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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES The senator who initiated an investigation into President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly anti-drug campaign asked the Supreme Court yesterday to stop verbal attacks against her by Duterte. Sen. Leila de Lima seeks to stop the president and his men from gathering information about her private life and disclosing it publicly.

VATICAN-CHINA The Vatican yesterday denounced the decision of a priest in China's underground Catholic Church to be ordained bishop without the pope's approval. The statement was an apparent move by the Vatican to defuse tensions with China as negotiations proceed on reaching an overall agreement on bishop nominations.

VIETNAM Police in southern Vietnam are searching for 60 drug addicts who escaped from a rehabilitation center, an official said yesterday. The official in Dong Nai province said 133 inmates burned their clothes and other belongings before escaping from the center on Sunday. Authorities have so far recaptured 73 of them.

CAMBODIA A Cambodian court yesterday sentenced an opposition senator to seven years in prison over comments he posted on Facebook criticizing a 36-year-old border agreement with neighboring Vietnam. Hong Sok Hour was found guilty of falsifying public documents, using fake documents and inciting chaos.

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NPC overrules Hong Kong SAR

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PHILIPPINES

Abu Sayyaf claims to have kidnapped German, killed woman

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editorial

Paulo Coutinho



SAR OVERRULED

ELECTED lawmakers Yau Wai-ching's and Sixtus Leung's mockery oaths, three weeks ago, were ruled invalid by the Legislative Council, and subsequent attempts have resulted in mayhem in LegCo's weekly sessions. The government had no choice but to take the case to the Hong Kong courts.

From then on, inflamed detractors of the two young localists awoken to politics by the Occupy Central movement, like tens of thousands of others, labeled them kids, idiots, fools, puppets, whatever - they all sounded like the People's Daily on a good day.

Usually, in authoritarian regimes such as China the first effort the establishment makes is to discredit dissenting voices, while intimidating all the others by example: is this what you want to be?; is this what you want your children to become? Then when the hordes see them as "outcasts", comes the fatal blow - the punishment - as happened yesterday when Li Fei, deputy secretary general of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, labeled them as "traitors".

"All traitors who sell out our country will never meet good ends," Li said making it sound like a real threat, and rightly so because the punishment the state serves a "traitor" is the capital sentence.

The NPC's ruling barring two legally elected separatist lawmakers from taking office was seen as Beijing's rhetoric against emergent separatist movements in the sister SAR, but is a gross interference in internal Hong Kong politics. What stands is that China overruled the SAR judicial autonomy with the ever-zealous helping hand of CY Leung: duly noted.

That being so, by-elections will be called to fill the two vacant seats at the Legislative Council.

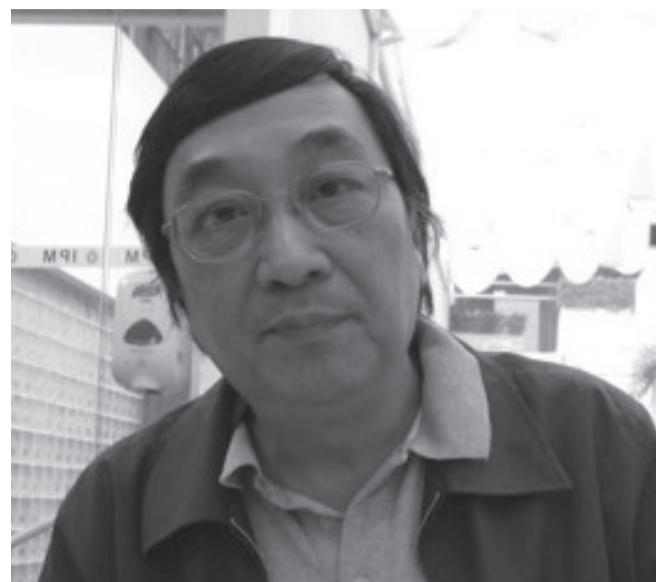
According to experts quoted by AP, the NPC made no clear ruling on whether the two could run again for their original seats.

If that is so, and if they should both win the elections again, the mockery will be no more. The fools will be on the wrong side of history.

If that happens, the two young and rebellious lawmakers-elect will have done more good to Hong Kong society in a few days than a thousand charities in a lifetime. Remember Martin Lee's wise words in the 1997 handover days? How can I be (totally) happy if we are returning to a place we ran away from some 40 years ago?!



Scott Chiang



Larry So

Daniel Beittler

COMMENTING on Beijing's decision to prevent Hong Kong lawmakers from taking office, New Macau Association president Scott Chiang said that the worrying development was another sign that "the breathing space for both SARs is becoming smaller and smaller."

Voicing his personal opinion rather than speaking on behalf of the association, Chiang expressed concern with the decision, claiming that "Beijing does not play according to the rules of the game."

Scholar and current affairs commentator Larry So told the Times he was "not one bit surprised" about the decision.

"Once the interpretation [from Beijing] is requested, it is common unders-

REACTIONS TO THE NPC RULING

Chiang: SAR autonomy is being reduced

tanding that the Central Government will take this sort of action," he said.

When asked whether he found the conduct of the lawmakers disrespectful, So replied: "This incident is very disrespectful. The way that they [the lawmakers] have behaved is beyond our expectations and beyond respect... especially for the older generation."

"You should be serious if you are running for the legislature [...] I don't approve of this behavior," added the scholar.

According to Article 102 in Macau's Basic Law, "the Chief Executive, principal

Officials, President of the Court of Final Appeal and Procurator-General of the Macao Special Administrative Region must swear allegiance to the People's Republic of China." Other officials - such as legislators - are required by Article 101 to take an oath of allegiance to the MSAR.

Both Scott Chiang and Larry So see the possibility of copycat legislators emerging in Macau during next year's legislative elections as very slim. Chiang said it would be unlikely as "not a lot of people in Macau are opposed to Beijing."

So agreed with this senti-

ment, noting that although Beijing will be watching the election closely, the Central Government is generally more comfortable with the state of Macau politics.

"In Macau we claim to have more 'harmony', but in Hong Kong they have forgotten the word completely," said So.

Nevertheless, he added, "Beijing is sending a message to Macau with their actions in Hong Kong."

"We could have some sort of copycat [legislative candidates] next year, but I am quite sure that they will not be elected." [see page 10-11]

South Korea scandal may have begun with Macau card game

THE Washington Post has published an article claiming that the ongoing corruption scandal involving South Korean president Park Geun-hye began with the arrest of the chief executive of a South Korean cosmetics company, who was caught gambling in Macau in November last year.

Gambling is illegal for nationals of South Korea - even abroad - and is punishable with prison time.

Chung Woon-ho, the chief executive of South Korean company Nature Republic, was ultimately found guilty of gambling and sentenced to a year in prison. However, that

was not before the executive entered into a legal dispute with his own attorney, during which another serious act of corruption within the country was uncovered.

The revelation, according to the Washington Post, set in motion a series of investigations disclosing just how widespread these "typically South Korea act[s] of corruption" really are.

In time, the investigations, spearheaded by reports from South Korean daily Chosun Ilbo, closed in on the country's president. They included a senior secretary to Park Geun-hye, An Chong-bum,

who had allegedly been coercing conglomerates to donate money to the newly-established MI-R Foundation.

Left-leaning newspaper Hankyoreh later uncovered the final piece of the puzzle: the link between the MI-R Foundation and Choi Soon-sil - now the center of the scandal - who is the daughter of cult leader Choi Tae-min and the foundation's alleged de-facto owner.

"Park Geun-hye and Choi Tae-min's strange relationship was an open secret in South Korea but had never been investigated," notes the Washington Post report.

It concludes that a seemingly insignificant card game at a table in Macau has blossomed into South Korea's most extensive and damaging political scandal since the country's democratization in 1987. **DB**

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

DESIGN EDITOR_João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS
Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beittler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I. F. Cheong,
Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard
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JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg,
MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C,
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Julie Zhu

THE city's unprecedented unified exam, organized by four of the territory's universities, will have an independent student enrollment evaluation system established by the universities themselves, as announced yesterday by representatives of the University of Macau (UM), the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM), the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) and the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST).

During a press conference at the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES), Vu Ka Vai, head of Registry of UM, said "the students will participate in the unified exam, but each school will enroll students independently."

By adopting each institute's own enrollment system, students' privacy can be protected, including details of their background and grades.

"International exams are equivalent to this exam, and the students will not be required to take other exams," said Va, adding that each student can apply to all four universities by taking the unified exam. The student will be eligible to receive offers from all institutions nominated in the application. Each student will receive their admission results independently and directly from each school.

As told by Lam Pou Lok, head of the Technical and Academic Support Division and the acting head of Registry of IFT, students will have to pay application fees in accordance with the number



The Tertiary Education Services Office held a press conference yesterday regarding the unified exam

EDUCATION

Schools keep independent student enrollment system under unified exam

of schools to which they apply. If the students only apply to one school, they will pay the application fee set by that university; if they apply to four, they are obliged to pay the application fees required by each university.

The four schools will implement this unified examination between 30 March and 3 April for the first time.

■ The 'Unified Application Exam' will be held between March 30 and April 2

The "Unified Application Exam" will function as a first entry exam for four subjects: mathematics and the Chinese, Portuguese and English languages.

Tests will be jointly drafted by teachers from the four institutions, and the examination paper will also be evaluated by a team established by the four

schools. Other examinations and personal interviews will be undertaken by the institutions individually.

Applications to the institutions will be done in a decentralized manner. Students who intend to apply to any or all of the institutions must still register through an online application system for each institution.

GAMING

MGM Cotai to open in the second quarter of 2017

MGM China confirmed yesterday that its Cotai resort will open in the second quarter of 2017.

The resort's budget remains approximately HKD24 billion.

"We believe it [MGM Cotai] will be well received by the market and we are confident to capture the growth opportunities of Macau," stated Grant Bowie, chief executive officer and executive director of MGM China.

The gaming operator also announced its unaudited results for the third quarter. The company recorded total revenue of HKD3.9 billion, an increase of 11 percent from the second quarter of 2016. Adjusted EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) was up 24 percent from Q2 to



The MGM Cotai construction site pictured in February 2016

HKD1.3 billion.

During Q3, the main floor table games win increased by 13 percent from the previous quarter, compared to Macau's mass-market growth of approximately 8 percent. Hotel rooms achieved an occupancy rate of 95.7 percent. VIP table games win

increased 3 percent from the second quarter of 2016.

MGM China said the main floor at MGM Macau is undergoing remodeling so that the resort can "pursue diversification including creating additional retail space and upgrading our food and beverage experiences."

Pearl Horizon buyers cause chaos at Macau Forum

OVER ten pre-sales buyers of Pearl Horizon turned last Sunday's weekly Macau Forum into a chaotic event.

The outdoor TDM debate show was discussing law enforcement standards regarding the city's domestic violence laws, but the former Pearl Horizon buyers seized the opportunity to vent.

Kou Meng Pok, president of Pearl Horizon Proprietors Association, said after taking the microphone to make some comments: "Pearl Horizon buyers are at a high risk of being a source of domestic unrest. The government must clean this source, otherwise it becomes really difficult to handle."

Kou confessed that he and his wife have been continuously engaging in verbal fights, and even physical altercations, due to the Pearl Horizon issue. He criticized the government for not taking care of the problem, which led in his case to a family dispute.

Another speaker said "the government is corrupt [...] how many families will Polytec Group destroy?"



"My family was happy, but ever since we bought from Pearl Horizon, my family has been broken, and I wonder if this might be considered as mental domestic violence," a third speaker said.

Kou added that the government is "very irresponsible" and that the government should meet buyers to solve the problems as soon as possible.

The Court of Final Appeal ruled last week that Polytec Group could not retain its rights over the Areia Preta land plot where the Pearl Horizon was being built.

Architect says region's role as platform could be enhanced

Julie Zhu

LOCAL architect and former deputy head of the Transportation Infrastructure Office, André Ritchie, voiced his support for the government's five-year plan during a roundtable talk at the Portuguese Consulate on Friday.

Ritchie, who said he had read the entirety of the government's five-year plan, believes that the plan is well thought out, particularly the section that proposes Macau's function as a platform of communication between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. "It is not new, this idea," he commented.

Ritchie confessed that he used to joke about every VIP who came from Portugal, including the presidents and prime ministers, when they spoke about making Macau the bridge that would connect Portugal to China.

"I am not being skeptical, and in fact, I do believe in this. [...] We are not only sharing the language [with



André Ritchie

Portuguese-speaking people] here, we are also sharing the way we live," said Ritchie.

The Macanese architect believes that both Macau and the Portuguese-speaking countries are fundamentally "all [organized] the same way."

"This is why I think the idea of the platform makes sense."

The architect thinks that the human and urban landscapes are both crucial to enhancing the region's role as a platform.

"The human landscape is

[...] what we need [...]. We are very privileged, we have the resources, we have the money to build everything we want," said Ritchie.

Ritchie believes that the government's desire to make Macau such a platform is achievable.

However, he says that achieving this goal is "not about the exceptional people, but about the average people." He pointed out that locals are key to making the five-year plan productive.

"There are many people [Macau residents] from Angola, or Mozambique.

Perhaps they can offer their contribution to [the creation of] this platform," Ritchie observed, adding that Macau needs to embrace innovations and incoming talent, while citing Hong Kong and Singapore as good examples.

He remarked that Hong Kong has a statutory system and an internationally-regarded legal system.

"Do we need to upgrade our legal tools? Personally, I think yes, we need to. But sometimes it is not just about the legal frame, it is also about the people," Ritchie explained.

He posed another question about the implementation of this process: "Are the people and the decision makers willing to help?"

Ritchie concluded by saying that Macau can become greater by learning to accept change.

"I think it's all about reaching our own limits, and accepting the changes. It's all about our limits, and what's acceptable to us."

Macao Orchestra to hold another concert



Henning Kraggerud

THE Macao Orchestra on Saturday organized a chamber music concert titled "The Dual Faces of Russia," which showcased the flamboyant melodies and passion of Russian culture.

Violinist Vit Polasek and Kai Sai, the Principal Oboe of the Macao Orchestra shared a few remarks with participants before the performance, which attracted numerous music fans.

This Saturday, the Orchestra will present the concert "Henning Plays Mozart" at the Cultural Centre as part of the "Shining Virtuosos" series, together with Norwegian violinist Henning Kraggerud.

Kraggerud, one of northern Europe's most distinguished musicians, will join the orchestra to present two of Mozart's violin works.

Tickets for "Henning Plays Mozart" are priced at MOP250, MOP200 and MOP150.

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ART

Autumn Salon opens, showcasing artists new and old alike

Daniel Beittler

THE inauguration of the annual "Autumn Salon" exhibition was held on Saturday night at Casa Garden, home to the Macau Delegation of the Orient Foundation, where 67 selected artworks from 32 local emerging and established artists were showcased to the public.

Featuring an array of traditional and abstract works, as well as "abstracts created in a classic manner," the exhibited pieces include paintings, photographs and multimedia productions, among others.

This year's salon winner is Lei Ieng Wait for his large oil painting titled "Dimensional Sequence." According to Ana Paula Cleto, the coordinator of the Macau Delegation of the Orient Foundation, Lei is now eligible to travel to Portugal for a one-month art residency, followed by a solo exhibition at a prestigious Portuguese gallery.

Meanwhile, an honorable mention was awarded to Fan In Kuan for a sculpture titled



"Domesticated Sweetness I." The sculpture, which is hemispheric in shape and resembles a pomegranate, is made with black marble, stainless steel and copper.

Also the beneficiary of an honorable mention was Chan Ka Lok, for his series of three intricate and detailed line drawings, titled "Deer," "Flying Squirrel" and "Whale" respectively.

Many of the other artists sought to capture elements of Macau in their work, bringing to the local exhibition a touch of the city itself. Tang Kuok Hou,

for example, captures "scenic" landscapes of Macau and nearby areas in his photographs, which are often desolate and deliberately absent of subjects.

Likewise, Wan Ieng Meng's "Brotherhood," a watercolor piece on paper, depicts an urban scene that is unmistakably Macau, illustrating a fine microcosm of the city through which its mixed East-West cultural heritage can be effortlessly discerned.

Established in 2010 at Casa Garden, Autumn Salon has the stated purpose of bringing both emerging and recognized local artists together to exhibit their work in a single event. The pro-

ject is jointly organized by the Orient Foundation and Art For All (AFA) Macau, with Alice Kok, the latter's president, serving as the curator of the exhibition.

According to Cleto, another principle organizer, the annual event "was created in order to project local art, creating a space that allows artists to show their work," as well as providing art lovers with the chance to purchase such artwork. Ultimately, it is hoped that the exhibition will help "stimulate artistic production in Macau, particularly [among the youth]."

The exhibition is open to the public at Casa Garden until November 30.

187 aircrafts sold at Zhuhai's air show

The 11th China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition closed last Sunday, with a total of 187 aircrafts sold during the six-day event in Zhuhai. More than 700 exhibitors from 42 countries and regions displayed their products at the exhibition, with 45 percent of these coming from outside China. Some 164 groups, comprising political and military representatives from around the world visited the event. A total of 402 contracts, agreements, and cooperation deals were signed, with a total worth of more than USD40 billion.

Former police head fined for car accident


The police force has fined the former head of the technology department of the Public Security Forces Affairs Bureau, surnamed Leong, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Leong was caught on June 25 this year after causing an accident at the Estr. Alm. Marques Esparteiro, resulting in injuries to both his head and hands. Leong was fined in accordance with the force's internal regulations and has since tendered his resignation from the department, which the police force has approved.

FACULTY OF FINE ART SORELY NEEDED

AT SATURDAY night's opening ceremony, Ana Paula Cleto of the Macau Delegation of the Orient Foundation, reiterated a stance she has previously made known on several occasions: that Macau sincerely requires a faculty of fine arts. Cleto argued that it is

crucial that the government steps up to promote the establishment of such a school or department, in order to foster artistic talents among the local youth. She expressed her dismay that little progress had been made to this end so far.

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Tunnels connecting Colina da Guia to NAPE open for pedestrians



Julie Zhu

TWO pedestrian tunnels connecting Pavilhão Cheok Kun, Calçada do Gaio and Colina da Guia will be complete soon, the head of the Infrastructures Department of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Wong Chio Man, said at a press conference yesterday.

The two tunnels are located in front of the Hotel da Guia and are connected to the nearby res-

ting zone of Pavilhão Cheok Kun.

The first is 55 meters long and will connect pedestrians to the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) and the Colina da Guia. The other is 30 meters long and will lead pedestrians to Calçada do Gaio, where there is a public exercise zone. There will be elevators and stairs at the ends of both tunnels, leading to both Colina da Guia and Calçada do Gaio.

A bridge that connects both tunnels has been built at the

common area at the Pavilhão Cheok Kun. Coming down from the top level, passengers can walk across the bridge and then take elevators to the Zona de Aterros do Porto Exterior (NAPE).

Each tunnel will be open on a different day. Today at 10 a.m. the tunnel connecting the resting area of Pavilhão Cheok Kun with Colina da Guia will be open. The second one is expected to open on November 17.

With the opening of the first

tunnel, the traffic arrangement at the Calçada da Vitória will resume two-way operations. In addition, traffic lights at Estr. de Cacilhas will be shut down when the tunnel is put into service.

The two tunnels, along with other facilities, are part of the government's plan to connect Rua da Encosta, NAPE and Colina da Guia. Wong said the whole project costs around MOP180 million, with the two tunnels costing approximately MOP100 million, and added that the opening is – to an extent – an early preparation for the Grand Prix.

Currently, there are few signs along the tunnels. Wong announced that the authorities will follow up on this matter soon. The tunnel will be open 24 hours a day, the same as other tunnels in the city.

Pedestrians can pass through the tunnels to cross Estr. dos Parses or Estr. de Cacilhas.

New Macau alerts UN to construction project near lighthouse

THE New Macau Association (ANM) sent a letter to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in regard to the government's approval of the construction of a residence at Calçada do Gaio. The Macau government recently approved an 81-meter construction limit for the residential project, which reportedly goes against the city's regulations on the height of buildings around world heritage site Guia Lighthouse.

In 2007, local residents wrote a letter to UNESCO complaining about construction projects around Farol da Guia. UNESCO then issued a warning to the Macau government, which led former Chief Executive Edmund Ho to sign a notice regulating height restrictions on buildings around the site.

ANM hopes UNESCO will pay close attention to the activities of the Macau government and make every effort to prevent the government from destroying the city's cultural heritage.

ANM President Scott Chiang said the government appears to be bowing to real estate developers and letting commercial benefits take precedence over Macau's cultural resources. He believes the approval will reduce international societies' confidence in the Macau government's protection of world heritage sites.

Chiang also expressed his fear that a historical part of Macau might be eliminated from the UN's world heritage list.

FINANCE

Credit cards in circulation up 2.1 percent

THE total number of personal credit cards in circulation continued to grow in the third quarter of 2016, according to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macao. Credit card turnover and repayments also increased from the previous quarter.

The number of personal credit cards in circulation reached 1,031,218 at the end of September 2016, an increase of 2.1 percent from the previous quarter. Analyzed by denominated currency, the number of MOP cards, HKD cards and RMB cards accounted for 730,162, 87,607 and 213,449 respectively at the end of the month.

Compared to a year ago, MOP and HKD

cards rose by 12.5 percent and 9.8 percent respectively, while RMB cards – the majority of which are MOP/RMB dual-currency cards – increased by about 25 percent.

At the end of September 2016, the credit limit per card granted by banks in Macau reached MOP24 billion, a 1.6 percent increase from the end of June 2016.

Credit card receivables amounted to MOP2.3 billion while the rollover amount totaled MOP718.5 million, accounting for 31.5 percent of credit card receivables.

For the third quarter of 2016, credit card turnover grew 3.1 percent quarter-to-quarter to MOP4.7 billion. The cash advance turnover was MOP220.7 million,



accounting for 4.7 percent of total credit card turnover. Credit card repayments grew 8 percent from the previous quarter to MOP4.8 billion.

The delinquency ratio – the ratio of delinquent amount overdue for more than three months against credit card receivables – edged up from 1.46 percent at the end of the previous quarter to 1.51 percent at end of September.

corporate bits

IRISH THEATRICAL SHOW TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN



A scene from Riverdance Trading Taps

The Venetian Macao, Beijing Joyway Promotions and Phoenix Live Entertainment International will present "Riverdance – The 20th Anniversary World Tour" at The Venetian Theatre from January 24 to February 5, 2017.

The show is an innovative blend of dance and music that draws on Irish traditions and has been seen live by over 25 million people worldwide.

For the 20th Anniversary World Tour, the show inclu-

des new costumes, lighting and projections and the addition of a brand new song, "Anna Livia", featuring the female members of the Irish dance troupe in an a cappella hard-shoe number.

For over 20 years, few entertainment concepts have carried the 'energy, sensuality and spectacle' of Riverdance, according to a press release issued by Sands China. Beginning as the interval act in the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest, the seven-minute dance piece was developed into a full-length stage show by Moya Doherty, Bill Whelan and John McColgan.

Tickets for the shows go on sale today at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.

AIR SEYCHELLES TO INTRODUCE ANOTHER A330 AIRCRAFT

Air Seychelles, the national airline of the Republic of Seychelles, has announced a major fleet and network expansion. The airline will introduce a second Airbus A330 aircraft and commence non-stop services to Düsseldorf, Germany and Durban, South Africa.

According to its press release, the move will strengthen its existing regional network in early 2017.

The airline plans to establish the air bridge between Seychelles and Germany on March 30, 2017 by launching a twice-weekly service to Düsseldorf in western Germany.

To further strengthen its European network, Air Seychelles will also increase its



Paris service from three to four flights per week starting March 28, 2017, offering more travel options to holidaymakers visiting Seychelles from France.

Effective March 30, 2017, the Seychelles flag carrier

will also commence a twice-weekly service to South Africa's port city of Durban, a trade hub that is home to over three million people. This will complement its existing five-a-week flights to Johannesburg.



Music memorabilia is displayed on a wall at the Hard Rock Cafe Hong Kong

GAMING

Hard Rock joins race for Japan casino, plans 'major investment'



Hamish Dodds, chief executive officer of Hard Rock Cafe International Inc., poses for a photograph in Hong Kong

Grace Huang, Daniela Wei

HARD Rock Cafe International Inc. is prepared to make a "major investment" in Japan as lawmakers propose to renew the debate on legalizing casinos in the country.

The U.S. cafe and casino chain is looking for partners to jointly bid for a license in anticipation that the legislature will approve gaming resorts, Chief Executive Officer Hamish Dodds said.

"We can either play a lead role or a partnership role," Dodds said in an interview in Tokyo. "We really hope that we can collaborate with Japanese partners and institutions."

Hard Rock joins operators including Las Vegas Sands Corp. and MGM Resorts International in looking to start projects in Japan as legislators propose to reintroduce a bill that would lead to legalizing casinos, which the country has been considering on-and-off for at least a decade. The privately-held company, which is expanding in China with rock'n'roll music-themed hotels and restaurants, said it gets more than half of its USD4.5 billion revenue from its gaming business.

"The Japanese gaming market is to be the holy grail," said Aaron Fischer, an analyst at CLSA Ltd., said

by phone. He expects casino revenue there could be from \$10 billion to \$40 billion, with the potential to be "bigger than Macau," depending on the number of integrated resorts. Macau's casino industry generated about \$30 billion last year.

The proposal has now regained momentum, said Dodds. A record tourism boom to Japan is helping fuel renewed interest in casinos. There could also be significant domestic demand, he said. Japan's ubiquitous pachinko parlors – pinball-like betting games that exist in a legal grey area – are popular attractions.

Japan last considered an Integrated Resorts Promotion Bill in April 2015, though the legislature failed to act on it amid opposition from legislators concerned about the prospect of increasing gambling addiction. The parliament's lower house may debate casino legislation Nov. 9, the Nikkei news agency reported.

Last week, executives of the largest

The Japanese gaming market is to be the holy grail.

AARON FISCHER

global operators, including MGM Resorts, Las Vegas Sands and Wynn Resorts Ltd. gathered in Tokyo at an integrated resorts and gaming conference to pitch local companies and politicians on their plans should casinos get the green light. Hard Rock was among the attendees.

"The feeling we get is that this is more likely to happen now," said Dodds, who expects the Japanese casino market to be more than \$10 billion. "There's more noise, there's greater discussions in the commercial sector about how and when this will be realized." **Bloomberg**

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 電話 Tel: (853) 28580762 • 傳真 Fax: (853) 28343708
 網址 Website: www.sport.gov.mo • 電子郵件 Email: info@sport.gov.mo

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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

HSBC says profit up as cost-cutting advances



HSBBC Corp. said yesterday its latest quarterly profit rose nearly 7 percent over a year earlier as the global bank cut costs and revenue rose.

Profit in the third quarter rose to USD5.6 billion, HSBC reported. Revenue rose 2 percent to \$12.8 billion.

Revenue rose in every global region, said Chief executive Stuart Gulliver in a statement. He said an initiative to cut costs has achieved \$2.8 billion of annualized savings.

The latest figures were an improvement over the first half of the year, when HSBC said profit fell 29 percent due to market volatility and uncertainty about China's outlook and Britain's future in Europe.

"Our third-quarter perfor-

mance reflected the strength of our network and the deepening impact of our strategic actions," said Gulliver's statement. "Our global universal banking model generated higher adjusted revenue than for the same period last year, and our cost reduction programs continued to reduce our operating expenses."

HSBC is in the midst of a reorganization aimed at focusing on faster-growing Asia, where it makes about two-thirds of its profit. However, that has meant a bigger impact on earnings as Chinese economic growth cools.

The bank said it recognized a \$1.7 billion loss on the sale of its Brazil unit to Banco Bradesco S.A., which was completed on July 1. **AP**

Ferrari raises forecasts after record third quarter earnings



Colleen Barry

ITALIAN luxury sports car maker Ferrari NV revised its earnings guidance upward yesterday after reporting a record third-quarter profit of 113 million euros (USD126 million), up 20 percent over last year.

The company, based in the northern Italian city of Maranello, raised its estimate for full-year earnings before interest, taxes and amortization to above 850 million euros, from above 800 million euros previously. It lowered its estimated debt at the end of the year to below 700 million euros.

Revenue in the quarter was up 8 percent to 783 million euros (\$873.7 million), helped by the success of 12-cylinder models, notably the F12tdf, the four-seat GTC4Lusso and the newly launched LaFerrari Aperta convertible. The company also reported higher engine revenues on Maserati sales and rentals to

other Formula 1 teams as well as an increase in sponsorship and brand earnings, attributed to Ferrari's improved showing on the Formula 1 circuit.

Ferrari reported shipments of 1,978 vehicles, up 29 units from the previous year.

By region, sales rose in Europe, the Americas and greater China, while decreasing in the rest of Asia due to logistical delays caused by a shipment carrier.

The group confirmed its forecast of shipments for the year at around 8,000 units, with revenues above 3 billion euros.

Shares rose 5 percent in Milan yesterday, to 48.53 euros. The stock has risen 11 percent since the beginning of the year, when it spun off from mass-market parent Fiat Chrysler.

In New York trading, Ferrari shares have increased slightly more than 6 percent since the beginning of the year. The stock has dropped slightly more than 1 percent in the last 12 months. **AP**



Ryanair shares surge on plans to carry 200 million by 2024

Shawn Pogatchnik

RYANAIR shares rose 5 percent yesterday after Europe's top budget airline said it expects to carry more than 200 million passengers annually by 2024, 11 percent higher than previously forecast.

The Dublin-based carrier offered the stronger long-term outlook as part of its half-year results for the tourism-driven April-September period, when the airline carries the bulk of its customers.

Ryanair shook off last month's profits warning pegged to the summer slide in the value of the British pound following the United Kingdom referendum to leave the European Union. Ireland is in the euro currency zone but Ryanair does 26 percent of its business in Britain, where customers pay for products priced

in sterling.

The airline said it carried 65 million passengers in the first half of the fiscal year, a 12 percent gain versus April-September 2015. Sales increased 2 percent to 4.1 billion euros (USD4.6 billion) while net profit rose 7 percent to nearly 1.19 billion euros (\$1.32 billion).

Ryanair expects to carry a company-record 119 million passengers in this fiscal year as the airline pursues a strategy of relentless expansion across the continent, most prominently Germany.

Chief Executive Michael O'Leary says Ryanair plans this winter to expand services in Berlin and Frankfurt and open six new bases in the German cities of Hamburg and Nuremberg as well as Bucharest, Romania; Prague, Czech Republic; Vilnius, Lithuania, and Bournemouth on England's south

coast.

O'Leary said he stood by the airline's negatively revised profits forecast issued in mid-October anticipating net profits of 1.3 billion euros to 1.35 billion euros when full-year fiscal 2017 earnings are published in May. He said profits would be constrained by the airline's policy of filling aircraft by offering steeply discounted fares when necessary.

Fares fell 10 percent in the April-September period to an average price of 50 euros (\$55.35) per one-way ticket, an approach that allowed Ryanair to set a new load factor record of 95 percent of seats sold.

Ryanair shares surged on the Irish Stock Exchange to a 4 1/2-month high of 13.54 euros, nearly reaching a level last seen hours before the U.K. vote June 23 to leave the EU. **AP**

AP EXPLAINS

Beijing's intervention in Hong Kong legislature



Li Fei, deputy secretary general of the National People's Congress Standing Committee

DECISION TO BAR TWO LEGISLATORS

China's legislature, the National People's Congress, issued an interpretation of the Basic Law, Hong Kong's mini constitution, stating that two legislators could not take their seats after refusing to make the official oath of office. According to Beijing-backed Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, it was only the fifth time that China's central government has issued such a ruling since the former British colony reverted to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. The NPC Standing Committee would not have taken such a step "if there was no need for it," Leung said yesterday following the announcement. Beijing's ruling circumvents a legal challenge filed by the Hong Kong government, which continues despite being rendered essentially moot.

BY-ELECTION TO BE HELD IF LAWMAKERS CAN'T TAKE THEIR SEATS

A by-election will be held to fill the seats of the two members of the Youthspiration party, Sixtus Leung, 30, and Yau Wai-ching, 25, who altered their oaths to insert a derogatory Japanese expression for China. However, the NPC made no ruling on whether the two could run again for their original seats, and if they were to do so and be successful, "we could be back where we're at," said Simon Young, an associate dean at Hong Kong University's law school. In such a case, Young said, they would likely be wiser in reading their oaths correctly and assuming their positions.

REASONS BEHIND CHINA'S DECISION TO INTERVENE

China has grown increasingly concerned with an anti-Beijing trend among young Hong Kongers that manifested itself most dramatically in the 2014 Occupy Central protest movement. That action shut down parts of the city for weeks as part of a campaign to demand open nominations for the 2017 election of Hong Kong's chief executive by a small panel of mostly pro-Beijing elites, and inspired a new wave of political awareness among the young. As that movement was unfolding, Chinese President Xi Jinping was presiding over a wide-ranging crackdown on activists and legal professionals on the mainland. With the two legislators' case already in front of a Hong Kong court, the NPC likely ruled out of "impatience and fear that the court might decide otherwise," Young said.

REASONS FOR HONG KONG'S YOUTHFUL OPPOSITION MOVEMENT

Young Hong Kong residents, some of whom weren't even born when the territory was still a British colony, see little to identify with in the Communist Party and want a democratic process that they can feel part of. At the same time, they are under growing economic pressure and face reduced job opportunities, which they blame in part on heightened competition from the Chinese economic juggernaut. The abduction to the mainland of Hong Kong booksellers who published tomes on sensitive political topics has also raised concerns about new restrictions on freedom of speech and the rise of self-censorship.

DIVISIONS LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN LEGCO

Hong Kong faces a crucial test with next year's chief executive selection process, overseen by Beijing at every level. Although Leung Chun-ying is considered a safe bet for another term, he faces increasing competition from within the pro-Beijing camp — including from other senior government officials. Meanwhile, the Legislative Council remains divided between the opposition which enjoys support from younger voters, and the pro-Beijing establishment rooted in the business community. In the near-term, protests in the chamber are expected to continue.

Gerry Shih, Beijing
Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

CHINA'S top legislature yesterday effectively barred two democratically elected separatist lawmakers from taking office in Hong Kong, an intervention into a local political dispute that's likely to spark further turmoil in the southern Chinese city.

The National People's Congress Standing Committee in Beijing issued a ruling on a section of Hong Kong's mini-constitution covering oaths taken by officials that meant two newly elected pro-independence lawmakers, who displayed anti-China sentiment during their swearing-in last month, would be disqualified.

The move is likely to trigger protests in Hong Kong, where thousands of people took to Hong Kong streets Sunday after Beijing signaled it was planning to intervene. They demanded that China's central government stay out of the political dispute, saying the move would undermine the city's considerable autonomy and independent judiciary by bypassing its top court, where the case is currently being heard.

Police used pepper spray and batons against some demonstrators trying to reach Beijing's liaison office after the rally ended. Four people were arrested and two officers were injured, police said.

The dispute centers on two newly elected pro-independen-

HONG KONG

In unprecedented a

ce lawmakers, Sixtus Leung, 30, and Yau Wai-ching, 25, who altered their oaths to insert a disparaging Japanese expression for China. Displaying a flag reading "Hong Kong is not China," they vowed to defend the "Hong Kong nation." Their oaths were ruled invalid, but subsequent attempts have resulted in mayhem in the legislature's weekly sessions.

In the interpretation published yesterday, the top legislative panel in Beijing said talk of independence for Hong Kong is intended to "divide the country" and severely harms the country's unity, territorial sovereignty and national security. It also said those who advocate for independence for Hong Kong are not only disqualified from election and from assuming posts as lawmakers but should also be investigated for their legal obligations.

At a briefing for reporters in Beijing, Li Fei, a deputy secretary general of the NPC Standing Committee, denied that the central government was escalating its interference in Hong Kong's affairs.

Hong Kong's Basic Law — the city's mini-constitution — stipulates that Beijing holds the legal

power to make interpretations, and it is the central government's duty to step in when there is a difference of legal opinion, Li said. He also warned that promoting independence was not a matter of freedom of speech.

"Breaking 'one-country two-systems' is violating the law, not voicing a political view," said Li, referring to a principle under which Beijing is supposed to let Hong Kong keep its capitalist economic and political system separate from mainland China's until 2047.

The central government's stance is absolute, he said, adding, "There will be no leniency."

Eddie Chu, an independent pro-democracy lawmaker in Hong Kong, said Beijing was making a "needless intervention" with its interpretation because Hong Kong's courts could have handled the dispute.

"They are trying to create a rhetoric about the independence movement" to deter those who seek greater self-determination for the city, Chu said. "And Sixtus and Yau Wai-ching are the first victims in this new legal net."

Chu, Leung and Yau were among pro-democracy candidates elected for the first time in

LOU JIWEI

Gov't replaces finance minister amid debt, stimulus efforts



Lou Jiwei

CHINA'S government replaced its finance minister yesterday with a veteran of its tax bureau, prompting expectations communist lea-

ders plan changes in the tax system.

A government announcement that Lou Jiwei, one of China's most prominent figures in global finance, will step down gave no reason, but Lou is 65, an age at which Cabinet ministers traditionally retire. He will be succeeded by one of his deputies, Xiao Jie.

The choice of Xiao, who headed China's tax bureau in 2007-2013, prompted speculation the leadership is preparing to roll out tax changes, possibly including China's first nationwide property tax.

The ruling party has been gradually expanding its narrow tax base, which relies on corporate income tax and sales taxes on real estate. That has forced local governments to rely on land sales for venue, encouraging urban sprawl.

Xiao earlier oversaw two trials of property taxes in Shanghai and the western city of Chongqing.

China's government has indicated a property tax will be implemented starting in 2018, according to Brian Jackson of IHS Markit.

Xiao's background suggests his ministry will "leverage his experience in formulating and implementing new tax policies that will help put China on a more sustainable fiscal revenue path," Jackson said in a report.

Lou became the finance minister in 2013 after serving as chairman of China's sovereign wealth fund, the China Investment Corp.

Xiao is lower-profile but has been a member of the ruling party's Central Committee since 2007, while Lou became a full member in 2012. AP

AP PHOTO

Reporter
Great Ha

act, China bars two lawmakers from LegCo



People try to grab copies of press statements of interpretation of Hong Kong's Basic Law released by an officer before a press conference at the NPC of the People in Beijing

September who advocate greater autonomy for Hong Kong. Leung and Yau are members of the radical Youngspiration party.

Hong Kong's government will fully implement the interpreta-

tion, said Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, the Beijing-backed leader of the semiautonomous Chinese region.

He told a packed news briefing in Hong Kong that the Youngspiration duo had not only advocated for independence for Hong Kong, but "even insulted the country and the Chinese people in their words and deeds."

"Their conduct has caused widespread indignation in Hong Kong and across the country," Leung said.

Beijing officials struck a similar note in the closing moments of yesterday's briefing, which took an unexpected turn as Li, the standing committee official, revived the accusation that the oath-takers had intentionally used a Japanese term to smear the Chinese people.

Li decried the two as "traitors" and recounted Japanese World War II atrocities in Hong Kong in graphic detail, telling of nurses raped and bodies bayoneted and tossed into the Hong Kong harbor.

"I hope the people of Hong Kong won't forget the history of Japanese invaders," he said. "All the traitors who sell out the country never have good endings." AP

Those who advocate for independence for HK are not only disqualified from election and from assuming posts as lawmakers but should also be investigated for their legal obligations.

NPC RULING

NPC approves law to tighten control on internet use

CHINA'S legislature approved a cybersecurity law yesterday that human rights activists warn will tighten political controls and foreign companies say might hamper access to Chinese technology markets.

Chinese authorities say the law is required to prevent crime and terrorism. It also prohibits activity aimed at "overthrowing the socialist system," a reference to challenges to the ruling Communist Party's monopoly on power.

Chinese leaders promote internet use for business and education but try to block access to material deemed subversive or obscene. The country has the biggest population of Internet users at 710 million, according to government data.

The latest measure approved by the National People's Congress requires companies to enforce censorship and aid in investigations and imposes standards for security technology. It tightens controls on where Chinese ci-

tizens' data can be stored.

Human rights groups complain it will extend controls on a society in which media are controlled by the ruling party and the internet has provided a rare forum for individuals to express themselves to a large audience.

"The new cyber-security law tightens the authorities' repressive grip on the internet," said Patrick Poon, a China researcher for Amnesty International, in a statement. "It goes further than ever before in codifying abusive practices, with a near total disregard for the rights to freedom of expression and privacy."

Passage of the law comes amid a crackdown on dissent under Communist Party leader Xi Jinping in which hundreds of human rights activists and legal professionals have been detained or questioned.

A coalition of business groups warned in August the latest proposed measures might limit access to China's market for security technology in violation



of Beijing's World Trade Organization commitments. Business groups have complained Beijing increasingly is using regulation to try to squeeze foreign competitors out of promising industries.

"We believe this is a step backwards for innovation in China that won't do much to improve security," said James Zimmerman, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, in a statement. He said it will

"create barriers to trade and innovation."

The law's requirements for national security reviews and data sharing will "unnecessarily weaken security and potentially expose personal information," said Zimmerman. He said some measures "seem to emphasize protectionism rather than security."

Chinese authorities cite the need to protect banks and other industries. But officials of Chinese in-

dustry groups quoted in the state press have said previous restrictions on use of foreign security technology also were intended to shield the country's fledgling providers from competition.

Computer hacking is a chronic source of tension between Beijing and Washington. Foreign security researchers point to China as a major source of hacking attacks aimed at stealing trade secrets. In 2014, American prosecutors charged five Chinese military officers with hacking and economic espionage against six U.S. companies.

Chinese authorities deny they encourage hacking and say their country is a victim of cyberattacks.

Yesterday, a Chinese official defended the law and rejected suggestions it was meant to keep out foreign vendors.

"Any company that wants to come in, as long as they obey Chinese laws, serve the interests Chinese consumers, we welcome them to come in, and

to prosper together," said Zhao Zeliang, director-general of the cybersecurity bureau of the Cyberspace Administration of China, at a news conference.

Business groups say a provision requiring security technology to be "secure and controllable" might require providers to tell Chinese authorities how their products work, raising the risk trade secrets might be leaked.

The coalition in August said the proposed measures did nothing to improve security and might weaken data protection.

Zhao tried to quell concern about the "secure and controllable" passage, saying criticism of it was based on "a misunderstanding, a bias."

"Our requirements have been consistent: Vendors must not use their position as service providers to get user information or data," he said. "Vendors cannot use their positions to illegally control and damage systems. Vendors must not harm fair competition or consumers." AP

PHILIPPINES

Abu Sayyaf claims to have kidnapped German, killed woman

Jim Gomez, Manila

A German kidnapped by Somali pirates eight years ago may now be held captive by Islamic militants in the southern Philippines, the country's military said yesterday after finding the man's yacht and a woman's body inside.

Regional military spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan said Abu Sayyaf spokesman Muamar Askali had claimed the militants kidnapped Jurgen Gustav Kantner and killed his female companion while the couple were cruising off neighboring Malaysia's Sabah state.

It's not clear why the woman was purportedly killed, but it's possible she may have fought back or tried to escape, Tan and another military official said.

Villagers reported finding a dead woman lying beside a shotgun on board a light blue yacht with the German flag and marked "Rockall" off Laparan Island in Sulu province, Tan said. The southern province is where ransom-seeking militants have held many hostages in tropical jungle encampments.

Kantner, 69, and his wife were reportedly kidnapped off Somalia on board the Rockall in 2008 and later freed by Somali



Philippine Navy board the yacht marked "Rockall" after being found abandoned off the Sulu Sea in the southern Philippines over the weekend

pirates, Tan said. Authorities did not know whether the woman kidnapped in Somalia is the same woman who was killed.

Troops took custody of the woman's body and the yacht yesterday. Both were being examined by police investigators in Tawi Tawi province near Sulu, the military's Western Mindanao Command said in a statement.

"Alarming is that the body found was naked and had several contusions to the face and

was possibly raped," the military said.

In Berlin, Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer said German authorities were working with their Philippine counterparts to learn what happened.

"We can and will confirm such reports [...] only when German consular employees have really established without doubt, with their own eyes and ears or by other means, that they are correct," Schaefer said. "We're not there yet."

The Abu Sayyaf, which is blacklisted by the U.S. and the Philippines as a terrorist organization, holds more than a dozen foreign and local hostages.

Abu Sayyaf and allied gunmen have committed many attacks at sea despite efforts by the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia to jointly shore up security along their busy sea border. Indonesians and Malaysians have been kidnapped from tugboats and fishing boats in recent months.

Indonesia's Foreign Ministry confirmed receiving information about the separate kidnappings of two Indonesian skippers of vessels off Sabah over the weekend, saying it was touch with Malaysian and Philippine government officials about the latest kidnappings.

Indonesia's government has called on Indonesian crewmen in Sabah to avoid sailing in the risky waters until security has improved, the ministry said.

The kidnappings have continued despite one of the largest military offensives against Abu Sayyaf, mainly in Sulu and the nearby island province of Basilan, involving more than 6,000 troops, navy gunboats and rocket-firing air force aircraft.

Without a known foreign

source of funds, Abu Sayyaf has survived mostly on ransom kidnappings, extortion and other acts of banditry.

A confidential Philippine government threat assessment report seen by The Associated Press said the militants have pocketed at least 353 million pesos (USD7.3 million) from ransom kidnappings in the first six months of the year and have turned to abductions of foreign tugboat crewmen as military offensives restricted their mobility.

Anticipating that the Abu Sayyaf may soon demand the German to be ransomed off, Tan appealed for people to follow the Philippine government's no-ransom policy.

"If we give in to ransom, a greater damage will be done. They can use the money to buy arms and to feed their bandits and that will fuel again the tendency for them to kidnap," Tan said. "It becomes a lucrative business."

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who took office June 30, has ordered troops to destroy the Abu Sayyaf and has ruled out the possibility of any peace talks with them. He has pursued talks with two other larger Muslim insurgent groups.

The government report said the Abu Sayyaf had 481 fighters with 438 firearms in the first half of the year, but the military reported last week that it had killed 70 of the militants and captured 32 others since July in Basilan and Sulu, a Muslim province about 950 kilometers south of Manila. AP

MYANMAR

Railway for Yangon slow-paced window into past



A woman walks on a platform at Yangon Central Railway Station

MYANMAR'S commercial capital is fast shedding its sleepy backwater trappings as the city builds new roads, hotels and office buildings, but the Circle Line railway remains a world apart from the traffic jams and chaos of Yangon's streets.

Long overdue for upgrades, the 46-kilometer line slowly trundles through 38 stations around the city, past tin shacks and fields of watercress, palm trees and bananas, gated communities and factory zones.

The railway opened in 1877 when Myanmar, then known as Burma, was

a colony of Britain. British forces destroyed Yangon's ornate central station in 1943 during World War II, as they fled the city ahead of Japanese troops.

The station appears little changed since it reopened in 1954. At 100 kyats to 200 kyats (8 to 16 cents) a ride, depending on distance, it's the cheapest public transport option for traveling around the city of 7.4 million, carrying more than 100,000 people a day.

Commuters traipse across its tracks, squatters bed down on the train platforms. Hawkers board to sell fish, tangerines, SIM cards, and then climb

back off to wait for more customers.

A group of kids, not quite teenagers, climbs aboard, hauling homemade bird houses left over from a day of peddling downtown. Back and forth through the carriage, they take turns gazing out the door before eventually alighting, chattering and laughing, at a stop far out in the suburbs.

Japan's aid agency has drawn up a master plan for rebuilding Yangon station and modernizing the trains. Yangon invited tenders for the project, but progress has lagged.

Only traveling at most a bit over 20 kilometers an hour, the train is clean but no-frills, its open windows the only breeze on a stuffy evening. The view: an intimate glimpse into kitchens, open-air sports bars packed with men watching soccer on big screen color TVs, fathers holding toddlers up to watch the train pass.

Only after the sun has disappeared and dark has fully fallen are dim lights switched on, as the train slowly heads back toward the Yangon terminus. AP

MYANMAR

Police suspect colleague in British teacher's death



The apartment in which a British teacher was found dead

POLICE say a British teacher has been found dead with chest and head wounds in a colleague's apartment in Yangon and another British man is the suspect.

The body of 47-year old Peter Gary Ferguson was found Sunday morning after he had been out drinking the night before. He worked at an international school in Yangon, Myanmar's commercial capital.

Police have opened a criminal case against Ferguson's 25-year old colleague, Harris John Italo Binotti, who left the country soon after his death.

"We suspect his colleague at the moment because the other teacher has left the country today without informing anyone," a police officer in Kyauktada township said Sunday.

Police said Ferguson's body was sent to the morgue at Yangon General Hospital for an examination of the wounds. AP

Nirmala George, New Delhi

BREXIT ON THE AGENDA

India, Britain talk trade and investment during May's visit

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May and her Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, held talks yesterday aimed at deepening ties between their countries and boosting trade and investment as the U.K. prepares to leave the European Union.

May arrived in New Delhi late Sunday on her first trip outside of Europe since she became prime minister in July. She was accompanied by trade officials and a large business delegation consisting predominantly of small and medium-sized businesses.

The talks between the two leaders focused on bringing down trade barriers and preparing the ground for a free-trade deal after Britain leaves the EU.

Modi hopes to attract British companies to invest in India and urge Britain to ease visa restrictions on Indian business leaders traveling to the U.K., while May would also like Indian companies to invest more in Britain. In recent years, India has emerged as the third-biggest investor in Britain.

According to Britain's trade office, India is the second-largest international job creator in the country, with Indian

AP PHOTO



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right), shakes hand with his British counterpart Theresa May

companies currently employing more than 100,000 people.

Earlier yesterday, Modi and May inaugurated a technology summit to boost trade in advanced scientific and technology businesses.

"Britain is open for business," May told delegates at the India-U.K. Tech Summit, billed as

South Asia's biggest technology conference.

The contentious issue of easing visa rules for Indians to enter the U.K. has figured prominently during May's visit.

Modi told the technology summit that greater mobility for young Indians was important for India.

"Education is vital for our students and will define our engagement in a shared future," Modi said. "We must therefore encourage greater mobility and participation of young people in education and research opportunities."

May said a small number of "high net worth" individuals would find it easier to enter Britain as visa restrictions would be relaxed for them.

She said Indian business leaders who frequently visit the U.K. would be allowed entry under a "registered traveler scheme," a program that has so far been extended only to citizens of developed countries.

For the rest, she insisted that the U.K. "already has a good system" for visa applications from India.

Indian officials said the tightening of visa rules was responsible for a sharp decline in the number of Indian students enrolling in British universities.

"We will continue to raise our

concerns regarding mobility with the U.K.," said Vikas Swarup, spokesman of India's Ministry of External Affairs. "Mobility of people is closely linked to free flow of finance, goods and services."

With concerns over economic stagnation and uncertainty as Britain exits the EU, May said her government wanted to "ensure that the U.K. remains one of the most attractive countries in the world to do business and invest."

She said the U.K. and India were "natural partners."

"As the U.K. leaves the EU and India continues its rise in the world, we should seize the opportunities ahead," May said in a statement at the end of her talks with Modi.

The two leaders discussed defense cooperation and cyber security and agreed to work together to safeguard their countries from emerging security threats, she said. **AP**

AD

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A capacity crowd listens to early speakers at the University of North Florida Arena in Jacksonville, as they wait for President Barack Obama to speak at a campaign rally for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally

Bill Barrow, Atlanta

USA ELECTIONS

In White House math, certain places offer clues on outcome

DID Donald Trump succeed in at last winning over college-educated whites uneasy with the billionaire reality TV star? Did he drive a wave of working-class white voters? Did Hillary Clinton rebuild Barack Obama's winning coalition — young voters, urban liberals and minorities — while picking off moderate Republicans?

Those questions are central to who will win the presidential election, and a handful of locales could provide some early answers on election night.

The Associated Press has identified 10 counties seen as bellwethers for the Trump and Clinton strategies. All come from battleground states in the eastern time zone, where polls close the earliest. Their importance was determined from conversations with Republicans and Democrats, as well as AP's own analysis.

FLORIDA: In 2012, Obama won by about 74,000 votes (0.9 percentage points):

DUVAL

This Republican-leaning county, home to Jacksonville, has a solid white majority and sizable black minority, making it look more like the Deep South than south Florida. So a movement in Trump's favor would mean returns closer to 2004, when George W. Bush won by 60,000 votes, than 2012, when Mitt Romney finished just 16,000 ahead of Obama.

HILLSBOROUGH

Bush and Obama each won Hillsborough (Tampa) twice, and both are two-term presidents. What makes Hillsbo-

rough stand out in 2016 is a growing Mexican-American population. There are already signs that Trump's hard-line immigration stance is driving up the Hispanic vote: A quarter of the Hispanics who cast ballots in the opening days of early voting hadn't voted at all in 2012. An expanded electorate (543,000 voted here in 2012) that is less white would benefit Clinton.

MIAMI-DADE

In Florida's most populous county, older Cuban-Americans fuel Republicans (333,000 votes in 2012), while younger Cuban-Americans, other Hispanics and black voters drive Democratic totals (541,000 in 2012).

If Clinton lags Obama's vote totals with black voters, it could show up here. Trump, meanwhile, could struggle to match the usual Republican performance among Cuban-Americans. Watch for whether Trump's Miami-Dade vote totals lag far behind those of Sen. Marco Rubio, a favorite among his fellow Cuban-Americans.

NORTH CAROLINA: In 2012, Obama lost by 92,000 votes (2 percentage points):

NEW HANOVER

Registered Republicans and Democrats are split almost evenly in Wilmington and sur-

rounding New Hanover County, while independents have risen by 10,000 voters since 2012 to outnumber both parties. Obama lost here by 1.5 percentage points in 2008 and slipped to a 4.5 percentage point deficit in 2012. The margin Tuesday could signal how independents are breaking statewide and beyond North Carolina.

WAKE

In the state's most populous county, the ranks of voters with no party affiliation have grown by almost 50,000 or 24 percent since 2012, while Republican and Democratic registrations have remained roughly level. How those new voters break in a county Obama won by 56,000 votes (11 points) will help determine the statewide outcome and could portend the leanings of urban independents elsewhere.

WATAUGA

This is one of the few nearly all-white counties in the country that split on Obama's two elections. He won by 4 percentage points in 2008, but his vote totals slipped 13 percent in 2012, resulting in a 3-point loss.

Appalachian State University in Boone anchors the population, which is more educated than the broader North Carolina electorate and includes thousands of students — key

Clinton targets. Beyond campus, Watauga has lower income averages and a higher poverty rate, offering Trump an opening.

OHIO: In 2012, Obama won by 166,000 votes (3 percentage points):

BELMONT

This is one of three Ohio River counties Obama won in 2008 but lost in 2012. The county is more than 90 percent white. Fewer voters are college-educated than in the general population and median incomes are lower than the national marks — all factors that play to Trump's strengths. He won here easily in the Republican primary, trouncing home-state Gov. John Kasich.

Obama's vote slipped 13 percent to about 14,000 here in his re-election campaign, while the Republican total climbed 8 percent to almost 17,000. Those totals alone won't flip Ohio to the Republican column, but an uptick for Trump in Belmont could herald gains in similar-profile counties across the state, which has a higher proportion of working-class whites than other battlegrounds.

HAMILTON

This diverse county, home to Cincinnati, has pockets of everything both candidates are looking for. The city has a large

black population. The surrounding areas have college-educated independent and Republican whites Clinton wants, along with working-class whites likely to back Trump. Obama got 225,000 and 220,000 votes here, winning each time by about 6 percentage points. A tighter margin would bode well for Trump.

PENNSYLVANIA: Obama won in 2012 by 310,000 votes (5.4 percentage points):

CHESTER

Obama lost by 0.2 percentage points in 2012, the only metro Philadelphia county he lost after sweeping the metro area in 2008. The Chester population is overwhelmingly white, almost half have college degrees and median income exceeds the national mark. All that makes this county a prime indicator of how Trump is faring among suburban voters who typically back Republicans but are skeptical about Trump.

PHILADELPHIA

In Obama's re-election, his margin in Philadelphia County was much wider than his statewide margin. As rural and small-town counties trend more Republican, the pressure will be on Clinton to replicate that roughly 6-to-1 cushion approaching a 500,000-vote advantage. **AP**

what's ON



PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION COMMEMORATING THE 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. SUN YAT-SEN

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: November 13, 2016

VENUE: Main Hall of Macao Forum, Avenida de Marciano Baptista

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 2886

ADMISSION: Free

AFA AUTUMN SALON, VAFA INTERNATIONAL VIDEO FESTIVAL

TIME: 10am-7pm, (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

VENUE: Orient Foundation, Casa Garden

UNTIL: November 30, 2016

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

EXHIBITION ON THE ARTWORK OF PORTUGAL ARTIST - JORGE MARTINS & EXHIBITION ON THE ARTWORK OF EAST TIMOR ARTIST - ALFEO SANCHES

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 13, 2016

VENUE: Taipa Houses-Museum, Avenida da Praia

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 3368

EXHIBITION ON THE ARTWORK OF MACAO ARTIST - CÉLIA DO ROSÁRIO

TIME: 11am-5pm

VENUE: the residence of the Consul-General of Portugal in the Macao SAR, Rua do Comendador Kou Hó Neng (the former Hotel Bela Vista)

UNTIL: November 13, 2016

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 3368

THRILLER LIVE

TIME: 8pm (Mondays, Tuesdays Wednesdays and Fridays)

2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)

1pm & 6pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: November 13, 2016

VENUE: The Parisian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP280, MOP480

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

THE TRUMPET OF THE TIMES: POET F. HUA-LIN

TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm, closed on Mondays, opened on public holidays)

UNTIL: November 13, 2016

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D

ENQUIRES: (853) 2852 2523

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACAO ARTISTS SOCIETY - A RETROSPECTIVE

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

COLORADO CITY USES TOILET PAPER TO HELP REPAIR CRACKED ROADS

It's not pranksters or vandals who placed toilet paper all over the streets of Littleton, Colorado, it was city workers.

The Denver Post reports (dpo.st/2e9pllw) that Littleton crews have used bathroom tissue to help seal up cracks along more than 120 streets.

Officials say toilet paper was applied with a paint roller over freshly laid tar used to fill asphalt cracks. The paper absorbs the oil from the tar as it dries, keeping it from sticking to pedestrian's shoes or car and bike tires. The biodegradable paper will break down and be gone in a few days.

Littleton spokeswoman Kelli Narde says the toilet paper allows traffic to retake the road more quickly.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
16:00	Nos League: Sporting - Arouca (Repeated)
17:40	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:10	TDM Interview
21:40	Once Upon A Time S1
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

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



1990 IRELAND ELECTS FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT

Voters in the Republic of Ireland have chosen their first female president.

Unofficial returns suggest that Mary Robinson, who is standing as an independent, took nearly 40% of the vote in the first round.

Ireland's system of proportional representation means the result will not be confirmed until tomorrow. But Mrs Robinson's performance in the first round means it is now impossible for anybody else to win.

Senior sources in the camp of her main opponent, former deputy prime minister, Brian Lenihan, have already conceded victory to Mrs Robinson.

It is the first time in 70 years that a presidential candidate put up by Mr Lenihan's party, Fianna Fail, has been defeated.

Mrs Robinson, a Dublin barrister, is considered radical by Irish terms.

A civil and human rights lawyer, she has campaigned for the liberalisation of laws prohibiting divorce and abortion for more than 20 years.

However, she not only won the support of women countrywide but also polled well in traditionally conservative rural areas.

The mother-of-three has been a member of the Irish Senate for more than 20 years.

She twice ran unsuccessfully for parliament as a Labour candidate.

But five years ago she resigned from the Irish Labour party over the Anglo-Irish agreement because she felt unionists in Northern Ireland had not been consulted.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mary Robinson helped transform the role of Irish president from a largely ceremonial position to one of influence.

She resigned a few months before end of her term in 1997 to become the United Nations Commissioner on Human Rights. Her forthright style and uncompromising criticism of some countries' human rights records angered governments around the world.

She made enemies in the United States after with her outspoken criticism of the detention of al-Qaeda suspects at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

In March 2002 Mrs Robinson announced she would not be seeking a second term in the UN post.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Your spiritual side can take care of itself for a bit — you need to deal with your physical needs today! That could just mean hunting for work, but more likely you need to exercise, dance or otherwise blow off steam.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Your belief in yourself is admirable, but you need to tone it down a bit if you're dealing with folks who are in a position to evaluate you. They don't want to see any signs of ego!

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
You know what's best — and today, that could mean almost anything! Your options are pretty solid, and while they may not stay the same forever, you should be able to convince a few others you're right.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You've got a lot to work with, and it's easier than usual to show off what you've got. Flaunting it isn't the same as rubbing others' noses in it, as long as you're respectful of what they've got, too!

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You may be mistaken for a celebrity today by someone who is blinded by your star power. It's fun to play along, but you need to let them down gently before they get all carried away!

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You are not the favorite to win, but you are feeling pretty good about your odds. Things may get a little crazy for you, so see if you can just do your best and make it to the finish line in one piece.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You know what you want — and you should make sure that your people are there to help you define it. Today is all about goals and ambitions, so set yours down and take the all-important first steps.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If you're employed, you may have a serious run-in with the boss today — watch out! If you're looking, this isn't a great time for interviews, so polish up that resume and reach out to your network instead.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You're moving quickly today — and that brings travel to mind. Your great energy craves novelty, and if you can plan or even take off on a trip today, you should feel absolutely grand.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
People are acting like sharks at work — or, worse, in the search for jobs. You may need to sit today out if you don't want to get drawn into the whole mess, but sometimes that's just what you've got to do.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Your impulsive side is making your life much nuttier than usual — and your friends may be both worried and delighted! Something you do or say is sure to keep them talking for years.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
The boss doesn't like it — but you can't help it! Of course, the word 'boss' may mean quite a few things to you, but the situation is the same: You're in trouble. Fortunately it doesn't last too long.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	1	10	clear
Harbin	-14	-4	cloudy
Tianjin	1	11	clear
Urumqi	-3	3	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	5	12	cloudy
Lhasa	-2	15	clear
Chengdu	9	13	drizzle
Chongqing	9	11	moderate rain
Kunming	10	13	moderate rain
Nanjing	9	15	drizzle/overcast
Shanghai	12	18	moderate rain
Wuhan	9	11	drizzle
Hangzhou	12	17	moderate rain
Taipei	21	28	clear/drizzle
Guangzhou	17	24	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	28	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	1	sleet
Frankfurt	0	5	drizzle
Paris	2	5	drizzle
London	0	8	clear/cloudy
New York	3	10	clear

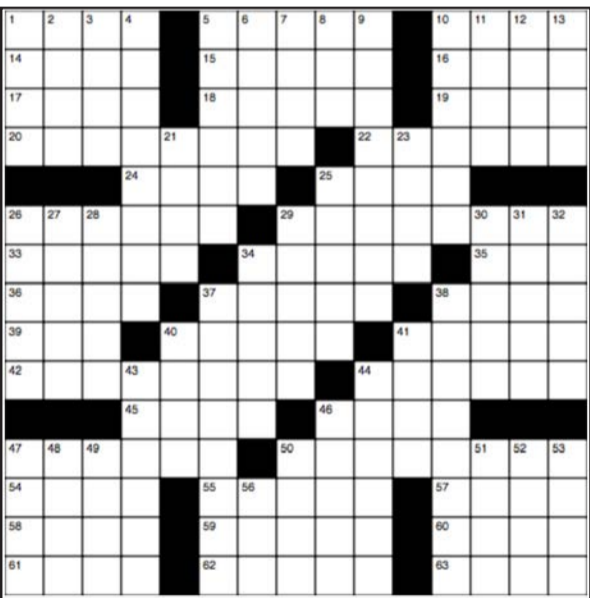
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Hard, in Havana; 5- San Antonio landmark; 10- Elevator man; 14-... saw Elba; 15- Summary; 16- Roy's "singin' pardner"; 17- Describe; 18- Knight's weapon; 19- Joy Adamson's lioness; 20- So to speak; 22- Mischievous person; 24- Jazz flutist Herbie; 25- Wrestling surfaces; 26- Addison's collaborator; 29- Thing that vibrates; 33- Praying figure; 34- I cannot ___ lie; 35- Kid of jazz; 36- Catalog; 37- Nancy Drew author Carolyn; 38- Actor Pitt; 39- Vane dir.; 40- Style; 41- Bobby of the Black Panthers; 42- Unselfish; 44- One engraving; 45- Easy stride; 46- Boring, so to speak; 47- Clan emblems; 50- Sycophant; 54- Fiend; 55- ___ we all?; 57- Western pact; 58- Actor Guinness; 59- "The Family Circus" cartoonist Bil; 60- Dressed; 61- Head of France; 62- Alleviates; 63- Electric fish;

DOWN: 1- Boxer Oscar ___ Hoya; 2- "Exodus" author; 3- Do followers; 4- Salve; 5- She's a Dahl; 6- Get to know; 7- Skin disorder; 8- Brit's raincoat; 9- Performable; 10- Black Sea port; 11- Apply powder to oneself; 12- Role for Ingrid; 13- Authenticating mark; 21- Mickey's creator; 23- Razor name; 25- Pooh's creator; 26- Mends a shoe; 27- Triple; 28- Artist's support; 29- Swerves; 30- Synagogue scroll; 31- Papal garment; 32- U-Haul competitor; 34- Upright; 37- Remembrance; 38- To befall; 40- Grab, slangily; 41- RR stops; 43- Swindle; 44- Thrills; 46- Sesamum indicum; 47- Precisely; 48- Eyeball; 49- Waste allowance; 50- Votes for; 51- Ivy League school; 52- List finish; 53- Staffs; 56- "Michael Collins" actor;

Yesterday's solution

D	A	R	T	S	M	I	T	Z	E	B	R	A
E	L	E	A	E	N	N	E	E	L	I	A	S
J	A	C	K	F	R	O	S	T	L	S	A	T
A	R	T	I	E	R	T	R	E	K	S	E	T
M	O	N	D	A	Y	F	A	V	O	N		
G	O	T	U	P	E	V	A	D	E	D		
T	R	E	N	E	C	E	S	S	A	R	I	L
B	A	L	E	K	A	T	G	A	L	E		
L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	C	A	R	D	S	E
E	D	E	R	L	E	H	E	I	R	S		
S	A	A	R	L	O	I	T	E	R			
A	N	O	B	R	O	S	T	L	A	L	O	C
C	A	R	T	A	D	E	C	O	L	L	A	T
T	H	E	R	M	E	C	R	U	A	T	O	N
E	A	S	Y	A	O	T	O	S	G	E	R	T



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Rules:

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2. Photo must be sent to the our Team Facebook page @cfracingteam32, by private message, stating your name and contact number.
3. The photo that receives most "shares" will automatically Win this Limited Edition Tissot T-Race MotoGP 2016 Automatic watch.
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Tissot Largo de S.Domingos Boutique
Largo de S. Domingos 14, Macao

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Shop 102, Level 1, Shoppes at Parisian, Macao

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AP PHOTO



Cristiano Ronaldo (right), poses with the club's President Florentino Perez

Ronaldo caps 'dream year' after Madrid contract extension

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

LIFE in Madrid certainly seems to agree with Cristiano Ronaldo. The Portugal forward signed a five-year contract extension with Real Madrid yesterday, capping an exceptional year after triumphs with his club in the Champions League and with his national team in the European Championship. "This is the best moment in my life," Ronaldo said. "After

winning the Champions with Madrid, the Euro with Portugal and now having my contract extended, it's a dream year. This is too special. Life is good, I'm telling you."

Wearing jeans, a black jacket and glasses, Ronaldo signed the new five-year contract alongside club president Florentino Perez, then was given a Madrid jersey with the number 2021 on the back.

The deal keeps Ronaldo tied to Madrid until June 2021,

when he will be 36 years old. His previous contract would have ended in 2018.

"It's not my last contract, let's make it clear," he said with a smile.

The three-time world player of the year is Madrid's all-time leading scorer with 372 goals in 360 matches. He has scored more than 50 goals in the last six seasons and is two short of becoming the first player to score 100 goals in European competi-

tions. Ronaldo led Madrid to two Champions League titles and to a Spanish league title, among other trophies.

"I'm not going to lie, I didn't expect to have these great numbers by now," Ronaldo said. "I want to keep making history and giving my best with this jersey. I want to keep doing what I have been doing, scoring goals and helping this club win trophies."

He feels the numbers should be enough to give him a fourth

player of the year award, but said "it's not up to me to vote, so I'm not worried with that."

Ronaldo arrived in Madrid from Manchester United in 2009. He will have played 12 seasons with the Spanish powerhouse if he stays through the end of the new contract.

"Ronaldo has become an icon for this club, the symbol of the

Ronaldo has become an icon for this club, the symbol of the best club in the history of football.

FLORENTINO PEREZ
REAL MADRID PRESIDENT

best club in the history of football," Perez said. "There is no doubt that there will be a 'before Ronaldo' and an 'after Ronaldo' for Real Madrid."

The 31-year-old forward signed the new contract a day after Madrid defeated Leganes 3-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium to retain the Spanish league lead. Ronaldo didn't find the net, extending his scoreless streak at the Bernabeu to five matches, his worst scoring slump at home.

It was another lackluster performance for Ronaldo, who has been facing criticism for an up-and-down start to a season in which he has played below expectations with seven goals in 12 matches. He was jeered at the Bernabeu after a recent disappointing performance in the Spanish league.

"This day is too special to talk about scoring or not scoring," Ronaldo said.

Ronaldo is just the latest Madrid player to have his contract extended past 2020. The club recently reached new deals with Gareth Bale, Luka Modric, Toni Kroos and Lucas Vazquez. **AP**

Macau secures semi-final place in Solidarity Cup

MACAU secured its place in the semi-finals of the 2016 AFC Solidarity Cup on Sunday evening with a 4-1 come-from-behind win over Laos at Sarawak Stadium.

Khamphanh Sonthanalay gave Laos the lead after just three minutes, but goals from Lao Pak Kin and Leong Ka Hang put Macau in front before a

brace by Nicholas Torrao secured all three points for his side, who picked up their second consecutive win.

Macau now leads Group B with six points from their opening two games, which means that it cannot finish outside the top two places. Laos remains on three points, ahead of Sri Lanka and Mongolia.

Coach Tam Iao San hailed his team's spirit and expressed his hopes that his players could focus on the team's defense, particularly after Laos made some changes in the second half.

"We tried to drop back and use the counterattacks and the players did well. They defended well, they organized the coun-

terattacks and I'd like to say thanks to them," said Tam, cited by Fox Sports.

"We already reached our target. Before we came here, our target was to get to the semi-finals and we have achieved that. Now we will fight game by game."

The coach admitted it was difficult to organize the players and to imple-

ment the changes required to play in international matches.

"But we want to encourage Macau football, especially among the young generation. They can work hard and have a model for the top team, so we want to fight game by game."

The AFC Solidarity Cup is an international tour-

nament created for countries that lose the first qualifying round of the 2018 World Cup or the second play-off in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers.

Semi-finals of the tournament will take place this Saturday at Sarawak Stadium, Kuching in Malaysia. The final match will take place on November 15.

opinion

Our Desk

Daniel Beitler



PARIS AND THE PALACE

Two new mega resorts opened in Cotai during the late summer: The Parisian Macao and Wynn Palace. But why has one been off to a sluggish start while the other is posting returns that suggest it may develop into a smash hit?

As is the case with comedy, it seems that resort openings are mostly about timing. The numerous 'delays' – intentional or otherwise – that the two resorts encountered in the run-up to their respective opening dates seem to indicate that their openings have coincided well with the recent gaming resurgence. Gross gaming revenue was up 8.8 percent last month, representing the third consecutive month of gains and the strongest year-on-year growth in more than two years.

Yet despite these figures, not all resorts are faring equally well. While The Parisian can be said to be off to a storming start, Wynn Palace was last week blamed for Wynn Macau's disappointing third quarter profits, which fell short against the expectations of industry analysts.

Was market cannibalization to blame? Wynn Macau's original resort in the MSAR suffered more than analysts expected after its sister property opened in Cotai. The carefully worded conclusion: business at the resort is slower than expected.

Meanwhile, The Parisian Macao, which opened just a few weeks later, seems to be off to a promising start. Las Vegas Sands Corp. saw its profit rise to USD0.72 a share, significantly higher than analysts' prediction of \$0.6 per share.

Perhaps one reason that Sands China has better shielded itself from market cannibalization is simply down to the number of properties it operates in the territory. That alone might soften the blow of a new opening drawing loyal guests away from other properties.

But that can't be the only reason. In The Parisian's opening month, an aggregate of some 19 percent more visitors stopped by Sands China's properties, and the Four Seasons resort posted a 7 percent increase in retail sales. Both statistics are being attributed to The Parisian opening.

It may be more to do with the fact that although the two operators' target markets overlap, they and their markets differ slightly.

Despite Steve Wynn's assurances at the opening of Wynn Palace that the new resort would offer competitive room prices – he specifically maintained that the difference in price between the cheapest rooms at Wynn Palace and the cheapest in the territory is "very tiny" – it turns out that there is a noticeable margin.

That might not have meant much back in 2014 but today, in the far more competitive gaming scene, positioning a resort outside the purchasing power of residents only serves to limit the target market. The Parisian Macao, being that much closer to "new normal" Macau rates, might just have a wider appeal.

Taking this into consideration, one might understand Wynn's recent confession that it underestimated demand for the property's casual dining options in an entirely new light.

As for me, I am not surprised that Wynn Palace has been off to a slow start, but I also didn't anticipate such a warm welcome for The Parisian. In my opinion, neither resort offers anything particularly exciting or revolutionary... but maybe that's just me.

With particular regard to Sands China's latest property, I have always seen it as more of an extension to The Venetian – or at most a re-branding.

"The Venetian is based on Venice, but The Parisian is about Paris!" Sands representatives once assured me when I asked whether they thought there were any tangible differences between the two city-themed resorts.

If The Parisian is best understood as an "extension" of The Venetian, who can blame Sands China? The latter resort is one of the most memorable and distinct resorts in the territory, in my opinion, and the recent results from The Parisian are testimony that the formula is working.

THE CHINA PASSES LAW PUNISHING COMPANIES FOR BOX-OFFICE FRAUD

China is attempting to crack down on box office fraud in the world's second-biggest movie market by setting out punishments for companies that fabricate ticket sales and other data under the country's first film law.

Under the legislation adopted by the Chinese parliament, film distributors and cinemas

that falsify ticket sales data will have their illegal earnings confiscated and be fined up to 500,000 yuan. If they illegally earn more than 500,000 yuan, they will be fined up to five times the amount they illegally made.

They also face being ordered to suspend operations and having their business licenses revoked.

'THRILLA IN MANILA' IN THE MAKING

Ang Lee believes new film technology is worth trying again



Ang Lee

Angela Chen, Taipei

Ang Lee believes the new technology that made for hyper-realistic action in "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" is worth trying again.

So much so the two-time Oscar-winning director will use the faster frames-per-second format in his next project, the boxing movie "Thrilla in Manila."

"When you get on the bike, you fall, you don't make conclusion that two wheels make you fall. You try again. I would do it," he told The Associated Press recently in Taiwan while promoting his film adaptation of the 2012 Ben Fountain book about an American soldier's public-relations tour after fighting in the Iraq war.

The director shot the film in 3D, 4K resolution, at 120 frames-per-second, five times the traditional 24 frames per second. The result is sometimes-jarring realism, with actors' faces seen in unfiltered intimacy and background scenery so detailed it seemed artificial. Lee, however, is pleading with viewers to watch the film with an open mind.

"I think it's a lot to take in. I don't think we should make up our mind yet because it's something that just begin," he said, noting the newness of the technology. "I think it's a legitimately good format for artist expression."

The faster format has other advocates. Peter Jackson tried at a mere 48 frames per second with "The Hobbit" trilogy, and James Cameron has said he will use it in "Avatar" sequels.

With one film completed in the format, Lee said he feels better prepared to tackle its challenges when he works on "Thrilla in Manila," a film scheduled for 2018 about the final fight between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier in the Philippine capital in 1975.

"This movie ["Billy Lynn's"] has the halftone show, show business, from a soldier's perspective, from behind the scene. It has the battle scenes. That ["Thrilla in Manila"] has, of course, boxing with dimension and clarity, you see things you never experience before. I think that's all good. I just thought this format is particularly good to study faces and doing dramatic movies," Lee said.

Born and raised in Taiwan, Lee earned acclaim with Mandarin-language films such as "The Wedding Banquet" and "Eat, Drink, Man, Woman." He soon began making Hollywood films and received Oscars for directing "Brokeback Mountain" and "Life of Pi."

With Chinese investment growing in Hollywood, Lee sees the influx of new money as strengthening the existence of the studio sys-

tem but also hopes it will bring something fresh to the film industry. "I hope the effect is a positive reinforcement. It brings freshness because they're still people who have a lot of dreams," Lee said.

While some might hope Chinese investment will bring diversity in Hollywood, Chinese director Zhang Yimou's "The Great Wall" has been criticized for inserting a white hero into a fictional tale of Chinese history and starring a white actor. But Lee says commercial interests trump other issues at times.

"Matt Damon is Matt Damon. There will be a time when a Chinese star will be more famous," the director said. "We will get our turn."

As for the 2017 Academy Awards, Lee is looking forward to more diverse awards but also believes filmmakers should let their work speak for themselves.

"You make the best movie possible. I don't think about that [diversity] very much, to be honest with you. I think it's important that we make good movies that influence people's lives, inspiring people [that] they can take from the movie. I think the movies will speak for themselves. That's what I believe in."

"Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" hits theaters in the United States, Hong Kong, China and Taiwan on Friday. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

MYANMAR Police say a British teacher has been found dead with chest and head wounds in a colleague's apartment in Yangon and another British man is the suspect. More on p12



AUSTRALIA Police have made an unusual find while searching the bag of a woman who was being arrested. When they asked the 50-year-old woman if she had anything to declare on Sunday night, she handed over a zipped canvas bag that she said contained a baby koala.



INDIA-BRITAIN British Prime Minister Theresa May and her Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, held talks yesterday aimed at deepening ties between their countries and boosting trade and investment as the U.K. prepares to leave the European Union. More on p13

EGYPT-SAUDI ARABIA Egypt said yesterday that Saudi Arabia has halted fuel shipments indefinitely, in a sign of lingering tensions following a dispute over the conflict in Syria.



CYPRUS The United Nations chief yesterday urged the rival leaders of ethnically divided Cyprus to seize the opportunity for a reunification deal that he said is within their grasp.

MONTENEGRO Lawmakers convened yesterday for the first time since last month's election, with opposition parties boycotting the inaugural session amid tensions over an alleged foiled coup attempt orchestrated by Russian nationalists.