

STARTUP MACAU KICKS OFF The Startup Macau Forum kicked off yesterday with 19 young entrepreneurs who presented their business innovations



TAIWAN PRESIDENT SAYS
WON'T BOW TO BEIJING
Tsai Ing-wen, said yesterday
that Beijing should recognize
her govt's existence and
engage with it in talks



GOLDEN WEEK MAINLAND VISITORS GROW

P20



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

P5

Li to unveil support for diversifying Macau . P23



WORLD BRIEFS



USA His candidacy spiraling out of control, **Donald Trump faced** Hillary Clinton on the debate stage yesterday in the most critical moment of his political career. Questions about Trump's preparation, policy knowledge and temperament all were overshadowed by the political fallout from Friday's release of a video that captured the Republican presidential nominee making predatory sexual comments about women a decade earlier. More on p15



CHINA At least 17
people were killed
yesterday in the
collapse of a group
of decrepit homes in
eastern China, state
media reported.By
evening, 23 people,
including 17 who were
dead, had pulled from
the rubble on the
outskirts of the
city of Wenzhou and
rescue efforts were
continuing. More on p10

More on backpage



ANALYSIS | A DAY AT THE RACES IN HONG KONG

First all-electric motor race series fails to convince petrol head fans



COOPERATION

China, Portugal pledge to upgrade economic cooperation

NHINA and Portugal have vowed to upgrade economic cooperation by enhancing investment and trade and exploring the third-party market. The pledge came as Chinese Premier Li Keqiang held talks with his Portuguese counterpart Antonio Costa at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Sunday.

Hailing the two countries' economies as highly complementary, Li called on both sides to realize the potential of cooperation and link China's Belt and Road Initiative with Portuguese development.

Li encouraged the two countries to consolidate and explore the third-party market and multilateral cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries, and enhance cooperation in areas such as agriculture, infrastructure and auto manufacturing.

"We can combine China's market potential and advantages in equipment manufacturing with Portugal's advanced technology



Li Kegiang (left, front) holds a welcoming ceremony for Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa before their talks in Beijing

to create long-lasting and mutually beneficial cooperation," Li said at a press conference.

Both countries can create new growth points in the sectors of energy connectivity, renewable energy and clean energy, Li told Costa, calling on both sides to be committed to trade and investment liberalization.

Li said he believed that Portugal will provide a better investment environment and better legal safeguards for investors, including Chinese entrepreneurs.

Costa, who was in Beijing

at the start of a five-day official visit that started on Saturday, said Portugal was willing to maintain high-level visits with China, jointly promote third-party market cooperation and deepen investment and trade cooperation in areas such as energy, finance, port and railway construction, agriculture and tourism.

The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on enhancing third-party market cooperation.

Both countries also called for more diplomatic and

cultural exchange, with the signing of documents to open direct flights from Beijing to Lisbon, and the establishment of each other's cultural centers in both countries.

On the political front, Li said the bilateral relations have undergone stable and healthy development in the past 37 years since the two forged diplomatic ties. The Chinese PM also mentioned that Portugal and China realized the smooth handover of Macau from Portugal to China in 1999 via negotiation, which set a good example for countries to deal with historical issues and opened a new chapter for China-Portugal ties.

On EU integration, Li said China has always viewed the EU from a strategic height and long-term perspective, supported the process of EU integration, and believed that a united, prosperous and stable EU was in line with the interests of all sides and conducive to the world's economic recovery. MDT/Xinhua

Lawmakers call on Li to pay attention to democratization

THE Macau Community Development Initiative (MCDI), along with lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kin Sam, delivered a letter, written to Li Keqiang, China's Prime Minister, to the government headquarters. In the letter, Li Keqiang is urged to pay close attention to Macau's democratic political system. Moreover, it says "selecting the Chief Executive from among small groups leads to the SAR's administration suffering from collusion between the government and the businessmen." The letter also reads that "indirectly elected lawmakers occupy the majority of the Legislative Assembly (AL), and that does not reflect real public opinions".

The group considers that Chui Sai On has not pushed Macau's political reform forward. As written in the letter, "the current Chief Executive, Chui, in his re-election

proposal said that he would push Macau's democratic politics forward according to the basic law, but he has instead been shifting towards political reform since his re-election."

Earlier, in a survey delivered by the group to the AL, 60 percent of the interviewees support the election of a CE by universal suffrage, with two thirds of them considering that this policy should be achieved in 2019. Over 70 percent of the interviewees hope AL will implement universal suffrage in the future.

Recently, the CE delivered a legislation law amendment bill with no direct election position added. As to the CE election system which has to be initiated by the CE, "nothing has changed, and if the situation continues to be like this, [we are] afraid that there will be nothing done during [Chui's] term," the letter reads.

TRANSPORTATION

Flights linking China to Portugal poised to become reality

Adirect air link between Lisbon and Beijing, a long-standing objective of the governments of Portugal and China, is about to become a reality, at a time when a Chinese airline is taking a stake in Portuguese airline TAP.

With restructuring completed last week of the capital of TAP Air Portugal, the airline that offers the most flights between the Portuguese-speaking countries, by August of next vear China's Hainan Airlines (HNA) will have a share of 13 percent after converting the TAP bonds it subscribed.

Humberto Pedrosa, representing the Atlantic Gateway consortium, said at a press conference last Friday that HNA, a shareholder of Brazilian airline Azul, which is part of the consortium that won the privatization of TAP (Atlantic Gateway), "will have an indirect stake in TAP of 13 percent with the conversion of the bonds by Azul that (...) may reach 20 percent."

Portuguese weekly newspaper Expresso reported HNA will take a stake in the consortium when the transaction is closed, upon which time private shares are transferred to the state. Getting a link to the Far East "as soon as possible", including to Beijing, was one of the goals outlined by the Portuguese Minister of Planning and Infrastructure, Pedro Marques, resulting from the Chinese involvement in

David Neeleman, who in November sold about a quarter of the share capital of Azul to the HNA Group for 1.7 billion reais, has argued that the partnership with the Chinese group could allow the Brazilian carrier enter the Asian market through code share agreements.

HNA's involvement in TAP was initially limited to financing the Portuguese company through a bond issue of 90 million euros.

The purchase and sale agreement of TAP shares stipulates that the State keeps 50 percent, and the Gateway consortium has 45 percent which may increase to 50 percent with the capital available to TAP employees.

Jorge Costa Oliveira, Portugal's Secretary of State for Internationalization, said last week that a flight is expected to be launched between Hangzhou (capital of Zhejiang province), Beijing and Lisbon.

The connection, for which "they are reviewing the final details,' will be operated by Beijing Capital Airlines, a subsidiary of HNA, the Secretary of State told Portuguese news agency Lusa. MDT/Macauhub

'Long Hair' among those barred at border

CEVERAL Hong Kong Dactivists have been turned away by local immigration yesterday.

League of Social Democrats lawmaker Leung Kwok-hung, also known as "Long Hair," and eight activists were detained yesterday afternoon as they tried to enter Macau. RTHK reported that the group had travelled to protest during Premier Li Keqiang's visit to the city, planning to urge Beijing to free dissi-Kong more autonomy. As they got off the ferry, the activists began shouting slogans and Leung reported that they were refused entry as they had violated Macau's inter-



Leung Kwok-hung

nal security laws.

Roy Tam, an environparty Neo-democrats, dents and to give Hong was also refused entry upon arrival in Macau on Saturday. On Wednesday, two activists and one director also from the neighboring SAR were refused entry due to the same reason.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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For subscription and general issues: @macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO



Renato Marques

HE Premier Li Keqiang, who is visiting Macau to take part in the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum of Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries, praised the recent economic improvement. "We can acknowledge that in the first semester of this year and specially in the last two months the economy had a new [positive] change and that will also have effects in the future," he said referring to the recent gaming results, although not specifically mentioning them.

The Premier was speaking yesterday at an event held at the government's headquarters that aimed to evaluate the work from MSAR government.

Li made clear that the central government's evaluation on the work by the MSAR government is very positive. "On the last few years and under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the MSAR government has benefiting the population and the fellow countryman of Macau," ha said.

Li Keqiang kicks off visit praising local gov't, economic growth



Li greeted by children shortly after his arrival yesterday



The Chinese Premier also reaffirmed the hopes of the central government regarding the diversification of the local

FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE CANCELED

THE PRESS conference scheduled to be held today after the Ministerial Conference was cancelled yesterday evening, the Government Information Bureau announced. The event has been held in previous occasions of the ministerial conference and was the main meeting between the

participants and journalists. A total of 78 journalists were registered to attend, many of them from Portuguese media outlets. In a short message and without further explanation, the GCS stated that the cancelation was made "at the request of the Forum and due to adjustments of the program."

"I had the opportunity to see and acknowledge the modernity and prosperity of Macau but also the cultural diversification and I believe that this will continue and the economy will reach the goal of its diversification," Li remarked.

During the event at the government's headquarters, the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, reaffirmed the fulfillment of what is stated by both the Macau Basic Law and the directives from central government regarding the 13th five-year plan of the People's Republic I had the opportunity to see and acknowledge the modernity and prosperity of Macau.

> LI KEQIANG **CHINESE PREMIER**

of China.

The CE expressed confidence that during the coming 5 years, the MSAR government will carry out all the projects that seek to uphold the stability and wellbeing of the population.

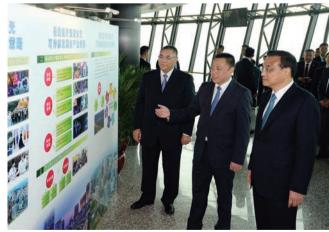
It is expected that during the three-day visit Li Keqiang will announce supportive policies for Macau's long-term stability. The measures from China's central government will be aimed at promoting and speeding up Macau's diversification.

Premier pledges continued support to Macau

Julie Zhu

THE second-ranked **▲** member of the Politburo Standing Committee, and the Premier of China arrived yesterday to Macau on a special flight around 11 a.m. Li Keqiang is visiting the territory to attend the opening ceremony of the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum of Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

The Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On greeted Li inside his aircraft. Upon his arrival, Li received bouquets of flowers from two primary school students, and proceeded to congratulate the principal officials of the SAR government who were waiting for him. The arrival of the Prime Minister was also welcomed by 200 primary school students holding



The secretary Lionel Leong introduced Li to Macau's development goals.

the national and regional flags and silk flowers. The Public Security Police Force (PSP) band performed live during Li's arrival.

The former CE Edmund Ho, the president of the Legislative Assembly Ho Iat Seng, in addition to several secretaries,, also welcomed Li at the air-

When speaking to the media at the airport parking apron, Li announced that the central government will continue to support Macau in the implementation of the "One Center, One Platform" paradigm, and he promised the future announcement of a series of supporting measures to achieve this goal.

This marks the first visit of Li to Macau. He said that the visit is an opportunity to meet with local compatriots, and he declared to be happy when he left the plane and saw the children' smiles, which represent the hope and the future of Macau. Grasping the opportunity, Li invited the media to convey on behalf of the Central Government, sincere greetings and good wishes to local compatriots.

Li recalled that at the time of the 10th anniversary of Macau's handover to China, he was in Zhuhai, representing the central government, attending the ceremony of the construction launch of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai -Macau Bridge. On that occasion, he went to the bridge in Zhuhai to see Macau.

"Today, I am stepping on the motherland's treasurable territory, but most noticeable is the fact that [Macau] is the territory which successfully implemented the principle of "One Country, Two Systems," said Li. "I strongly hope that [I can], in Macau, see more, walk more and listen more, and experience Macau's change, local traditions, and the daily life of Macau compatriots."

At the end of Li's speech, he noted that, besides participating in the Ministerial Conference, he will also have meetings with various sectors of the society to show the world, as well as to Macau residents, that the central government will continue to support Macau.

Later, Li g visited the Macau Tower, around 3 p.m., right after his meeting with Chui. During the visit, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, introduced Li to Macau's recent economic development as well as to the territory's development goals.

TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULES CHANGE **DURING VISIT**

SEVEN BUSES are changing their schedules and eight roads have been temporarily closed starting from yesterday until Wednesday. This coincides with Prime Minister Li Keqiang's visit to the city, surrounded by heavy security measures. The Transport Bureau announced that since the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum of Economic and Trade Coop-

eration between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau) commenced, six roads in Taipa and Cotai are being partially closed from 8 a.m. on Monday to 6 p.m. on Wednesday. In addition, two roads were closed from 9 a.m. yesterday until 12a.m. on Wednesday. On three of the aforementioned set of roads, parking is also forbidden.

preneurship," said CESL Asia

According to him, there are

several local entrepreneurs who

also seek for such forums in nei-

ghboring regions and abroad,

mentioning that local SMEs are

Trindade added that StartUP

Macau, which allows the young

enterprisers to materialize their

business ideas, is an effort by the

three participating regions that

would help diversify the city's

Meanwhile, one of the facilita-

tors of the event and the founder

and CEO of Fábrica de Startups.

António de Faria, described the

participants as "very enthusias-

tic," mentioning that the groups

also in need of such forums.

Startup Macau to place entrepreneurs in markets abroad

THE Startup Macau Forum ▲ kicked off yesterday with 19 young entrepreneurs who presented their entrepreneurial innovation in hopes of a business expansion in overseas markets.

Connecting entrepreneurs from China, Portugal and Macau through a two-day event, the forum aimed to promote the development of new startups and entrepreneurship for the three participating regions.

The program kicked off with a discussion about lean startups, a method for developing businesses and products. The facilitators also explained the several components of the business model, held case studies and prepared them for the pitching session for today.

CESL Asia CEO António Trindade, an organizer of the event, sat with the Times to discuss importance of the forum to the entrepreneurs, particularly the local businessmen.

According to him, the forum is a platform for the young entrepreneurs to be exposed in business markets outside the region, stressing that it maximizes the "potential that is already there."

"They already have their own



CEO.

economy.

ideas. Some are starting, some are already with investments. But [this forum will] enable them to communicate their [business] pitch," he explained.

Trindade highlighted that the two-day event will boost the ability of startups from the SAR and China to bring their businesses to Portuguese speaking countries and vice-versa.

When asked about the existence of several potential entrepreneurs in the region, Trindade asserted that the young enterprisers could be the 'answer' to the region's sustainability hitch.

"Macau is a very successful economy in many ways [but] we have a problem here. It's sustainability. We are already rich but we want to do something else.

possess remarkable ideas.

Faria said he is optimistic in tomorrow's pitching presentation, adding that the company intends to help startups from Asia to move into the Lusophone countries.

"It's the beginning of something," he assured to the Times.

Participants also expressed the belief that the forum will enable their businesses to expand in the international market.

One local entrepreneur who has been creating a brand in the region said, "The forum may give us a kick [to expand] as they have some investors from over-

Another added that they have learned to scale businesses out of nothing, raise funds and build prototypes in just a day.

Today, the forum will be about demonstrating the results of training. Each participating startup team will hold a five-minute presentation among expert juries, including investors from China, Portugal and Macau.

Team with the highest score from each region will be the three winning teams. The jury consists of 11 judges. **LV**

Gov't condemns U.S. report

THE local government slammed the recent report issued by a U.S. based government agency which stressed that foreign countries have no right to interfere in China's domestic matters.

The report issued by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China of the United States (CECC) urged the Chinese and Macau governments to set a timeline for implementing elections for Chief Executive and the Legislative Assembly by universal suffrage with "a meaningful choice of candidates," as was also required by the UN Human Rights Committee.

The annual report noted that the region lacked progress towards "an electoral system based on universal and equal suffrage," recalling that the local Legislative Assembly passed revisions to an electoral law that did not alter the composition of the Legislative Assembly or the methods that the Chief Executive elections provided for in the Basic Law.

The agency also expressed concern over extradition deal negotiations with mainland China, fearing that any agreement could be used against political activists.

Meanwhile, the SAR released a statement last week stating that foreign countries should not interfere in "any form" in China's internal affairs.

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Melco Crown Entertainment demonstrates commitment in nurturing talents for Macau

Melco Crown Entertainment believes in life-long learning. It is committed to developing local talents through its innovative people programs. The Company's Whole Person Development philosophy embraces the concept of enhancing personal, professional and life-long learning, all of which is not limited to classroom knowledge but an entire spectrum of exposure and experience aiming to transform employees' lives.



A complete pathway to achieve academic qualifications

Back to School High School Diploma Program

In partnership with Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luís Gonzaga Gomes and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, Melco Crown Entertainment introduced Macau's first in-house "Back to School" high school diploma program for employees in April 2010. The Program celebrated its third cohort of graduates in this August.

Diplomas

In 2015, the Company launched the Diploma in Casino Management program in collaboration with the University of Macau. This year, the Company launched another diploma program in partnership with the Institute for Tourism Studies - Diploma in Hospitality Management. The Diploma course started in mid-June.

MCE You-niversity

In 2016, Melco Crown Entertainment launched the MCE You-niversity, offering courses with Edinburgh Napier University and other local institutions. It also takes into consideration leadership and managerial experience.

Well-rounded development – The Splendors of China Program



Other than academic and vocational related courses, Melco Crown Entertainment's Whole Person Development also provides employees with opportunities to learn through exposure to different cultures. Recently, the Company held a "Splendors of China" forum for its management employees. It was the first of the series, over 400 employees attended. As Mainland Chinese customers account for the majority of the customer segment, MCE endeavors to educate employees on their importance through the culture, history and modernization of China. The Company believes that excellence in service

comes from better appreciation and understanding. It is intended that all employees in Macau will participate in the program through the Company's in-house Learning Academy.

The "Splendors of China" is part of the MCE's Whole Person Development Program. It provides a historical perspective about the wonders and growth of China, from its iconic and historic achievements to its modernization and path of becoming the world's second largest economy.

Ms. Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes. Director of Macao Government Tourism Office, as the keynote speaker, shared with MCE employees on the government's strategies and tactics to promote the City. The event was also attended by Mr. Kou Ming, Deputy Director of Economic Affairs Department and Mr. Zuo Xianghua, Director of Economic Affairs Office of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR.

Earlier in September, the Company organized a series of discovery tours to Guangzhou to provide an opportunity for its employees to have an up-close experience with their motherland. A discovery tour to Beijing is already scheduled to happen in October.

Nurturing talents for the development of Macau

These programs are just a part of the over 200 courses offered at the MCE Learning Academy every year. The Company also offers employees opportunities to gain experience through exposure to other business functions, because it is important to develop employees to be generalists. The Company believes the development of people and that of Macau go hand-in-hand. Melco Crown Entertainment's dedication and efforts in nurturing local talents is a strong testament to the Tourism and Leisure.

Employee sharings

"Four years ago, when I was introduced to my company's Back to School Program, I saw a great opportunity to finish what I couldn't when I was young. The second time around wasn't easy either, I thought about giving up several times. Fortunately, I received tremendous support from colleagues of the Learning Academy, my supervisors and my friends. With their support, I completed the high school diploma in 2015. Currently I am studying the Diploma for Hospitality Management Program. Four years ago I couldn't even imagine going back to school, let alone achieving a tertiary qualification. My company inspired me to start life-long learning. I hope I can inspire

Patty Kam, Pit Supervisor, Altira Macau Back to School 2015 Graduate

"I joined the VIP Concierge team at Crown Towers in 2009. I enjoy working in hospitality a lot, and plan to develop my career in the industry. I believe it is important to have extensive experience in customer service, while an academic qualification would provide me with a theoretical foundation to plan my work, make decisions and manage my team. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be one of the first students at the MCE You-niversity. The fact that the courses take place in the in-house Learning Academy means I don't have to worry about travelling to a university campus to attend classes after a long day of work. It makes juggling between work, study and family much easier for me."

Carmen Pun, Manager of VIP Concierge, Crown Towers, City of Dreams MCE You-niversity student





Formula E is a series for the 'long run'

Renato Marques Hong Kong

THE president of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Jean Todt said that Formula E will be a futu-

ristic series. "We are aiming to [make people] visualize what a race car will be not in two years but in 20 years," Todt said in Hong Kong during a press conference held to address the new developments of the series.

Among the big developments yet to be announced, Todt mentioned that preparations are being made so that within two years the race would be done with the use of one car per driver only instead of the current two.

ePrix in HK to take advantage of Macau Grand Prix local DNA

THE FIA president Jean Todt faced questions the importance given by FIA to China as the Formula E's first two seasons have kicked-off in Beijing and the third season will occur in Hong Kong. Todt replied that the decision of bringing the series to Hong Kong has to do with the importance of the Chinese market (that sells more cars than any other in the world currently) and the fact that there is a "local DNA" of interest for motorsports due to the existence of the Macau

Grand Prix for over 60 years.

Back in 2013, Todt voiced the idea that Macau could be considered as a potential destination for the series. At the time, Todt said: "Macau is a logical destination for the series to explore."

However, Hong Kong was always one of FIA's first choices in this series' promotion. The region was nominated for the first at ePrix in 2014. Eventually questions and criticism by some Legco legislators delayed that debut and pushed the series to Beijing.

"Within these five years [through the development of Formula E, which is currently starting the third season], we are going to be able to multiply by two the autonomy of the batteries," Todt said adding: "We do believe in this technology [and its application to daily use] but the first issue is the duration of the battery (the autonomy). That's why we choose cities [to promote the series] where you usually do not have to drive long distances and where you have opportunities to recharge at home or working place."

Formula E CEO Alejandro Agag remarked on the speed of integration of the new technologies into the consumer market saying: "The work of the teams and the manufacturers is very important as at the time we are developing, the technology they are making road cars and use this technology on the road vehicles. For example during the [last] Paris Motor Show a Concept car [was presented] by Renault that uses the Formula E powertrain so it's very immediate [the entry on the market of Formula E technology]."

In response to some criti-

cism of the series from several groups that slam the series due the some issues regarding the tracks and the autonomy of the cars (among others), Todt said "Every time I come to Formula E race I'm amazed. It's simply very special and it's exactly what we wanted to be when we started to discuss it with the team [at the beginning of the series]," adding "Formula E is not comparable to any other kind of motor racing or category in motorsports. It's raced in the heart of the bigger cities in the world and of course that makes things more difficult. We need to have the authorizations and we need to have mayors that believe in it and strong promoters able to support it. Besides that we have the infrastructure that is needed to be built just before the start." He reaffirmed the need to "educate" spectators on this new sports category.

"It's a very new category in motorsport. We are now at the beginning of season three and we need to teach people how it works," the FIA supremo said, acknowledging that although the achievements reached so far are "impressive," there are still a lot of things that need to be done.



Sebastien Buemi

Reigning FIA Formula E champion Sebastien Buemi got his title defense off to the perfect start with victory in the 2016 HKT Hong Kong ePrix on Sunday.

Buemi hit the front in the second half of the race when Sam Bird pitted for his mandatory car swap. But the DS Virgin Racing car failed to pull out of the pits, allowing Buemi, who had made his stop under the safety car, to take over out front for his seventh Formula E win.

"We had identified a window when we knew we could pit," said Buemi. "I was surprised

THE RACE

Buemi holds on in Hong Kong

that Sam did not come in. But I'm happy with how it went - it was very tough. In the first car I didn't have the pace to go much quicker, but in the second car was much more competitive."

From the start it was pole position man Nelson Piquet Jr. who led into the tight first corner, and the Brazilian held a comfortable lead over his team-mate Oliver Turvey in the early stages. Turvey had his hands full defending from Bird and Buemi, while behind them bumping and barging resulted in numerous incidents.

During this period there was also some contact between Bird and his DS Virgin racing team-mate Jose Maria Lopez and the damage to 'Pechito's' car had made it a real handful. Finally, he lost the fight and crashed into the barriers at the chicane.

The next car along was race-leader Piquet, and unsighted, he had to slam on the brakes to avoid hitting the Argentine. As his brakes locked he sailed down the escape road before gently nerfing the barrier. His car was undamaged, but he had dropped to third by the time

he re-joined.

Bird led from Buemi, but with the safety car deployed so that Lopez's car could be extracted, the Renault e.dams team opted to pit their man. This proved to be the decisive moment of the race. DS Virgin kept Bird out, while Nextev Nio chose to stop Piquet just as the race was going back to green.

These two errors - compounded by a technical problem that delayed Bird in the pits - sealed the win for Buemi. He still had to put a move on di Grassi, who following some amazing pitwork

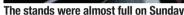
by the team in replacing his damaged nose - and a very aggressive energy strategy - finished second from 19th on the grid.

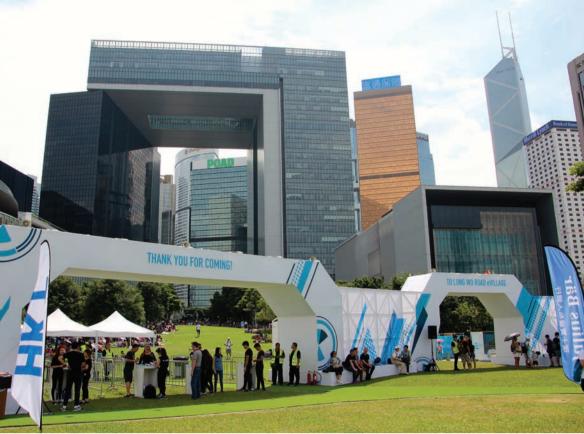
A stunning first lap, which took him from 10th to sixth, played a major part in Nick Heidfeld taking third place for Mahindra Racing. Like his fellow podium finishers, he had to work hard to make his energy last. He did it perfectly, crossing the line as he hit zero per cent.

The FIA Formula E championship now moves to North Africa for the first time, with the Marrakesh ePrix on November 12.









The "eVillage," located in Tamar Pak

Paulo Barbosa Hong Kong

O set up a Grand Prix is not an easy thing to do, given the complexity of its organization. The inaugural Hong Kong race of the recently established FIA Formula E championship demonstrated that.

While the Macau Grand Prix is a well-established and prestigious race, the socalled "Hong Kong ePrix" is taking its first steps. But Macau must be well aware of the potential of the neighboring race, which attracted a large crowd on Sunday (around 20,000 spectators) and perhaps more media attention than the Guia race (the number of journalists – real ones! - accredited to the Hong Kong event was far higher than in Macau).

The Times was in Hong Kong to cover the race won by Swiss driver Sebastian Buemi (see next page). Compared to its Macau counterpart, the Hong Kong ePrix brought some innovations, while lagging behind in other aspects.

One of the impressive features from which the local GP organizers could learn are the support facilities for spectators. Instead of Macau's tasteless booths set up to sell merchandises close to a parking lot, in Hong Kong they created large VIP zones and an impressive "eVillage" located in Tamar Pak, close to the river and the government headquarters. In that large green space, car brands set up their booths along with restaurants, places to sell merchandise and even a great virtual racing space, where spectators could actually compete against the real dri-

ANALYSIS | A DAY AT THE RACES IN HONG KONG

Formula E fails to convince petrol head fans (that's us)

The almost silent and relatively slow cars are still far from spectacular.

vers. Comfortable seats were installed for the public to relax on while watching the race on big screens (there was a ticket granting access only to that fan zone) and sellers walked the green venue offering drinks and snacks. The environment was very pleasant, promoting electric transportation and environmental sustainability.

Like in Macau, race commentary was made in a professional way, although with much more pedagogical concern "for the guys who may have not been in a motorsport event before," according to race speakers. This is logical, since Hong Kong is not used to hosting motorsports events.

On the downside, when compared to Macau the visibility of the circuit for the central stands was not great and the giant screen which serviced those stands was located in between trees.

Then there is the circuit itself. The street circuits included in the FIA Formula E championship (and not only the Hong Kong one) don't seem to be technically demanding. They consist mainly of long straights that end in hairpins and sharp bends. At the end of the race, several drivers had pointed out that the Hong Kong circuit was "too short" and should be reformulated.

The program of events offered in Hong Kong is also far inferior to the one in Macau, centered almost on one single race and one single day (the main events, namely qualifying and the Formula E race, were all on Sunday).

It is noticeable that world's first all-electric motor race series is drawing public attention. But, for the petrol head motorsports fans, the almost silent and relatively slow Formula E cars are still far from spectacular. The argument that "we are racing with clean, sustainable technology," mentioned many times by the race speakers, is not enough to make the show.

Electric car racing is still not very exciting to see. The element of danger - which is, let us face it, essential to motorsports – is absent. When the cars crash, they seem to slide gently into the walls. Go to Youtube and check last

season's crashes to see how boring it can be...

Overtaking often does not seem to be a product of brave driving, but results of the quantity of battery available. "Piquet Jr. has 42 percent of the battery available while Sam Bird has made a better management of the battery and has 46 percent of bat-tery available," announced the speaker. The cars don't race as conventional cars do... Brazilian driver Lucas Di Grassi drove several laps with a broken car nose and didn't lose a place. Something unthinkable in F1, where speed and aerodynamics go to another level.

Formula E introduced a new lingo to racing. Terms like "energy management" are being heard for the first time. "Energy is quite complicated... they way you utilize to optimize lap time," Grassi said at the winners' press conference.

It seems like the drivers are racing like I try to manage the battery of my cellphone.

The interesting bilingual race comments (Cantonese and English) were broadcast along with loud and techno music, perhaps to compensate for the almost noiseless race. Did I say noiseless race? Is that even possible? Yes.

The cars pass by with an almost silent wizzz. People can chat in the stands without

raising their voices. It is not needed. It doesn't seem like racing.

Electric car racing is not the same as conventional racing. Both things are so far away as the resurging vinyl is from CDs, or a digital photographic camera is from the good old film camera.

It is still difficult to know where the future lies in terms of motor racing. Are electric cars meant to be fast or sustainable (and slow)? Can they be both things?

Overall the Formula E circuit still has a long way to go in order to become comparable to the Formula 1 series. But good steps have been taken. Major cities aiming to promote sustainable transport – such as Hong Kong, New York and Paris – have adhered to the electric motor racing concept.

One of the relevant aspects of this racing series is the galloping technical evolution, with many of the innovations being introduced to street cars.

FIA's president Jean Todt, who is a big fan of the series, already stated that it is expected that battery autonomy will double in the next two years. That would make it possible for drivers to make the race using just one car, instead of the two currently needed to complete a race, with drivers changing cars halfway.



Siemens weighs bid on USD3.7b South Africa LNG to power

Paul Burkhardt

IEMENS AG said it's weighing a bid for a USD3.7 billion project as South Africa's program to generate power from natural gas gains momentum.

"The process is moving now," Siemens South Africa Chief Executive Officer Sabine Dall'Omo said in a phone interview from Johannesburg. "South Africa is ready for foreign direct investment."

Dall'Omo said Siemens has had "significant discussions" with potential partners about bidding for the contract to develop 3,000 megawatts of gas-fired generation at two ports on the east coast of South Africa. The plan announced by the Department of Energy on Oct. 3 involves importing liquefied natural gas to generate electricity sold under a 20-year power-purchase

agreement with state-owned utility Eskom Holdings SOC

Energy Minister Tina Joemat -Pettersson declared gas-power development a priority in August last year as the government tries to reduce the nation's dependence on coal. The program will create jobs and build generating capacity that consumes less water than existing coal-fired plants, according to Dall'Omo.

The bidding teams will prequalify in April after making submissions in February, with a final request for proposals planned for August, according to the energy department. Participants within a group may include the developer of the gas-fired plant, the LNG supplier and the port and fuel -storage operator.

"The timetable seems ambitious, given the complexity," Tracy Lothian, vice president she said. That includes hedging

of LNG global market development for Exxon Mobil Corp., said last week at a conference in Cape Town. Bidding groups will need as much information as possible, she said.

Eskom CEO Brian Molefe created investor uncertainty in the energy industry in July when he questioned the need for procuring renewable electricity from private developers. One month later, he refused to sign an agreement for a solar -power plant that had already been approved by the govern-

Siemens will require "certain clarity with regards to the role that Eskom will take" in the gasto-power program, Dall'Omo said, noting that the utility is one of its customers.

While construction of the gas plants will be fairly standard, the most complex elements will be the financing around the gas,

the foreign-currency risk associated with purchasing LNG, which is priced in dollars. The Department of Energy projects initial demand for the fuel to be 1.6 million metric tons a year.

The project also requires third-party access to infrastructure so that LNG can be supplied to other power plants as well as used in commercial, residential and transport applications, BMI Research said in a report last week.

"We note upside risk to South African gas consumption forecasts, which are currently constrained by domestic production and pipeline imports," BMI said.

A successful South African project could also have positive effects on the wider region, which could tap the developing industry and expertise, according to Dall'Omo. "There's massive influence into our neighboring countries," she said. **Bloomberg**

Spielberg's Amblin, China's Alibaba announce partnership

STEVEN Spielberg's Amblin Partners and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group's media arm announced a partnership Sunday to co-produce films for global audiences.

The deal adds to a multibillion-dollar string of Chinese ventures with Hollywood studios to capture more of the profits from China's growing media market.

Alibaba Pictures will acquire a minority stake in Amblin Partners, the companies said. Amblin, co-owned by Spielberg, combines DreamWorks Studios, Participant Media, Reliance Entertainment and Entertainment One.

No financial details were announced.

Alibaba, led by founder Jack Ma, is China's biggest online commerce company and has expanded into entertainment with its 2014 acquisition of a 60 percent stake in a Hong Kong company that became Alibaba Pictures. Alibaba also owns the Youku Tudou online video service.

The partnership "marks an important milestone in our globalization strategy to reach Chinese and global audiences alike," said Alibaba Pictures chairman Shao Xiaofeng in a statement. "We will also leverage Alibaba Group's ecosystem as a channel for Amblin Partners' films to reach hundreds of millions of Chinese consumers.

corporate bits

MGM WINS FIVE AWARDS FROM ASIAN PUBLICATION 'HUMAN RESOURCES MAGAZINE'

MGM has garnered five awards from influential publication Human Resources Magazine in Asia on October 6 at the "HR Innovation Awards 2016."

The "HR Innovation Awards Gala" took place at Hotel ICON in Hong Kong. The awards ceremony brings together industry leaders to celebrate excellence in the HR profession, recognizing individuals, teams and companies for outstanding achievements in people management and strategies among key regions in Asia.

MGM entered into the top five finalists in seven categories among 150 entries, and was achieved awards in five categories: three Gold Medals in Excellence in Employee Development, Excellence in Employee Work-Life Balance, and Excellence in Organization Development, and earning two Bronze Medals in Excellence in Retention Strategy and Excellence in Workplace Wellbeing.

According to a press release issued by the gaming operator, the Human Resources Magazine is Asia is a leading source of HR-related news to help senior HR managers do their jobs better through its monthly magazines, daily email newsletters, website and suite of targeted events.

Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said: "We are honored and grateful to be recognized by one of the region's most prestigious, professional HR publications. Our team is the most important part of the company, and this award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our HR team, always striving to create an optimum working environment for our team. It is with this condition that our employees are able to unleash their potential to the fullest, creating great moments for us and our guests."



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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For Rent



One Central, Tower 7, Unit E "The Beach House" Macau

(Ref: 15090533)

1,300sq. ft. HKD20,800 Premier Apartment Building. Central Location. Bright & Airy. Master bedroom with en suite. Guest bedroom. Newly furnished / Colour Palate Grey Blues, White & Yellow. Modern Fitted Kitchen, galley style.



Super Flower City Unit A (Ref: 16090610)

627sq. ft. HKD 11,000

One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with build in wardrobes.

Modern shower room with build in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. S shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.



Coloane Village

(Ref: 16060593) 800sq. ft. HKD 9,800

This beautiful furnished 2 bedroom apartment in quaint Coloane Village, renovated and refurbished couple of years ago. The project was designed and managed by our in-house Design Team, and has been finished with amazing attention to detail and high quality materials. A lovely bright apartment with green views from all rooms. Close to cafes, restaurants, post office, and public transport.



St Pauls Ruins, Macau

(Ref: 16090604) 716sq. ft. HKD 10,200

Modern one bedroom apartment situated on the

steps of the Ruins of St Pauls. Beautifully fitted out with stylish modern fixtures and fittings. Once an office for JML now converted to a lovely apartment. Great size living & dining area with galley style kitchen including kitchen & flat ware. Small bedroom with King size bed and wall of clothes cabinets, mirrored sliding door style. Cute balcony overlooking the Ruins, plenty of room for dinner or drinks, possible even a small BBQ. Second floor easy walk up, only two apartments per floors.



One Central Tower 7

(Ref: 16070598) 1,292sq. ft. HKD 16,900

Furnished 2 bedroom apartment in the luxurious complex of One central. Rent inclusive of management fees which will allow you to make full use of the exclusive clubhouse with indoor and outdoor pool, gym, tennis courts and other extensive recreational facilities.



The Buckingham, Mid Floor, Unit D

(Ref: 16020558) 1,350sq. ft. HKD 15,800

Newly furnished apartment in Taipa's latest complex. Fully furnished inc. linens & kitchen ware. Open kitchen inc. built in Siemens appliances. Spacious living area with 3 metre L shape sofa bed. Good size balcony for two. Two bedrooms & one Bathroom.



The Manhattan, Taipa

(Ref: 16090602) 1,720sq. ft. HKD 22,850

Furnished 3 bedroom apartment luxury residence in central Taipa. Concierge services. Spacious living areas and bedrooms. High quality.

Full use of Clubhouse facilities. Car Park can be rented separately for HKD1500 a month



Old Taipa Village, Va Fat

(Ref: 16090607) 650sq. ft. HKD 10,350

Fantastic One Bedroom Furnished Apartment. Spacious open plan living / dining area. Simply furnished. Good size double bedroom with free standing storage.

Modern shower room. Open plan kitchen. Recently upgraded (air con's gased, new curtains, painted throughout)

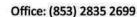
For Sale



Roof Top Apartment, Macau

(Ref: 15055441) 799sq. ft. HKD4.634M Rate: HKD 5,800sq ft

Renovated 5 years ago this apartment has a modern open plan kitchen. The main floor consists of a good size double bedroom and a separate bathroom. A wooden staircase leads to the upper floor which has an open area, good for bedroom, office, studio or entertainment area. This apartment has a wonderful private terrace with views over looking Government Offices. This is a rare chance to buy a view. Viewing by appointment only.





La Cite, Macau

(Ref: 16095494) 1,499sq. ft. HKD 10.9M Rate: HKD 7,271sq ft

This apartment is on a high floor in much sought after area close to the Hong Kong / Macau bridge landing point, Three bedrooms and two bathrooms, one en-suite, with ample living space. Residents can access the clubhouse facilities which include a swimming pool and fitness areas, and there is also a shuttle bus service that runs throughout the day. At present the apartment is tenanted with the lease expiring in February 2017. This apartment makes a great family home, and is also a ready made investment if you are looking for cash flow.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens Appealing Apartment in Coloane

(Ref: 16045473) 1,633sq. ft. HKD 7.8M

Rate: HKD 4,776sq ft Three good size bedrooms. Master bedroom with ensuite. Open style kitchen, made larger by incorporating the original maids quarters and back balcony. With only 7 floors in this block this apartment can be considered a low rise building. Renovated 10 years ago the property could benefit from a face lift although with some TCL it could also be a great rental property. This apartment comes with one parking space.



Rua Central, Macau (Ref: 16095496)

800sq. ft. HKD 4.3M

Rate: HKD 5,375sq ft

A unique terraced apartment in central Macau. Fully furnished duplex apartment with one bedroom and a lovely roof terrace overlooking the old streets of Macau. The apartment is beautifully furnished. Convenient location and walking distance to Senado Square. Available beginning of October.

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Beijing unveils plan to cut corporate debt with stock swaps



Workers carry wooden latter past by a Chinese government's propaganda "China Dream" billboard on display outside a construction side in Beijing

THINESE authorities unveiled plans yesterday to let companies use debt-for-equity swaps to cut soaring debt levels that economists warn might hamper the country's already slowing growth.

Companies that show "good prospects" will be allowed to negotiate swaps with lenders in a market-based system, the chairman of the Cabinet planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission, said at a news conference. The official, Lian Weiliang, warned that participants who lose money will not be bailed out.

China's total debt is unusually high for a developing country, at the equivalent of about 250 percent of annual economic output. It has risen sharply since the 2008 global crisis as Beijing used infusions of credit to prop up economic growth.

That has prompted warnings that economic growth might suffer if high interest payments mean companies have no money to invest and has raised concern about the impact of potential defaults on the state-owned banking system.

Chinese planners are in the midst of a marathon effort to make the state-dominated economy and financial system more efficient and productive by giving market forces a bigger role.

Beijing has promised repeatedly to clear away debt, shut down "zombie companies" that are kept afloat by loans and keep the growth rate of debt at manageable levels. Regulators have begun trying to enforce financial discipline by allowing a handful of insolvent companies to default on bonds, but reform advocates complain they are moving too slowly.

Only "high-quality enterprises" with "temporary difficulties" and those in growth-oriented emerging industries will be allowed to negotiate debt swaps, said Lian. He said "zombie companies" and enterprises deemed to have no likelihood of survival would be barred.

"Market-oriented debt conversion is by no means a free lunch," said Lian. "The relevant market players will make their own decisions, take their own risks and enjoy the benefits. The government takes no responsibility for bailing out losses." AP

17 people killed in Wenzhou building collapse



T least 17 people were killed Ayesterday in the collapse of a group of decrepit homes in eastern China, state media reported.

By evening, 23 people, including 17 who were dead, had pulled from the rubble on the outskirts of the city of Wenzhou and rescue efforts were continuing, mainly by hand to avoid harming any survivors, the Xinhua News Agency said in a brief report.

The cause of the collapses was

under investigation, although reports said the four buildings were built in the 1970s by their farmer owners and were in a highly degraded state. Extra floors had been added over the years, making them between three and five stories high and further weakening their structures.

Poor construction quality has long been a problem in China, particularly in the countryside and smaller cities. AP

Former provincial party boss sentenced to death



Bai Enpei

former Chinese provinboss was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve as part of the country's ongoing crackdown on corruption at all levels.

The Anyang City Intermediate People's Court in Henan Province said this week Bai Enpei was found guilty of taking "a huge amount of bribes" and possessing a large amount of income from unidentified sources.

Bai had been a senior lawmaker with the national legislature and formerly served as the top-ranking official in the western provinces of Qinghai and Yunnan. His entire personal assets were also confiscated and he was barred from ever again holding office.

Suspended death senten-Acial Communist Party ces in China are usually re-mally charged with corrupafter two years with good behavior.

> Chinese President Jinping has vowed to end corruption and government waste, although critics have accused him of using the campaign to attack political

Thousands of officeholders have been investigated as part of the campaign, and some Chinese have complained that the drive has resulted in bureaucratic paralysis as officials refuse to perform certain standard tasks out of fear of being accused of bribe-taking.

Two other former high-ranking officials, Zhou Benshun and Yang Don-

gliang, have also been forverted to life imprisonment tion, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing the state prosecutor's

Zhou had been party boss of Hebei province, just outside Beijing, while Yang had led the State Administration of Work Safety.

Both were charged with taking bribes. Yang was also accused of embezzling public assets.

Yang was placed under investigation in August of last year, shortly after a massive explosion at a chemical storage warehouse in the northern port city of Tianjin killed 173 people — mostly firefighters and police — in one of China's worst-ever workplace accidents. AP





Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen

STRAIT WORDS

Taiwan president says won't bow to Beijing, calls for talks

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

AIWAN'S new president, Tsai Ing-wen, said yesterday her self-ruled island will not bow to Chinese pressure and that Beijing should recognize her government's existence and engage with it in talks, in remarks likely to further anger China.

Speaking in a National Day address, Tsai acknowledged that ties between Taiwan and China have been bumpy in recent months.

"But we will not bow to pressure, and we will of course not revert to the old path of confrontation," she said at a ceremony outside the Presidential Office Building in central Taipei attended by 11,000 people, including more than 360 foreign guests.

China should "face up to the reality" of the Taiwanese government's existence and of the island's democracy, Tsai said, adding that the two sides should "sit down and talk as soon as possible.'

China claims Taiwan is its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. Tsai's election in January upended Beijing's strategy of using economic inducements to convince Taiwanese that political unification is not only inevitable but also in their best interests.

Tsai said her government wants to maintain the status quo, referring to the state of tense but stable peace and robust economic exchanges between the sides, which split during China's

civil war in 1949.

China has said it isn't satisfied with that position and demands she endorse Beijing's formulation that the two are part of a single Chinese nation. That formula was embraced by her predecessor, Ma Ying-jeou, who was seated on the stage at the ceremony.

Tsai's reluctance to do so, and risk alienating her party's supporters, clashes with her hopes for renewed talks between the sides that Beijing cut off shortly after her May inauguration, said Liu Yi-jiun, a professor of public affairs at Taiwan's Fo Guang University.

"So far I just don't see anything happening at this time," Liu said. "(Tsai) really wants her counterparts to sit down and find some solution. That's something positive. But I don't think these kinds of words will turn the situation around."

Whether Taiwan's public likes

We will not bow to pressure, and we will of course not revert to the old path of confrontation.

> **TSAI ING-WEN** PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN

the speech is hard to say because it covers "nothing new," Liu said, adding that China "will just carry on."

Tsai's reference to the need to maintain progress since a breakthrough meeting in 1992 between the sides, and her use of Taiwan's official name, the Republic of China, could be seen by Beijing as a positive sign that she intends no radical moves toward formal independence, said Nathan Liu, an international affairs professor at Ming Chuan University in Taipei.

If China instead insists on maintaining the current stalemate, "that's not going to help," he said.

Responding to Tsai's remarks, a spokesman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office said Beijing would not budge from its fundamental demands and would oppose and contain any steps toward Taiwanese independence.

Spokesman An Fengshan said in a statement that talks can only proceed on the basis of the formulation Beijing calls the "92 consensus" that recognizes Taiwan and China as part of a single Chinese nation.

Rejecting that principle is an "evil road that goes nowhere," An said.

"There is no force that can block the historical stride of national unification and the revitalization of the people," he said.

Taiwan prison authorities declined to let ex-Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian out of house arrest to attend the event. Chen, elected to office in 2000 as the candidate of Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party, is serving a sentence for corruption. China despised Chen for his pursuit of greater independence for Taiwan.

Formations of troops during Monday's ceremony were lighter than in previous years, when large amounts of military hardware rolled past the Presidential Office Building in a gesture of strength to China.

Tsai also discussed plans to strengthen the island's high-tech, export-dependent economy and improve opportunities for young people. AP

CEOUL officials said ILLEGAL FISHING yesterday they've lo dged a formal complaint with Beijing accusing Chinese fishing boats of ramming and sinking a South Korean coast guard vessel.

The sinking happened on Friday when South Korean coast guard officers were trying to stop about 40 Chinese fishing boats from suspected illegal fishing off South Korea's west coast. No causalities or injuries were reported, according to South Korea's coast guard.

One coast guard officer was on the South Korean vessel rammed by two Chinese boats before he jumped into the water and

Seoul protests to Beijing over sinking of coast guard vessel

was rescued by his colleagues. Eight fellow coast guard officers boarded a Chinese boat for an inspection, the coast guard said in a statement.

On Sunday, South Korea's Foreign Ministry summoned the Chinese consul general and complained about the sinking. The Chinese diplomat expressed regret over the incident, according to the South Korean ministry.

An official in Beijing said Chinese authorities were still verifying the situation but urged South Korea to remain calm. "We hope the South Korean side can bear in mind the large picture of the bilateral relationship and regional peace, and handle the case reasonably with a level head," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a regular briefing.

South Korean media reported coast guard officers fired shots at Chinese fishing boats and into the sky as the boats approached the South Korean vessel

South Korean coast guard officials vesterday confirmed that warning shots were fired into the sky, but said they don't know if any were fired at the Chinese boats, saying an investigation into the case was still underway.

Violent clashes have occurred in recent years between South Korea's coast guard and Chinese fishing boats venturing farther from their increasingly barren home waters.

Late last month, three Chinese fishermen died



after a fire erupted when South Korean coast guard officers threw "flashbang" grenades into their boat.

Flashbang grenades are non-lethal devices that produce a blinding flash of light and loud sound. AP

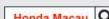


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Collin Binkley, Brookline (Mass.)

NE of India's largest colleges is expanding into the U.S. with the purchase of one campus in New York and a proposal to buy two more, drawing opposition from state officials in Massachusetts about the quality of the education it will offer.

Dozens of U.S. colleges have opened overseas campuses, but few foreign schools have sought to establish branches in the United States, in part because of the cost and tighter regulation. Amity University, a system of private colleges based in New Delhi, has long sought to create a global network of schools, however.

Since it was founded in 2003, the chain has opened campuses in India, England, China, South Africa and five other countries.

Add the U.S. to that list.

Amity paid USD22 million last month to buy a Long Island branch of St. John's University in New York City, which was selling the campus and shifting to a smaller site on Long Island. Amity plans to open its first U.S. branch at the 170-acre, century -old campus after it gains ownership in June 2017.

The chain also has made a deal to buy the New England Institute of Art, a for-profit college near Boston, and one of its sister schools, the Art Institute of New York City, according to paperwork filed in Massachusetts. The deal would require approval from state education officials.

"We are very, very skeptical about this," said Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, who is asking the state's Board of Higher Education to block the sale. "It's hard to imagine that this outfit from overseas, which has never done any education work here in this country, is well-suited to provide any kind of education to these students."

Amity hopes a U.S. campus will attract students from abroad who want to gain the prestige that comes with studying in

Amid scrutiny, chain of Indian colleges plans its US debut



The New England Institute of Art, in Brookline

the United States. It also hopes to forge research partnerships with other colleges, and to connect foreign scholars with their counterparts here.

"We have a global vision for education, a model of education which allows for student mobility, faculty collaboration and research collaboration," said Aseem Chauhan, Amity's chancellor. "We believe that the leaders of tomorrow will be those who have perspectives from different parts of the world."

Owned by a nonprofit company, the chain offers bachelor's and graduate degrees in a range of fields, from art to engineering. It enrolls 125,000 students at more than a dozen campuses, and has grown rapidly amid rising demand for higher education in India.

Its founder president, Ashok

Chauhan, was charged with fraud in the 1990s by authorities in Germany, where he ran a network of companies. He returned to India and was never extradited. A plastics company in the U.S. also sued Chauhan in 1995 for failing to pay \$20 million in debts, which led to an ongoing court battle in India. The university is now in the hands of his sons, Aseem Chauhan and Atul Chauhan.

Some in the U.S. say the school is more similar to a for-profit college than a traditional four -year university.

"They are a subsidiary of a conglomerate of companies," said Barmak Nassirian, director of federal relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State College and Universities. "This is by no means reassuring, if you ask me."

■ Since 2003, the chain has opened campuses in India, England, China, South Africa and five other countries

Aseem Chauhan counters that Amity has an "excellent and exceptional" track record of student outcomes, although he declined to provide the statistics.

The school's leaders have been eyeing a U.S. expansion for years. In 2011, Amity was one of seven colleges that entered a competition to build an engineering campus in New York City. Cornell University and a school in Israel ultimately won. In 2014, Amity filed paperwork to open a nonprofit school in California, tax records show, but never opened a campus.

Amity has been pushing for U.S. expansion while some traditional schools close because of dwindling enrollment, and as many for-profit institutions seek buyers amid increasing federal regulation and oversi-

"The for-profit market is really wide open right now," said Kevin Kinser, a professor of education policy at Pennsylvania State University. "An institution with a lot of resources might see this as a cheap opportunity to get a foothold in the industry."

Chauhan wouldn't discuss Amity's proposed purchase of the two for-profit schools, and neither would the company that's selling them, the Pittsburgh-based Education Management Corporation. But both sides signed a letter to Massachusetts education officials in July outlining the "anticipated acquisition" by Amity.

They say the sale would save the New England Institute of Art, which started making plans to close last year after half a decade of steep enrollment and revenue losses. The institute has stopped adding new students, and many others have left. Some former students are now planning to sue the institute for fraud.

Massachusetts education officials have requested more information from Amity about the proposal. AP

NEW ZEALAND

Trump in '93 on women: Lucky I don't have to run for office

Nick Perry, Wellington

23-year-old video in-Aterview unearthed in New Zealand shows Donald Trump talking about his womanizing image and saying it was fortunate that he didn't have to run for political office.

The video was released yesterday by New Zealand's TV3, which conducted the 1993 interview with Trump, now the U.S. Republican presidential nominee. At the time, Trump was making an ultimately unsuccess-



1993, video provided by Newshub, Donald Trump is interviewed in **Auckland**

ful bid to start a casino in New Zealand.

In the video, inter-

viewer Owen Poland asks Trump: "On a more personal level, a lot of people have this image of you as a high-rolling tycoon associated with glamorous women. Is that the sort of image you enjoy of yourself?'

Trump responds: "No, I don't enjoy that image. I guess I have that image. I think women are beautiful, I think certain women are more beautiful than others, to be perfectly honest. And it's fortunate I don't have to run for political office."

On Friday, a 2005 tape was released in which Trump bragged about kissing women and grabbing their genitals without their consent. During the second presidential debate in St. Louis [see p15], Trump repeatedly called his comments "locker room talk."

The New Zealand television station's Newshub newsgathering division yesterday released just the 30-second back-andforth with Trump and not the full 1993 interview.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Poland, now a freelance journalist and media trainer, said

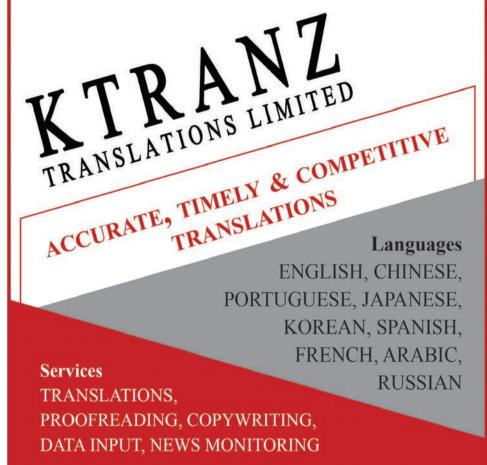
he recalls Trump being open about his personal life during his visit.

"It's funny how 23 years later a one-liner like that, which is what it is really, kind of comes back and bites you ...," Poland said.

New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key weighed in, describing Trump's 2005 comments as "indefensible." Asked about the New Zealand video, Key said he hadn't seen it but had heard about it, and added: "It's all on a bit of consistent theme, really, isn't it?" AP







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Times

USA ELECTIONS

Trump's 'you'd be in jail' debate jab at Clinton condemned



DONALD Trump says he'll jail opponent Hillary Clinton if he wins the presidency. The Republican presidential nominee made the threat — an unprecedented break with U.S. political decorum — in the middle of the second presidential debate, held yesterday [Macau time] in St. Louis.

It came as the Democratic nominee said it is "awfully good that someone with the temperament of Donald Trump is not in charge of the law in our country."

Trump blasted back, "Because you'd be in jail."

That drew applause in a town hall-style debate that was supposed to be free of audience participation.

A few moments earlier, Trump had said he'd instruct his attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor who would investigate the tens of thousands of emails that Clinton deleted when she was secretary of state.

Trump's remarks drew widespread and bipartisan condemnation as un-American. **AP**

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Colombia's Santos to donate Nobel Prize money to victims

Joshua Goodman, Bogota

PRESIDENT Juan Manuel Santos says he'll donate almost USD1 million in Nobel Peace Prize money to the victims of Colombia's half-century conflict.

Santos made the announcement yesterday during a visit with his family and top government officials to an impoverished town in western Colombia where dozens of people were killed while stranded in a church during an intense battle between leftist rebels and far-right militias.

He promised the residents of Bojaya that he won't give up on securing peace with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia despite voters' rejection of a deal with the guerrillas in a referendum a week ago. More than 96 percent of residents of Bojaya voted for the peace deal.

"You symbolize the suffering of the victims of 52 years of war and are at the center of the solution to this conflict," a visibly moved Santos told



Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos is embraced by his wife Maria Clemencia Rodriguez

the crowd. "The victims have taught me that the capacity to forgive can overcome hatred and rancor."

Of the 81 Colombian municipalities hardest-hit by the conflict, 67 voted for the peace deal, according to the Bogota-based Peace and Reconciliation Foundation.

Santos was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday less than a week after the peace accord was shot down in a vote that even surprised government opponents. Polls taken before the referendum showed the "yes" vote winning by an almost two-to-one margin after Santos and FARC leader Timochenko signed the 297-page accord in front of world leaders six days earlier.

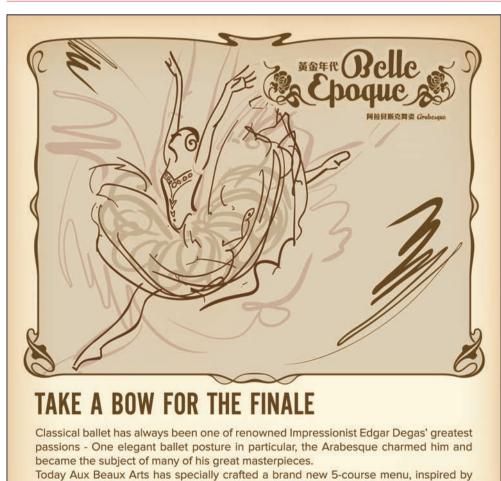
During his visit to Bojaya, Santos attended a Mass at the church rebuilt following the mortar attack launched by the FARC. Residents gave him a replica of the Christ statue mutilated during the attack, a gift the president said he values as much as the Nobel Prize and which encourages him to find a way to implement the peace accord.

"I'm not going to falter a single minute. I'm not going to give up a single second" in the search for peace, he said.

Santos said the donated money would be channeled to infrastructure projects in conflict areas and to victims' groups.

FARC leaders have twice visited Bojaya to ask forgiveness and discuss with community leaders actions to help the town rebuild.

Nobel committee secretary Olav Njoelstad said there was "broad consensus" on choosing Santos. It was the first time the peace prize has gone to Latin America since 1992, when Guatemalan indigenous rights activist Rigoberta Menchu won. It is Colombia's second Nobel honor after beloved novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez won for literature in 1982. AP



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what's ON



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Fridays)

2pm & 8pm (Saturdays) 1pm & 6pm (Sundays) UNTIL: October 9, 2016 VENUE: The Parisian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP280, MOP480

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

EXHIBITION "INNOVATIVE INSPIRATION - PAINTING

of Mak Kuong Weng" TIME: 9am-7pm

UNTIL: October 16, 2016

VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion of Lou Lim Ioc Garden, located at No. 10, Estrada de Adolfo

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100

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Museum

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement

(Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

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ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

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TIME: 10am-6pm daily, (Except Thursdays, open

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Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre MOP25; Planetarium

MOP60-80

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TIME: 10:30am-7pm (closed on the first Monday of

every month)

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Offbeat

RECORD 1,201 COUPLES RENEW WEDDING VOWS IN KALAMAZOO

A record 1,201 couples have renewed their wedding vows at a ceremony on the campus of Western Michigan Uni-

The Kalamazoo Gazette reports (bit.ly/2dXf2Y5) a Guinness World Record official on site certified the record event Saturday. It broke the previous mark of 1,087 couples renewing their vows at Miami University in Ohio in 2009.

Couples dressed in Western Michigan gear and even donned veils, white dresses and tuxes to celebrate their marriages. Western Michigan University President John Dunn and his wife, Linda, were among the couples who renewed their vows.

The group included couples from the United States, Canada and Japan and a couple from the Western Michigan University class of 1943, university officials said.

The ceremony was officiated by Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)	

RTPi Live 14:45

16:00 2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers: Faroe Islands - Portugal (Repeated)

17:40 Precious Pearl (Repeated)

18:30 TDM Sport (Repeated)

Soap Opera 19:30

20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report

News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast

21:00 Non-Daily Portuguese News

21:10 **TDM Interview**

21:40 Once Upon A Time S1

22:10 Precious Pearl 23:00 **TDM News**

23:30 Miscellaneous

2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Highlights 00:05

CINETEATRO

06 Ост - 12 Ост



MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm Director: Tim Burton

Starring: Eva Green, Asa Butterfield, Samuel L. Jackson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

SADAKO VS KAYAKO

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm Director: Koji Shiraishi

Starring: Mizuki Yamamoto, Tina Tamashiro, Masanobu

Ando

Language: Japonese (English and Cantonese)
Duration: 98min

ROOM 2

4.30 pm **Director: Peter Berg**

DEEP WATER HORIZON

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell, John Malkovich,

Kate Hudson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 107min

поом 3 2.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Peter Berg

DEEP WATER HORIZON

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell, John Malkovich,

Kate Hudson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 107min

STORKS

(2D) 4.05, 5.45, 7.30 pm

Director: Nicholas Stoller, Doug Sweetland Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 87min

MACAU TOWER

06 Ост - 19 Ост

SNOWDEN

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm **Director: Oliver Stone**

Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Shailene Woodley,

Melissa Leo Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 134min



this day in history



1976: China's 'GANG OF FOUR' ARRESTED

The new chairman of China's Communist Party, Hua Guofeng, has ordered the arrest of four leading radicals in Peking.

It is a sign that China is changing political direction following the death last month of Chairman Mao Ze-

The so-called Gang of Four is led by Chairman Mao's widow Jian Qing, and includes Wang Hongwen, Yao Wenyuan, and Zhang Chunqiao.

They were active proponents of the Cultural Revolution instigated ten years ago by Chairman Mao. This was a political and ideological campaign aimed

at reviving revolutionary fervour and resulted in enormous social, economic and political upheaval. Ideological cleansing began with attacks by young

Red Guards on so-called "intellectuals" to remove "bourgeois" influences. It is believed millions were forced into manual labour, and tens of thousands were executed.

Mr Zhang rose up the ranks during the first year of the Cultural Revolution in Shanghai and was until recently chief political commissar of the armed forces.

Mr Wang had less power but was regarded a wonderboy - he rose to number three in the party in 1973 while still only in his late thirties, relatively young by Chinese standards.

Mr Yao, also a member of the Politburo standing committee, is regarded as dedicated, if not fanatical, in his

belief in Maoist ideals of social development. Jian Qing, formerly an actress, became Chairman Mao's third wife in 1939. She is regarded as a radical and active proponent of Maoist principles but in the years before his death, had led an independent life from her husband.

News of the arrests have not been confirmed by China's officials but it is believed the four were attempting a coup in the wake of the death of Chairman Mao on 9 September.

Some reports say Jian Qing was in the process of forging Chairman Mao's will placing her as Mao's successor, when she and her associates were surrounded by Hua Guofeng's personal bodyguards and placed under house arrest.

They are being questioned about their campaign against former prime minister Zhou Enlai, who died in January.

Commentators say the arrests might lead to a libe ralisation of foreign, cultural and economic policy -the Times newspaper editorial calls this latest move "the most potent sign of a new political direction" following 27 years of Maoist dogma.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

 $\mbox{\bf The Gang}$ of Four were kept under house arrest and, following a propaganda campaign against them, were expelled from the Com-

munist Party in July 1977. By the end of 1978 reformist Deng Xiaoping had effectively wrested power from Hua Guofeng - although he did not assume the title of premier of China and chair of the CCP until 1982.

On 20 November 1980 all members of the Gang of Four were put on trial charged with attempting to overthrow the government and establish a hardline Communist dictatorship.

They were sentence to death, later commuted to long-term imprisonment. After a period of political indoctrination Jian Qing was released in 1991 and died soon after - some reports say she commit-

Wang Hongwen died in 1992, Zhang Chunqiao died in April 2005 and Yao Wenyuan died in December 2005.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You are getting the party started early today - even if it means sneaking back home at lunch or otherwise tricking the powers that be. Your energy just can't be contained, so make sure that you're out there!



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Listen up! A good friend has some great advice for you, though they probably won't say much until prompted. Ask around and see what you can pick up. Some of your people are really smart!



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You are a lifelong learner, and today brings a burst of intellectual energy and at least one new topic to explore. You feel great, and should be able to find all sorts of ways to apply this to



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Romance is certainly in the air - but that's not all! Your energy is perfect for relationships of all kinds, so check in with family, say hi to old pals and make new work connections, too.



Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Some call you childlike, and on a day like today it's hard to deny them. Still, it's not like you've never grown up — vou just know when to have fun! Show the world that you're still able to play.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You need to deal with a slight undercurrent of resistance to your latest idea or plan. It's nothing more than fear of the new (or the future), so reassure them that things are destined to change for the better.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Try your level best not to do anything rash today — especially where money is involved! You need to hang on to as much cash as you can because some unexpected expenses are just around the corner.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Try not to react to any news quickly today - unless you can't help it, of course. You are just better off taking a few minutes or hours to coolly consider every aspect of what you've been told.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You finally hit on the answer to the big question — or whichever one is on your mind right now, anyway. Freshly inspired, you head out in search of new challenges. You're sure to find them!



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Pay closer attention to little physical problems - they may add up to something you need to get checked out! Of course, it could also be all in your head, but it wouldn't hurt to see somebody.



Capricorn

A major ending happens today — but don't panic yet! That doesn't have to mean a death or getting fired; it could just as easily be your last day



Pisces

with a bad habit or an end to a toxic

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You can't see clearly today, thanks to a fog of doubt that hangs over your environment. It's just one of those days when you have to trust your gut and hope for the best. That's not so bad for you!



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER





REMEMBER THOSE COMMERCIALS FTHE ONES THAT YOU LAUGHED & YEAH, WELL, I'M NOT LAUGHING NOW - I STILL HAVEN'T BOUGHT THOSE BACK-TO-SCHOOL ITEMS, AND SCHOOL STARTED

YESTERDA:

SUDOKU

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WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA -			
Beijing	9	20	clear
Harbin	-1	10	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	11	19	clear
Urumqi	5	17	clear
Xi'an	12	18	overcast/drizzle
Lhasa	8	19	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	14	18	drizzle/overcast
Chongqing	15	17	drizzle
Kunming	17	24	shower
Nanjing	16	21	overcast
Shanghai	18	24	cloudy
Wuhan	16	22	overcast
Hangzhou	15	22	cloudy
Taipei	24	29	drizzle
Guangzhou	22	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	23	27	cloudy
WORLD -			
Moscow	0	6	cloudy

13

14

12

15

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Crazed; 6- Lost traction; 10- Some nest eggs; 14- Betel palm; 15- Rime; 16- Pusher pursuer; 17- Celestial body; 18- ___ Lama Ding Dong: 19- Chianti, e.g.; 20- Wait ___!; 21- Auxiliary serving table; 23- Eroding; 25-Liquid container; 26- LAX posting; 27- Absurd; 29- Roman garments; 32- Elegance; 33- DDE's predecessor; 36- Dutch cheese; 37- Eight Days ____; 38- Aviation prefix; 39- Curvy letter; 40- Paradises; 41- Agnew's old boss; 42- Biscuitlike quick bread; 43- Not him; 44- Speaker; 47- Harbor helper; 51- Rule; 54- Don't tell mel; 55- In the sack; 56- Grammy winner Erykah; 57- Muse of love poetry; 58- Director Riefenstahl; 59- Interstellar dist.; 60-Register; 61- Prefix with plasm; 62- Slippery fish; 63- Wails;

DOWN: 1- Long-tailed parrot; 2- Got up; 3- Where Hercules slew the lion; 4-Frozen dessert; 5- Feline; 6- Gesture of indifference; 7- Good earth; 8- Poetic foot; 9- Disadvantage; 10- Entice; 11-

Singer Bonnie; 12- Synthetic fiber; 13- Cross the goal line; 21- Kind of fingerprint; 22- Top-notch; 24- Part fingerprint; 22- Top-notch; 24- Part of TGIF; 27- Goodnight girl of song; 28- Scottish refusals; 29- Golf prop; 30- Takes too much; 31- Beetle juice?; 32- Singer Stefani; 33- Jinx; 34- B'way hit sign; 35- Imperial unit of weight; 37- Awwww! Cute!; 38- Aloft; 40- Earth Day subj.; 41- Not pos.; 42- Workroom; 43- Attila, e.g.; 44- Papal garment; 45-Renaissance fiddle; 46- Representative; 47- Balzac's birthplace; 48- Chicago hub; 49- Composer Bruckner; 50-Implements; 52- London art gallery; 53-Pastoral poem; 57- A mouse!;



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61	+	+	+	1	62	+	+	+		63	+	+	+	+

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IACM 28 387 333

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drizzle

drizzle

clear

cloudy/clear

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SPORTS :



Jenna Fryer, Concord (N.C.)

TUCK in the longest losing streak of his career, Jimmie Johnson had a chance for a critical win that could salvage this ho-hum season for Hendrick Motorsports.

Hardly a championship contender for most of this season, Johnson grabbed a victory at sun-soaked Charlotte Motor Speedway when nearly half the title contenders had horrible days.

The win yesterday [Macau time] was his third of the season, but snapped a 24-race losing streak dating to March. Johnson is the only Hendrick driver to visit victory lane this season, and this win earned him an automatic berth into the third round of the playoffs.

It's the first time Johnson has made it out of the second round since the elimination format was introduced in 2014. He was knocked out at Talladega in the second round of the inaugural season, and was bounced in the first round last year.

Suddenly, the six-time NAS-CAR champion is a realistic contender for that elusive record-tying seventh title.

"We can't sit back and celebrate too much on this," Johnson said. "We've got to buckle down

AUTO RACING

Jimmie Johnson moves into third round of NASCAR's playoffs



and get to work tomorrow and keep advancing our race cars. But this does buy us a couple weeks of freedom."

Johnson and Chase Elliott dominated the race, running 1-2 for a long stretch, and a Hendrick victory all but guaranteed based on the speed the Chevrolets showed. Elliott, though, was one of five Chase drivers to finish 30th or worse, and it

was Johnson who had to carry the flag.

Fitting, though.

The win came on the 15th anniversary of Johnson's debut in Cup for Hendrick, which was at Charlotte, and was his eighth career win at the track.

"Nobody ever gave up, and you know, we know what a champion Jimmie is," team owner Rick Hendrick said.

Johnson has quietly turned up his performance in the Chase and became an official title contender as the first driver qualified for the next round. He led a race-high 155 laps Sunday, and in four Chase races this season, he's led 363 laps and hasn't finished lower than 12th.

"Be curious to look back, I guess, and see if these are all new cars that they're bringing," said reigning champion Kyle Busch. "Obviously, if it is, then they've found something that they've been waiting out and holding out on us. That's to be expected, though, man. That's what this sport is all about."

Johnson certainly figured it out on a day when six Chase drivers had trouble.

Denny Hamlin and Kevin Harvick both had engine issues. Austin Dillon and Elliott were in accidents. Joey Logano had tire problems, and Martin Truex Jr. had an electrical issue as he left pit road after the final pit stop.

Five Chase drivers finished lower than 30th, and Harvick, the 2014 champion, is last in the standings.

Hamlin was running second when his engine blew with 25 laps remaining. As the cars left pit road, Truex seemed poised to restart in second, but he appeared to stall and instead restarted 16th.

Although Truex salvaged his day and finished 13th — lowest of the Chase drivers still running at the end of the race — Hamlin wound up 30th.

Dillon was 32nd, Elliott 33rd, Logano 36th and Harvick 38th. The hectic day left only Johnson breathing easy at the end. Not even Matt Kenseth, who finished second to Johnson, is relaxed heading into races at Kansas and Talladega.

"Would love to have the win, would make you feel a lot better about the next two weeks," Kenseth said. AP

ADVERTORIAL

SHOWDOWN IN MACAO















A CHAMPIONS CAST TO IGNITE THE VENETIAN MACAO OPEN 2016

The final countdown to the Venetian Macao Open 2016 is underway. In just a couple of days, Asian Tour's most lucrative tournament will tee-off at the Macau Golf & Country Club with the highest quality field assembled in recent years. From Major champions to Ryder Cup heroes to former Venetian Macao Open winners, this year's tournament has got it all. The event is a delight for visiting fans as the cosy setting of the tournament venue provides them a rare opportunity to get up-close-and-personal with their idols while they battle it out for the right to hold aloft the coveted trophy.

It's anyone's game but here is a quick guide to some of the favourites who are likely to set the early page.

- 1) Scott Hend & Anirban Lahiri Top two finishers of the last three years with Hend winning in 2013 & 2015, while Lahiri taking top honours in between
- Brendan Grace The highest ranked player in the field at 14. First time in Macao following a solid season
- 3) Darren Clarke & Ian Poulter Only two weeks ago they were side-by-side as the Captain and Vice Captain of Team Europe at the Ryder Cup. This week in Macao, they will become rivals on the course once more.
- 4) Zhang Lian-wei & Liang Wen-chong The legands of China. Zhang has twice tasted victory in Macao while Liang was the top Chinese finisher at the tournament the last three years
- 5) Thaworn Wiratchant Thai veteran star who holds a record 18 wins on the Asian Tour, including the Macao Open in 2009
- Chan Shih-chang, Lu Wei-chih & Gaganjeet Bhullar Asia's best who were all victorious in recent weeks.



FREE ENTRY

The Venetian Macao Open gets underway at the spectacular Macau Golf & Country Club from 13 to 16 October. Entry is free. For more information see www.facebook.com/venetianmacaoopen.com or Official Facebook Page www.facebook.com/venetianmacaoopen.

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opinion

Our Desk Renato Marques



Is F3 World Cup, a potential 'poison pill' for Macau?

The "debutante" Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) announced earlier this month regarding the exit of Motor Race Consultant's Barry Bland that the "status of this year's Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix is now officially elevated to FIA F3 World Cup."

According to the same committee, "Macau has many years' experience staging major motorsport events, and its organizational skills have received praise from the FIA. The trust established has led to Macau's selection as host of the FIA F3 World Cup."

Well, I cannot really say this is not true but, as I mentioned in a previous article in this very same column, sometimes this can both good and bad: "it is just a matter of perspective."

I do understand the need of the MGPOC to "pour oil in troubled waters" as this year's edition is a major event of the region, one of the "synonyms" of Macau, and the organization has not been running smoothly to say the least

In my opinion, while acknowledging the grandeur of the title, there are a few facts to be

First, allow me to briefly address the fact highlighted by the MGPOC regarding the compliments of the international motorsports over to the organization of the event.

Not putting in question the honesty of such a statement, this praise happens obviously and mostly due to the work of those like Bland, who worked for over 30 years with the organizing committee. To deny the value added by Bland and many others, locals and non-locals alike, who have contributed enormously for 62 years prior to this one that the event has run, is not only unfair, it is also dangerous.

Secondly and of equal importance is to mention that the so-called "elevation" of the race to "World Cup," also enclosures what I have decided to name a "potentially poisoned gift."

The fact that the race moved from "Intercontinental Cup" to "World Cup" in reality does not change much, certainly nothing in terms of the practicalities for the teams that will be present in the region. The same does not apply to the drivers because although it can feature more of the "talents of the future", this will (in theory) consequently block the participation of some of the more experienced drivers on the Guia Circuit. In that way, and without wanting to depreciate any of the drivers, I would say that becomes a more "Junior" level race than the ones that we are used to.

More importantly is the fact that contrary to what happened before with FIA Formula 3 Intercontinental Cup which was an exclusive competition raced in Macau, the newly created FIA Formula 3 World Cup might not be quite so exclusive. In fact, as was already reported, it is understood that the new strategy is part of a bid to establish a new World Cup series to be raced at the end of 2017's season that comprises not one Macau race but two, in which itis taken for granted that Macau will be one of them

Until when will this happen? That's the "million dollar" question that nobody seems to be able to answer.

Although it is clear, or it should be, that this "special status" that Macau is benefiting from might end in the long run or even as soon as

In that way I would say that instead of "sweetening a pill" that might in fact turn to be "poisonous," the MGPOC should be seriously concerned and should be working on new ways to develop the Grand Prix to at least keep the level of competition and interest, which is clearly not happening now.

Maine couple wins wife-carrying competition

Carrying your wife over the threshold means good luck in your new marriage.

Carrying your wife over the threshold of an obstacle course featuring log hurdles, sand traps and water hazards means beer and cash prizes.

A husband and wife from Maine are this year's winners of the North American Wife Carrying Championship held Saturday in Newry, Maine and

will compete in the world championship in Finland next year.

Elliot and Giana Storey, of Westbrook, will bring home 11 cases of Goose Island Octoberfest beer and \$665. They bested 43 other couples to win the 17th annual competition.

The Storeys completed the 278-yard course in 59.18 seconds. Their prizes were the weight of Giana in beer and five times her weight in cash.





WORLD BRIEFS

Station

Air quality

55-75 Moderate

90-120

85-115

Moderate

Moderate

THAILAND The health of Thailand's ailing 88-year-old king has deteriorated and his condition is unstable. the palace said, adding to concerns about the eventual succession of the monarchy.



CAMBODIA A Cambodian court sentenced an opposition lawmaker who has been a strong critic of the government's handling of demarcating the border with neighboring Vietnam to 2 1/2 years in prison for online postings he made.

VIETNAM A court in central Vietnam rejected lawsuits from hundreds of fishermen seeking compensation from a Taiwanese steel company for losses caused by its release of toxic chemicals that killed a large number of fish and caused one of the country's worst environmental disasters.

INDIA Anxious to quell anti-India protests in Kashmir, Indian forces are carrying out their most severe crackdown in more than two decades against civilian protesters, arresting more than 8,000 this summer across the disputed Himalayan territory.

AFGHANISTAN A suicide car bombing

killed 14 people, including 10 Afghan police officers, as the Taliban launches a large-scale attack on the capital in southern Helmand province, the heartland of the insurgency.



of the country's top universities descended into violence on Monday, with police firing tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon at stonethrowing students who are locked in a bitter national dispute with administrators and the government over demonstrators' demands for free education.

TOURISM | MACAU

Golden Week mainland visitors rose by 6.9 percent



7ISITOR arrivals to Macau during the seven-day National Holidays Golden Week (between October 1 and 7) exceeded 1.15 million (including non-local employees and students), according to the preliminary statistics provided by Public Security Police Force. The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) highlighted yesterday that the number of arrivals represents a year -on-year increase of eight percent. Among various markets, visitor arrivals from mainland China surged by 6.9 percent.

The number of visitors from the Greater China market hit 1.1 million and constituted 95.5 percent of the total visitor arrivals to Macau during the National

Holidays, an increase of 7.6 percent compared with the corresponding period last

Among them was close to 970,000 visitors from mainland China, which constituted 84 percent of the total visitor arrivals and registered 6.9 percent year-on-year increase. Visitor arrivals from Taiwan and Hong Kong rose by 15.7 and 12.5 percent respectively, both marking a double-digit growth. Other

to over 51,000. MGTO also stressed in a

statement that according to figures provided by the local trade, the average occupancy rate of hotel establishments (guest houses and hotels) in Macau was 92.3 percent during the Golden Week, a year-on -year increase of 5.1 percentage points. Except for guest houses, all categories of hotels registered a rise in their average occupancy

markets also saw better

performance than last year,

with their visitor numbers

climbing up by 16.5 percent

The average occupancy rate of five-Star hotels was 94.4%, up 5.5 percentage points. The average room rate of hotel establishments (hotels and guest houses) in Macau was about 1,700 patacas during the Golden Week, a year-on-year decline of 1.2 percent.

FIVE ILLEGAL INNS CLOSED

During the Golden Week, MGTO carried out a total of 64 inspections at various ports and tourist spots in addition to several joint actions. The office also inspected 27 premises and sealed five premises which allegedly operated as illegal accommodation.



Journalists work at the media center of the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries in Macau. The media center was put into operation on Sunday. According to the Government Information Bureau, more than 500 media representatives are gathered in Macau to cover events relating to the conference.