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HKD 9.50

2305 4271

Times

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

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WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Police are planning a show of force in the capital Jakarta today to contain a much-hyped protest by Muslim hard-liners against the city's popular governor. An accusation of blasphemy against Jakarta Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, an ethnic Chinese and minority Christian who is an ally of the country's president, has galvanized his political opponents in the Muslim-majority nation. More on p13

VIETNAM Police in Vietnam have arrested a blogger for allegedly posting anti-state comments in the communist country's latest crackdown on dissent.

PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte said he'll consider continuing to acquire weapons and defense equipment from treaty ally the United States if his military recommends so, despite offers from China and Russia.

MYANMAR A human rights watchdog says farmers in Myanmar's Karen state are being pushed off their land and face arrest and prison for opposing such practices. The report says livelihoods of 70 percent of the nation's population that relies on agriculture are under threat by corrupt land administration officials, abusive militias and local authorities.

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First ten local cadets training in France

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Macau International Yacht Import & Export Fair kicks off

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weekend Guide
INSIDE

Parties, competitions and fashion shows amid yacht fair

Julie Zhu

The Macau International Yacht Import & Export Fair was inaugurated yesterday at the Fisherman's Wharf, with more than 30 yacht brands from several overseas yacht manufacturers on display.

The fair is jointly organized by the Macau Society of Oceanography and by the Nam Kwong Group, and it is being held for the sixth time in the city.

This year, the exhibition demonstrates the achievements of China's domestic and inter-

national yacht industry. According to the organizer, yachts produced by China are the main attraction. Besides these, brands such as the Ferretti 87ft, the Pershing 70ft, or the Prince 85ft are also being exhibited at the Fisherman's Wharf aiming for professional visitors, in the words of the organizer.

Small sized yachts, including motor, sailing and powered boats, as well as other water sports equipment are also available for the interested parties to peruse.

The three-day event, starting today and ending on Sunday,



features a different theme each day. Today is "Beer Day" and visitors who purchased tickets for

the event can get a free bottle of beer. Tomorrow will be the "Ladies' Fashion Day," when wo-

men who buy their tickets can get a free glass of champagne, and become entitled to watch the "Bikini Fashion Show" to take place at the event's site. Finally, Sunday will be specifically dedicated to families. For "Family Day," all children who show up at the exhibition will get a small souvenir.

Everyday there will be performances at different hours. This year, the organizer invited Chinese fashion designers Zeng Fengfei and Lin Jinliang to present their collections during the exhibition. On Saturday, a forum with the theme of "Ocean Century" will be organized.

Another highlight is the two-day regatta competition, held among the youth from the mainland, from Macau, and from Hong Kong and Taiwan, and taking place simultaneously with the exhibition.

Portuguese premium products tour Macau

Renato Marques

PREMIUM Products for Exclusive Markets", the program supported by the Portuguese government and the European Union as a way to promote the internationalization of SMEs in the gastronomy, wine and tourism sectors, has arrived in Macau.

Presented yesterday evening at the Military Club, the session organized by the Association for the Promotion of Food, Wine, Regional Products and Biodiversity (AGAVI) in collaboration with local association, the Portuguese and Lusophone Countries Gastronomy Promotion Association (Symbiosis) had the purpose of showcasing quality products, classified as "premium."

The products on display and available for tasting at the event ranged from well-known canned foods and wines to teas, her-



Salt block demonstration

bs and even salt blocks. Representing AGAVI, António Souza-Cardoso explained that the association brings together small producers. "We did a selection based on the markets that we are trying to reach and of the characteristics of the products from these producers," he said.

"Markets that are 'mature' from the point of view of consumption are the ideal markets since there is [already] a propensity to acquire such products," he said, no-

ting that the exceptional quality of such products makes them more likely to compete well with others in the market.

The project, which will travel around the world with different producers and products according to the targeted markets, will bring new brands of products already established, as well as other new and emerging products.

The goal is to bring "globalization to small producers; a more participative globalization and fairer commerce" in

which Macau represents, as it did in the past, the gateway to the Greater China markets.

The president of Symbiosis, André Sá Correia, remarked on the work that is being undertaken by the association. "Symbiosis' work is not only to promote the products but also gastronomy and food education, [...] focus on bringing together all of these products from Portuguese-speaking countries," Correia said.

During the event an agreement was also signed that has the purpose of promoting AGAVI's presence in the Portuguese-speaking world.

According to Correia, who is also a well-known chef, the upcoming year will be "a very good year for Portuguese and Portuguese-speaking world gastronomy. [...] We are going to have Portugal more present in world capitals," he said, adding "this will be [in culinary terms] a revolutionary year."

TRANSPORT

Auto sales down

NEW registration of motor vehicles decreased by 40.1 percent year-on-year to 10,078 in September 2016, according to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). For the first three quarters of 2016, new registrations dropped by 31.7 percent year-on-year to 10,078, with that of motorcycles (5,785) and light automobiles (3,785) falling by 25.3 percent and 41.9 percent respectively.

With the new registrations, the total number of licensed motor vehicles reached 249,013 at the

end of September 2016, up by 1.2 percent year-on-year, with motorcycles and light automobiles accounting for 52.3 percent and 44.6 percent of the respective total.

Cross-border vehicle traffic amounted to some 413,000 trips in September, down by one percent year-on-year, while in the first three quarters of the year, it rose slightly by 0.7 percent year-on-year to nearly 3.85 million trips. Vehicles passing through the border accounted for 76.8 percent of the total, according to the DSEC statement.

CE: Public housing near airport to proceed

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On has pledged that the planned plot for public housing near the airport will proceed.

Shortly before he left for Beijing on Wednesday, Chui remarked that he would be speaking with Chinese officials over the SAR's marine development. The Central Government granted the region jurisdic-

tion over 80 square kilometers of sea water nearly a year ago.

Chui assured that the public housing project would progress despite the strong opposition from the Urban Planning Committee, which fears that the large-scale projects would harm the surrounding environment.

Back in June, when the La Scala land plot was recovered, authorities promised to turn it into a public housing estate with government facilities.

"First of all, we need to lay out an overall plan. The SAR government has already launched a study into the use of the region's waters in the medium to long run,

ranging between 2016 and 2036," he told the press, as cited by TDM.

Meanwhile, in response to legislators' suggestions of scrapping the Light Rail Transit planned for the Macau peninsula, Chui again said the government was "extensively asking for opinions on it."

The CE believes the decision will be announced by the end of this year.

"There must be a final decision, yet it will have to be scientifically grounded and based on citizens' opinions," Chui highlighted.

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

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Air Macau's 10 cadet pilots training in France

Renato Marques

TEN candidates for Air Macau's "Local Cadet Pilot Program" were picked and are currently training in France, the air carrier confirmed in a press release.

As the Times reported in April, the program was surrounded by criticism due to application criteria that requested candidates possess "Macau permanent ID" as well as "Macau SAR passports," requirements that would effectively exclude all residents not of Chinese nationality.

After the incident, the company reviewed the criteria, which according to an Air Macau statement issued on November 2, led to the reception of "hundreds of submissions."

From those, and after a series of screening procedures, physical fitness tests, written and computer-based tests and interviews, 10 suitably qualified candidates have been selected and commenced their training in France in September 2016.

The training program which



is expected to last for a total of two and half years includes an internship within the Macau-flag air carrier of six months. The company is said to have invested over MOP20 million in the program.

All of the 10 selected cadets are of Chinese nationality, an Air Macau source told the Times. They are currently in training at the French Civil Aviation University (ENAC, École nationale de l'aviation civile), where they will spend the next two years before returning to the territory for the internship.

According to the same statement from Air Macau, a private ceremony was held before the departure of the cadets where the President of Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer of Air Macau Mr. Chen Hong, expressed his hope and wishes to the cadet pilots saying "these young people will write the history of Air Macau," adding, "for the future, Air Macau will continue to recruit more local pilot training in Macau, the plan is expected to be held once a year. At the same time, Air Macau will also

provide diversified development opportunities to the ambitious young men who want to join the aviation industry."

Currently the airliner possesses 17 aircraft, but expects to expand to more than 25 after 2020 because of "the aviation industry's] fast development and the expected Macau's economic diversification and the further development of tourism." These predictions justify a significant expansion in the training of new pilots to take part in the company's plans for growth.

Times' reporter guest in 'Tagay Pinoy' radio show



Lynzy Valles (right) with fellow MDT reporter Julie Zhu competing at the TrailHiker

A Macau Daily Times' reporter has been invited to be a guest on TDM Radio Macau's newest show, "Tagay Pinoy," which will air tomorrow night. Lynzy Valles, a Filipino citizen, discussed the importance of preserving Filipino culture and tradition, despite residing in the region for over 20 years. As the Times has previously reported, TDM Radio launched the radio show in a bid to reach out to the second largest community in the region. "Tagay Pinoy" offers news and a variety of entertainment to the Filipino community. The radio show, hosted in Tagalog, will be aired tomorrow at 8 p.m. on FM98.

Sales of suspicious crabs prohibited

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) requested that seafood suppliers in the city stop selling a type of crab which has been found to have exceedingly high levels of dioxin, according to a notice published earlier by the IACM. The dubious type of crab was inspected in Hong Kong during tests conducted by the food safety center over goods of two importers from the neighboring region. Meanwhile, the IACM confirmed that the crabs were imported to Macau, and that they have already entered the market to be sold. The IACM urges the concerned industry to not only ban the selling of this imported crab, but also to pause its imports. The bureau also calls on members of the public who have purchased the crabs to not consume them.

Casino employees complain after being fired

Yesterday, several casino employees, along with the Association of Rights of Gaming Industry Employees (新澳門博彩員工權益會), visited the Labour Affairs Bureau to report that they had been unreasonably fired. The association said that it had received complaints from some casino employees who had already been fired. These complaints stated that their employer had fired them under the allegations that these employees were conspiring with customers in order to obtain money from a casino.

Wynn Macau misses profit estimates on slow start for new casino

Christopher Palmeri, Daniela Wei

THE Macau unit of Wynn Resorts Ltd., the casino company founded by billionaire Steve Wynn, posted third-quarter profit that missed analysts' estimates as its new USD4.4 billion project in the MSAR failed to lift betting revenue there.

Wynn Macau posted adjusted property earnings of \$177 million before interest, taxes depreciation and amortization. That's compared with the \$182 million median estimate of seven analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

Shares of the company dropped as much as 4.7 percent yesterday in Hong Kong trading, the most in more than two months.

Macau has registered three months of growth in gambling revenue after more than a two-year slump as new casino projects bring in tourists and casual gamblers with family-friendly features. Wynn, meanwhile, still appeals to high-stakes players and others at the premium-end of the mass market. Its new resort has been impeded by nearby construction.

"They're off to a slower start than expected," Trip Miller, managing partner of Memphis-based Gullane Capital Partners, said in an interview. Foot traffic at the new property may have been light due to construction around the resort. Its new resort may have also taken business from Wynn's



existing Macau casino, he said.

Total revenue for the Las Vegas-based Wynn Resorts rose 11 percent to \$1.11 billion, according to a statement Wednesday. That also missed the \$1.12 billion average of estimates compiled by Bloomberg. Wynn Resorts shares slid as much as 6.2 percent in late trading to \$90.50.

Wynn Palace's adjusted property earnings was \$25.5 million before interest, taxes depreciation and amortization. Casino revenues for the third quarter were \$146.7 million. Net revenue from its other property, the Wynn Macau resort, was \$518.1 million, a 12 percent drop from the same period a year earlier. Adjusted property earnings before interest, taxes depreciation and amortization fell 7.3 percent to \$151 million. VIP gaming revenue dropped 5.7

percent year-on-year at the Wynn Macau for the third quarter, while mass revenue fell 13 percent. In Las Vegas, sales rose 3.9 percent to \$427.1 million, while adjusted Ebitda gained 10 percent to \$128.9 million.

The "initial knee-jerk reaction will likely be negative" as cannibalization at Wynn Macau was more than expected with bigger drops in both VIP and mass gaming revenue than the industry, JPMorgan Chase & Co. analyst DS Kim wrote in a note yesterday. The company management's tone on Wynn Palace has also turned "more cautious," he said.

Wynn acknowledged on a conference call that business at the new resort was developing more slowly than expected. Construction at other resorts, and work on a light rail system in Macau, impeded access to the property, he said.

The company is working with the Macau government to make improvements, such as crosswalks, to make it easier to get to. Wynn also said he was expanding a casual dining restaurant at Wynn Palace to meet higher-than-expected demand.

"These very things that complicated our launch are the very things that will underwrite its future," he said. "Having that light rail and being the first stop is a cool thing. So I'm looking forward to it."

Bloomberg

DSAT CONTRACTS UNDER ATTACK

Corruption watchdog says fiscal mismanagement posed 'huge risk to public funds'

Daniel Beitler

IN a report released by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) on Wednesday, the graft watchdog unveiled the systematic abuse of public contracts and fiscal mismanagement by senior Transport Bureau (DSAT) executives.

The report, which is titled "Investigation report on the granting of public car park management service by the Transport Bureau," found the DSAT guilty of splitting management services so as to avoid the need for a public tender process.

In April 2015, the CCAC discovered that the chief of DSAT, as well as some of the senior leadership team from the Transportation Management Division of the Bureau, had colluded with management companies and abused their positions of power to influence the granting of service contracts for public car park management.

It is claimed that the Transport Bureau's management division had illicitly profited an estimated MOP19 million from such deals, and thus a criminal investigation into the case was opened.

During the course of the investigation, the CCAC uncovered a host of bad practices at the organization, which have either violated the law or evaded provisions outlined in the law.

"In addition to the subjective criminal intent of the persons involved to achieve the purpose of the crime through

DSAT had serious defects in the outsourcing process and internal supervision mechanism of public car park management services.



various means, the DSAT had serious defects in the outsourcing process and internal supervision mechanism of public car park management services [... which] objectively served a pampering and facilitating effect on the occurrence of the case," the CCAC noted in its report.

In terms of the case levied against the bureau, the CCAC has accused the DSAT of failing to abide by the provision for an open tender for an "operation contract". Under such a contract, the management company that operates the car park should be "self-financing" and bear all the costs for running the premise, including the expenses of purchasing equipment.

The CCAC found that the DSAT had not adopted the "operation contract" model, instead opting for repeated "short-term management services contracts" with management companies, according to the regulations outlined in Decree Law no. 122/84/M.

The DSAT was found to have "constantly split the orders of the management services," resulting in a total of 341 "short-term management services contracts" for 39 of the 46 public car parks since 2003.

This, according to an explanatory statement released by the corruption watchdog in conjunction with the report,

indicates an intentional evasion of "operation contracts" and represents a violation of the provision that "open tendering shall be called for the contract involving more than MOP750,000 and that a notarial contract shall be signed for a service to be run for more than six months."

By splitting the larger contracts which exceed that figure, DSAT was able to award contracts using "short-term management services contracts", and avoid the legal necessity for an open public tender process.

In one instance provided as an example in the report, a company was granted contracts by the DSAT lasting three to five months in length and amounting to between MOP200,000 and MOP500,000 each. The contract was renewed a total of 14 times between 2010 and 2014 for a total worth exceeding MOP5 million.

Another area of concern highlighted in the report was the supervision of management companies awarded contracts. According to the CCAC, this was led by a failure of the Bureau to supervise management companies "caused by defects [in] the internal supervision mechanism."

Such defects included a failure of the DSAT to verify the truthfulness and accuracy of claims made by concessionai-

res, as well as turning "a blind eye to some of the companies which delayed the payments [to the government] without any reason". The CCAC claims that such practices are symptomatic of poor fiscal discipline and subsequently pose "a huge risk to public funds."

"Such practice has violated the 'principle of legality' and impaired the dignity and authoritativeness of the law," resolves the CCAC in its report. "Moreover, the existing statutory systems and procedures were totally ignored and finally they were [... used] as means of manipulating the grant of car park management service contracts for the purpose of gaining illicit advantages."

Although criminal sanctions had been imposed on the chief of the DSAT management division following the commencement of the investigation

last year, the purview to grant the contracts would not have been his alone, the CCAC commented in the accompanying statement.

"The chief of the Transportation Management Division only possessed the right of suggestion while the superiors and leaders of the Division had the responsibilities and competence to review and approve the work," it reads.

This fact, according to the CCAC, necessitates a call for the DSAT and its supervisory bodies to "seriously study whether the case involved the default and defect of supervision of the concerned leaders and superiors."

Despite all of these revelations – which are at best bad practice, and at worst an intentional violation of the law for personal gain – the CCAC warns that the uncovered practices are not necessarily illegal.

"A large part of the problems existing in the procedures of procurement or service outsourcing run by public departments do not constitute administrative illegality or misfeasance and even crimes such as corruption," the report notes. "Therefore, it is difficult for the supervisory entities including the Commission of Audit and the CCAC to stage a direct intervention. However, if these issues are not redressed promptly, they will give rise to corruption crimes."

The revelations lead the corruption watchdog to ultimately conclude that public departments in future should "neither directly violate the law nor evade the systems provided by the law," even though such a proclamation seems obvious.

It also mandates that public departments will henceforth be required to justify in written form the use of "short-term management services contracts", and that procurement staff should be "cautious" when utilizing this exemption in future.

The DSAT official who was investigated in April last year for illicitly profiting from outsourcing contracts has recently been sentenced to 12 and a half years in prison and was ordered to pay a fine of MOP36,000.

'SPLITTING' OF CONTRACTS COMMON IN GOV'T

THE PROVISION that permits the "splitting" of contracts into smaller orders which do not require an open public tender has not just been abused by DSAT, the corruption watchdog's report found. "Evasion of statutory systems or procedures with unreasonable excuse not only exists in the DSAT but also other public departments. In particu-

lar, the practice of 'splitting' an order or purchasing a complex or constant service into several contracts in order to evade [...] open tendering or signing of notarial contracts is not rarely seen." The danger is that it "increases the risk of occurrence of corruption and power abuse," warned the CCAC in its concluding statements.

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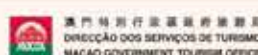
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Q&A LAWRENCE HO
CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF MELCO CROWN

'We don't like building the same thing over and over again'

Melinda Sheckells

AFTER celebrating its first anniversary in late October, Lawrence Ho, Chairman and CEO of Melco Crown Entertainment, gives a progress report on Macau's Hollywood-themed hotel and casino resort, Studio City. Ho, the son of billionaire casino mogul Stanley Ho, who held a government-granted monopoly on gaming in China's Macau for 40 years, opened the family friendly Studio City - the first of its kind in Asia - in 2015 with deputy chairman James Packer. Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter below, he also shares intel on his partnership with Warner Bros. and if he will consider opening a resort in Las Vegas.

- How did the Hollywood angle come about with Studio City?

Lawrence Ho (LH) - The site where we built Studio City - a long time ago in the '90s - was destined for a film production facility. It went through different reiterations, and [Melco Crown Entertainment] finally got involved around 2011. We aren't really big on theme-ing if you look at City of Dreams, [our other] flagship integrated resort [in Macau]. However, the film industry, and the influence of content in Hollywood - it's really global. China is probably going to take over the U.S. in terms of the movie business in a few years.

I'm a big film buff, having grown up in North America. We like to push the envelope and do innovative things. We don't like building the same thing over and over again. We try to come up with better attractions, newer things. It was a lot of fun to build, and our hope is that our customer base will also enjoy it as much as we do.

China is probably going to take over the US in terms of the movie business in a few years.

LAWRENCE HO



- What are some of your favorite films?

LH - I grew up in the '80s, so I'm a big Stallone Rocky/Rambo fan. I agree more with Cinemascore than I do with Rotten Tomatoes.

- In terms of partnerships, why did you bring the Batman Dark Flight simulator, as well as a Warner Bros. Fun Zone, to Studio City?

LH - The non-gaming attractions are really the draw, because if you just build a casino, every single casino in the world is really a similar product. You need the amenities to differentiate yourself amongst your competitors. And that was a big focus for us with Studio City, and with our other resorts. We tried something new that hasn't been in the market and came up with Batman Dark Flight. We were inspired by a ride at Disneyland called Soarin'. But I wanted to make it more exciting and have it be movie-based. So I thought, "What's the coolest superhero to do that?" And I thought Batman was interesting, and of course [deputy] chairman James [Packer] and his relationship with Warner Bros. was a big assistant as well.

[Packer, along with Brett Ratner, is a partner in RatPac Entertainment.] I grew up with Looney Tunes, Scooby-Doo, and I have a daughter. She loved it as well. We've [also] worked with DreamWorks and built the world's first DreamWorks movie-inspired interactive playspace, DreamPlay by DreamWorks at City of Dreams Manila.

- Why did you pick Pacha - a brand with high recognition in Europe - as a nightclub partner for Studio City?

LH - We are very good at developing integrated resorts, [but] the nightclub business is a totally different animal, and we knew that we needed a good operator involved. I did interview most of the big operators in Las Vegas. I just felt that the brand of Pacha, and Eddie Dean, seemed like the best match for us. The nightclub and night entertainment industry in Macau is still growing. It's not like Las Vegas, where you go to every resort and there are at least one or two clubs. There is huge potential ahead. The only two real nightclubs in Macau right now are Pacha and Club Cubic. We will welcome more

competition, because Macau is a small place. If you could do what Vegas did, which is attracting everybody on the West Coast to visit for weekends and go to a club, then you really have sustainable businesses. Macau is kind of a proxy for Southern China, whether it's Hong Kong or Guangdong. I think with the connectivity improving [with the mainland], over the next few years that will be even more exciting.

- What influenced the unique design of the building?

LH - If you look at the architecture of Studio City, the original idea that I had was that it should be Gotham City. It's really playing up the theme of over-the-top in movies. Often, you'll see a building in Gotham City with asteroids shot through it. But the asteroids turned out to be the Golden Reel [our figure-eight observation wheel]. And that was part of the designer's dream.

- How's business been in the first couple of months?

LH - In terms of hotel occupancy, we're well over 90 percent on a daily basis. And the attractions are extremely popular, but I think we still need to do more in terms of converting the attraction-goers into spending at the rest of the property. You know, it is very similar to Las Vegas when we had Madonna do two shows in February. The property was totally jam-packed and full, so we just need to figure out the motto during weekdays as well. The environment hasn't really helped us. I would say that 2015 was really the worst year in gaming in history for Macau. We've never seen a 35 percent decline in Macau's overall gaming revenue. It was a tough market to open in. But we had great awareness, because we worked with Martin Scorsese, Leonardo DiCaprio,

Robert De Niro and Brad Pitt [on a short film called The Audition].

- You have The House of Dancing Water by Franco Dragone at City of Dreams. Are you going to add a live show to Studio City?

LH - Studio City is about two-thirds built, and we still have a phase two that we need to build out eventually - it is part of our obligations. I think it will be subject to market conditions, because I'm also a big fan of shows, I'm a big fan of Franco Dragone, and [Melco Crown Entertainment has] an exclusive arrangement with him for Macau and most of Asia. The House of Dancing Water cost over USD250 million, and knowing me, I would always want to try to do something new and up ourselves.

- You have Studio 8, a live-audience TV broadcast at Studio City - what are you using it for?

LH - I'm a big fan of game shows, and they're interactive and audience-based, and that could add another dimension and attraction for our customers and visitors to watch the filming of a live show. I'm a big fan of Iron Chef. I think ideally we would kind of target those shows, but the Asian versions. We've had a lot of discussion with various production companies.

- What will it take to get you to come to Vegas? Are you looking at any properties?

LH - Packer, my [deputy] chairman and partner of over 10 years, decided to build the Alon across from Wynn. Previously, we looked at Las Vegas together during the days when Cosmopolitan was on the block. I thought Cosmopolitan fit within our brand. With all the legends in Las Vegas - Sheldon [Adelson], Steve [Wynn] and MGM Resorts - it would be hard for an Asian operator to compete. It wasn't the right timing for us. I think we're always open-minded, and Las Vegas will be a totally different model. It would be cool to have something new and innovative, but in terms of what our shareholders are looking for right now, it's still probably not the right time. We'll keep our eyes peeled. **Bloomberg**

Q3 FINANCIAL RESULTS RELEASED

MELCO CROWN Entertainment Ltd yesterday released its latest financial results, showing a 22 percent rise in net revenue for the third quarter of 2016 when compared with the same quarter last year. For the third quarter of this year, net revenue reached USD1,152.6

million, up from USD945.7 million in the comparable period last year. Adjusted property EBITDA was USD289.2 million. Also yesterday, the board of the company approved the payment of a quarterly dividend of USD0.0126 per share for the third quarter.

Geely, Volvo target world market with China-built luxury car

Fu Ting & Kelvin Chan, Shanghai

VOLVO Cars and its Chinese owner are gearing up to export more premium cars to world markets.

Outlining its latest strategy this week, the Swedish brand unveiled upgraded versions of its upscale S90 sedan range, which will be manufactured entirely in China for export, signaling growing confidence in its Chinese production base.

Design touches on some of the S90 models also highlighted Volvo's focus on the vital Chinese auto market. Most notably, a "super luxury" version replaces the front passenger seat with a touchscreen console, with space to store shoes underneath, a feature clearly aimed at China's chauffeur-driven executives.

Volvo and its parent company Geely also announced plans for a factory to make compact cars based on a new shared platform, including vehicles for



Li Shufu, Chairman of Zhejiang Geely Holdings (left) shakes hands with Hakan Samuelsson, CEO of Volvo Cars (right) in front of a new S90 Volvo car in Shanghai

Geely's just-launched "connected car" brand, Lynk & Co.

It's part of Volvo Cars' efforts to compete with other luxury car brands both globally and within China, the world's No. 1 market, after it was bought by Zhejiang Geely Holdings in 2010.

"We have a strong manufacturing structure in China and we are geared up for further growth on this key market," Volvo

CEO Hakan Samuelsson told reporters.

The new plant will produce Volvo's new 40 series based on its Compact Modular Architecture platform, which will also be used for Lynk & Co vehicles, a brand Geely launched last month.

The factory, currently under construction in Luqiao, 350 kilometers south of Shanghai, is owned by Geely but will be operated by Volvo.

rated by Volvo.

The platform is one of just two underpinning Volvo's entire lineup. They give the company flexibility to build a wide range of vehicle sizes and body styles, helping it compete with bigger rivals.

Volvo added a long wheelbase version of its top-of-the-line S90 sedan as well as the "super luxury" Excellence edition aimed at China's chauffeured business class, who typically desire a more spacious backseat. The S90 Excellence's "lounge console" with its touchscreen monitor on retractable arms takes all of the front passenger side. The car comes with a panoramic sunroof and handmade Swedish crystal glasses.

Samuelsson said the two new versions "will be the most luxurious cars ever produced in China" when Volvo's two-year-old plant in Daqing, Heilongjiang province starts making the S90 range in the coming months.

"The fact that these cars will

be exclusively built in China for the global market demonstrates the quality of our Chinese factories," he said.

Another Volvo factory in Chengdu in central Sichuan province produces midsize S60 cars, which the company started exporting last year to the United States.

With only a few thousand vehicles dispatched annually from China, "the number of Volvos going to the U.S. is still small. But the important takeaway is that shipping to the U.S. means Volvo China operations have achieved world-class quality," said Michael Dunne, president of Hong Kong-based investment advisory firm Dunne Automotive.

Geely Chairman Li Shufu's decision to give Volvo management ample independence has paid off, he added. Last year Volvo operating profits tripled and vehicle sales surpassed half a million units for the first time.

"Now German luxury makers are taking a closer look at their coming challenger," Dunne said.

Volvo's factories in Gothenburg, Sweden and Ghent, Belgium will continue to make sedans, hatchbacks and sport-utility vehicles in all three model ranges. It's also building a plant in South Carolina to make midsize vehicles. **AP**

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

25 Property Questions We Were Asked This Year Part 2 of 5

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

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JULIET RISDON

* Figures expressed in MOP unless otherwise stated

20. What is 'Stamp Duty' in Macau?

Stamp duty is the government tax levied on buyers of properties, and is usually paid by the buyer, not the seller. The amount of stamp duty is calculated incrementally on three different levels.

- Up to \$2m, it is 1%
- From \$2m to \$4m it is 2%
- Above \$4m it is 3%

A property acquired for \$4.5m would incur a stamp duty of \$75,000 (\$2m x 1% = \$20,000) + (\$2,000,000 x 2% = \$40,000) + (\$500,000 x 3% = \$15,000)

A property acquired for \$5m would incur a stamp duty of \$90,000 (\$2m x 1% = \$20,000) + (\$2m x 2% = \$40,000) + (\$1m x 3% = \$30,000).

A government initiative to try to curb property speculation was introduced in April 2011. Properties sold within 1 year of the original purchase will pay an additional stamp duty of 20%, and properties sold within 2 years will pay an additional 10%.

Furthermore, there is also an additional 'Stamp Duty' for non Macau ID holders of 10% of the purchase price, payable upon purchase, to try and slow down the flood of foreign investment in Macau property and keep prices affordable for the local population.

It is also worth remembering that Macau Properties are priced in HKD, but the stamp duty is calculated in Patacas. Hence, stamp duty on a property that sells for HKD4m

will be calculated on MOP4,120,000

19. Do I need insurance if I am renting an apartment?

Yes, to protect yourself against the loss of the contents of the property. The owner is responsible to acquire insurance for the construction of the apartment, whilst as a tenant you are responsible for the welfare and safekeeping of the contents and furnishings.

We recommend that you have content insurance, it can be obtained from banks in Macau, and we also have contacts for insurance companies that we are happy to share if you are having trouble getting insurance.

The amount you pay depends on the sum insured.

18. How much cash do I need to buy an apartment?

There are a few factors here, such as whether you are a Macau resident / non-resident, plus of course salary levels and your track record with the bank.

In a nutshell, the more you can borrow from the bank, the better. Generally the banks now lend up to 70% of the property price to Macau ID holders, and 50% of the price to non-residents.

If you are buying a property for \$3m, as a Macau resident you will have to find 30% of the cash or \$900,000 for the deposit, plus an additional 5% or \$150,000 to cover fees.

As a non-resident, you will have to find 50% of the price or \$1.5m for the deposit, and again approx. 5% or \$150,000 for the fees.

17. What's the best time to find a rental apartment?

The turnover of apartments in Macau is extremely fast. As supply is low and demand is high, there is a constant battle to find and confirm a suitable apartment in which to live before someone else takes it.

Whilst planning ahead is important, the best time to find an apartment is a maximum of 4 weeks ahead of your scheduled move date, although 2 weeks ahead is a more usual scenario. Owners will generally refuse to hold a property for more than 4 weeks unless there is compensation for the amount of rental income being lost whilst an apartment stands empty.

16. How much will it cost in total to purchase an apartment?

Whilst prices vary, bank charges, stamp duties and agency fees when buying an apartment are all 'known' amounts, and can be calculated as follows:

Stamp duty is calculated according to the formula outlined in Question 20. Agency fees are normally 1% of the purchase price.

Most importantly, you will need a deposit of 30% or more of the purchase price, which of course can add up to several hundred thousand dollars.

We usually estimate the fees of 5% in total when purchasing a property. However, if you are renting a property, expect to pay an agency fee equal to 1 month of the rental amount of that property.

Next week: The next 5 most popular questions

AD

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Automated cars could threaten jobs of professional drivers

RONALD De Feo has watched robots take factory jobs for years. Now he sees them threatening a new class of worker: People who drive for a living.

"I am in Pittsburgh; it's a test market for Uber's autonomous vehicle," says De Feo, CEO of the industrial materials firm Kennametal. "We see all these (automated) Ubers running around the streets of Pittsburgh, a confusing and difficult place to navigate. If they can make that work, what do you think happens to the job of being a taxi driver?"

Computer scientists and economists say the threat isn't merely theoretical: Automated cars pose an existential threat to the many Americans who drive for a living: 2.9 million truckers and delivery drivers, 674,000 bus drivers, 181,000 cab drivers and chauffeurs.

The big question is how long it will take auto and tech companies to clear the technical hurdles to turning the streets over to driverless cars.

"I don't see herds of robotic trucks running down the highway in the next few years," says Vern Meyerotto, a 61-year-old truck driver in Denver. "There's an awful lot of development that needs to be done on it."

Meyerotto, who's been driving since 2007, points to the self-driving Tesla Model S car that crashed in May, killing the driver, after the car's cameras failed to detect a tractor-trailer crossing its path. He doesn't expect to see robotic trucks doing much driving for 10 or 15 more years.

But the quick development of driverless cars has caught economists by surprise.

Assessing which jobs were vulnerable to robots in a 2004 book, economists Frank Levy of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Richard Murnane of Harvard University reckoned that truck drivers were safe. Surely, a machine couldn't negotiate rush-hour traffic without a helping human hand.

Six years later, Google's automated cars were on the road, crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, circling Lake Tahoe and cruising down Hollywood Boulevard.

Now, companies from Ford to Tesla to Uber are investing in automated car



Matt Grigsby, senior program engineer at Otto, takes his hands off the steering wheel of a self-driving, big-rig truck during a demonstration on the highway, in San Francisco

technology.

"The next big wave of automation will apply to driving," says Moshe Vardi, a computer scientist at Rice University.

Vardi suspects that truck drivers will be the first victims. Automated trucks can be programmed to go from one warehouse to another, plying express lanes reserved for trucks that let them avoid interacting with human drivers.

Vardi notes that vulnerable truckers have much in common with the factory workers who've been ousted by machines over the past several decades: They tend to be white men, middle-aged or older, with high school-only educations — the people who've formed the core support for Donald Trump.

"These things do not happen without political consequences," Vardi says.

Uber, which has been testing driverless taxis in Pittsburgh, disputes the notion that automated cars will cost the economy jobs.

"Technology also creates new work opportunities while disrupting existing ones," Travis Kalanick, Uber's CEO, and Anthony Levandowski, its vice president for self-driving technology, said in a statement.

For example: "Self-driving Ubers will be on the road 24 hours a day, which means they will need a lot more human maintenance."

Some drivers are responding to the threat with grim humor. Upon hearing that a driverless truck had crossed Colorado with a load of beer last week, one commentator on the online Truckers Forum posted a reference to the killer computer network in the Terminator movies: "Skynet is active." **AP**

ADVERTORIAL

WINTER WARDROBE

Check out these exciting new brands at Shoppes at Parisian for your ultimate winter wardrobe that will make you the leader of the fashion-pack this season.

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Alexander McQueen's diffusion line embodies a young, urban aesthetic straight out of London. For autumn/winter 2016, everything leather is the must have look.

Shop 320, Avenue des Champs Elysees, Level 3, Shoppes at Parisian



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French cool-kid brand Zadig & Voltaire whisks you onto the avenues of Paris with its effortless, timeless and always flawless rock-chic looks.

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SPORTMAX

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Shop 336, Avenue des Champs Elysees, Level 3, Shoppes at Parisian



REPETTO

Known for its signature ballet slippers first immortalised by Parisian beauty Brigitte Bardot, Repetto has since added womenswear and leather goods to its exquisite repertoire.

Shop 535, Avenue des Champs Elysees, Level 5, Shoppes at Parisian



RIMOWA EXHIBITION

Pioneering luggage brand Rimowa has built a scale model of the legendary Junkers F13 plane in celebration of its first flight in September 2016. See it on display in St Mark's Square until 31 October.

Shoppes at Venetian



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Fears of Beijing intervention as lawmaker oath standoff sparks more chaos

TWO newly elected pro-democracy Hong Kong lawmakers barred from the legislature for insulting China in their swearing-in ceremony set off another round of disorder in the chamber by scuffling with guards Wednesday as they tried again to take their oaths.

The weekly Legislative Council meeting had begun minutes before Yau Wai-ching and Sixtus Leung rushed into the chamber. They were defying an order by the council's president preventing their entry until a court settles a legal challenge filed by the government aimed at denying them another chance to be sworn in.

The two, who are from the Youngspiration party, were disqualified last month after they inserted a derogatory term for China into their oaths. Yau also used an expletive.

The case was due in court yesterday; the same day that local media reports say Beijing officials will meet to discuss reinterpreting Hong Kong's constitution as a way to resolve the crisis. The move has raised fears that Beijing is interfering in the semiautonomous Chinese-controlled city's rule of law by bypassing its courts.

The South China Morning Post yesterday quoted "a source familiar with the situation" according to whom "Beijing chose the route of intervening in the row with an interpretation of the Basic Law because it wanted a fast track to resolve the controversy once and for all."

"The judicial process could take more than a year if either the government or the two localists loses the case and either side appeals against the Court of First Instance ruling," SCMP's source said, adding that the lawsuit would probably eventually proceed to the Court of Final Appeal.

Yau, 25, and Leung, 30, were part of a new wave of youthful pro-democracy lawmakers elected in September amid a

AP PHOTO



Newly elected Hong Kong lawmakers Yau Wai-ching (center left) and Sixtus Leung (center right) are surrounded by photographers outside the legislature council in Hong Kong

rising tide of anti-China sentiment, with many Hong Kong residents concerned about Beijing eroding the city's wide autonomy.

As Yau reached the center of the room, she pulled out a

small microphone and speaker and recited the oath, which calls for pledging allegiance to "the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China."

Security guards tried to throw

Yau and Leung out, but other pro-democracy lawmakers rushed to their defense.

The groups scuffled. Yau was ejected and the council president then adjourned the meeting as guards grappled with

Leung and his supporters, who also argued with pro-Beijing loyalists at their desks.

It was the third straight week that a council session had been tossed into chaos over the matter. **MDT/Agencies**

Legco forms committee to examine controversial HKD50m payment to CY Leung from Aussie firm



THE Legislative Council has passed a petition to form a select committee to investigate Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying's acceptance of over HKD50 million from Australian Corporation UGL when he ran for Hong Kong leader, Hong Kong Free Press (HKFP) reported.

The petition, presented by Democratic Party lawmaker Andrew Wan Siu-king and Accountancy sector lawmaker Kenneth Leung, was passed after 28 pro-democracy lawmakers stood up in support of the proposal. Legislative Council President Andrew Leung announced that "a select committee will be instituted."

The case was exposed two years ago by Australian newspaper The Age, which revealed that "Leung Chun-ying had received a payment of over GBP4 million from UGL in exchange for agreeing to not join rival firms within two years. The agreement was signed in December 2011, when CY Leung was running for the top job in the sister SAR."

According to HKFP, Wan and Kenneth

Leung said in the petition that, "many questions are still unanswered, including why the chief executive did not declare the payment to the chief justice upon assuming office in accordance with Article 47 of the Basic Law."

They also asked the chief executive to clarify whether his agreement with UGL amounted to a conflict of interest, and whether part of the payment should have been subject to tax, Free Press added. The report further explained that the power of the committee is limited "as it is not covered by the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance. It may, however, summon individuals to give evidence with the authorization of the Legislative Council." **MDT/Agencies**

PANDAS

Names chosen for Vienna zoo's cubs

TWIN baby pandas born in August at the Vienna zoo finally have names.

The male is called Fu Ban, meaning Lucky Companion. The female was named Fu Feng, or Lucky Phoenix. About 12,000

people voted from a selection of names.

The pandas were the fourth and fifth cubs born to mother Yang Yang, after Fu Long, Fu Hu and Fu Bao.

Schoenbrunn Zoo direc-

tor Dagmar Schratte said yesterday because Yang Yang's first cub's name, Fu Long, means Lucky Dragon, the zoo had already decided to name the new girl after the phoenix.

In Chinese mythology,

the dragon represented the emperor and the phoenix the empress.

The zoo says the two are doing well, with Fu Feng now weighing 4.26 kilograms and Fu Ban 3.97 kilograms.

AP PHOTO



Erika Kinetz & Raphael Satter,
Shanghai

AP NEWSBREAK

China carfentanil trade thrives as seizures top 400 in US

SEIZURES of the deadly chemical carfentanil have exploded across the United States, with more than 400 cases documented in eight states since July, The Associated Press has found.

Fueled by a thriving trade out of China, the weapons-grade chemical is suspected in hundreds of drug overdoses in North America. An AP investigation last month showed how easily carfentanil can be purchased online from China. Of the 12 companies that initially offered to export carfentanil, just three have stopped. Nine continue to offer carfentanil for sale, no questions asked, and the AP identified four additional companies willing to sell the drug.

Asked for comment, most denied making the offers.

Jilin Tely Import and Export Co. initially claimed in an email that carfentanil was one of its "hot sales product." After being named in AP's story, the company's website vanished and it denied ever producing carfentanil.

Carfentanil is a controlled substance in the U.S., where it can be used legally to immobilize large animals like elephants. But it is not controlled in China, the top source of fentanyl-related compounds that end up in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

"It's a loophole that needs to be closed because even small quantities can have a terrible lethal effect," said Andrew Weber, a former U.S. assistant secretary of defense for nuclear,



Members of the RCMP go through a decontamination procedure in Vancouver after intercepting a package containing approximately 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of the powerful opioid carfentanil imported from China

chemical and biological defense programs. "Terrorists could acquire it commercially as we have seen drug dealers doing."

Some 5,000 times stronger than heroin, carfentanil is so toxic that an amount smaller than a poppy seed can kill a person. It was researched for years as a chemical weapon and used by Russian forces to incapacitate Chechen separatists in 2002.

The AP did not buy carfentanil from the vendors and did not test whether the products on offer were genuine.

DEA and State Department officials have discussed carfentanil's dangers with Chinese authorities, who have already controlled 19 fentanyl-related compounds, and urged them to blacklist it. But China has yet to

act. China's Ministry of Public Security did not respond to requests for comment.

Dealers cut carfentanil and other synthetic opioids into illicit drugs like heroin to boost profit margins.

Since July, when carfentanil was first identified in the U.S. drug supply, the DEA has confirmed at least 407 carfentanil seizures in eight states, according to data obtained by the AP. Ohio, the hardest-hit state, has 343 confirmed carfentanil seizures.

The resulting wave of human misery has been overwhelming. In just 21 days in July, paramedics in Akron, Ohio, logged 236 overdoses, including 14 fatalities, with suspected links to carfentanil, according to the

DEA. In the first six months of this year, in contrast, they dealt with a total of 320 overdoses. In September, the Ohio coroner's office confirmed eight carfentanil overdose deaths in Cincinnati, DEA said.

Direct exports of fentanyl-related chemicals from China arrive in the U.S. as air cargo or postal shipments, but are difficult to identify, according to congressional testimony obtained by the AP.

"Standard field kits do not accurately detect fentanyl," U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske said in answers to committee questions. He added that information from Chinese authorities on shipments destined for the U.S. could help customs more effectively intercept illicit packages.

For now, vendors appear brazenly confident about their ability to evade customs.

Shanxi Jinwei Technology Co. offered carfentanil and other drugs for export to the U.S. and Europe. "Please don't worry," the company said in an email. They said they'd hide everything in aluminum bags and reship packages that failed to arrive. The company didn't respond to requests for comment.

Carfentanil vendors also take advantage of loose oversight on major trading platforms like

Korea's EC21.com and China's LookChem.com marketplaces. Both screen their listings, but some companies appear to be evading those checks by misspelling the contraband they offer. A search for "fentanyl" yielded zero results on EC21, but "fentanyll" yielded 806 products from 422 suppliers. One company selling through LookChem printed "fentanyl" in red letters across multiple photographs of baggies plump with crystalline powder, without making the drug name searchable.

All this just describes sales on the open internet. The darknet, a collection of shadowy websites invisible to most internet users, is also a vibrant marketplace for drugs.

China's actions can have a profound impact. After Beijing controlled 116 new synthetic drugs last October, U.S. seizures of key narcotics plunged, DEA data show.

The reverberations of that law can still be felt. A sales manager named Eric from Shanghai Golden Time Biological Technology Co. refused to produce fentanyl and acetylfentanyl, both of which are controlled substances in China. "I can't make it," he said.

But he was happy to export the far more potent, unregulated carfentanil for USD8,000 a kilogram. **AP**

Safety violations found after deadly Chongqing coal mine blast

REGULATORS found several safety violations in a coal mine in western China where 33 people died this week after being trapped underground in a gas explosion.

China's State Administration of Work Safety said this week the mine in the municipality of Chongqing was using outdated equipment and miners were sent more than 100 meters (328 feet) beyond the approved drilling area, causing gas to accumulate.

Only two miners were able to escape Monday's blast.

Gas explosions inside mines are often caused when a flame or electrical spark ignites gas leaking from the coal seam. Ventilation



Rescuers mourn for victims at Jinshangou Coal Mine in Chongqing, southwest China

systems are supposed to prevent gas from becoming trapped.

The correct boundaries were not marked on drawings of the mine, and

operators did not submit the necessary paperwork or set up proper supervision, the safety administration found. It called for coal mining operations to

take more precautions and follow existing safety laws.

"We cannot pursue development at the price of safety," an agency statement said.

The operators of the mine did not answer phone calls yesterday.

China is the world's top producer and consumer of coal but has announced plans to shutter more than 1,000 outdated mines as part of a broader plan to cut down on overproduction.

The Chinese mining industry has long been among the world's deadliest. The head of the safety administration said earlier this year that struggling coal mines might be likely to overlook maintenance. **AP**

German official apologizes after derogatory comments

Germany's European Union commissioner has apologized for making a derogatory reference to Chinese people and for mocking gay marriage. Early this week, remarks surfaced from Guenther Oettinger, a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party, referring to "slanty eyes" and also to "obligatory gay marriage" in Germany. Yesterday, Oettinger said "I would like to apologize for any remark that was not as respectful as it should have been." Oettinger said his remarks "have created bad feelings and may even have hurt people." Oettinger had come under increasing criticism, even though the German government and the EU Commission stood by him.



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Niniek Karmini & Ali Kotarumalos, Jakarta

INDONESIA

Police to lock down Jakarta for blasphemy protest

INDONESIAN police are planning a show of force in the capital Jakarta today to contain a much-hyped protest by Muslim hard-liners against the city's popular governor that threatens to ignite religious and racial flashpoints.

An accusation of blasphemy against Jakarta Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, an ethnic Chinese and minority Christian who is an ally of the country's president, has galvanized his political opponents in the Muslim-majority nation of 250 million and given a notorious group of hard-liners a national stage.

National Police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar said 16,000 police will be deployed along with 2,000 soldiers and 2,000 of Jakarta's public order officers for the protest that is expected to begin in the early afternoon following today prayers. Gen. Gatot Nurmantyo, chief of Indonesia's powerful military, has said it "will be in the front line against any movement aimed at disrupting the unity and integrity of the nation."

Indonesians are already fighting on social media over the blasphemy claim and the protest, which organizers op-



Muslim protesters gather with a banner calling for the arrest of Jakarta's ethnic Chinese and Christian Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, popularly known as "Ahok," outside the City Hall

timistically boast will attract half a million people to Jakarta's traffic clogged streets. Police have said it might draw up to 100,000 people based on communications with Muslim groups involved in its planning.

Blasphemy is a criminal offense in Indonesia and prosecu-

tions have increased in the past decade. Amnesty International documented 106 convictions between 2004 and 2014 with some individuals imprisoned for up to five years.

Ahok, who is seeking a second term as Jakarta governor and is a possible running mate for

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo in the 2019 presidential elections, is popular with Jakarta's middle class. He is adored as a blunt speaker who doesn't tolerate corruption and articulates a vision to make the chaotic, dysfunctional city more like clean, orderly and efficient Singapore.

But the anti-corruption stance has made him enemies and the evictions of thousands of the city's poorest people to make way for urban improvement has stoked anger and resentment and played to a stereotype of Chinese as exploiters of Indonesia's poor Muslim masses.

The simmering political climate has provided an opening for the Islamic Defenders Front, a vigilante group that wants to impose Shariah law, to burnish its credentials as protector of Indonesia's majority faith at the expense of mainstream Muslim groups.

The main organizer of the

protest, the Front is demanding Ahok's arrest for blasphemy after a video circulated online in which he joked to an audience about a passage in the Quran that could be interpreted as prohibiting Muslims from accepting non-Muslims as leaders. The governor has apologized for the comment and met with police.

But the anti-Ahok movement, which has attracted moderates as well as hard-line elements as the city election approached, has overflowed with slurs based on race and religion. And local media have reported an uptick in public order offenses with an anti-Chinese motivation.

The vulnerability of Indonesia's ethnic Chinese minority remains a raw issue in the country. In the chaos that engulfed Indonesia in May 1998 amid the Asian financial crisis, mobs in Jakarta and other cities targeted Chinese businesses and individuals, killing many. AP

AD



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The 15th Macao-wide English Speech Contest & 22nd "21st Century Cup" National English Speaking Competition Macao Regional Contest

Theme IN THE NEWS

Organised by the Macao Polytechnic Institute, the final round of the 15th Macao-wide English Speech Contest & 22nd "21st Century Cup" National English Speaking Competition Macao Regional Contest will be held on November 12th and 13th 2016 at the Auditorium of Macao Polytechnic Institute. The Contest this year has attracted more than a hundred local participants. They reveal not only their outstanding spirit of competition but also strong abilities in English public speaking.

The Final Contest will be held in 3 sessions:

- Session 1: November 12th, 4pm to 7:45pm-College & Open Categories
Topic: College Category: The Role of Journalism
Open Category: The Role of Journalism
Session 2: November 13th, 9am to 12:30pm-Junior & Senior High School Categories
Topic: Junior High School Category: My Favourite News Story of the Year
Senior High School Category: Social Media
Session 3: November 13th, 2:45pm to 5:25pm-Lower & Upper Primary School Categories
Topic: Lower Primary School Category: Someone I Want to Meet
Upper Primary School Category: I'd Like to be Famous For...

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http://speechcontest.ipm.edu.mo

Organiser:



Co-organisers:

Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau, Tertiary Education Services Office, Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, The British Council (Hong Kong), Bell Educational Services Ltd., Cambridge (UK), Macao Daily News, The 21st Century China Daily, The Chinese Educators' Association of Macau, Associação das Escolas Católicas de Macau, TDM - Teledifusão de Macau S.A.

BRITAIN

Court: Gov't can't trigger EU exit without Parliament

Danica Kirka & Jill Lawless, London

BRTAIN'S High Court brought government plans for leaving the European Union screeching to a halt yesterday, ruling that the prime minister can't trigger the U.K.'s exit from the bloc without approval from Parliament.

The government said it would go to the Supreme Court to challenge the ruling, which has major constitutional as well as practical implications.

The pound, which has lost about a fifth of its value since the June decision to leave, shot up on the verdict, rising 1.1 percent to USD1.2430.

Britons voted by a margin of 52 to 48 percent to leave the EU, a process known as "Brexit." Several claimants challenged the plans for Brexit in a case hinging on the balance of power between Parliament and the government.



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves Downing Street to attend the weekly Prime Ministers' Questions session, in parliament in London

Prime Minister Theresa May has said she will launch exit negotiations with the EU by March 31. She is relying on a power called the royal prerogative that

lets the government withdraw from international treaties.

Claimants argue that leaving the EU will remove rights, including free movement within

the bloc, and say that can't be done without Parliament's approval.

Three senior judges ruled that "the government does not have the power under the Crown's prerogative" to trigger the official exit process.

The British government immediately said it would appeal the judgment. The government said in a statement that Britons voted to leave the bloc in a referendum approved by an Act of Parliament, "and the government is determined to respect the result of the referendum."

The Supreme Court has set aside time to hear the appeal before the end of the year.

The case is considered the most important constitutional matter in a generation.

Underscoring the importance of the case, May put Attorney General Jeremy Wright in charge of the legal team fighting the claim. Wright argued that the lawsuit was an attempt to put

a legal obstacle in the way of enacting the result of the EU referendum.

May wants to use royal prerogative, historic powers officially held by the monarch, to trigger Article 50 of the EU's treaty, which starts two years of talks before Britain's departure from the EU. The powers, which have in reality passed to politicians, enable decisions to be made without a vote of Parliament and cover matters as grave as declaring war or as basic as issuing passports.

Historically, royal prerogative has also applied to foreign affairs and the negotiation of treaties.

Financial entrepreneur Gina Miller, a lead claimant in the case, who backed the losing "Remain" side, said the result "is about all of us [...] It's about our United Kingdom and all our futures."

Still, the pound's rise signaled that the ruling boosted the hopes of the financial sector, which is largely opposed to Brexit.

The ruling angered pro-Brexit campaigners, who fear politicians might try to block or delay Britain's EU exit. U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, who helped lead the campaign against the EU, tweeted: "I worry that a betrayal may be near at hand." AP

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
16:30	UEFA Europa League: Braga - Konyaspor (Repeated)
18:10	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Documentary Serie
21:45	Documentary Serie
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Europa League Highlights
23:50	Portuguese Movie

SATURDAY

10:35	Comedy
11:05	Blaze Riders
11:30	Documentary Serie
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Soap Opera
16:40	Miscellaneous
17:05	Documentary Serie
18:30	Miscellaneous
18:55	Contest
19:40	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Comedy
22:00	Revenge S.4
22:45	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Comedy

SUNDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:40	Miscellaneous
16:55	Documentary Serie
18:55	Miscellaneous
19:20	Comedy
20:10	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Don't Panic : How to End Poverty In 15 Years
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	Miscellaneous

Offbeat

SHORTEST HAUL: EUROPEAN AIRLINE OFFERS 8-MINUTE INTL FLIGHT



An Austrian airline has begun what it claims is the world's shortest regular international connection — an eight-minute hop across Lake Constance.

The flight offered by People's Viennaline connects St. Gallen-Altenrhein in Switzerland with Friedrichshafen in southern Germany. It's part of a route that continues onward to the western German city of Cologne, but passengers can book only the short part for 40 euros (USD44.10).

German news agency dpa reported that environmentalists aren't thrilled by the new route, which began service this week. It quoted Swiss Green Party politician Meinrad Gschwend saying he wants the flights banned.

The airline says driving around the lake for an hour would produce as much emissions as the short flight.

cinema



CINETEATRO

03 Nov - 10 Nov



DOCTOR STRANGE

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Scott Derrickson

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 115min



INFERNO

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Ron Howard

Starring: Tom Hanks, Felicity Jones, Irrfan Khan

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 121min



TROLLS

ROOM 3
(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm
(3D) 5.45 pm

Director: Mike Mitchell, Walt Dohrn

Duration: 121min

JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK

ROOM 2

9.30 pm

Director: Edward Zwick

Starring: Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders, Damika Yarosh

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 118min

MACAU TOWER

27 Oct - 16 Nov

DOCTOR STRANGE

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Scott Derrickson

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 115min

this day in history



1980 REAGAN BEATS CARTER IN LANDSLIDE

The former Hollywood actor and Republican governor of California Ronald Reagan is to be the next president of the United States.

He has defeated Democrat Jimmy Carter in the US presidential elections by a huge majority.

At the age of 69, Mr Reagan will be America's oldest president. His running mate, former head of the CIA George Bush, will be his vice-president.

The Republicans took state after state in the east, south and mid-west, with results from their stronghold in the west still to come. So far Mr Reagan's electoral vote tally stands at 238 while Mr Carter's is just 35.

In the last speech of his campaign last night, Mr Reagan with his wife Nancy, addressed 30,000 supporters at a car park of a shopping centre in San Diego, California.

He spoke of the state of the American economy under President Carter as "a major tragedy for the American family".

"In eight years here as your governor," he said, "I learned to have faith in you, the people and I envision a leadership as President taking government off your backs and turning you loose to do what I know you can do best."

His speech was followed by a dazzling firework display after which he returned to his home in Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles to spend polling day resting.

The outgoing president's popularity has suffered following the energy crisis and petrol queues. It seems his failure to negotiate a release of US hostages currently held in Iran has sealed his fate.

Surveys of public opinion also suggest Mr Reagan's performance in last Tuesday's televised debate convinced many he was the most suitable candidate.

President Carter is the first elected sitting president to be defeated since Herbert Hoover was beaten by Franklin D Roosevelt in 1932.

Even before the polls closed on the West coast, he drove from the White House to a Washington hotel to address his supporters an hour after congratulating Mr Reagan by phone.

He told them: "I can stand here and say it doesn't hurt."

Putting on a brave smile he added: "The people of the United States have made their choice and I accept that decision."

Mr Carter remains president until Mr Reagan is inaugurated next January.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Final results showed Ronald Reagan won 489 electoral votes against the Democrats' 49.

Mr Reagan was inaugurated as president on 20 January 1981.

Later that year he survived an assassination attempt.

President Reagan cut taxes, increased defence spending and in 1983 approved the US invasion of Grenada and CIA operations in Nicaragua, in spite of Congressional opposition.

He was re-elected by a landslide in 1984 and began arms-control talks with the USSR that led to the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 1987.

He remained extremely popular right till the end of his term in 1989 despite the scandal over US arms sales to Iran that provoked worldwide criticism.

In 1994 he announced he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He died ten years later aged 93.

After his defeat, Mr Carter was active as a peacemaker in Ethiopia, Sudan, Liberia and Haiti where, in 1994, he persuaded the military junta in Haiti to renounce power and allow a peaceful US occupation.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 The deluge of details crossing your desk today seems infinite. Share the load - you'll do the same for your coworkers when the time comes. If it gets to be too much, remember you're not alone.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Be fair, but circumspect if everyone is turning to you for advice in an interoffice conflict. Don't choose sides. Instead, give them every reason to trust you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Proving your competence should be a breeze if someone calls your abilities into question. No, it's not fair, but you're on the hook, at least for now.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Take your time and get the best deal. Don't let a pushy sales rep or client convince you to sign when you aren't ready. The ball's in your court, after all.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Plow through the heavy work now and take some time off later. Sure, you're feeling a little low-energy these days, but that's no reason to slack off. You'll only regret it later if you let the tasks pile up.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your current assignment won't get done without an ample amount of compromise, so suck it up, at least for the time being. You'll be able to show off your solo skills on down the line.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You won't get far by issuing ultimatums today. So you're better off sitting back and waiting for the rewards to come your way. You have a strong sense of what you want, but are you willing to let it happen organically?

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your talents are vast but severely undervalued. It's time to make sure your boss is aware of exactly what you have to offer. After all, there's no shame in self-promotion.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You have every reason to feel confident, but don't get arrogant. Even if you're well on your way to completing a tough assignment, and the hardest part is behind you, the process isn't over just yet.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Take a little time to pore through the pile of paperwork on your desk, or you could end up misplacing an important document. Don't be a victim to your own sloppiness.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Do your research and it'll pay off big time. The minutiae may be tedious, but it is the defining element that will put this project or proposal over the edge and make it a reality.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Make sure you're not missing any crucial details here -- run it by a trusted peer. Your quick-fix solution looks great on paper, but it may not hold up long term.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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Easy

9 8 3 4 5
2 9 8
1 5 3 2
8 4 7
2 7 3 1
2 1 6
8 3 2 5
7

Easy+

4 8 6 5
7 2 4 1 7
9 4 8
7 4 9 3
9 2 5
8 1 2
7 5 6 1
5 9 6

Medium

1 4 3
9 6 7 3
3 1 5
4 1 2 3 6 8
5 7 9
9 1 5
6 4 8 1
2 8

Hard

5 4 1
7 2
3 2
6 1 4 8
5 3 1
4 7 9

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Beijing 2 15 haze
Harbin -9 1 haze/snow shower
Tianjin 8 17 foggy/haze
Urumqi 4 17 cloudy/fleet
Xi'an 9 20 haze
Lhasa -2 15 clear
Chengdu 9 20 clear/cloudy
Chongqing 15 21 cloudy
Kunming 12 21 cloudy
Nanjing 8 21 clear
Shanghai 12 20 clear/cloudy
Wuhan 8 19 clear
Hangzhou 11 21 clear
Taipei 21 26 drizzle
Guangzhou 16 26 clear
Hong Kong 21 26 cloudy

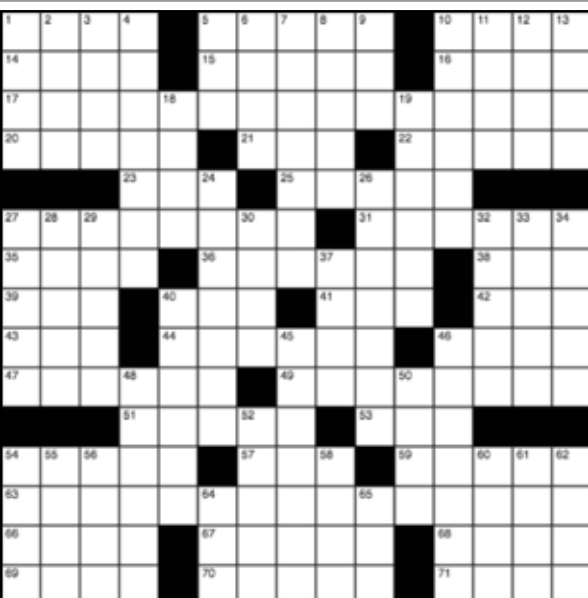
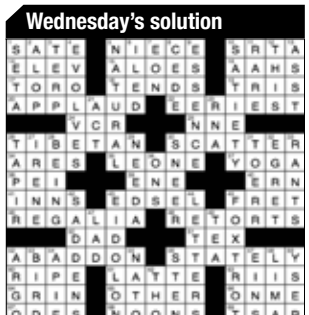
WORLD

Moscow -2 2 flurry/drizzle
Frankfurt 3 9 drizzle/overcast
Paris 3 12 cloudy/drizzle
London 5 12 drizzle
New York 9 22 drizzle/cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Chinese weight; 5- Codeine source; 10- Chews the fat; 14- Role for Ingrid; 15- Heavy metric weight; 16- Territory; 17- In spite of; 20- You can get a rise out of it; 21- Him, to Henri; 22- Leers at; 23- Salt Lake City player; 25- Do not disturb; 27- Japanese dish; 31- Take turns; 35- the crack of dawn; 36- Washed lightly; 38- Madrid Mrs.; 39- Mythical bird; 40- Horace's "Poetica"; 41- Cut and dried grass; 42- Title of a knight; 43- Lyric work; 44- Petrol units; 46- Rind; 47- High-speed skiing; 49- Excessive admiration; 51- Pull on; 53- Diarist AnaA's; 54- Truman's Missouri birthplace; 57- Expected; 59- Navigators Islands, today; 63- Church principles; 66- Jai; 67- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 68- K-12, in the ed biz; 69- Roman moon goddess; 70- Japanese dish; 71- Somewhat;

DOWN: 1- Minute; 2- Drug-yielding plant; 3- This, in Tijuana; 4- Litigation; 5- Baseball's Mel; 6- Sci-fi author Frederik; 7- Hormone of the pancreas; 8- Loosen; 9- Cry River; 10- Doohickey; 11- Seed covering; 12- Nota; 13- Droops; 18-bitty; 19- No one; 24- Ear ornament; 26- Federal crime; 27- "Presumed Innocent" author; 28- Form of lyrical poem; 29- Ran swiftly; 30- Star-tuna; 32- Good point; 33- Judge or juror; 34- Ahead of time; 37- Storage shelter; 40- Attract; 45- Codes of ceremonies; 46- Cure-all; 48- And others, in Latin; 50- Actress Virna; 52- French farewell; 54- Sharon of "Boston Public"; 55- Rights org.; 56- Thom of footwear; 58- O.T. book; 60- Comic Kamen; 61- Dept. of Labor div.; 62- Among; 64- '60s campus gp.; 65-Skater Babilonia



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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BOXING

Will Senator Pacquiao make it to the World Title again? Odds say yes!

Renato Marques

AT 37, Filipino boxing legend Manny Pacquiao will face one of his biggest challenges when he gets face-to-face with Mexican-American Jessie Vargas for the World Boxing Organization (WBO) world welterweight title to show-down at Las Vegas Thomas & Mack Center on Sunday at noon (Macau time).

For Pacquiao this will be the first time being back in the ring since he announced his (temporary) retirement last April after his win against Timothy Bradley. This was in order to dedicate himself to heavyweight Filipino politics, as he was running for the Philippine's Senate.

Although there are acknowledged difficulties in putting in practice a serious training plan to try for the



AP PHOTO
Filipino boxer and Senator Manny Pacquiao (left) speaks with CEO Bob Arum of Top Rank

world title, the odds seem to be on "Pacman" (1/9).

In the opposite corner things seem to be running smoothly with Vargas, 27, entering the bout coming from some comfortable ninth-round TKOs over some serious competition, as the previously unbeaten Sadam Ali gave him the title back in March.

Many doubts were raised over the capacity of Pac-

quiao to reconcile a full-time job as senator in the Philippines with the training needs of a professional boxer, with some media in the Philippine's airing the idea that Pacquiao would probably need to leave his senator position uncared for in order to practice; a position immediately refuted by the boxer and politician who said in a press statement said, "there is no

truth to media reports that I'm planning to take a leave from my senate duties just to fight again atop the ring." He added: "I want to make it clear - my priority is my legislative works. My next fight has not yet been discussed. Should there be any, I'll make sure it will not interfere with my senate duties." Pacquiao recalled a promise made during the run for the senate that he would be present in all sessions.

In a recent interview, boxing promoter Bob Arum said, "What's happening here is something that I've never seen in fifty years of boxing, Pacquiao was elected for the Senate in the Philippines and there are only 24 senators and 12 get elected every six-years. Before he was elected he promised [the] Philippine's people that he would make every senate session. So he is now

on 15 senate committees and he attends every single session of the senate. That means that from 9 in the morning till 7 at night, he is a Senator in the Philippines

and a very respected Senator I may add."

The legendary promoter stressed that Pacquiao has been "running in [the] morning and going to the gym at night."

"I don't know how he can do that. I don't know if it's possible but we will see on November 5 [Las Vegas time]," Arum said, adding: "He loves boxing, he wants to continue as a fighter but I never seen a world class fighter who has a day job that takes all his time while he is competing at the highest level."

Pacquiao has stated previously "boxing is my only means of livelihood to support my family and to help those who are in need. Politics, to me, is a vocation, not a means to eke out a living. I want to maintain that belief. I want to keep my dignity intact while in public service."

What's happening [Pacquiao being an elected senator] is something that I've never seen in 50 years of boxing.

BOB ARUM

AD

This event is a major economic and trade event in Guangzhou-Macao trade and economic co-operation, covering a wide range of products and services including MinM, Macao signature souvenirs, cultural and creative products, consumer goods, food products, wine, products from Portuguese-speaking countries, Commerce of Cross-Border E-Commerce as well as other merchandise.

Macao companies are welcome to actively participate in this event. Products manufactured in Macao, Macao brand products and foreign-brand products represented by an agent in Macao (priority will be given to products from Portuguese-speaking countries).

***The preferential scheme for companies from Macao (MOP\$2,000.00/booth or MOP\$1,800.00/raw space) includes the following items:**

- ⊙ A standard 3 x 3 booth (with basic facilities)
- ⊙ One double room (four nights)

As the number of booths is limited, applications will be handled on a first-come first-served basis

- ⊙ Round-trip transportation arrangements for two people
- ⊙ Basic round-trip freight transportation from Macao/Zhuhai to the exhibition site in Guangzhou (4 CBM with custom duties not included; excess charges will be borne for by the exhibitors).
- ⊙ Provision of a public storage area (does not include insurance)
- ⊙ Subsidy for half the cost of two local temporary staff

(* Registered exhibitors are required to pay a registration fee of MOP\$10,000.00, of which MOP\$8,000.00 or MOP\$8,200.00 will be refunded

Registration Period:

1st November to 10th November 2016
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
(From Monday to Friday)

Registration Venue:

Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM)
Avenida de Amizade, 918, World Trade Centre Building, 4th Floor, Macao or
Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, 263, China Civil Plaza Building, 19th floor, Macao

Interested parties please contact Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM)

Enquiry Hotline:

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8798 9267 / 8798 9274

website:www.mgfpf.com

opinion

Bizcuits
Leanda Lee



WHAT HAPPENED TO AUSTERITY?

Cost creep is insidious. The insanity of prices of food in our little town just hit home. Price pressures sneak up unannounced until there's a moment of comparison to a time gone by or somewhere else.

Italy is where I have been strolling recently in an older version of the World Centre of Tourism - the original Venice - and Milan, the global capital of fashion and design. I had a memory of ordering coffee in Piazza San Marco in my student-spending-mode days of the late 80s. Traumatized by paying five euros for the luxury of a pour in that caffè capital, I wasn't going to be stung again, and took to seeking out coffee bars - al banco; I love these places, not a single take-away cup in sight. With smiles from the other side of the counter, ordering norms were navigated with the help of impeccably dressed, multi-lingual and nothing's-too-difficult hospitality of dignified staff. There's no chance of being asked "You done, guys?" by jeans-holstered waitresses here. At the bar of these quaint establishments I pay a solitary euro (MOP8.90) for my macchiato to maybe \$4 (MOP35.50) seated at the most exquisite café across the road from the Gucci Milan flagship store on Via Monte Napoleone. So, returning to Macau where we can pay up to MOP58 a cup in swankier joints and MOP18 for a shot at my local café, my shaking is not due to any caffeine hit.

Gone are the days when a seat at a charity ball cost around MOP400-600, you'll now be forking out anywhere from MOP800 to well over \$1,500. Ten years ago a simple meal for four at an average local family restaurant in Taipa was MOP80-100. Now, even a shared dinner for two at a quality western establishment, or a bottle (or so) of wine and a pizza can reach over MOP1,000. When did that happen?

In comparison, that fashionable little wine bar with the duck ragout pappardelle to-die-for, a lagoon shell-fish platter and the trio of Veneto wines just off San Polo's Campo San Rocco for under 65 euros was decidedly bargain basement affordability with penthouse ambience.

I have friends with a Porsche or two who do their weekly shopping in Zhuhai, claiming the quality of produce is far superior to that of Macau at a third of the price. The meat does not come frozen in plastic bags. It's so fresh it might still be warm.

Even when dim-sum plates are a reasonable MOP35-45, don't become too complacent. Ask for a wok-fried plate of snow-pea sprouts, and you could well be bowled over by the \$108 tag. Where's the logic? It is certainly not the comparative labour input, time to cook or raw ingredients.

There was to be a new austere world order in this part of the world. How was that to play out on profitability among the luxury brands, Michelin Star restaurants and six-star equivalent hotels in a Macau with a dearth of 3- to 4-star room availability? Where multi-million dollar bets sit side by side with the grey market arbitrage of little-old-lady trolley-dashes across the border, and the "mass-market is where it's at" mantra collides with a more realistic carrying capacity of 20-odd million visitors a year, Macau is increasingly a city of paradoxes.

The brands, the restaurants and the lavish hotels remain. Profitability may be hit by the restrictions on capital and flow of the wealthy from China, and increased competition from additional supply in accommodation, but it seems food outlets are compensating by squeezing more out of the rest of us. No gaming cross-subsidization to F&B anymore? Silos of departments now accountable for their own ROIs? What happened to that loss-leader cheap banquet that was part of this Vegas Model that we seem so keen to follow?

Some point the finger at the foreigner. The pataca is not the dollar, Mr Expat. Your willingness to pay to make up the profitability margin loss that used to come from the big guys makes this place tougher for local residents and (mass-market) visitors alike.

THE DISSIDENT ARTIST: NO RULE OF LAW IN CHINA FOR ACTIVISTS

Dissident artist Ai Weiwei says the situation is "getting really bad" for activists inside China as there's no rule of law for anyone who touches on political issues.

Ai was speaking at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York. The artist, who was detained in 2011 for his outspoken views on human rights,

says that even lawyers are facing jail for defending activists against wrongful accusations.

Ai said: "If you touch any political issues, there's no such thing as rule of law [...] There is almost no space."

Chinese authorities withheld his passport for four years but returned it to him in July 2015.



Uber takes its app down new road with redesign



A man leaves the headquarters of Uber in San Francisco

Michael Liedtke, San Francisco

UBER is taking its ride-hailing app down a new road in an effort to make it smarter, simpler and more fun to use.

The redesigned app also will seek to mine personal information stored on smartphones in a change that could raise privacy concerns, even though it will be up to individual users to let Uber peer into their calendars and address books.

The change represents the biggest overhaul in four years to Uber's popular app, which is used by millions of people to summon cars in more than 450 cities around the world for rides that are usually cheaper than traditional taxis.

But as Uber has grown, the app has been adding features that have made it more difficult to navigate. The

new design and features are designed to save passengers time and money. The new app will begin to roll out today, though it could take a couple weeks before all users get the update.

As part of the new look, Uber will spell out more clearly how long it will take and how much it will cost to reach a destination in different types of available cars. The app will also recommend the best places to be picked up in congested areas.

The reprogrammed app also will study a rider's traveling history and list frequently ordered destinations as "shortcuts."

In another time-saving move that will test how much users trust the San Francisco company with their personal information, users will be able to give the app access to their calendars so addresses listed

in an entry can automatically appear in the Uber app near the time of the appointment. Uber plans to introduce this option by next month.

Starting in December, Uber will also seek access to users' personal contacts so they can ask for a ride to where a friend currently is, even if the friend isn't home. If this feature is activated, Uber's app will contact the friend to ask if he or she is willing to share the current location. If the friend doesn't have the Uber app, the request will be sent through a text message to the mobile number listed in the address book.

Uber says it doesn't expect privacy objections because users will have to agree to allow the app to scan their calendars and address books. And people whose locations are being sought through the new address-book feature will be able to decide if they want to share the information.

The redesigned app also will offer other features from other services that Uber riders might enjoy during the trip to their destination. The additions include the ability to check out restaurant reviews through Yelp, send messages through Snapchat and listen to music on Pandora. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Good
Ambient	65-95 Good

SOURCE: D5IMG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA-PAKISTAN Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman says eight Indian diplomats at the Indian Embassy in Islamabad were part of what Pakistan claims is a spying network in the mission. Nafees Zakaria says the eight intended to create "instability" in Pakistan.



AFGHANISTAN U.S. and Afghan forces came under fire yesterday while targeting senior Taliban commanders during a joint operation in northern Kunduz province, calling in airstrikes during an assault that killed 26 civilians, three local troops and two American service members, NATO and local officials said.



IRAQ The shadowy leader of the Islamic State group has released a new message urging his followers to keep up the fight for Mosul as they defend the city against a major offensive aimed at routing the militants from their last urban stronghold in Iraq.

GERMANY The European Union commissioner for Germany apologized for making a derogatory reference to Chinese people and for mocking gay marriage. Early this week, remarks surfaced from Guenther Oettinger referring to "slanty eyes" and also to "obligatory gay marriage" in Germany. More on p11

MONTENEGRO's bid to join NATO is progressing smoothly despite strong opposition from Russia, its traditional Slavic ally, the deputy chief of the Western military alliance said yesterday.

times square by rodrigo

