



'PARISIAN LOVES LOCALS'

Sands China will launch a new promotion aimed at Macau residents to kick off the opening of its latest property

P3



PETITIONERS WANT UBER'S LEGALIZATION

P6



AIR CHINA REMOVES INFLIGHT MAG

Air China's inflight magazine contained an article criticized as racist for telling visitors to take precautions when visiting areas of London with ethnic minorities

P10

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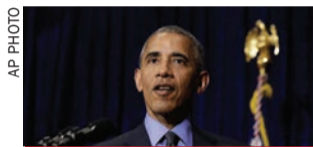
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WORLD BRIEFS



ASEAN President

Barack Obama puts the long-simmering dispute in the South China Sea front and center on the agenda at an ASEAN summit as it becomes clear that most of the other leaders gathered in the Laotian capital are going to let China off with a mild rebuke over its territorial expansion. More on p11

HONG KONG A van collided with a Dragonair plane that was carrying around 300 people at the Hong Kong International Airport yesterday. According to video footage of the incident, the van driver, who crashed into the plane as it was taxiing for takeoff, seems to have been at fault.

CHINA-SOUTH KOREA China is shunning a security dialogue in Seoul amid an ongoing row over South Korea's decision to deploy a powerful U.S. missile defense system. Beijing has angrily denounced plans for its deployment due to fears that the system will allow the U.S. military to peer deep into northeastern China.



PHILIPPINES Seven Chinese citizens were arrested in a drug raid against a suspected laboratory inside a pig farm. President Rodrigo Duterte, who has launched a massive crackdown on illegal drugs, has said that Chinese citizens are involved in the drug trade in the Philippines.

More on backpage

FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Chui elects public housing as priority

P2



US firm Liberty Media buying F1 for USD4.4 billion

P9



Extra

times

Extra

weekend Guide

INSIDE



Renato Marques

THE final document of the MSAR's first Five-Year Development Plan presented yesterday, highlights the need to create land reserves and to improve urban planning. The Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, who attended the presentation together with all of the government secretaries, stated that one of the government's major priorities over the next five years is the construction of public housing.

Although any differences between this final document and the version presented last April are difficult to recognize, Chui remarked that this final version of the plan is more comprehensive, due to the collection of over 4,200 opinions during the public consultation period and in the 41 presentation sessions held with several sectors of society.

According to the CE, 85 per-

cent of the opinion presented were in favor of the plan.

During the Q&A session that followed the presentation by the CE, Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, guaranteed that the Master Plan would be ready in 2019.

Rosário also said, regarding the land reserves the priorities are very clear, "first [priority] will be public housing, second, some of the land can be allocated for government warehouses and in third priority will be the public services," he said, reaffirming the prioritization of public housing, especially social housing.

On this issue, the CE further added that until the end of this year, 4,000 units will be available, and for zone A of the new landfill, another 28,000 are planned to be built. Chui affirmed that, "we are certain that [we] will satisfy the needs of the population."

FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

CE elects public housing as a priority

When questioned by the press regarding the lack of information of the MSAR's expected economic growth for the period until 2020, the CE said that "the gaming industry, which is the main economic drive, suffered an adjustment over the past 12 months, but since last month restarted its growth. We hope it will continue to grow and we also hope to increase the non-gaming sector that has been growing in the last few years. We expect it to grow from 6.6 percent to 9 percent [until 2020]," he added opti-

“We must continue to diversify and bet on the non-gaming sectors.”

LIONEL LEONG
SECRETARY FOR ECONOMY AND FINANCE

mistically.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong said, "Macau suffers from the influence and fluctuation of the world economy and it's difficult to make predictions," adding, "we must continue to diversify and bet on the non-gaming sectors as a way to benefit the SME's and the emerging sec-

tors," Leong said.

The five-year development plan for the MSAR also states that the government expects local SME product and service sales to the gaming concessionaires to grow from 41 percent (2015) to 50 percent (2020); and the same applies to the proportion of local suppliers out of total suppliers for the gaming concessionaires, which is expected to grow by 7 percentage points (from 43 to 50 percent).

The Secretary for Economy and Finance defended the "health" of the region's economy stating, "the best indicator is our very low unemployment rate. This shows that the population is in full employment and that's very important for domestic consumption," adding that the government will continue to regulate the employment area in order to promote career advancements for local residents.

Central Library to be concluded in 2022

THE Central Library is one of the projects outlined in the government's five-year plan and set to be initiated before 2020, to be concluded in 2022.

This matter provoked questioning from the press, due to the recently discovered facts regarding the status of the project, as well as criticism of its proposed location and expected budget of MOP900 million.

The CE responded to the questioning by explaining that the five-year plan draws general guidelines and goals that are possible to reach and that are independent of mandates or government positions. The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said, "the project isn't a new one. It's in fact a project that was already targeted with a study over a long period of time [last 10 years]," he said, reaffir-

ming that the main idea behind converting the old courthouse into a central library is due to the limited size and conditions of the Tap Seac facility.

Tam said, "now is the right time to advance with the project after the relocation of the Judiciary Police," a fact that, in the secretary's opinion, has created an opportunity to improve the proposal.

Tam dismissed claims of moving the library to a new location, saying that the Old Court Building is appropriate. "The location is good: Easy access and located in the city center," Tam said. "At this moment we are not seeing any other possibility in terms of location that is more convenient," he concluded, adding: "Ten years ago the idea was already quite good, now it is better!"

ROSARIO APPEALS TO POPULATION 'NOT TO WASTE FOOD'

THE SECRETARY for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, has appealed to the population and especially to hotels and resorts "not to waste food." The unusual remark came about in response to a question regarding solid waste, which was put forward during the press conference that presented the final version of

the government's five-year plan. "The majority of the solid waste received is resulting from kitchen waste, which is causing us many problems in terms of the incineration process," Rosário said, highlighting that although the origin of the food waste isn't possible to attest, it "certainly will come mostly from the hotels and resorts."

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Grant Chum, chief of staff of Sands China; Paulo Chan, DICJ director, Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd., and Dave Horton, global chief marketing officer of Las Vegas Sands (left to right) attended the press conference



Entertainment act at yesterday's press conference

Bank apologizes for referring to Macau as a country

The Korean Woori Bank has apologized to its Chinese clients for an advertisement posted by the bank that referred to Macau as a country. The advertisement featured five hands wearing clothes, the sleeves of which were printed with the flags of PRC, Japan, POC, Hong Kong and Macau. However, words written on the advertisement referred to the aforementioned regions as "five countries in Asia." The bank's official Weibo account announced Tuesday that the post had no relationship with the bank, and that the bank is conducting an investigation regarding the issue. The bank also apologized to its Chinese costumers, according to a report by Apple Daily.

Civil servant caught lying

A civil servant has lied to the police, claiming that he was being robbed, in order to provide his department with a sound reason for having been late for work. Earlier, the man, who is in his 30s, had reported to police saying that he had been robbed of MOP50 at the Tap Seac Square public bathroom. On Monday, the Judiciary Police (PJ) discovered that the man had lied after several discussions with the self-proclaimed victim. The government employee admitted to the PJ that he made up the whole story in order to explain to his supervisor why he had arrived late to work.

Couple falsify robbery case after losing money on gambling

A couple was arrested yesterday by the Judiciary Police (PJ), accused of falsifying a robbery case on Wednesday. Earlier, a convenience store near the Border Gate had reportedly been robbed, according to the two female employees on-duty at that time, one of whom is a suspect. MOP15,000 was supposedly stolen during the robbery. However, after being questioned by the PJ, the female suspect later admitted that the robbery never happened. She claimed that her boyfriend had lost more than MOP10,000 from his earnings on gambling, so she had suggested he falsify the robbery while she was working, according to a report by TDM.

'PARISIAN LOVES LOCALS'

New campaign kicks off latest Sands China launch

Daniel Beittler

SANDS China will launch a new promotion aimed at Macau residents to kick off the opening of its latest property, The Parisian Macao, on Tuesday. The announcement of the new promotion was made at a press conference held yesterday afternoon in anticipation of next week's launch event.

The promotion, titled "Parisian Loves Locals", evidently draws inspiration from the largely underwhelming five-week "Macau Loves Locals" campaign held earlier this year. As in the previous campaign, recipients must be Macau ID cardholders in order to take advantage of the new Sands China offers.

Running from September 14 to 29, the campaign includes not only discounts at Sands China's newest property, but also at its other resorts and in select transportation and retail areas.

A series of special offers across all Sands China properties have been designed for local residents

For hotel accommodation, prices of the "Best Flexible Rates" in each of the operator's properties will be reduced by 30 percent, except at the Four Seasons Macao, which will have its price cut by 20 percent.

During the two-week promotion, almost 50 restaurants and cafes across the group's resort portfolio will slash their prices by as much as 25 percent.

"Parisian Loves Locals" will also allow residents to save 20 percent on tickets for per-

cussionist group STOMP and Thriller Live, the latter of which celebrates the life and music of Michael Jackson.

Moreover, numerous other amenities will be discounted over the period, including: Gondola rides at The Venetian (-50 percent); visits to The Parisian's Eiffel Tower replica (-50 percent); day visits to children's clubs Qube I and Qube II (-30 percent); various spa treatments (up to -30 percent); and three-hour complimentary parking at most of Sands China's resorts.

Macau ID cardholders will also be able to receive a 20 percent discount on the published rates of select Cotai Water Jet ferries (Cotai Class and Cotai First only).

At yesterday's press conference, Sands China president and COO, Wilfred Wong, described the campaign as a way for the operator to extend The Parisian's opening celebrations to a fortnightly affair.

"To express our commitment

and gratitude to the Macau community during this time of celebration, we are pleased to extend the celebration to two full weeks," said Wong. "Under the umbrella of the 'Parisian Loves Locals' campaign, a series of special offers across all Sands China properties have been designed for Macau local residents to encourage them to join the celebration."

A series of performances were held including a quick change act, featuring two artists who frequently and rapidly changed outfits, and a routine with dancers in period French costumes. A curious-looking, mobile pipe organ was also presented to the property at yesterday's event.

Additionally, Wong said that he wants locals to have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of non-gaming elements, and that Sands China understands the promotion as a way for the company to "give something back to the local community" and thank them for their years of support.

Paulo Martins Chan, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) chief, also attended yesterday's press conference, and was presented a miniaturized model of the Eiffel Tower encased in glass panels by the Sands China COO.

The DICJ recently awarded The Parisian a total of 150 new tables, 100 of which are to be available for the resort's opening. However, Wong told the Times in an exclusive interview Wednesday that 310 additional tables will be moved to The Parisian from the operator's other properties, the majority of which will be mass market.

13,000-person MICE event at The Venetian

ACCORDING to Sands China representatives, around 13,000 people are set to stay at the operator's properties September 13 and 14, coinciding with The Parisian's opening. The delegation will be in the city for a large MICE event, which will be held at The Venetian Macao.

The visitors will occupy between 6,000 and 7,000 rooms at The Venetian and at the company's properties in Sands Cotai Central.

With the addition of The Parisian's 3000

guest rooms, the Macau market swells to a total of around 35,000. Should the occupancy rate (around 86 percent) remain stable this month, the MICE visitors will represent between one-fifth and one-quarter of occupied rooms in the territory over September 13 and 14.

Sands China representatives would not comment on how the Parisian Macao's opening days might be boosted by the coinciding visit of the large delegation. **DB**

PHOTOGRAPHY

New exhibition highlights memories of Portugal, hopes for Macau

AN exhibition of the works of photographer Wilson Caldeira will be held at the Macau Design Center between September 10 and 18, showcasing his journey from Portugal to Macau.

The solo exhibition is divided into two chapters. The first, "Doubt", is a collection of pictures from Portugal, taken approximately seven months before the artist left Portugal. "It is a kind of farewell to Portugal, family and friends," said Caldeira in a statement.

Meanwhile, the second chapter, "Hope", is about Macau – the new "world" and opportunity that lies ahead for the photographer.

His work tackles themes such as home, the family, and memories, as well as exploring the difficulties and uncertainty that face those who relocate to other parts of the world.

"My work explores the places where I live, my family,



Wilson Caldeira

friends and details of my daily life," he wrote. "I do not have a particular rule about the way I photograph [...] along the way I will find the right images to create

my narratives." On a broader level, the photographer wants to build connections between the art and culture in Macau and Portugal, as he believes

this is conducive to the development of cross-border artistic experiences.

"We have to embrace this concept of globalization and take advantage of different cultures [...] Portuguese and Macanese people should share through art experiences, learn about each other and contribute to enrich this beautiful miscellanea of culture and history," said the photographer.

Caldeira was born in Angola in 1975. After studying marketing and communication at the tertiary level, he later pursued a course in photography at Portugal's Escola Superior de Tecnologia de Tomar.

He has participated in numerous exhibitions and joint projects in Portugal, including a collective exhibition last year at Creative Macau, called "Cities."

The exhibition will open at 5 p.m. on September 10 at the Macau Design Center. **DB**

FAOM against demolition of Workers Stadium

THE Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) has rebutted that its Workers Stadium is frequently used, in response to a group that visited the government headquarters calling for the demolition of the stadium's football field.

Earlier this week, five people delivered a letter to the government headquarters suggesting to the relevant authorities to demolish the sports facility in order to build a new bus terminal at the border gate. The group believes that the football field is serving only a small number of people, and considers it a waste of public resources. Besides a bus terminal, the group also suggested a parking lot could be built.

In response, FAOM claims the average usage rate of the field over recent years to be 75 percent, with 360,000 visitors recorded last year. The field is also occasionally hired by local associations and companies to hold events, as well as used by local schools to conduct physical education classes.

Regarding the traffic issues around the border gate, the association claims to be willing to cooperate with the government to help solve this problem.

The Workers Stadium, located at Praça das Portas do Cerco, currently holds a football field, as well as indoor facilities for table tennis and badminton.

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EDUCATION

UM's Honours College welcomes 48 new students



THE University of Macau (UM) Honours College (HC) recently held a ceremony to welcome 48 new students, all of whom are top student leaders selected from 18 academic programs offered by seven faculties. The students will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skill-set and leader-

ship abilities through various training courses and activities offered by HC.

At the ceremony, UM University Council Chair Lam Kam Seng and Rector Wei Zhao presented admission certificates to the students. In his speech, HC Dean Mok Kai Meng noted that UM's multicultural campus offers many experiences, and he

encouraged the students to take advantage of the opportunities available, work hard and try different things.

According to a statement issued by UM, in the second semester of their second year, the new cohort of students will have the opportunity to study at overseas universities, namely Boston College, the University of Notre Dame du Lac, the University of Rochester, George Washington University, the University of Michigan, Washington University in St Louis, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Coimbra.

UM highlighted in the statement that "most HC graduates from the previous cohorts have either found a job [in] multinational companies or chosen to pursue further studies." Some members of the Class of 2016 have been employed by companies like JBA Consul-

ting Engineers (Asia) Limited and PricewaterhouseCoopers in Beijing. Others chose to pursue further studies at renowned universities.

Established in 2009, HC is dedicated to nurturing outstanding undergraduate students into future leaders. The three-year Honours Program provides the students with leadership training courses and offers them access to research programs and creative activities. Students also have the opportunity to study abroad at esteemed universities for one semester to gain a comparative perspective on the disciplines they study, and to develop international awareness and cultural fluency.

ONE SHOT NEWS



Workers arrange light decorations ahead of the Mid-Autumn Festival at the Senado Square.

AD

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Indonesia representative assumes office



The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced that its newly-appointed representative in Indonesia has come into operation and will actively expand the Indonesian tourism market for Macau in line with the direction of the region's tourism development. MGTO hosted a dinner in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia yesterday and announced its appointment of VFS Global Services Private Limited as its new representative in Indonesia. The office invited 60 guests to the dinner, including members of the travel trade and media in Indonesia as well as Macau's travel trade. During the dinner, MGTO Director Helena de Senna Fernandes remarked that tapping into the potential of the Indonesian market, MGTO has set up its first representative in Indonesia since 2009 to assist the Office in expanding the Indonesian source market and encouraging more international visitations to Macau.

Macau to take part in inaugural AFC Solidarity Cup

Macau is set to be one of the teams to take part in the inaugural AFC Solidarity Cup, which will take place November 2 to 15 in Malaysia. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) held the draw recently in Kuala Lumpur. Group A will consist of Nepal, Pakistan, Brunei, Timor Leste/Chinese Taipei and Bhutan/Bangladesh. Group B meanwhile will comprise of Sri Lanka, Macau, Mongolia and Maldives/Laos. According to an AFC statement, the participants of the tournament are countries that will not feature in the later stages of the AFC World Cup qualification, or the Asian Cup qualification, and "who have little opportunity to organize friendly international matches."

Local swimmer takes part in Rio Paralympic Games

Macau athlete Chen Yu Chia is representing Macau in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympics, where he will compete with swimmers from the rest of the world. Chen will participate in the Men's 200 Meters Freestyle September 8, followed by the Men's 200 Meters Individual Medley event September 10, both at Rio de Janeiro local time. In the last two Paralympics, held in London and Beijing, Macau sent two athletes, who competed for the territory in the categories of wheelchair fencing, track and field, and swimming. More than 4,400 athletes from 160 countries and regions are competing at the Rio Paralympics Games, including two refugees.

FIVE representatives of a Facebook group concerned with transportation in Macau delivered a letter to government headquarters yesterday. In the letter, they stated their expectation for the authority to establish laws to regulate Uber's operation instead of kicking the company out of the territory.

One of the group members, surnamed Loi, an avowed frequent user of Uber, questioned the government: why not "change the laws or come out with new laws [to regulate the app-based taxi hailing industry]?"

Loi then voiced his opinion, saying, "it is not a matter of legal or illegal terms, it is a matter of the vacancy of laws." He believes that Macau's demand for Uber has been demonstrated by the public, who feel a strong need for Uber.

The purpose of yesterday's activity was to call to "the government to think [about] things while placing itself in the people's shoes," as said by another speaker, surnamed Lau.

Recently, the government awarded Radio Taxi 100 special taxi licenses, which will enable the company to put new vehicles into service next year. However, this does not satisfy Lau, who explained that "adding more cars will add more burden to the region's transportation system and [natural] environment."



AFTER more than 50 years as a Hong Kong developer, octogenarian billionaire Lui Che-Woo says he's having trouble reading the city's property market these days.

"I can't see clearly what's happening in Hong Kong's property market," 87-year-old Lui, who is also the chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group, said in an in-

Drivers request new laws to allow Uber's operation



The letter, addressed to the Chief Executive, was signed by more than 2,000 drivers. In the letter, it is claimed that

the request does not represent Uber, but professional drivers and local families.

Since Uber announced its

departure from Macau, several groups have voiced their support for Uber, including one demonstration organized last Sunday. However, the authorities already stated that "such passenger transportation services [Uber] are unlicensed and were deemed illegal for operation in Macau. Some of the opinions expressed during the demonstration did not appear to take [into] account Macau's existing legislation on passenger transportation services." **Staff reporter**

Radio Taxi director expects to change consumer habits

CHEONG Chi Man, director of the Macau Radio Taxi Corporation, has revealed that the company's most important goal is "to change Macau's public transportation habits, and provide new services." Cheong's statement came out earlier this week, after Radio Taxi was awarded 100 special taxi licenses.

Cheong pointed out that his company has been sending employees to Singapore several times in order for them to learn from its taxi service of how to operate.

According to the director, all transport vehicles will begin operation next year, and will

serve mostly local residents rather than tourists. The company is also planning on installing 40 to 50 taxi bays.

Moreover, Radio Taxi will provide an app-based taxi service. When asked about whether such service will be better than Uber's, Cheong replied, "we will be better than Uber for sure."

Cheong believes that in the future more residents will stop driving their own cars to get to work, as it might turn out to be cheaper for them to take taxis if they choose car-pooling services, according to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou.

PROPERTY

Hong Kong land prices baffle Galaxy's chairman Lui Che-Woo

interview, after failing to win any land bid this year. "Recently land prices have surged so much. I really don't know what's happening right now. I need time to think quietly for a while before figuring out the situation we are in."

K Wah International Holdings, Lui's listed property arm, has submitted 16 tender bids in land auctions so far in 2016, while failing to win any. Large Hong Kong developers have been reluctant to make high bids on land after home prices fell and sales slowed earlier this year, opening the way for smaller local companies and mainland Chinese firms.

"It's a shame that we have also tried hard to bid for land in Hong Kong, but failed," Lui said. "It's been a headache."

The uncertainty in the property market, despite a recent rally, has made developers cautious while bidding for land. K Wah International has been outbid at this year's land auctions by developers from mainland China and unlisted Hong Kong firms, including a company controlled by Angela Leong, an executive director of SJM Holdings Ltd., which competes with Lui's Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. in Macau's casino market. **MDT/Bloomberg**

DSSOPT accepts 14 bids for paving, ranging from MOP4.9-51 million

THE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) on Wednesday opened the 14 bids received for the leveling and paving work to be done in the NAPE zone B area.

According to a statement from the bureau, the bids ranged from MOP4.9 million to MOP51 million.

The Company Wang Tong – Companhia de Construcao e Engenharia, Limitada presented the smallest bid, offering the work for around MOP4.9 million, with an execution time of 190 days.

On the opposite end of the spectrum was the Companhia de Construcao e Engenharia Rock-One, Limitada

that offered the same work for a total of MOP51 million, which is over ten-fold the smallest bid. The duration of the work in this case is 200 days.

The work aims to prepare the land plots on zone B of NAPE, located between the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge and the Kum Iam Ecumeni-

cal Centre, in order to create a temporary bus and heavy vehicle parking lot.

According to the information from DSSOPT, all of the proposals have fulfilled the requirements, and therefore all were accepted for the public tender.

The work to be performed on the land plots includes the leveling and paving of the ground, installation of fences, gates and lighting.

It is expected the work will commence in the first quarter of 2017.

Apresentação do Plano Quinquenal de Desenvolvimento da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau (2016-2020)

Desde o retorno de Macau à Pátria, com o pleno apoio do Governo Central, o Governo da RAEM e a população em geral têm envidado os seus esforços em conjunto, na concretização da política de "um País, dois Sistemas", "Macau governado pelas suas gentes" com alto grau de autonomia, tendo obtido resultado manifesto. Com a definição do papel e das funções ainda mais evidentes da RAEM no desenvolvimento do País pelo "Décimo Terceiro Plano Quinquenal Nacional", após uma ampla auscultação das opiniões dos cidadãos e um estudo aprofundado, o Governo da RAEM elaborou o "Plano Quinquenal de Desenvolvimento da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau". Nos próximos 5 anos, teremos as perspectivas e um plano director ainda mais claros, objectivos e planeamentos mais pormenorizados. Com a sabedoria, a coragem e a perseverança dos cidadãos de Macau, iremos executar, de forma empenhada, o "Plano Quinquenal" da RAEM, para a construção da nossa cidade feliz.

21 principais objectivos no desenvolvimento socio-económico para os próximos cinco anos

Projectos	2014	2015	2020	Aumento anual médio [Soma]	Natureza
Economia					
1. Taxa de desemprego	1,7%	1,8%	Mantém-se num nível mais baixo	--	Previsão
2. Médiana do rendimento mensal do emprego	13.300 patacas	15.000 patacas	Continua a ter um crescimento adequado	--	Previsão
Saúde					
1. Peso das despesas com os cuidados de saúde nas despesas financeiras do Governo	9,2%	10,2%	Com um aumento ligeiro	--	Previsão
2. Número de médicos por cada mil habitantes	2,5	2,6	2,6	--	Previsão
3. Número de enfermeiros por cada mil habitantes	3,1	3,5	4,0	Subida de 0,5 do número cumulativo de enfermeiros por cada mil habitantes	Previsão
4. Número de camas hospitalares por cada mil habitantes	2,7	2,8	4,4	Subida de 1,6 do número cumulativo de camas hospitalares por cada mil habitantes	Previsão
Segurança social					
1. Regime de segurança social de dois níveis	O primeiro nível do regime da segurança social entrou em vigor em 2011		Conclusão da criação do segundo nível do "Regime de Previdência Central não Obrigatório"	--	Previsão
2. Taxa de cobertura da pensão para idosos	69,52%	70,47%	73,55%	[3,08%]	Previsão
3. Peso das despesas com a segurança social nas despesas financeiras do Governo	25,1%	24,3%	Com um aumento ligeiro	--	Previsão
Educação					
1. Peso das despesas com a educação nas despesas financeiras do Governo	14,9%	14,7%	Com um aumento ligeiro	--	Previsão
2. Taxa bruta de escolarização no ensino secundário complementar	92,5%	94,7%	Com uma subida ligeira	--	Previsão
3. Percentagem da população activa com nível de ensino superior concluído	31%	34%	Alcançar o nível geral das regiões desenvolvidas asiáticas	--	Previsão

Projectos	2014	2015	2020	Aumento anual médio [Soma]	Natureza
Protecção ambiental					
1. Taxa de emissão de dióxido de carbono	4,53 toneladas de dióxido de carbono/milhão de patacas	--	Manter abaixo das 5,00 toneladas de dióxido de carbono/milhão de patacas	--	Obrigatoriedade
2. Valores do PM2.5	Está conforme os parâmetros IT-1 da OMS (abaixo de 35 microgramas/metro cúbico)		Manter nos parâmetros da OMS	--	Obrigatoriedade
3. Percentagem do número de dias com ar de boa qualidade e de qualidade normal em relação ao número de dias do ano	92%	91%	92% - 95% Aumento constante de dias com ar de boa qualidade em relação ao número de dias do ano	[1%-4%]	Obrigatoriedade
4. Capacidade de tratamento centralizado das águas residuais	Macau 47% Ilhas 100%	50% 100%	60% 100%	[10%]	Obrigatoriedade
5. Taxa de tratamento não nocivo de resíduos	100%	100%	100%	Não inferior aos níveis actuais	Obrigatoriedade
Arborização urbana					
• Quantidade de árvores urbanas	23.866 árvores	25.357 árvores	Aumento cerca de 2.300 árvores durante os próximos 5 anos	460 árvores [2.300 árvores]	Obrigatoriedade
• Remodelação das zonas florestais	Foram remodelados 4 hectares de terrenos e foram plantadas 4.110 mudas de árvore	Foram remodelados 2,2 hectares de terrenos e foram plantadas 2.020 mudas de árvore	Nos próximos 5 anos, serão modelados cerca de 5 hectares de terrenos, e serão plantadas aproximadamente 5.000 muda de árvore.	1 hectare, 1.000 árvores, [5 hectares, 5.000 árvores]	Obrigatoriedade
• Número de mudas de mangue plantadas anualmente em mangais	4.000	3.800	Nos próximos 5 anos, serão plantadas cerca de 15.000 mudas de	3.000 árvores [15.000 árvores]	Obrigatoriedade

Projectos	2020	Natureza
Ações governativas e Estado de Direito		
1. Optimização dos organismos consultivos actualmente existentes	No período compreendido entre 2016 e 2020, planeia-se a revisão das funções de 1 a 2 organismos consultivos da área política, procedendo-se também à respectiva reforma conforme as necessidades.	Obrigatoriedade
2. Racionalização das funções da estrutura da Administração Pública	Em 2019 ficará totalmente concluída a 2.ª fase do planeamento da reestruturação de funções. Em 2020 concluir-se-á a revisão da estrutura do Governo, em função das necessidades do novo Governo, e serão apresentadas também sugestões para a nova reestruturação.	Previsão
3. Regime de Avaliação do Desempenho, introdução do mecanismo de avaliação imparcial	Realizar-se-á, de forma constante, e de dois em dois anos, a avaliação da qualidade dos serviços públicos prestados pela Administração. Em 2019 concluir-se-á a avaliação com um número cumulativo de 100%. Em 2020, de acordo com as directrizes da acção governativa do novo Governo, será definida a concepção de enquadramento para a avaliação do desempenho.	Obrigatoriedade

Foco da sociedade em 7 áreas (O texto a vermelho trata-se de conteúdo novo)

Terrenos

- Criação da reserva de terrenos
- Aperfeiçoamento da gestão de recursos de solos
- Aceleração da criação da base de dados sobre o aproveitamento dos terrenos
- Lançamento e concretização programada dos trabalhos do plano urbanístico geral e do plano urbanístico pormenorizado
 - ▶ Previsão da conclusão do plano urbanístico geral em 2019
 - ▶ Promoção de forma ordenada da elaboração pormenorizada dos trabalhos do plano urbanístico
 - ▶ Concretização de forma faseada do planeamento dos 350 hectares de terrenos nas Novas Zonas Urbanas
- Até finais de Junho de 2016, foi declarada a caducidade das concessões de 38 terrenos que não foram aproveitados dentro do prazo de concessão
 - ▶ Com área total de 258.911 metros quadrados
 - ▶ 84.770 metros quadrados foram revertidos nos termos da lei
 - ▶ Após a conclusão dos processos, outros terrenos declarados caducados constituirão a base da reserva de terrenos

Habitação

- Promoção activa da renovação urbana, aceleração da elaboração dos respectivos diplomas e regulamentos, construção de habitação provisória
 - Promoção do desenvolvimento saudável do mercado imobiliário
 - Avaliação da política da habitação pública, no sentido de impulsionar a construção de habitações públicas
- A curto e médio prazo:**
- ▶ Construção de 4.600 fracções
 - ▶ Construção de mais de 8.000 fracções no lote situado na Avenida Wai Long
- A longo prazo:**
- ▶ Construção de 28.000 fracções na Zona A das Novas Zonas Urbanas

Saúde

- Persistência da política de saúde pública de "Tratamento eficaz em que se privilegia a prevenção"
- Cumprimento do princípio dos três níveis de prevenção
- Aperfeiçoamento da construção do sistema de saúde
- Aperfeiçoamento do sistema de saúde constituído pelas unidades de saúde públicas, não lucrativas e privadas
- Trabalhos prioritários do Sistema de Saúde
 - ▶ Melhoria continuada dos estabelecimentos de cuidados de saúde primários
 - ▶ Realização do rastreio sobre o estado de saúde da população
 - ▶ Aperfeiçoamento da assistência médica gratuita
 - ▶ Reforço da cooperação e complementaridade entre o Governo e as unidades de saúde sem fins lucrativos e privadas
 - ▶ Formação de médicos especialistas
 - ▶ Implementação do regime de credenciação dos profissionais de saúde

Protecção ambiental

- Promoção da redução das emissões a partir da fonte
- "Pagar quem polui"
- Definição de critérios da emissão das fontes emissoras de poluentes
- Promoção da utilização de água reciclada e de gás natural bem como a construção do respectivo equipamento
- Promoção de uma vida ecológica
 - ▶ Elaboração de princípios orientadores relativos à sustentabilidade do meio ambiente no plano urbanístico geral
 - ▶ Enumeração dos projectos das respectivas políticas no plano de pormenor
 - ▶ Reforço na prevenção e tratamento da poluição das águas e a protecção do ambiente hídrico
- Elaboração do plano de acção de arborização urbana
 - ▶ Projecto de restauração das zonas húmidas de água doce de Seac Pai Van
 - ▶ Construção do centro de renovação de recursos para arborização
 - ▶ Plano de arborização e recuperação ambiental ao longo do traçado do Metro Ligeiro
 - ▶ Concretização do plano de recolha e reutilização de produtos de madeira
 - ▶ Concretização da estratégia tridimensional de arborização
 - ▶ Plano de acção para a expansão de zonas verdes para contemplação de flores e de plantas aromáticas

Educação

Ensino não superior

- Inovação do pensamento e do conteúdo do ensino
- Desenvolvimento do ensino técnico-profissional e do ensino especial
- Elaboração de um plano a curto, médio e longo prazo para resolver a questão das escolas situadas em pódios de edifícios
- Implementação de um novo modelo de avaliação global das escolas

Ensino superior e formação de talentos

- Popularização contínua do ensino superior
- Elevação da capacidade de inovação
- Formação de quadros inovadores
- Promoção da ligação entre as indústrias, as instituições de ensino superior e os centros de pesquisa
- Formação de talentos bilingues
- Incentivação ao regresso dos talentos a Macau
- Apoio aos estudantes do ensino superior a frequentarem estágio e intercâmbio no exterior
- Introdução da "Prosperidade de Macau através da educação" e "construção de Macau com talentos"
 - ▶ Aceleração da divulgação do ensino das ciências e tecnologias
 - ▶ Melhoramento contínuo do ensino em "três línguas escritas e quatro línguas faladas"
 - ▶ Construção do sistema de informação de talentos e a construção e o aperfeiçoamento de uma sociedade de aprendizagem

Economia

- Promoção de um desenvolvimento articulado do sector do Jogo e do sector não-jogo
- Desenvolvimento do turismo
- Promoção do desenvolvimento das indústrias emergentes
- Apoio às pequenas e médias empresas
- Reforço da cooperação regional e do intercâmbio internacional
- Articulação com o Décimo Terceiro Plano Quinquenal Nacional
- Expansão das actividades financeiras com características próprias
- Estudo sobre a viabilidade de abertura de mais vias pedonais
- Prioridade no fomento ao crescimento do sector de convenções e exposições, da indústria da medicina tradicional chinesa e das indústrias culturais e criativas
- Aperfeiçoamento do plano relativo à elevação da competitividade das pequenas e médias empresas
- Melhoramento da construção de "Uma plataforma", promoção da integração orgânica de "Uma plataforma" na estratégia de "Uma Faixa, Uma Rota"
- Reforço da cooperação regional e alargamento do intercâmbio internacional

Implementação e avaliação do Plano

- Acompanhamento e coordenação pela Comissão para a Construção do Centro Mundial de Turismo e Lazer
- Criação do mecanismo de supervisão, avaliação e ajuste da implementação do Plano
- Introdução de mecanismo de avaliação por terceira parte

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.

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JULIET RISDON

We published an article in February this year that touched on the issue of diversification and what it means to Macau. Diversification here 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? A small business in Macau needs 5 things in order to establish itself.

- 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

Anyone who has ever tried to start a business knows how hard it is.

Want to start a restaurant in Macau? Well you may be confident that, as an award-winning chef, you stand a better chance than most. Now you have to find the money. In other countries, go and talk with the bank. In Macau, the banks will not fund a new business.

They already know what the outcome will be in 95% of the cases, so they don't lend money to new business.

BUT, money is arguably relatively easy to solve in Macau, and credit where it's due, the government do attempt to support small business financially (quite possibly the ONLY way in which they truly support small business).

Anyway, lets say that you find someone who has more money than sense, and likes your cooking. He agrees to put up some money. Now the fun really starts. You need premises.

Rents are very expensive, and landlords know that once you have spent a small fortune fitting out the place, they have you over a barrel. Every renewal the rent is going up.

In business school across the world, a rule of thumb is that rent should be a maximum of 10% of your revenue. Good luck.

If you overcome this hurdle, you still have the most difficult challenge. You need people. Where are they going to come from? The 1.9% unemployed? No. What about some work permits? Sure, how many Macau ID holders do you already employ...?

If, and it's a huge 'if', you have now managed to navigate your way through the minefield described above without 'blowing up', you can now enjoy the administration process.

Your premises will have to obtain a license, which will require inspections. Oddly, you will not be able to obtain a comprehensive list of requirements beforehand. Thus you will have to hire an architect, a lawyer or consultant to work on your behalf...

Anyone who has inside information on the 'process'.

During the application period, the submission of documents, forms, supporting evidence, personal information and everything else that is required, no business can be done. Rents must be paid, staff must receive a salary, but no income.

How long can it take? Sometimes, with a little luck and the right person working for you, it can be a matter of weeks. But mostly, it takes months. This does not take into account the ongoing requirements of each industry.

The energy of the entrepreneur should be on the business. In Macau, it is fighting bureaucracy.

As we pointed out before, it is worth bearing in mind that it's easy to be critical, especially in hindsight when everything becomes 100% clear.

Forecasting and solving issues proactively is far more difficult and goes mostly unnoticed since 'problems' are solved before they hit the radar of the general public. However, Macau will need to improve its systems dramatically if it wants

to diversify the reputation.

Options and possible solutions (in no particular order);

1. Use public land to create a subsidized retail and commercial space to allow new business to launch and test for a finite period of time, two years for example. Business must move after the fixed period, and if it cant work in that period of time, there is no chance of it going further.

2. Spouse dependent work permits. Macau has so few resources, why let those at its disposal go to waste? Secondary work permits for spouses would allow those people who are currently here going crazy to work. Making the work permit on the primary permit will mean that the person cannot stay independently, but at least they can work whilst they are here.

3. Realize that poor service is a major reason for non-returning customers. When staff are not motivated to do a great job, the company and service levels both suffer. Over protection of jobs creates a dangerously indifferent workforce and service levels suffer. Instead, why not operate a dual tax and benefit system that heavily favours Macau ID holders and encourages employers to look for ID holders FIRST, but also makes it easier to employ work permit holders at a higher cost.

4. Look at Government admin procedures. Closing down a businesses during a license renewal period KILLS the business. Issuing a temporary license with a time scale for obtaining a new one does not. Eliminating moronic and idiotic, anti-business administration practices will go some way to change the reputation of Macau from a laughing stock to a place that at least WANTS to be taken seriously.

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Rob Harris, London

US firm Liberty Media buying Formula One auto racing series

FORMULA One is being bought by Liberty Media, a U.S. company that invests in entertainment and sports, for USD4.4 billion.

Liberty Media Corp., which is controlled by 75-year-old tycoon John Malone, has ended years of uncertainty about the ownership of the auto racing series with Wednesday's deal.

There will be continuity, with Bernie Ecclestone remaining the chief executive officer of F1. But the 85-year-old Ecclestone will have to work under a new chairman: Chase Carey, the executive vice chairman of Rupert Murdoch's entertainment conglomerate 21st Century Fox.

Formula One has hundreds of millions of fans, and Carey said in a statement that he sees opportunity to develop it. In an interview, Ecclestone said he is optimistic Liberty has the resources, expertise and outlook to drive the growth of F1 — particularly in the United States.

Liberty said it has initially purchased a minority stake of 18.7 percent for \$746 million. A buyout is expected to be completed by March 2017. F1's biggest current shareholder, investment fund CVC Capital Partners, and the other sellers will still own 65 percent of For-

There will be continuity, with Bernie Ecclestone remaining the chief executive officer of F1

mula One Group stock, and retain board representation. But CVC, which first invested in F1 in 2005, is ceding control of the sport to Malone's Liberty, which has all the voting shares.

The company says the deal values Formula One at \$8 billion, including debt.

Malone, a U.S. cable-industry pioneer, has wide-ranging holdings in sports and entertainment. His Liberty Media also owns Major League Baseball team Atlanta Braves and has a controlling interest in radio company Sirius XM. Malone also controls European te-

lecom company Liberty Global and has investments in U.S. cable company Charter, which recently bought Time Warner Cable, and various cable-TV companies.

"I hope they do a lot because they are American and have had dealings in television in America for a long time," Ecclestone said of Liberty. "They have dealings with a lot of sponsors because of their TV networks and social media which we haven't done [as much] in the past."

The sport returned to the U.S. in 2012 after a five-year absence, with Austin hosting the race under the current deals.

"I am very, very happy that they can come in and do things [for the sport]," Ecclestone, the long-time F1 commercial chief, told The Associated Press. "I have been trying to do things in America for years but not very successfully [...] maybe they are the people that can get it done."

Asked about challenging NASCAR's supremacy in the U.S., Ecclestone said: "They are the



Ecclestone gives the thumb-up sign during the first practice session for Sunday's Italian Formula One Grand Prix at the Monza racetrack

people that should be concerned, of course."

At the time of the sale, CVC had a 35.5 percent stake in F1, followed by U.S. fund manager Waddell & Reed with slightly

more than 20 percent. Ecclestone has 5.3 percent stake in F1 but his family Bambino Trust has a further 8.5 percent, rounding up his involvement up to about 14 percent. **AP**

China trade showed unexpected strength in August

IMPORTS rose by a better-than-forecast 1.5 percent over a year earlier, up from July's 12.5 percent plunge and the first monthly gain since 2014, customs data showed yesterday. Exports fell 2.8 percent but that was better than expected and an improvement over the previous month's 4.4 percent contraction.

The improvement in exports was a boost for Chinese leaders who are trying to protect millions



A vendor loads goods from a pick-up station near a clothing wholesale market in Beijing

of trade-supported jobs. Import growth suggested lackluster Chinese domestic demand might be recovering.

"A gradual recovery in global demand probably means some further upside to export growth in the coming quarters,"

Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report. "Import growth should also pick up further on the back of stronger domestic demand and a further recovery in global commodity prices."

Chinese economic growth held steady at 6.7 percent in the quarter ending in June but that was the lowest quarterly level since the aftermath of the 2008 global crisis.

The communist leadership has warned Chi-

na's economic outlook will be "L-shaped," meaning a five-year-long decline is expected to level off but there is no sharp rebound in sight.

An unexpectedly sharp decline in global demand for Chinese goods over the past two years threatened to disrupt Beijing's marathon effort to reduce reliance on trade and investment. Those plans call for nurturing domestic consumer demand but are based on holding exports

steady to avoid politically dangerous job losses.

China's trade figures have been depressed over the past year by a decline in global commodity prices but trade volumes also weakened.

Exports totaled USD190.6 billion in August while imports were \$138.5 billion. The global trade surplus was \$52 billion.

The trade surplus with the 28-nation European Union, China's biggest trading partner, was \$13.6 billion. The gap with the United States was \$25.2 billion. **AP**



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Louise Watt, Beijing

CHINESE flag-carrier Air China said yesterday that it had removed copies of its inflight magazine containing an article criticized as racist for telling visitors to take precautions when visiting areas of London with large ethnic-minority populations.

The state-owned airline said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that the September issue of "Wings of China" used "inappropriate" language and that the article didn't represent the airline's views.

"After discovering this problem, Air China immediately removed this magazine from all flights and demanded that the publishers of 'Wings of China' seriously learn from this lesson, strengthen their content review and avoid making similar mistakes," the airline said.

It also forwarded an email from the magazine's publisher apologizing to Air China and saying the fault lay with an "editing mistake."

The original article in English read: "London is generally a safe place to travel, however precautions are needed when entering areas mainly populated by Indians, Pakistanis and black people." It also advised

Air China removes mag with offensive article about London



tourists not to go out alone at night, and for women not to travel alone.

British lawmaker Vivendra Sharma, who represents a diverse London district, said Wednesday that he had written to China's ambassador to Britain to demand an apology for the "blatantly untrue and racist statements."

In the apology to Air China, China Aviation Media Co. Ltd. said the article ran "counter to our original intention to promote the beautiful scenes of London."

"It has brought about misunderstanding from some media outlets and readers and also a huge negative impact on your company's business operations

and image. We deeply apologize for that," its statement read.

It's not the first time Chinese businesses have been criticized for being tone-deaf over issues of race and ethnicity.

Earlier this year, a Chinese laundry detergent maker apologized "for the harm caused to the African people" over its TV advertisement that showed

a black man being stuffed into a washing machine and coming out a fair-skinned Asian man.

Shanghai Leishang Cosmetics Ltd. Co. said it strongly condemned racial discrimination but blamed foreign media for playing up the controversy.

The examples highlight how companies and much of the population in China remain somewhat oblivious to racial sensitivities, partly a result of China's overwhelming ethnic homogeneity and a relative lack of contact with foreigners until recent years that has allowed stereotypes to persist.

Asked about the magazine's London travel advice, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying responded that the government only issues tourist alerts to people "travelling to high risk areas like war zones."

The Chinese government "resolutely opposes all forms of racial discrimination," she said. **AP**

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AP PHOTO



U.S. President Barack Obama (center), walks with leaders of ongoing 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and other related summits at National Convention Center in Vientian

ASEAN SUMMIT

Obama puts South China Sea back on agenda at summit

PRESIDENT Barack Obama put the long-simmering dispute in the South China Sea front and center on the agenda at a regional summit yesterday as it became clear that most of the other leaders gathered in the Laotian capital were going to let China off with a mild rebuke over its territorial expansion in the resource-rich waters.

"We will continue to work to ensure that disputes are resolved peacefully including in the South China Sea," Obama said in his opening remarks at a meeting with leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN.

He said an international arbitration ruling on July 12 against China was "binding" and "helped to clarify maritime rights in the region."

ASEAN held a separate summit later with other world powers, including China and the U.S. The summit is expected to let China off with a muted reprimand over its expansionist activities in South China Sea.

The U.S. has repeatedly expressed concern over Beijing's actions in the resource-rich sea. Obama brought that up again.

Referring to the arbitration panel's ruling that invalidated China's claims, Obama said: "I realize this raises tensions but I also look forward to discussing how we can constructively move forward together to lower tensions and promote diplomacy and regional stability."

The draft of the summit statement said that ASEAN and its partners "reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security and freedom of navigation in and over-flight in the South China Sea."

"Several Leaders remained seriously concerned over recent developments in the South China Sea [...] We stressed the importance for the parties concerned to resolve their disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international laws," it said.

China has turned shoals and coral reefs into seven man-made islands and built airstrips capable of handling military aircraft on three of them. ASEAN leaders at their earlier summit earlier this week expressed concern over China's island-building. AP

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A Filipino activist shouts slogans calling for an end to extrajudicial killings related to Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's "War on Drugs"

US-PHILIPPINES

Duterte's drug war puts strain on bilateral ties

Matthew Pennington, Washington

WHEN Rodrigo Duterte became Philippine president many predicted his desire to mend relations with China could alienate the United States. Instead, his deadly war on drugs and refusal to brook criticism on human rights have quickly strained relations with the Obama administration.

Duterte's "son of a bitch" slur against President Barack Obama scuppered a formal meeting between the two leaders this week, presaging rocky times ahead in one of Washington's most valued alliances in Asia.

Duterte's tough talk and action has struck a chord with Filipinos, but it is rubbing the U.S. the wrong way, although it is ultimately the Philippi-

nes which has the most to lose from a fracturing of relations. The U.S. is an important source of assistance for its meager military and is treaty-bound to come to the Philippines' defense if it comes under attack.

On Wednesday, the Philippine government released what it says are surveillance pictures of Chinese coast guard ships and barges at a disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea — heightening concern that China may expand its massive campaign of land construction that has alarmed neighbors and rival claimants. That is a scenario which could put to the test what the Obama administration often says is an "ironclad" commitment to its Philippine ally.

Historically tempestuous ties between the Philippines and the U.S., its former colonial power, blossomed under Du-

terte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, who riled Beijing by challenging its territorial claims at an international tribunal. Shortly before he left office, Aquino agreed to allow U.S. forces access to five Philippine military bases — opening the way to what would be the most significant American military deployment in the Southeast Asian nation since the U.S. was forced to close its own military bases there a quarter-century ago.

Amy Searight, a former senior U.S. defense official who led the final negotiations, said the alliance remains strong and U.S. officials are not too concerned about the pending implementation of the new defense cooperation pact — a key part of the Obama administration's strategic push into Asia.

"Duterte has not given any signals that he sees abandoning

or substantially weakening the alliance with the United States as a way to reach a better deal with China, nor should he. You don't approach a country like China from a position of weakness, you approach them from a position of strength," said Searight, now director of the Southeast Asia program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

She said more worrisome in Duterte's outburst was that he was tapping into anti-colonial sentiments against America that lingers in some quarters in the Philippines. She also said that the war on drugs his government is prosecuting would be a significant problem and source of friction in the relationship.

Since he took office as president on June 30, more than 2,000 people have been gunned down in a crackdown on drug dealers and users that has prompted expressions of concern from the U.S. over extra-judicial killings. The crackdown has evoked comparisons with so-called "death squads" that operated in southern Davao city while Duterte was the longtime, crime-fighting mayor.

Duterte, a brash figure whose trash-talking has become his trademark, took Obama to task on the eve of their first planned meeting at a regional summit in Laos. He warned the world's most powerful man not to

question him about the rising body count in his crackdown or "son of a bitch I will swear at you."

The State Department on Tuesday objected to the "tone" of the rhetoric, saying it had raising questions about whether a productive conversation with the Philippine government on such issues. Spokesman Mark Toner said the U.S. would continue to call for due process.

"There must be ways to fight against drugs that are consistent with international standards and norms. And that's going to consistently be our message going forward," Toner told reporters in Washington. He added the U.S. would "keep an eye" on whether the Philippines was living up to that obligation.

Duterte has expressed regret for his outburst against Obama, and Philippine officials said he met briefly and informally with the U.S. president Wednesday before a banquet at the summit. But continued U.S. scrutiny of his policies could feed into his long-standing antipathy toward what he views as U.S. interference in domestic issues.

That sentiment appears to date back to 2002, when a U.S. citizen was severely wounded in a deadly blast apparently caused by explosives he had stored in his hotel room in Davao. Local authorities contended that the man, believed to be a treasure hunter, was evacuated to the U.S. without their consent. The incident played out during an upsurge in Muslim militant violence in the region.

In subsequent years, Duterte accused Washington of hypocrisy for criticizing other countries on human rights in light of the invasion of Iraq and its aftermath.

"The U.S. is the No. 1 human rights violator. They torture prisoners and you call them clean?" he told local television in 2007. He even threatened to give a senior State Department official "a beating" if he came to the city.

Since becoming president, he has unloaded on the U.S. ambassador to Manila, calling him gay in derogatory terms and accusing him of meddling in the elections that Duterte won handily. **AP**

Seven Chinese arrested in raid at drug laboratory in Manila

SEVEN Chinese citizens were arrested in a raid on a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory inside a pig farm north of Manila, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency said yesterday.

The agency said nearly half a kilogram of methamphetamine with a street value of around 2.5 million pesos (USD5,400), about 20 kilograms of the drug ingredient ephedrine, laboratory equipment and various chemicals were confiscated in the raid Wednesday in Pampanga province.

Charges of illegal drug possession and ma-

nufacturing are being prepared against the six men and one woman, it said.

The drug laboratory in the basement of a stockroom was able to produce up to 50 kilograms of methamphetamine a week and may have been built in the hog farm to mask the foul smell from drug production, officials said.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who has launched a massive crackdown on illegal drugs, has said Chinese citizens are involved in the drug trade in the Philippines and that drugs have been smuggled from China to the Philippines. **AP**

OBAMA, DUTERTE MET 'INFORMALLY'

PRESIDENT BARACK Obama and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte met informally Wednesday night in a holding room before attending a gala dinner at a regional summit, Philippine officials said. Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay told yesterday The Associated Press that the leaders had met.

"They met at the holding room and they were the last persons to leave the holding room. I can't say how long they met. It all springs from the fact the relationship between the Philippines and the United States is firm, very strong. The basis for this relationship is historical and both leaders realize this. And I'm very happy that it happened."



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Josh Lederman
& Kathleen Hennessey, Vientiane

USA ELECTIONS

Obama says Americans will reject Trump's 'wacky' ideas

PRESIDENT Barack Obama said yesterday that Republican Donald Trump proves he isn't qualified to be president "every time he speaks," adding that he was confident Americans would ultimately reject the brash billionaire on Election Day.

Obama, closing out his final presidential trip to Asia, said his meetings with foreign leaders during the trip had illustrated that governing is "serious business" requiring knowledge, preparation and thought-out policies that can actually be implemented. He urged Americans not to allow the "outrageous behavior" seen amid the campaign-season din to become the new normal.

"The most important thing for the public and the press is to just listen to what he says and follow up and ask questions to what appear to be either contradictory or uninformed or outright whacky ideas," Obama said.

Throughout the campaign, Obama has repeatedly denounced Trump and deemed him "unfit" to serve as commander in chief, arguing that he's pulling the Republican Party in a dangerous and unprecedented direction. Obama has endorsed Hillary Clinton and has said he plans to campaign full-force for the Democrat ahead of the November election.

Obama's remarks came at the end of a grueling nine-day trip that took him to Laos and China following U.S. stops in Nevada, Hawaii and Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. It's the last of 10 trips Obama paid as president to Asia, where Obama lived as a youngster with his mother in Indonesia.



U.S. President Barack Obama

"When I think back to the time I spent here as a boy, I can't help but be struck by the extraordinary progress that's been made by the region in the decades since, even if there's still a lot of work to be done," Obama said.

At the top of the list of unfinished business is the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-nation free trade deal Obama helped broker. That deal awaits ratification in the U.S. Congress,

where there is opposition from both parties. But Obama said he planned to do everything possible to persuade lawmakers to approve it this year.

With his presidency nearing an end, Obama's agenda has narrowed to a few key goals he hopes to complete before his successor takes over. Asked to acknowledge he wouldn't be able to fulfill his campaign promise to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center, Obama

pushed back.

"I am not ready to concede," Obama said, adding that his administration was making progress in reducing the prison's population.

He bristled at the suggestion he'd been slighted in Asia or that leaders in the region were rejecting his leadership — a criticism leveled by Trump, who said he'd have picked up and left had he been treated the way Obama was in Asia.

The start of the trip was overshadowed by tense moments on the tarmac when Chinese officials clashed with White House aides and appeared to have failed to secure a staircase for Obama's plane — moments that exploded on social media.

The awkwardness continued days later when Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte called Obama a "son of a bitch" and warned him not to challenge him in their planned meeting in Laos, leading Obama to call it off.

The two did end up shaking hands during a brief interaction on the summit's sidelines. Obama said he'd told Duterte that their aides should confer on how to move forward, adding that the spat would have no effect on the close cooperation between the longtime treaty allies.

"I don't take these comments personally, because it seems as if this is a phrase he's used

repeatedly, directed at the pope and others," Obama said of the slur. "I think it seems to be just a, you know, a habit, a way of speaking for him."

As an example of progress on his trip, Obama pointed to discussions with Southeast Asian leaders about disputes over China's territorial ambitions in the South China Sea. In a concluding joint statement, the leaders were expected to issue a mild rebuke to China without referencing it by name or mentioning a recent international arbitration ruling against Beijing.

"I realize this raises tensions," Obama said earlier Thursday about the ruling. "But I also look forward to discussing how we can constructively move forward together to lower tensions and promote diplomacy and regional stability."

On his last day in Asia, Obama met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose help Obama is seeking to galvanize further action on climate change, especially among developing countries.

The White House said Obama had affirmed his support for India's participation in the Nuclear Suppliers Group, a consortium aimed at preventing civilian nuclear technology from diverted for military use. Pakistan, India's longtime adversary, opposes India's membership in the group. **AP**

VATICAN

Retired pope offers final reflections on papacy, Francis

RETIRED Pope Benedict XVI has acknowledged that governing the church wasn't his strong suit but says he doesn't see his papacy as a failure and that he succeeded at least in breaking up the Vatican's so-called "gay lobby."

In a first-ever book by a retired pope reflecting on his papacy, Benedict also says he was shocked, and initially uncertain, about the election of Pope Francis as his successor. But he said he immediately realized the significance of electing a Latin American pope and has been very happy with Francis' papacy.

Excerpts of the book, titled "The Last Conversations," were published yesterday in Italian daily Corriere della Sera and German weekly Die Zeit and daily Bild. The book was prepared as a long interview with German journalist Peter Seewald, who has conducted several interviews with Benedict from the time he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

It is being published just weeks after a major biography of Benedict that included a forward written by Francis was released, suggesting something of a lifetime bookend for the

German theologian, who will turn 90 in April.

In the excerpts, Benedict acknowledges the "difficult moments" of his papacy — the sex abuse scandal which reignited in 2010, the scandal over his exoneration of a Holocaust-denying bishop, and finally the leaks of his personal papers by his own butler.

"Practical governance is not a strong point, and this certainly is a weakness," Benedict told Seewald. "But I don't see myself as a failure. For eight years I did my service" and many people found a new path to their faith, he said.

One governance success was the dissolution of the so-called "gay lobby" in the Vatican, Benedict said.

The existence of this group of gay prelates — who purportedly used blackmail to promote and preserve their interests — has been mythologized in Italian media, particularly after Benedict named a commission of three cardinals to investigate the leaks of his papers in 2012. Seewald asked if such a clique existed.

"Indeed a group was pointed out to me, in the meantime we have dissolved it," Benedict said. "This



Pope Francis (right), greets Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

was mentioned in the report by the commission [of three cardinals], who were able to nail down a small group of four or five people maybe, which we dissolved. I don't know whether something new will form again. In any case, it's not like there are things like this all over the place."

Benedict in 2013 became the first pope in 600 years to retire. He has been li-

ving a quiet life of prayer and keeping up his correspondence in a converted monastery in the Vatican gardens.

He said he was preparing for his own death by getting ready to encounter God.

"The important thing isn't imagining it, but living with the knowledge that all our lives are headed toward this encounter," he said. **AP**

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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	Comey
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
14:40	Light Entertainment
17:00	Theatre
17:50	Documentary Serie
18:45	Non-Daily Portuguese News
19:10	Comedy
20:00	Ui Di Sabroso S.1
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Documentary Serie
22:00	Greece With Simon Reeve
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	UEFA Europa League 2016/2017 Magazine Programme
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report

offbeat

NYC BAY TO GET OYSTERS ON BEDS MADE FROM RECYCLED TOILETS

New York City is placing 50,000 oysters in Jamaica Bay — on beds made with the porcelain from 5,000 recycled toilets.

Mayor Bill de Blasio and the Department of Environmental Protection said that the project is the largest single installation of breeding oysters in New York City. The northeastern director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation says the project will buffer New York from storms while cleaning the water and creating wildlife habitat.

The 31-square-mile Jamaica Bay is part of a 142-square-mile watershed that includes parts of Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County.

The project is being done in partnership with the Harbor School's Billion Oyster Project.

cinema



CINETEATRO

08 SEP - 14 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



1976 CHAIRMAN MAO ZEDONG DIES

The chief architect of the Chinese revolution, Chairman Mao Zedong, has died at the age of 82.

His death - at 10 minutes past midnight - was announced by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the State Council, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the party's Military Affairs Commission.

Chairman Mao had been in poor health for several years and had declined visibly in recent months. He had not seen any foreign visitors for some time.

It is not clear yet who will replace him. There is no designated heir to the leadership of China's 800 million citizens.

News of Chairman Mao's death has spread quickly through the Chinese capital. Many people are wearing black armbands. Groups have paid tribute opposite a huge portrait of Chairman Mao at the main entrance to the Forbidden City.

His body will now lie in state at the Great Hall of the People. A memorial service will be held in Tiananmen Square on 18 September. Everyone except those performing essential tasks will be expected to maintain a three minute silence.

The official Chinese obituary paid tribute to Chairman Mao's important struggles against "enemies" within the Chinese Communist Party, which he co-founded in 1921.

He rose to prominence as the man who led the communist forces on the epic 6,000 mile (9,656 km) "long march" to Shenyang in northern China to flee attacks from the nationalist Kuomintang party in the mid-1930s.

In 1949 he became chairman of the newly established People's Republic of China.

During the 1950s, Chairman Mao launched the Great Leap Forward, a campaign to increase industrial production by mobilising China's enormous manpower into rural peoples' communes.

Even after he retired as chairman of the republic he continued to influence policy as chairman of the Communist Party.

The Cultural Revolution was launched in 1966. Schools and colleges were closed and the students joined the Red Guards in an ideological crusade which led to many officials losing their jobs, being tortured and killed.

He was credited for encouraging President Richard Nixon's visit to China in February 1972, the first by an American leader. Other countries opened embassies in Beijing and China was finally granted a seat at the United Nations in 1971.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mao Zedong was the founder of modern China and is still regarded by the Chinese as one of their great leaders.

However, he was also a ruthless and deeply flawed leader whose policies killed tens of millions of people.

The so-called "Great Leap Forward" of collectivised farming and rapid industrialisation led to nationwide famine which killed 10-35 million people.

The Cultural Revolution, which he launched to purge political opponents, dragged on for 10 years and ruined the lives and educations of a whole generation.

His death left a power vacuum in China.

The "gang of four" - leading radicals, including Mao's widow, responsible for the Cultural Revolution - attempted to take control but were arrested by Mao's successor Hua Guofeng and convicted of crimes against the state.

Deng Xiaoping emerged as China's new leader in 1978.

He liberalised academic debate and introduced economic reforms.

There was also a move away from the collective idea in the countryside which meant the power of the Communist Party was weakened. In 1989 he ordered troops to break up the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy demonstration. Hundreds, possibly more, were killed provoking international outrage and sanctions.

He continued to dominate China's government until his death in 1997.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

As long as you can focus on someone else's needs, today should go swimmingly for you both.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You need to make life a little more exciting — and it's easy! Maybe you can mix up your social life a bit to give you more variety.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Life is almost too much fun to be believed today — but your great energy helps you to get others to share your good mood.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You're facing a family issue that can't be ignored. It may be life-changing or it could be as simple as a little spat — but you've got to address it as soon as possible.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Are you ready to make that big request? Now is the best time to do it, because people are much more likely to fall in line and help you out as needed.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

This is not the time for the same old same old — you've got to shake things up! Make sure that your people are paying attention as you surprise them with a gesture or life change that really matters.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Someone really seems to get you today — so make sure that you're attentive enough to get them back! It could turn into a love connection, or it could be a vital new friendship.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You feel a bit confused about what's going on — and how you're responding to it all. Your subconscious may be driving today, but that can be a good thing.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You've got friends who love you more than you can understand — but you don't have to! Now is the time to call on them to help out, as they are looking for an excuse to show how much they care.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

This is not a good day for improvisation — though others seem to be doing whatever they want. You have got to stick to the program if you want to make any progress.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You run into a friend of a friend whom you don't know well — and may seem somewhat far removed from your usual circles.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

It's time to clean house! That could mean you actually spend the day clearing out the attic, or it could be a spiritual challenge.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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WEATHER

CHINA

Table with 4 columns: City, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Includes cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

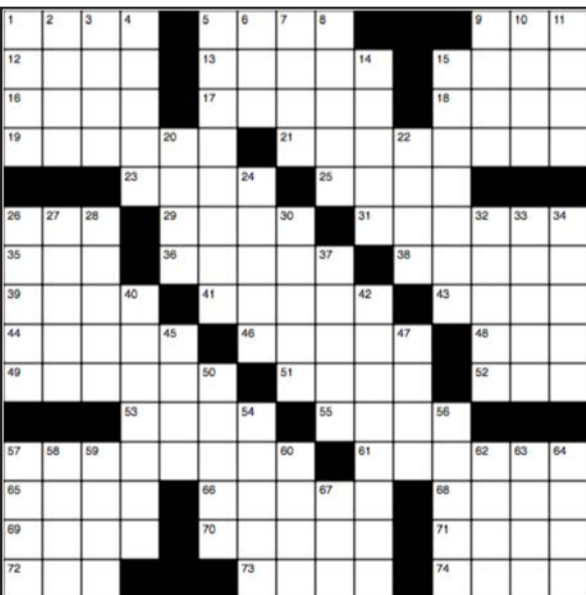
WORLD

Table with 4 columns: City, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Includes cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Ray of light; 5- Nights before; 9- Word that can succeed old, ice and bronze; 12- Roughly; 13- Recess in a wall; 15- Go downhill fast?; 16- Touched down; 17- Felt sore; 18- Shake (hurry); 19- Social crusader's wish; 21- An amorous glance; 23- Underlying cause; 25- Hardware fastener; 26- Peer Gynt's mother; 29- Math course; 31- Richards of "Jurassic Park"; 35- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 36- Gives up; 38- Convocation of witches; 39- Go sky-high; 41- Strong blue cotton fabric; 43- Poor actors; 44- Sleep disorder; 46- Trig functions; 48- Call, in poker; 49- Famed Florentine family; 51- James Jones; 52- Conductor Pekka Salonen; 53- Attire; 55- Volunteer's words; 57- Norm; 61- Overtures; 65- Must've been something; 66- is human...; 68- Bog down; 69- Pleased; 70- Zhou; 71- Hgt.; 72- Can be used to catch fish or surf; 73- Pres., militarily; 74- ... forgive our debtors;

DOWN: 1- Male swine; 2- Author Stanley Gardner; 3- "Clueless" catchphrase; 4- Engine; 5- Captivated; 6- Singer Damone; 7- Reflected sound; 8- Article of bedding; 9- breve; 10- Turned right; 11- Verge; 14- Minneapolis suburb; 15- Having some sodium; 20- Campus mil. group; 22- Entice; 24- They get high twice a day; 26- Indian state; 27- Mine excavation; 28- Oxlike antelope; 30- Bottled spirit; 32- Degrade; 33- Tides; 34- Baffled; 37- Mideast peninsula; 40- Ruled; 42- Containing mercury; 45- Mil. school; 47- High-five, for one; 50- Fit to be tied; 54- Rodeo horse; 56- Where Hercules slew the lion; 57- Indication; 58- Yarn; 59- Rat; 60- Where heroes are made; 62- Guitarist Lofgren; 63- Took a blood sample; 64- Golf's Ballesteros; 67- Sought office;



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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
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Honda Macau



MICHEL Platini plans to speak at the UEFA presidential election to replace him next week, despite his current FIFA ban from soccer politics.

A spokesman for his Paris-based lawyers said on Wednesday that Platini had been invited to the Sept. 14 meeting in Athens by UEFA, and wanted to address delegates as part of a handover of the final two and a half years of his presidential mandate.

However, it is unclear if Platini is allowed to attend under the terms of his four-year ban for conflict of interest, over a USD2 million payment he received in 2011 from FIFA.

A spokesman for FIFA's judging chamber said: "This would have to be decided by Mr [Hans-Joachim] Eckert as chairman of the adjudicatory chamber of the independent Ethics Committee. However, so far, he has not yet received a respective request by UEFA."

UEFA also invited its outgoing president to European Championship matches in June and July since his final appeal case at the Court of Arbitration for Sport failed to overturn the ban.

Platini did not attend any Euro 2016 games in his native France despite FIFA ethics committee advice that he could go to stadiums but not discuss business with former colleagues.

The election is a head-to-head between UEFA vice president Michael van Praag of the Netherlands and Slovenian soccer federation leader Aleksander Ceferin. Angel Maria Villar of Spain withdrew from the race on Tuesday.

England backed Van Praag on Wednesday, though it is a rare public endorsement for the 68-year-old former Ajax club president compared to public pledges for Ceferin among the 55 UEFA members.

English Football Association vice chairman David Gill said Wednesday that Van Praag "would be able to provide the strong and credible leadership

FOOTBALL

Banned by FIFA, Platini plans to be at UEFA election



Michel Platini leaves the international Court of Arbitration for Sport after a hearing in Lausanne, Switzerland, on August 25

European football requires at a crucial moment for the global game."

Van Praag is the "right choice to bring all aspects of the Eu-

ropean game closer together," said Gill, who is also a UEFA vice president.

France and Germany have backed Ceferin, who was litt-

le known before the campaign but has also attracted support in eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

Poland's federation — led

by Zbigniew Boniek, a former teammate of Platini at Juventus — also came out for Ceferin on Wednesday.

The Danish federation, which hosted a meeting for the two candidates with voters in Copenhagen yesterday, said that they want to discuss UEFA's recently agreed changes to the Champions League for the 2018-21 seasons.

The deal guarantees more entries and tens of millions of dollars in prize money to clubs from the top four-ranked leagues — currently Spain, Germany, England and Italy — at the expense of mid-ranked countries like Denmark.

The Danish soccer bodies said they shared "great dissatisfaction with the process."

"The process was wrong, the result is wrong," Danish league CEO Claus Thomsen said. "A fundamental change of the format has been rushed through UEFA and the ECA [European Club Association] even though a new UEFA President will be elected in a week's time and even though there are no publicly elected leadership in UEFA."

Van Praag and Ceferin both say they oppose Europe's top clubs breaking away to form a Super League. However, Danish officials say they fear a de facto Super League created within UEFA in partnership with elite clubs.

Influential clubs, including Juventus and Real Madrid, were seen to have exploited the absence of Platini, the UEFA president since 2007, to pressure the European soccer body this year for a more favorable deal. **MDT/AP**

Ethics committee places German official under probe

FIFA ethics investigators recommended a fine and community service yesterday for a former high-ranking German soccer federation official for failing to report possible corruption surrounding the 2006 World Cup.

Helmut Sandroock resigned as general secretary of the German federation in February. His former boss, federation president Wolfgang Niersbach, was banned from soccer for one year in July in the first sanction from the investigation into Germany's World Cup bid. Niersbach stepped down from the job in November but remains a member of FIFA's ruling council. He is appealing the suspension.

FIFA's ethics committee found Niersbach guilty of failing to report findings of possib-

le unethical conduct and conflicts of interest during the bidding process.

Sandroock is accused of similar misconduct and the ethics committee investigators recommended a fine of 50,000 Swiss francs (USD51,000), plus community service.

The probe involves irregular seven-figure payments and contracts during the bidding process and organization of the World Cup implicating senior officials.

Swiss federal prosecutors and German criminal and tax investigators also have wider ongoing criminal cases into the 2006 World Cup — a hugely successful tournament at the time which the host nation called its "Summer Fairytale." **MDT/AP**

CYCLING | SPANISH VUELTA

Quintana keeps his lead as Spanish Vuelta resumes



NAIRO Quintana of Colombia maintained his comfortable lead over Chris Froome as the Spanish Vuelta entered its final stages on Wednesday.

Mathias Frank of Switzerland broke from the peloton to win the 177.5-kilometer 17th stage from Castellon to Lluçena, with Quintana crossing the line along with Froo-

me and his other close followers to maintain a 3 minute, 37 second lead with four days to go.

Esteban Chaves of Colombia remains a further 20 seconds back in the overall standings, with Spain's Alberto Contador close behind in fourth place.

"I've done well defending my position and I hope to keep doing

that in the final days," said Quintana, a two-time runner-up at the Tour de France who is seeking his first Spanish Vuelta title.

Britain's Froome lagged behind through the final ascent, but was able to catch up with Quintana and avoid losing more time in the stage that came after the race's final rest day on Tuesday.

Frank charged to the front with about 30 kilometers left and held on for the victory, finishing six seconds ahead of Leopold Konig of the Czech Republic.

"I told myself I just wanted to have fun and finally I have a victory after more than two years," Frank said. "Winning a Grand Tour stage is just amazing." **MDT/AP**

opinion

Bizcuits
Leanda Lee



UBERLICIOUS MACAU

Today is U-day: the day Uber, the app-based ride-sharing company, leaves Macau. As articulately presented by Gonçalo Maia in Wednesday's opinion piece, Uber has long been hailed by Macau passengers as the answer to our taxi woes.

It is unfortunate that it ends this way; a business model deemed illegal and a police-force rigorously enforcing regulations such as interpreted by the authorities. The company ran afoul of the law, creating unwanted competition by highlighting weaknesses in our taxi industry and, probably the worst sin of them all, upsetting the status quo and threatening incumbent interests. Uber was the target of fines, reported driver and passenger harassment and a concerted process of expulsion. In the end, the MOP10 million bill spoke and the business model was ultimately made unfeasible through an institutional offensive.

While both sides argued over interpretation of the law to justify the (il)legality of the service, there had been little dialogue, until recently, about changing said law, as if these regulations were inviolate.

Most jurisdictions that Uber has entered have seen customers welcome it, the existing taxi industry threatened by the disruptive technology-driven model, and authorities placed in the unenviable position of navigating between the two. On the day we were told that Uber was to leave Macau, my home state of Victoria announced that such services were to be legalised through a taxi licence buy-back scheme and new categories of licences for ride-sharing and hire cars. The playing field is to be levelled – that's competition-speak for looking after the customer.

Where the decision in Macau differs is in the choice of beneficiaries. This is why we are upset. The government chose the industry, the owners and other direct stakeholders of the taxi industry over the community and visitors. At this point some may see similarities with other not-so-successful foreign entrants: Viva Macau, Reolian, Macao Dragon, Jetstar Pacific, and a slew of SMEs squeezed by red tape, foreign-labour policy and landlord apologist inaction.

People spoke of common sense, logic and all other sensible reasons being ignored by this decision to maintain the status quo. This is not the first time our convenience and convictions have been affronted by bureaucratic decisions or apparent lack thereof. Neither is community action new. In 2006 I joined a concerned group of citizens who supported a presentation to the government of actual plans – trialed and proven in Leeds – to improve customer service within the tourism and taxi industries. It aimed to encourage drivers to have a sense of pride in Macau and their work, develop a professional persona and train them in key foreign languages. There were meetings with MGTO, but these foreign-based ideas for improvement fell on deaf ears. All this was when fishing was yet unheard of, aggressive driver behaviour rare, and passengers were genuinely thanked for the couple of patacas in change left as a tip. Our convenor shifted efforts to other ways of contributing to Macau and so we have Macau Trailhiker, even as the taxi industry has shifted from poor to appalling over the same 10 years.

Another reason we are upset is because just as Uber moves out, miraculously a new app moves in. Comparisons are meaningless. Uber worked because it is a system that encourages the transactional best in people. Borrowing from T.S. Eliot, Uber is the embodiment of "dreaming of systems so perfect so no one will need to be good." Good behaviour can be designed.

Arguments for Uber have focused on those good behaviour outcomes. However, the Macau government will not be forced to defer to such demands from us little people. At best they may try to placate us with reference to compliance with the law but they will continue to move in their own way, in their own time. Uber challenged this authority. It needed to be put back in its box.

So, today we mourn the passing of another hope that Macau shows some normality, but the normal that it becomes is rarely the normal that we hope for or that our particular type of common sense suggests should prevail.

THE CAETANO, DAVID, SANDRA: MACAU TALENT TRIUMPHS AROUND THE WORLD

João Caetano launched yesterday his first single, a duet with legendary jazzman Jean-Paul "Bluey" Maunick, leader and founder of the band Incognito.

"A single voice" ("Uma Só Voz) is a marvelous ballad, mixing sounds of modern fado, jazz and blues in a hymn to social inclusion, in Portuguese and English. Born and raised in Macau, Caetano, at 27, is already an established musician in one of the world's biggest stages: London. The first time I saw João he was just a baby (yes, I'm biased); the latest was at Ronnie Scott's, Soho, in the heart of the British capital, where he plays

weekly a jam session as a percussionist, when he's not touring. I was delighted. Moreover, among the musicians on that stage that night was another Macanese, Ângelo, on the guitar. It was a wow moment, really.

Just last week, we learned that young footballer David Cardoso, 22, also Macau-born, was hired by one of the top clubs in Portugal, Braga.

And more recently, as you can see inside Extra, Sandra Lemonon, another talented individual born and raised in Macau, was chosen to run for Miss World Philippines. And she is running with a cause. **Paulo Coutinho**

Station		
Roadside	25-45 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: D5M/G

WORLD BRIEFS

RUSSIA'S Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that the Israeli and the Palestinian leaders have agreed "in principle" to meet in Moscow for talks in what the Russians hope will relaunch the Mideast peace process after more than a two-year break.

MALDIVES Police in the Maldives have raided the office of one of the country's leading news websites shortly after the broadcast of a television documentary that accused the country's president of corruption, money laundering and misrule.



AP PHOTO

AFGHANISTAN The Taliban pushed into the capital of Afghanistan's southern Uruzgan province yesterday, triggering fierce clashes and sending all government officials fleeing from the city, an Afghan official said. Hundreds of Taliban are believed to be involved in the assault.

SYRIAN government forces and their allies captured new ground on the edge of the contested northern city of Aleppo yesterday, tightening the siege on rebel-held parts of the city, state media and an activist group said.



AP PHOTO

FRANCE President Francois Hollande is hinting that he could seek a second term in elections next year, even though he is the least popular French leader in modern times.

Armenia sends 129 telecoms fraud suspects to China

CHINADAILY/ASIA



ARMENIA has sent 129 Chinese and Taiwanese telecoms fraud suspects to China, state media reported yesterday, indicating both the growing reach of such criminal enterprises and China's determination to shut them down no matter where they set up operations.

The reports said the suspects were arrested in raids on six locations in August. China sent a team to aid in the investigation later that month, they said.

State broadcaster CCTV showed the men and women being taken off a chartered flight handcuffed and in hoods, held tightly by a police officer on either side.

The decision to send the

Taiwanese to China brought a protest to both Armenia and China from Taiwan's government, which rejects China's claim of sovereignty over the island. Taipei says Beijing has no right to hold them and demands suspects in such cases be handed over to Taiwanese authorities for investigation and possible prosecution.

However, Taiwan's protests have fallen on deaf ears in all but a few cases, mainly due to its lack of diplomatic ties with most countries. China's global clout helps back its claim that it has the right to prosecute since the victims of the crimes were its citizens.

Xinhua said the group was

suspected of posing as Chinese law enforcement officers to extort Chinese out of about USD1.2 million spread across 50 different cases. Authorities here say hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost in thousands of cases and have launched a massive public relations campaign to inform the public about the scams.

Such fraud rings have moved increasingly further abroad amid a string of busts and deportations of suspects to China, where they face lengthy prison sentences. Starting out in Southeast Asia, they later set up shop in the Middle East and East Africa, before moving on to Eastern Europe.

Chen Shiqu, vice inspector of the Chinese Public Security Ministry's Criminal Investigation Bureau, said authorities would chase them down no matter where they hid.

"From now on, no matter where the criminal dens are, we will strengthen cooperation with local authorities, eliminate criminal gangs and prosecute their criminal liabilities according to the law," Chen said. **AP**

times square by rodrigo



Times rodrigo