week...

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AP PHOTO



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting of the Victory Day celebrations organizing committee in the Kremlin in Moscow on March 17, 2015

GAMING

Putin's gamble on Far East Las Vegas stirs fears of China influx

Henry Meyer, Jake Rudnitsky

WHAT happens in Vladivostok stays in Vladivostok.

A phrase that could've captured Soviet obsession with secrecy during the Cold War is gaining new meaning for Vladimir Putin, who's taking a gamble as he aims to turn Russia's easternmost nuclear garrison into a freewheeling center of commerce and casinos to lure investors and bettors from Asia.

Stung by oil's collapse and sanctions, Putin declared the once-closed Pacific city of 600,000 a "free port" last October, slashing red tape and introducing unprecedented legal protections for investors in the hopes of spawning a bustling frontier outpost closer in spirit to Las Vegas than Moscow.

But the plan may also work too well: By chasing foreign money wherever he can get it, he's risking over-dependence on a powerful China. The project is already rekindling age-old fears about encroachment across the Far East, a vast, sparsely populated and resource-rich region that the czars didn't bring fully to heel until the second half of the 19th century when a weakened China ceded control of it.

"The Chinese are coming," said Nikolai Markovtsev, a former lawmaker who runs the local branch of the liberal Yabloko party. "They understand that Russia is weakening, that China is strengthening and that they can gradually take control of these territories in 100 or 150 years."

Putin, who's forging closer ties with China in part to challenge what he considers U.S. global hegemony, has more immediate concerns. He told lawmakers in December that developing the region, where just 6.3 million people live in an area larger than India, is "a national priority" that requires investment from wherever it can be found.

On Friday, he'll make his case at a two-day forum in Vladivostok that will be attended by the leaders of Japan and South Korea before all three head to China for the annual Group of 20 summit. Billing the city, which is less than 100 miles from China and North Korea and two hours from Tokyo by plane, as a business-friendly gateway to all of Russia is paying off, according to Vasily Markov, a director at the Russian branch of accounting firm Deloitte LLP.

"The application process is smooth and there is a minimum

of red tape, which is unusual in Russia," Markov said. "So far the level of interest has been high, but many investors want to see how the zone develops before they move in."

While foreign arrivals to Russia have dropped 21 percent this year, they've jumped 22 percent in Vladivostok, led by China and spurred by the opening of Macau magnate Lawrence Ho's USD172 million Tigre de Cristal casino, Russia's largest. Ho's Summit Ascent Holdings Ltd., one of four gaming groups building in the area, is already planning a \$500 million expansion.

Companies registered in the zone are entitled to a five-year tax holiday, no tariffs, streamlined customs and, eventually, border-issued visas. These and other incentives have helped boost investment across the Far East by 10 percent, though the region remains economically depressed, according to Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev, Putin's envoy to the federal district.

"If we maintain this pace for another five years, we can safely say the process will be irreversible," Trutnev told state news service TASS last week. "Then we'll be able to say the Far East will never again be

like what it was."

With \$2.7 billion in investment commitments and a booming tourist trade, the zone is a rare example of Putin attempting to loosen the state's grip on the economy. But like everywhere else in Russia, success will depend on overcoming a culture of greed and graft that Transparency International rates worse than in much poorer countries like Pakistan and Mozambique.

Putin has admitted that corruption in Primorsk, the coastal region that includes Vladivostok, is bad even by Russian standards and that it deserves its reputation as the crime capital of the country, telling the nation in his annual call-in show in 2011 that criminality there is "worse than any other region."

His latest effort to tame what some call the Wild East came in June, when Vladivostok's long-serving mayor, Igor Pushkarev, was arrested on suspicion of rigging city auctions in favor of relatives. Pushkarev's predecessor, an ex-convict widely known by the handle Winnie-the-Pooh, fled to Thailand for medical treatment after he was charged with abuse of authority. A Vladivostok court ruled in

“The governor of Trans-Baikal will be Chinese in 20 years if this issue isn't resolved.”

IGOR LEBEDEV
DEPUTY DUMA SPEAKER

2012 that he could return to Russia without going to prison.

But it's not like Moscow, seven time zones west, doesn't set an example.

Authorities spent \$20 billion preparing to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vladivostok in 2012, including a \$1 billion span to the barren Russky Island dubbed the Bridge to Nowhere. The main contractor was Arkady Rotenberg, an old Putin friend.

Russia declared Russky Island a special zone after the APEC summit in a bid to attract investment, but shut it down this year after failing to win a single commitment. And an early attempt at creating a free port like Vladivostok, at the nearby oil hub of Nakhodka, collapsed in 2006 after tens of billions of rubles went missing, according to Markovtsev, the former legislator.

But none of this seems to worry the Chinese. With more than 100 million people just over the border in Manchuria, Chinese companies have pledged more than \$2 billion of investment in the Far East, mostly for an oil refinery in the Amur region, according to the Far East Development Ministry.

Concerns about an influx of Chinese has stirred controversy throughout the country, fueled in part by the nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, or LDPR, one of four parties with seats in the State Duma, or lower house of parliament.

Last year, after Trans-Baikal, a region on the Chinese border, announced plans to lease 285,000 acres of unused land to a Chinese agricultural company, the LDPR warned of a takeover by Beijing.

"This is an important geopolitical question," said Deputy Duma Speaker Igor Lebedev, an LDPR leader. "The governor of Trans-Baikal will be Chinese in 20 years if this issue isn't resolved."

Russia gained control over most of the present-day Far East, including

Vladivostok - which in Russian means "Master of the East" - when China's decaying Qing dynasty signed away the territories in two treaties in 1858 and 1860.

The government in Moscow is seeking to counter public concern over Chinese encroachment by offering Russians free parcels of land in the hopes of spurring a mass migration along the lines of Abraham Lincoln's Homestead Act of 1862.

For now, Russia's relations with the U.S. and Europe have soured so much that Putin has no choice but to court China, according to Alexander Lukin, an Asia expert at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

"But Beijing must not be given a monopoly," Lukin said. **Bloomberg**

China factory activity at 22-month high

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

CHINESE manufacturing activity grew at its fastest pace in nearly two years in August, according to an official survey announced yesterday, in a possible sign that the world's No. 2 economy is steady thanks to government stimulus.

The Chinese Federation

of Logistics & Purchasing's monthly "purchasing managers index" rose to a 22-month high of 50.4 last month from 49.9 in July.

The survey, which focuses on China's large state-owned enterprises, uses a 100-point scale with numbers below the 50-point mark indicating contraction.

Separately, the private Cai-

xin/Markit survey, which is based mainly on small, privately owned companies, eased to 50.0 last month from 50.6 the month before. It was still the index's second highest level since 2014, analysts noted.

Data on China's outsized manufacturing sector are closely watched for insights on the state of the broader



economy, which expanded at a steady 6.7 percent pace in the three months ending in

June. That's the slowest pace of growth since the 2008 global financial crisis, despite repeated stimulus efforts.

"The two manufacturing gauges again pointed to different directions in August. But on a moving average basis, both indicators suggest that economic activity is still improving, supported by fiscal expansion," said HSBC China economist Julia Wang.

Weak global demand for Chinese-made clothing, toys and electronics has complicated efforts by communist leaders to support trade and prevent job losses in export industries. AP

Zinc, lead and tin rise to post-2015 high

ZINC, lead and tin climbed to the highest in more than a year after China's official factory gauge unexpectedly rose last month, signaling improved demand from the world's top metal user.

Zinc for delivery in three months rose as much as 1.2 percent to USD2,338.50 a metric ton on the London Metal Exchange, the highest since May 2015. It traded at \$2,328.50 by 10:46 a.m. local time.

The metal for immediate delivery sett-

led Wednesday at a \$8.75 a ton premium to the benchmark contract, the widest backwardation since May 2015.

Lead and tin gained more than 0.8 percent and touched highs not seen in the past year.

Copper also advanced after workers at a Codelco mine in northern Chile rejected a wage offer, raising the prospect of supply disruptions in the biggest copper-producing nation. **MDT/Bloomberg**

China's outsized manufacturing sector is closely watched for insights on the state of the broader economy

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Annie Ho, Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Splintering factions add uncertainty to Sunday's election

TWO years after the end of chaotic pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, a number of young activists who were politically awakened by the movement hope to keep its spirit alive by running for political office on Sunday.

The young radicals hope to ride a rising tide of anti-Beijing sentiment and win seats on the Legislative Council. They're up against both formidable pro-Beijing parties and older pro-democracy ones.

At stake is the power to keep the city's pro-Beijing leader and his government in check. The pro-democracy camp currently controls 27 of 70 seats, and must keep at least a third of the seats to retain its veto power.

The risk is that new candidates could split the pro-democracy vote, handing pro-Beijing parties more seats and allowing the government to enact controversial and unpopular laws, such as a long-stalled anti-subversion legislation or a Beijing-backed electoral reform package. That in turn could spark a new round of protests and exacerbate widening divisions in the specially administered Chinese city.

Here are views from across Hong Kong's political spectrum:

THE TEEN PROTEST LEADER

At 19, Joshua Wong is already a veteran of Hong Kong's democracy battle. The slight, bespectacled activist shot to global prominence two years ago when his high school group Scholarism helped lead massive protests against Beijing's plan for restricted elections for the city's top leader. The protests brought key districts to a standstill for 11 weeks but did not gain concessions.

Now Wong's new political party, Demosisto, is joining the election fray by fielding 23-year-old Nathan Law, another Occupy protest veteran. A minimum age requirement of 21 prevents Wong himself from running.

Amid rising calls for Hong Kong's independence, Demosisto proposes a referendum on self-determination for Hong Kong after a transition period to Chinese rule ends in 2047. The city became Chinese territory in 1997 after Britain's departure, but retains wide autonomy.

"We believe people should gain the right to determine their future," Wong said.

Wong said recent incidents have added to fears Beijing is undermining Hong Kong's rule of law and judicial independence. In the most prominent case, five booksellers were detained, including one suspected of being snatched by Chinese security agents and spirited

AP PHOTO



Andy Chan of the Hong Kong Nationalist Party poses during an interview in the city on August 19

across the border to the mainland.

"If Hong Kong does not have rule of law anymore, Hong Kong is not Hong Kong anymore," Wong said.

THE SEPARATIST

A new crop of activist groups has sought to use the election to channel growing frustration, especially among young people, over Beijing's uncompromising stance on Hong Kong. Many of these radical activist "localist" groups, which sprang up after the unresolved ending of the 2014 protests, espouse the view that Hong Kong's interests come first. Some even demand independence for the city.

Despite there being no chance of separation, the government has tried to shut down the debate. Election officials disqualified six candidates with pro-independence views from running, including 25-year-old Andy Chan of the Hong Kong Nationalist Party, and warned others not to advocate the idea or it would take "follow-up actions."

Hong Kong's independence "is bound to occur. It's the only way out," said Chan. In an interview, Chan revealed few de-

tails about his group, such as how many members it has.

"The people of Hong Kong have fought for democracy for many years and have always respected the Chinese government," he said.

Chan said he believes Hong Kongers should direct their demands to Beijing because "the Hong Kong government is only a puppet government, a colonial government. So our target all along has been the Chinese government."

"The way I see it," he added, "if Hong Kong becomes independent, if we break off the relationship, then we don't need to beg the Beijing government for democracy. We will have democracy."

THE ESTABLISHMENT

Former security chief Regina Ip is one of Hong Kong's most prominent pro-Beijing figures. In 2003, she spearheaded the government's failed efforts to enact controversial anti-subversion legislation, which faced massive public opposition, with half a million people taking to the streets to protest against it.

Ip is now a lawmaker known for her hard-line views who's running for re-election.

"Hong Kong has been highly

Pro-democracy candidates and some from pro-Beijing parties are campaigning on the theme of replacing C.Y. Leung

polarized by the constitutional debate on how to elect the chief executive, by the Occupy Central movement," Ip said. She said much public anger is stemming from income inequality.

Ip said young people are calling for independence because they feel marginalized by China's economic rise, which leaves them feeling unable to compete for jobs. She said stalled democratic development is adding to the frustration, and that Hong Kong needs to become more competitive.

"I am trying to mobilize the silent majority to vote for reconciliation, to vote for a construc-

tive way forward," she said.

Ip said the idea of independence is a "non-starter."

"We get all our water from the mainland, most of our fresh fruits are from the mainland, even our building materials, and a lot of business is from the mainland," she said. "I don't think Hong Kong can survive without the mainland."

THE DEMOCRACY VETERAN

While the new crop of activist candidates and their older mainstream counterparts both want Beijing to back off and give Hong Kong genuine democracy, there are sharp disagreements over how to get what they want.

The activists slam the mainstream parties for using peaceful protests and negotiations with Beijing, saying that violence could be justified to achieve their aims. Mainstream pro-democracy parties believe that, under the "one country, two systems" framework, Hong Kong is part of China and they should fight to bring democracy to the mainland. The radicals disagree and say Hong Kong should focus only on itself.

Veteran pro-democracy lawmaker Emily Lau, who expects to step down after this election, said Hong Kong should brace for more confrontations in the streets and in the council chamber if radical candidates win seats. It's already common there for the city's Beijing-backed leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, to be heckled by his harshest critics. One threw a water glass at Leung two years ago.

Lau said bitter divisions in Hong Kong could be resolved by dumping the deeply unpopular Leung, whose term ends next summer. Disagreements over how to choose the next chief executive were at the heart of 2014's pro-democracy protests, with Beijing requiring that candidates be screened.

"Hong Kong is now facing its darkest hour since 1997, because the city is completely split asunder, by the policy of C.Y. Leung and Beijing," said Lau.

Pro-democracy candidates and even some from pro-Beijing parties are campaigning on the theme of replacing Leung. It's still unclear whether Beijing will tap him for a second term but a big victory for the anti-Leung camp would pressure China's Communist Party leaders to find someone else. **AP**

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister warned yesterday against fomenting distrust of Muslims as he outlined tougher measures against supporters of the Islamic State movement.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said Australian laws will soon be amended to give Australian F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet pilots the same legal standing as their coalition partners when conducting airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria.

The Australian legal definition of combatants will be expanded to include people supporting armed fighters and will become consistent with international norms.

Turnbull, who is resisting pressure from lawmakers to ban Muslim immigration and relax hate speech prohibitions, described the Islamic State group as the most pressing national security threat that Australians face.

But he also warned there had been an increase in far-right extremism directed against Muslims in Australia. The latest alleged militant plot disrupted by police led to the arrest of an anti-immigration campaigner who was charged last month with preparing a terrorist attack in the city of Melbourne.

"We cannot be effective if we are creating division, whether by fomenting distrust within the Muslim community or inci-

Australia outlines tough new measures against Islamic State



Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in Sydney on August 10

ting fear of Muslims in broader society," Turnbull told Parliament.

"Division begets division. It makes violence more likely, not less," he said.

The government plans to introduce legislation to Parliament this month that would

enable courts to keep prisoners convicted of terrorist offenses behind bars for indefinite periods.

Legislation is to be introduced in November that will create a new offense of "advocating genocide." The crime will enable police to make an earlier arrest

when someone is radicalizing others.

Control orders that can force suspects to wear tracking devices and obey curfews could apply to 14-year-olds. Currently the minimum age is 16.

The burden of evidence would also be reduced for a court to

jail a suspect with a preventative detention order on the basis that a terrorist attack could occur within two weeks.

Turnbull is resisting demands from several senators to stop Muslim immigration, and also resisted pressure this week from lawmakers in his own conservative government to water down laws that ban offending anyone because of race or nationality.

Meanwhile, a 42-year-old Sydney man was sentenced yesterday to eight years in prison for helping seven men travel to Syria to fight with Jabhat al-Nusra and other al-Qaida affiliates.

At least two of the fighters have died. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop told Parliament yesterday that 110 Australians were fighting with the Islamic State group and other militant groups in the Middle East and up to 65 Australians have been killed.

The passports of 213 suspected militants have been canceled, she said, while the government has refused to issue passports to another 24 people to prevent them from joining the fight in Syria and Iraq. **MDT/AP**

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Indonesia screens for Zika as Singapore infections mount

Niniek Karmini, Stephen Wright, Jakarta

INDONESIA is screening travelers from neighboring Singapore for the mosquito-borne Zika virus as the city-state reports a growing number of infections and its first case of a pregnant woman testing positive.

Indonesian Health Ministry spokesman Oscar Primadi said yesterday that health officials are recommending that the Foreign Ministry issue an advisory against non-essential travel to Singapore, particularly for pregnant women.

Singapore on Wednesday said it had identified 22 new Zika cases in one particular area of the city and its first case involving a pregnant woman.

Zika has mild effects for most people but doctors believe infection during preg-



Indonesian Health Ministry officials operate a thermal scanner used to monitor ferry passengers arriving from Singapore at the arrival hall of Batam Center International Port in Batam, Indonesia

nancy can result in babies with small heads, which is known as microcephaly, and other serious developmental disorders. Singapore had 155 cases as of Wednesday.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is advising travelers to Singapore to take precautions such as protecting themselves against mosquito bites, and because the virus can also be sexually transmitted, to use condoms or not have sex.

Primadi said thermal imaging equipment to detect abnormal body temperatures was installed at eight Indonesian ports with routes serving Singapore, including the capital Jakarta's airport.

He said travelers will also be given a health questionnaire so they will recognize symptoms and know to immediately report to health authorities.

Yesterday, Malaysia's Health Ministry said a 58-year-

old woman who traveled to Singapore had become that country's first Zika case.

Health Minister S. Subramaniam said the woman and her husband visited Singapore for three days from Aug. 19. The woman developed a rash a week after her return and later tested positive for Zika in her urine, he said. Her daughter in Singapore tested positive for Zika on Tuesday.

"We can conclude that it is rather easy to get infected by the virus when visiting places that has outbreak, including Singapore," he said. "Proactive action from the community can help stop the spread of Zika virus in Malaysia."

Subramaniam said the virus was believed to be imported from Singapore because the woman started experiencing symptoms on the same day as her daughter.

The ministry has started control activities such as eliminating mosquito breeding sites and fog spraying in her residential area and other places that the patient had visited.

Indonesia has not yet reported any local Zika infections but an Indonesian woman in Singapore is among those infected there. **AP**

Hawaii hit by strong rain as tropical storm brushes by

HEAVERY rains hit parts of Hawaii and strong waves pummeled shorelines as a downgraded yet potent Pacific storm passed near the island state.

Though Tropical Storm Madeline was no longer a hurricane, the weather's uncertainty couldn't let Hawaii's Big Island relax.

There were periods of intense rainfall on Wednesday (Hawaii local time) as the National Weather Service downgraded Madeline, with winds falling below hurricane strength of 74 mph.

Madeline's center was about 200 miles south of Hilo and moving west-southwest and away from the state at 14 mph. Though the storm was not predicted to make landfall on any Hawaiian island, the Big Island and Maui County remained under tropical storm warnings because of threats from wind and rain.

Officials said residents should continue to be prepared for more rain, strong winds and high surf overnight. The rainfall may lead to dangerous flash floods and mudslides, the weather service warned.

"It doesn't matter if it's a strong tropical storm or a category 1 hurricane," said Eric Lau, a meteorologist with the weather service. "If you have 70 mph winds versus 75 mph winds, it's still a strong storm, so residents still need to be prepared." **MDT/AP**



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LEADERS of the United States, China and other Group of 20 major economies who meet this weekend say more trade would shore up sluggish global growth but are tightening their own controls on imports.

China hopes its status as G20 host will give it more sway in managing the global economy and has made trade a theme of the meeting in Hangzhou, a scenic lakeside city southwest of Shanghai. Chinese officials say Beijing will propose a plan to promote commerce through cooperation in finance, tax and energy.

Governments also have said they want to discuss climate change, efforts to reduce surplus production capacity in steel and other industries and limits on use of tax havens, though no detailed agreements are expected.

U.S. President Barack Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders will speak out against protectionism, their governments say. But at the same time, G20 governments are ratcheting up restraints on imports of steel and other goods, prompting concern support for global trade might be eroding.

The summit is the first global event for British Prime Minister Theresa May after her country's June vote to leave the European Union, a move seen by some political analysts as the start of a possible wave of nations pulling back from economic integration. In the United States, France and elsewhere, politicians are calling for protection for local industry.

"Protectionism is resurfacing," said a Chinese deputy foreign minister, Li Baodong. "In many parts of the world, we have seen calls for deglobalization."

This year's global trade growth is forecast by the World Trade

PROTECTIONISM

G20 governments endorse trade but tighten controls



In this July 22, 2016, file photo, a hostess prepares for the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Chengdu, in southwestern China's Sichuan province

Organization at an anemic 2.8 percent — its fifth straight year below 3 percent. Global economic growth is forecast by the International Monetary Fund at an equally lackluster 3.4 percent.

Progress on initiatives such as Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership and a WTO plan to help poor countries integrate into global markets has stalled. On Sunday, German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel said talks on a U.S.-European trade deal "have de facto failed," though EU officials denied that.

In Hangzhou, Obama will call

for an "open, integrated global economy," according to a senior American official who described the government's plans on condition of anonymity.

"There are very real concerns about globalization and technology, but the answer cannot be to close ourselves off," the official said in an email.

Leaders including South Korean President Park Geun-hye say they will call for "inclusive growth" — a reference to spreading economic benefits to millions of people who have been left behind by wrenching change.

Yet despite such endorsements, G20 economies including the United States, Japan and Canada are tightening import controls in response to what they say are unfair foreign tactics — and the trend is accelerating.

The number of restrictions imposed by governments worldwide on imports from machine parts to sugar soared to 150 in the first quarter of this year, according to researchers Simon J. Evenett and Johannes Fritz of the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London. That was up 50 to 100 such measu-

res imposed during the same periods of 2010-15.

The United States has imposed import duties of up to 500 percent on Chinese steel to offset what it says are improper subsidies. Unions for European steelworkers are calling for investigations of low-cost Chinese steel exports they say threaten thousands of jobs. China hit back in April by hiking its own tariffs on European steel.

"In a world where global commerce isn't growing any more, governments may conclude that securing larger slices of the world market ultimately requires tilting the commercial landscape against foreign firms," said Evenett and Fritz in a report in July.

That raises the possibility of a "negative feedback loop" of governments responding to weak trade by doing more to protect their companies, further depressing trade, said Evenett and Fritz.

So far, protectionist measures don't appear to be to blame for the latest trade slump, said Andrew Kenningham of Capital Economics. It is due mostly to the end of an era of rapid growth driven by China's integration into the global economy and manufacturing supply chains.

"Admittedly, there has been an increase in the absolute number of trade-distorting measures implemented," said Kenningham in an email. "However, they have affected only a very small fraction of products traded." **MDT/AP**

BRAZIL

Michel Temer inherits presidency on shaky ground

THE permanent ouster of deeply unpopular President Dilma Rousseff by Brazil's Senate means that a man who is arguably just as unpopular is now faced with trying to ease the wounds of a divided nation mired in recession.

Long known as an uncharismatic backroom wheeler-dealer, Michel Temer inherits a shrinking economy, a Zika virus outbreak that has ravaged poor northeastern states and political instability fed by a sprawling corruption probe that has tarred much of the country's po-

litical and business elite — himself included.

So far he's struggled in the nearly four months he's served as interim president following Rousseff's May impeachment, which suspended her from office while a final trial was prepared. The Senate's 61-20 vote on Wednesday to permanently remove her means Temer, who had been her vice president, will now serve out her term, which ends in late 2018.

Just hours after Rousseff was removed, Temer assured the nation his administration was up to the task.

"From today on, the expectations are much higher for the government. I hope that in these two years and four months, we do what we have declared — put Brazil back on track," he said.

Whether Temer can convince Brazilians that he is worth a real shot is unclear.

He appeared tone-deaf with his first move in May: appointing an entirely white, male Cabinet to oversee a nation of 200 million people where more than 50 percent identify as black or mixed-race.

Three of Temer's mi-



President Michel Temer looks at the the people in the galleries as he arrives to take the presidential oath in Brasilia on Wednesday

nisters had to quit within days of being named because of corruption allegations. And so far he has struggled to build con-

sensus around key reforms, such as slimming the country's pension system. Temer also is banned from running for office the

next eight years because Sao Paulo's electoral court found him guilty of violating campaign spending laws in 2014. **MDT/AP**

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:45 RTPi Live
- 18:30 The Hunter (Repeated)
- 19:20 TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
- 19:50 Soap Opera
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:15 Documentary Serie
- 21:45 Miscellaneous
- 22:10 The Hunter
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Portuguese Movie
- 00:50 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
- 01:40 RTPi Live

SATURDAY

- 10:20 Comedy
- 10:50 Animation
- 11:50 Documentary Series
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:45 Soap Opera
- 17:30 Documentary Serie
- 18:45 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 Comedy
- 00:20 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
- 00:50 RTPi Live

SUNDAY

- 10:30 Young Children
- 11:30 Zig Zag
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Wild Life (Repeated)
- 16:30 Theatre
- 17:30 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 19:20 Comedy
- 20:10 Ui Di Sabroso S.1
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Documentary
- 22:00 Greece With Simon Reeve
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Miscellaneous
- 00:15 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 00:50 RTPi Live

offbeat

A CORNY TRIBUTE: RED SOX SLUGGER IMMORTALIZED IN CORN MAZE



Nothing quite measures up to the latest tribute to retiring Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz.

A corn maze dedicated to the player known as Big Papi was unveiled at a ceremony this week in

Sterling, Massachusetts.

Ortiz had a message for his legions of fans at the unveiling: "I love corn."

The 8-acre maze was created by Davis Mega Maze and features a cornstalk rendering of Ortiz's trademark home run pose of pointing two fingers to the sky. It's accompanied by the phrase "Thanks Big Papi."

The maze opens to the public tomorrow.

Davis Mega Maze has been carving a different design into the field every year for about 20 years. This year marks the first time a living celebrity has been featured.

cinema



CINETEATRO

01 SEP - 07 SEP

TRAIN TO BUSAN

ROOM 1
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
(4 Sep) 2.15, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Yeon Sang-ho
Starring: Gong Yoo, Jung Tu-mi, Ma Dong-seok
Language: Korean (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 97min



NERVE

ROOM 2
2.30, 6.00, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Henry Joost, Ariel Schulman
Starring: Emma Roberts, Dave Franco, Emily Meade, Miles Heizer
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 96min

CHIBI MARUKO CHAN- A BOY FROM ITALY

ROOM 2
4.15 pm
Director: Jun Takagi
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 120min



THE LETTERS

ROOM 3
7.15 pm
Director: William Riead
Starring: Juliet Stevenson, Max Von Sydow, Rutger Hauer
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 97min

SHIN GODZILLA

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
Director: Hideaki Anno
Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 97min

MACAU TOWER

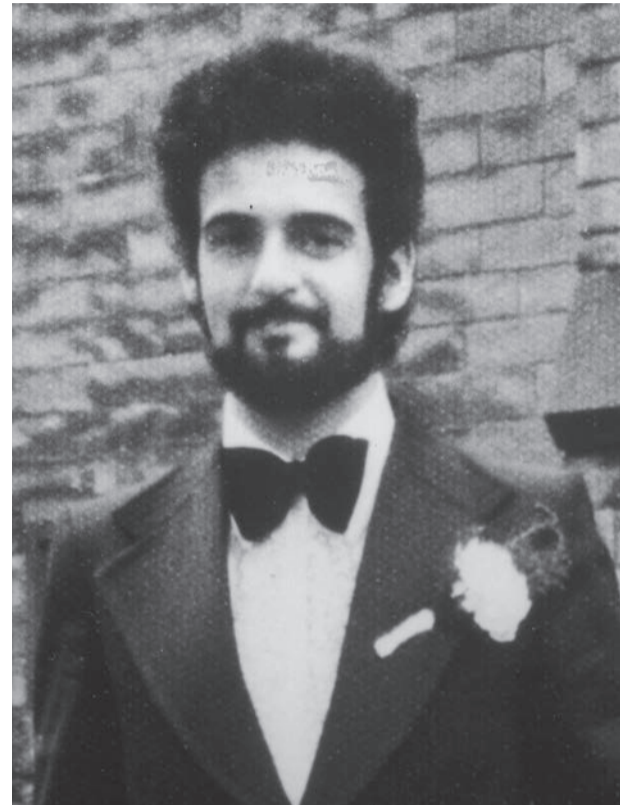
01 SEP - 14 SEP

WAR DOGS

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Todd Phillips
Starring: Jonah Hill, Miles Teller, Steve Lantz
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 106min



this day in history



Peter Sutcliffe



1979: RIPPER SUSPECTED OF 12TH MURDER

Police have discovered the body of a young woman - thought to be the 12th victim of the "Yorkshire Ripper" - in an alleyway near the centre of Bradford.

The body had been hidden behind a low wall at the back of a terraced house in the city's university area. Local streets have been sealed off as a detailed search of the area is made.

It is understood there are similarities to other attacks attributed to the Ripper, and detectives from Manchester and Yorkshire working on the case are at the scene.

Police say it is too early to make a connection with the 11 other victims of the Yorkshire Ripper, but the murderer has killed two others and attacked one more nearby.

Home Office pathologist Professor David Gee - who has dealt with all the other victims of the Ripper - is carrying out an examination of the body.

A tape-recorded message sent to police earlier in the year from a man claiming to be the Ripper, said that he would strike again in September or October.

Pressure is mounting on the police, who appear to be no closer to identifying the murderer since the killings began in 1975.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The young woman was Barbara Leach, a 20-year-old student. She was the Yorkshire Ripper's twelfth victim.

The tape turned out to be a hoax. The killer was arrested in 1980 after the murder of one more woman.

Peter Sutcliffe was tried at the Old Bailey in 1981. He was found guilty of murdering 13 women and attempting to murder seven more.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment with the recommendation he serve a minimum of 30 years.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to take advantage of today's big opportunity...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You find it easier to handle emotional business of all sorts today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You feel held back in your dealings with other people today...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It's a good time for you to handle that one pressing problem...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You are feeling bubbly and excited about something - so share it with the world!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Romance is in the air today - so go for it! Whether you need to ask out that one hottie...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You feel down about something - and it may be a pretty big deal. This is not the time to cheer yourself up artificially...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Do you know what you really want? If not, today may show you. Things are likely to get interesting once you've made up your mind...

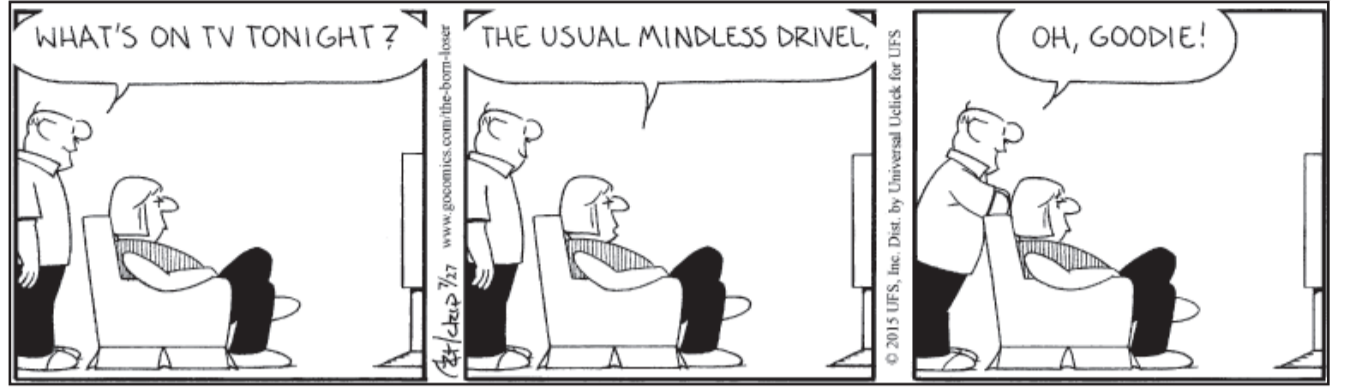
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Push yourself to tackle new things today - your direct manner is sure to help out!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Expect good news today - though it may come in rather late. Something you've been hoping to work out is likely to have manifested in just the way you wanted...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to get back to basics - and that means keeping a tighter rein on your mind. It's too easy to get distracted and lose touch with what's most important...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your closest coworkers are incredibly helpful today - even if you're not at work or are looking for a new job!

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. Includes sections for CHINA and WORLD with cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Actress Thompson; 5- Airline to Oslo; 8- What Richard III offered 'my kingdom' for; 14- Arch type; 15- Author Deighton; 16- Matador's red cloth; 17- Excess; 19- Beaten egg dish; 20- Hoodwink; 22- Wide shoe width; 23- Perspire; 24- Desk with slanted top; 26- Fine sheer fabric; 29- Travel on snow; 32- Elects; 33- The end of ___; 37- In spite of; 40- Broadcasting; 41- Vote into office; 42- ___ Paulo, Brazil; 43- Trustful; 45- Partial motor paralysis; 48- Very, to Verdi; 53- U of U athlete; 54- Constitution; 58- Yeast; 60- Lacking power; 61- Salty; 62- Overly; 63- Breakfast brand; 64- Clown Kelly; 65- Drunkard; 66- Gather, harvest;

DOWN: 1- Second-year students, for short; 2- Beaming; 3- Caterpillar competitor; 4- Big name in insurance; 5- Gradual; 6- Dynamic start; 7- Hitch or glitch; 8- Soap plants; 9- Diluting; 10- Bullfight cheer; 11- Noted Civil War biography; 12- Guide; 13- Consumed; 18- DDE's predecessor; 21- Sparkle; 25- Look after; 26- 'Droid; 27- Belief that there is no God; 28- Inventor Nikola; 29- ___Cat; 30- Heyerdahl's '___Tiki'; 31- Give ___ rest!; 32- Turning green; 34- Frozen Wasser; 35- Genetic material; 36- Gone by; 38- Metal filament; 39- Pretend; 44- Young roarer; 45- Sign of life; 46- First-stringers; 47- Kingdom; 48- O Sole ___; 49- Web-footed mammal; 50- Belgian city; 51- Pacific kingdom; 52- Dominant; 55- Mines; 56- Melville novel; 57- Dick and Jane's dog; 59- Contend;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some pre-filled letters.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Massa announces he will retire



In this Oct. 2, 2012, file photo, Ferrari driver Felipe Massa of Brazil smiles during a press conference

WITH a dedication to mentor Michael Schumacher, Williams driver Felipe Massa announced yesterday that he will retire from Formula One at the end of the season.

The 35-year-old Brazilian said he chose to make the announcement at the Italian Grand Prix because that was where Schumacher made his retirement announcement a decade ago, which cleared the way for Massa to remain at Ferrari.

"The only way for me to stay was for him to stop," Massa said. "He chose to give me this option to stay. [Italy] is my second country that I love and I think this is an important place to do this."

Massa made the announcement at a news conference alongside deputy team principal Claire Williams.

In 14 seasons in F1, Massa has claimed 11 wins, 41 podiums and 16 pole positions. He made his debut with Sauber in 2002 and moved to Ferrari in 2006, alongside Schumacher.

"Apart from the talent and the speed he has on the track, he's a great guy, very easygoing," current Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel said. "So he's going to be missed." MDT/AP

British driver looking to make Macau his F3 debut

BRITISH racing driver-sensation Lando Norris is eyeing the Macau Grand Prix for his debut in the top tier of Formula 3, reported Autosport last night.

The 16-year-old driver, who will turn 17 shortly before the race kicks off in November, will use the challenging Guia Circuit as a warm-up for next season's Formula 3 European Championship.

Norris currently leads the Formula Renault Eurocup and the Formula Renault Northern European Cup, has been a race winner in the BRDC British F3 Championship and also claimed the Toyota Racing Series title in New Zealand.

He has made headlines for collecting 20 race wins to date this season.

"Macau is a great race and we don't want to miss it if we can make it happen,"



Lando Norris

said Fraser Shearer of ADD Motorsports, which manages Lando Norris.

"It's arguably the most competitive F3 race of the year, and it would put him

on a great footing for next year," added Shearer, as cited by Autosport. "It's looking like F3 will be the chosen route, and this would be the best way to

kick it off."

Norris, who has already accumulated experience in FIA-spec Formula 3 cars from his 2015 MSA Formula 4 (now British Formula 4) title-winning season, when he earned the chance to driver with Carlin and Mucke Motorsport.

The young driver was also linked to Carlin and Mucke Motorsport through this season's BRDC British F3 Championship.

Although no Formula 3 deal is definitely on the horizon, it has been proposed that Norris might find an agreement with Carlin and Mucke Motorsport due to prior connections.

It is understood that Norris's campaign in BRDC British F3 - which is based on beefed-up FIA F4 Tatuus chassis - should qualify him for participation at Macau as the series has FIA blessing for use of the F3 name. DB

AD

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QUARREL OF THE ANCIENTS AND THE MODERNS

Being once again more in tune, on a daily basis, with politics in Hong Kong, I can now better appreciate how different things are on this side of the Delta. With the ongoing campaign for the legislative elections that will be held this coming Sunday, the contrast is truly striking.

Not that the extent of the debates make things necessarily more enthralling in the former British colony: after all, the independence issue does catalyze a soul-searching discourse while it somehow hijacks the party — with and without a capital ‘P’. Important topics pertaining to social fairness or sustainable development thus play second fiddle.

Or do they? In the end, these are not mere technicalities, and one could argue that they actually necessitate a sense of certainty regarding the future if one is to find solutions that bind the whole community, and for several generations to come. Maybe the order of priorities is not that foolish after all.

But then come the ‘whys’? Why is Hong Kong so modern and Macao so traditional?

Language is not at stake: Cantonese, its plasticity and wealth of diverse and colloquial expressions, is thriving in both SARs. Neither is the openness to the latest fads, be them Japanese, Korean or American: Pokémon GO is equally played on a Galaxy Hedge or an iPhone on both banks of the Pearl River.

Structure of population does play a role: only a minority of the population is born in Macao proper, and thus identification with one’s place is less of a contentious point while finding a ‘home’ within the Motherland.

And then, colonial heritage matters too: if “open” elections together with universal suffrage were in effect held sooner in Macao (early 1970s, versus early 1990s for Hong Kong), meaningful ones (with an extended registration of voters) actually started only in the mid-1980s (with a drastic recounting of the voters in 1992) in the barely lusophone city, and then the Portuguese colonial administration was very reluctant to co-opt the local Chinese elite in its higher echelons, a stark contrast with the localization drive of the British — and here I will refrain from comparing Rocha Vieira with Chris Patten, mainly out of respect for the latter.

The nature and organization of two very, very (where do I stop?) different economies are essential to understanding the divergence: financial capitalism can be murky, but it can never reach the degree of opacity of a gambling monopoly (now turned oligopoly) essentially resting on “gambling promoters” (the famous junkets) that are held accountable to no one but themselves. And in the context of Macao, outside influences bring tacky sophistication, but certainly not transparency. Laws and regulations in Nevada do — up to a certain point.

And then you have the press — freedom of the press, not only in name, but with independent titles able to finance themselves and run stories unimpaired. Sure, the environment is stifling in Hong Kong, but in Macao, Ou Mun lat Pou and its propaganda-like content rules, while All About Macao, the most important liberal title in Chinese, still struggles to pay for a server based outside of the SAR...

When election time comes in Macao, there are no lawyers, no university professors, no journalists and no students with a real chance of winning the day. When a CUHK poll published in July indicates that 17% of the population supports independence in Hong Kong — 39% among the ones aged 15 to 24! — it does say something about the condition of the society. In Macao, no such poll exists and we are left to speculate on the state of the society thanks to the grassroots petitions that are mushrooming in support of the soon-to-withdraw UBER. Do people remember what happened with Viva Macao, Macao Dragon Company and Reolian? And then, who owns the taxis in Macao?

Macao, traditional? Yes, but in whose interests?

THE BUZZ S. KOREA HOLDS ON TO BEAT CHINA IN WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

South Korea held on for an opening victory in World Cup qualifying yesterday beating China 3-2.

Zheng Zhi scored an own-goal to put South Korea ahead in the Group A match, and Lee Chung-yong of Crystal Palace

headed home a second before Bundesliga player Koo Ja-cheol made it 3-0 midway through the second half.

But Hai Yu pulled a goal back for China in the 74th minute and Hao Junmin curled home a free kick two minutes later.



SOURCE: D5IMG

Station		
Roadside	30-50 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

WORLD BRIEFS

EGYPT’s parliament has toughened penalties for female genital mutilation, adopting amendments that punish perpetrators with up to 15 years in prison if a child dies and up to seven years for performing the procedure.

UKRAINE President Petro Poroshenko says a new cease-fire in eastern Ukraine is holding, after months of fighting. He said in a statement released at noon local time yesterday that his forces have not seen any fighting in the past 12 hours.



BRITAIN Prime Minister Theresa May has firmly rejected the notion of a second referendum on the country’s membership in the European Union, insisting that the U.K. wouldn’t attempt a back-handed effort to remain in the bloc.



BRAZIL’s Senate on Wednesday voted to remove President Dilma Rousseff from office, the culmination of a yearlong fight that paralyzed Latin America’s largest nation and exposed deep rifts among its people on everything from race relations to social spending. Her vice president-turned-nemesis, Michel Temer, was immediately sworn in as president with Rousseff’s allies vowing to fight her removal. More on p15

US Donald Trump says that, if he’s elected president, he’ll work on “promoting American pride and patriotism in America’s schools.” Trump, speaking at the American Legion’s annual convention in Cincinnati, says he wants to ensure that children learn about America’s common values.



AP PHOTO

Annual tomato battle leaves Spanish town awash in red pulp

Diego Torres, Bunol

THOUSANDS of people pelted each other with tons of ripe tomatoes yesterday [Macao time], creating a red, mushy mess in the annual “Tomatina” street battle in eastern Spain.

At the fiesta in Bunol, 160 tons of tomatoes were offloaded from six trucks into the crowd packing the town’s streets for the hour-long battle that attracts many foreigners among the around 20,000 participants.

People cheered and jumped in the party atmosphere, with some

people wearing fancy dress but most in T-shirts. As the trucks pulled into the narrow streets, the revelers chanted, “Tomato! Tomato!”

To avoid injuries, revelers are instructed to squelch the tomatoes before throwing them. Even so, many donned swimming goggles to protect their eyes. People on balconies overlooking the festivities also were pelted, and tomatoes left red blotches on buildings’ white walls.

Canadian photographer David Tratlal said it was his 15th year at the festival.

“The last week of every August is the best week of the year, the most social week of the year. I can’t think of being anywhere else except here, in this village, with this group of people,” he said.

After the fight, the participants and the town’s streets were drenched in a sea of red pulp. Organizers hose the streets down within minutes of the event ending at noon, while participants could use public showers.

The paid-entry event was inspired by a 1945 food fight between local children in the tomato-producing region. **AP**

AP PHOTO

AP PHOTO

times square by rodrigo

