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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



CLIMATE Global temperatures are soaring toward a record high this year, the U.N. weather agency said, while another report showed emissions of a key global warming gas have flattened out in the past three years. The reports injected a mix of gloom and hope at U.N. climate talks in Marrakech this week. "Another year. Another record," said Petteri Taalas, the head of the World Meteorological Organization.



CHINA-US Chinese President Xi Jinping reaffirms the importance of relations with the United States in a phone conversation with President-elect Donald Trump, opening communication with a politician who had been strongly critical of China during his campaign. **More on p11**

USA Trump's unforeseen victory has triggered pangs of uncertainty at home and grave concerns around the world. Though Obama has urged unity and said the U.S. must root for Trump's success, the president's trip to Greece, Germany and Peru forces him to confront global concerns about the future of America's leadership. Obama departs today on the six-day trip. **More on p14**

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FOLLOWING SUDDEN RESIGNATION

Müller dubs Film Festival local planners 'amateurs'

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New Zealand plans rescue of tourists stranded by earthquake

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GP SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

Times
"To be successful, it's all about being neat, tidy and smooth"

Daniel Beittler

IN response to the threat of possible legal action made public yesterday during a press conference for the International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM), renowned film director and festival planner Marco Müller (or Mueller) told the Times that he and his lawyers would “welcome” the chance “to reveal everything.”

Denouncing the organizing committee led by Macau Films & Television Productions and Culture Association (MFTPA) as “amateurs”, the former festival director said he was shocked to hear government officials yesterday describing the possibility of legal action against him, without having informed him first.

“I was shocked and surprised – as were my lawyers – that it was announced during the press conference that they were considering legal action against me without even informing me,” he told the Times last night. “In any judicial litigation, you have to inform first the person against which the legal action is going to be conducted, and his lawyers. [Only] then can you go public [with the information].”

“It’s unheard of,” he added in a tone of disbelief and bemusement. “It does prove that they are amateurs for behaving in this sort of way... it is the best testimony to the fact that these people are amateurs.”

The consideration of legal action is in reaction to Müller’s sudden resignation from the IFFAM on Sunday, which some officials regard as a breach of his contract.

Nevertheless, Müller says he welcomes any potential legal challenge as it would give him



INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS MACAO

Müller would ‘welcome’ legal battle as chance to ‘reveal everything’

the opportunity to spill the beans. “We all [Müller and his lawyers] absolutely welcome it!” he said. “It will be a pleasure to reveal everything [...] but until that moment I will not [divulge] the specifics of the disputes.”

With regards to the disputes, the renowned festival planner confirmed information that the Times was privy to yesterday –

namely that they had begun immediately after he assumed the position.

“[As] has been confirmed from a lot of official sources, we had a continuing divergence of opinion about the way [in which] to run a festival. Actually, the divergence of opinion started immediately” after he was hired in February, Müller recalled, describing the months sin-

ce then as “unbearable”.

“Nobody ever asked me anything; my opinion was never valued,” he complained.

Müller also said that the organizing committee of IFFAM had an entirely different approach to preparing to host an international film festival than the director himself, who has nearly 40 years of experience behind him.

“This is the inaugural [edition of] festival,” he emphasized, explaining that more groundwork was required than with the planning of an established festival.

“When you want to invent the first edition of the festival, you need to make sure that you can prove that this festival will be about the films and that everything will done for the people who make the films, those who handle films [and their circulation] and also the people who go to see the films,” continued Müller. “You need to find your audience; you cannot just throw films out like that [...] without knowing your target audience.”

While the festival director was out speaking with professors and students of film across Macau’s tertiary education network, organizers were obsessed with the idea of festival ambassadors, Müller claims.

“The organizers love the idea of having ambassadors. I told them from the beginning: ‘Please don’t do this. Let’s just focus on having two ambassadors – Johnnie To and Ann Hui – because of their strong, emotional [relationship] with Macau.’ So we should have been content with just two, but now we have... I don’t know how many. I don’t care,” he said.

He also lamented the large number of people who had been recruited to work on the planning of the IFFAM, suggesting that it was far above normal.

“I saw an army of people [in Macau],” remarked Müller. “In Venice, one month before the festival, many people would come. [Before] then, there would be a maximum of 16 or 17 people. In Cannes, it’s even fewer.”

Müller had little to say about the appointment of Macau Government Tourist Office chief, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, as acting festival director – even when pressed on the issue – stating his general lack of interest in the decision. “They can do whatever they like,” he said, “I really don’t care about the formal aspect; I only care about the concrete things.”

Müller’s consultants to ensure smooth running

MARCO Müller says that although he will not be around to see the inauguration of the IFFAM, his festival planning consultants will be arriving ten days before its launch to ensure everything runs smoothly.

“My consultants will arrive in Macau ten days before the start of the festival and they will check that everything works. They will check the [technical] conditions and the quality of the subtitles in English and Chinese. They have been doing this for over 20 years. So, we can rest assured that everything will be handled in a [professional] way and that this edition will

be a success,” he told the Times.

It’s very important, he said, because “even a small glitch [during the festival] could damage the international image of Macau for years.”

Müller also expressed his sadness that he will be unable to oversee the festival’s inauguration and opening.

“I am very sad. [...] I have been working in festivals since 1978 – almost 40 years – and it is the very first time in my life that I cannot be present when the festival [opens]. I am reassured only [by the fact] that my consultants will be there,” he said. **DB**

MACAU IS EPICENTER OF NEW WAVE IN FILMMAKING

THE PRESTIGIOUS film director and festival planner told the Times that he has been impressed with the quality of films produced by Macau locals. “I spent as much time as I could with young Macau filmmakers because I think that there is a movement there,” he said. “Something like a new wave is

[emerging]. The [locally-produced] films at the festival are there to prove it... they are really wonderful films.”

Müller also said that the film movement in Macau today reminds him of Hong Kong during the 1980s – the last time he can recall something of a similar magnitude in the Asia-Pacific region.

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MGTO head to serve as acting director of upcoming film festival



Helena de Senna Fernandes

Lynzy Valles

A day after veteran director Marco Müller (Mueller) controversial resignation from the first edition of the International Film Festival and Awards, Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) head Helena de Senna Fernandes announced that she would assume the post of Acting Festival Director.

In a press conference yesterday, Fernandes clarified that the office had stated that Müller's resignation was due to "ongoing differences of opinions" and not personal reasons.

Fernandes described the incident as a "critical period" for the organization and cited her belief that it would be unfair to appoint a new director to assume such great responsibilities, especially with just a few weeks left before the festival.

"I, as the chairperson of the festival organization, will also assume the duties of the acting festival director," Fernandes announced, saying she would face this "very difficult period" with the Secretariat.

Fernandes added that the Macau Films & Television Productions and Culture Association (MFTPA) is contemplating

"necessary actions for this non-compliance", hinting that legal charges may be filed against the renowned ex-director of the film festival.

"I think at this stage, we will not say [...] what constitutes these differences and opinions, because there will probably be other ensuing actions, so at this stage I don't think it is fair for us to comment," she said.

Alvin Chau, the MFTPA president, refused to comment and did not clarify whether a lawsuit would be filed against Müller.

"There will be a possible follow up. At this stage, if we are ente-

At this stage, if we are entering into other possible litigation, [with Müller] we prefer not to say anything further.

ring into other possible litigation, we prefer not to say anything further," Fernandes noted.

She stressed that the contractual relationship is between MFTPA and the festival director. MGTO is not part of the contractual party.

The international media have also reported on the veteran director's sudden resignation, which may have already tarnished the image of the region's upcoming film festival.

Although the resignation was not a "conducive act in terms of the entire organization", Fernandes said "that a festival itself is definitely bigger than the sum of its parts. So at the end of the day, it's teamwork."

Young golden voices for all



The Macao Cultural Centre will present its Children's Choir Annual Concert on December 18 at the Small Auditorium. This year's performance will include a wide range of internationally-known tunes and will feature choreography to dramatize some of the songs. Adults and children will have the chance to enjoy a cappella performances by little choristers. The CCM Children's Choir provides quality music education to children aged eight to 16. Through weekly choral practices, music appreciation and creative activities, choristers develop their interest and talent in music, as well as interpersonal skills and ability to appreciate art. Ticket distribution for the performance starts today at CCM's box Office and Macao Ticketing Network outlets. Each person may collect two tickets, available on a first-come first-served basis. Admission is free.

Macau to play Solidarity Cup final

Macau will play the final of the inaugural Solidarity Cup with Nepal today. The local team won the semifinal of the competition, which is taking place in Malaysia, after Saturday's tense penalty shootout win over Brunei. According to Fox Sports, the hero of the night was Macau's goalkeeper Ho Man Fai, who saved two penalties to help his team into the final.

Special Education teachers leave jobs

Ho Chong Chun, assistant coordinator of the Advisory Council of Community Services of the North Area, revealed that many special education teachers leave their jobs because of poor salaries and welfare conditions. Ho added that these educators specifically worked in speech therapy and other fields with children who have learning disabilities from an early age. These professionals fall under the administration of the Social Welfare Bureau and not the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, which provides better resources for teachers in normal schools. Ho says most educators in this sector have to pay for their own training, unlike those sponsored by the government.

1st IFFAM to screen 50 local and international movies

THE opening ceremony of the first International Film Festival & Awards will take place at Macao Cultural Center on the night of December 8.

The event will open with French ballet drama "Polina", which stars Anastasia Shevtsova and Juliette Binoche, and was directed by Valérie Müller and Angelin Preljocaj.

The movie which tells the story of a promising classical dancer who travels to Moscow to join the prestigious Bolshoi Ballet, will have its Asian premiere at the festival. The film premiered in France in May of this year.

The six-day IFFAM will screen 50 films from more than 20 countries and regions. This will be the global or Asian premiere for most of the films.

Japanese director Takashi Miike's "The Mole Song - Hong Kong Capriccio" will have its world gala premiere at the festival, as will Korean director Park Jung Woo's "Pandora". The newly restored "Immortal Story", by Hong Kong director Yonfan, will also be screened at a gala premiere to commemorate the 30th anniversary of its initial release. The film was shot in Macau in 1986.

The Macau festival will screen 11 films in its competition section, including Britain's "Trespass Against Us," by Adam Smith starring Michael Fassbender and Brendan Glee-

son; India's "Gurgaon," by Shanker Raman; Brazil's "Elon Doesn't Believe in Death," by Ricardo Alves Jr.; Britain's "Free Fire," by Ben Wheatley starring Oscar winner Brie Larson; China's "Hide and Seek," by Liu Jie; France's "150 Milligrams," by Emmanuelle Bercot; Russia's "Queen of Spades," by Pavel Lungin; Portugal and France's "Saint George," by Marco Martins; Argentina and France's "The Winter," by Emiliano Torres; Macau's "Sisterhood," by Tracy Choi; and Japan's "Survival Family," by Shinobu Yaguchi.

Another Macau film, "Seventeen," by director Emily Chan, will open the Hidden Dragons sidebar of the festival, which focuses on the latest trends in contemporary Asian genre cinema.

An additional 12 classic titles from Italy, Spain, Britain, France and India were chosen for the Crossfire sidebar by major East Asian directors; including John Woo, Tsui Hark, Ann Hui, Johnnie To, Sono Sion, Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Park Chan Wook, Choi Dong Hoon, and Lu Chuan.

Award winning movies from film festivals around the world will be showcased in the Best of Fest Panorama sidebar; such as Pablo Larrain's "Jackie," starring Natalie Portman as Jacqueline Kennedy, for which



Noah Oppenheim won best screenplay at the Venice Film Festival; Olivier Assayas' "Personal Shopper," which won the best director award at Cannes Film Festival; and Sundance debuts "Indignation" and "Manchester by the Sea," by James Schamus and Kenneth Lonergan respectively.

The festival will also shine a light on Taiwanese actress Gwei Lun-mei to hold a three-film retrospective of her work which includes her new film "Forêt Debussy," in addition to "Secret" (2007), and "The Flying Swords of Dragon Gate" (2011).

Further, Helena de Senna Fernandes noted that the films the organizing committee presented to the press are all confirmed, adding that they are still working towards "other surprises" in the near future. **MDT/Bloomberg**

TUI claims Ho Chio Meng's accusation is "fair"

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) issued a statement yesterday about the upcoming trial of former Public Prosecutor General Ho Chio Meng, who has been accused of over 1,500 counts of various crimes.

The former MP head was arrested on February 27. The crimes levelled against Ho include 434 counts of unlawful participation in businesses, 56 counts of money laundering (plus 75 together with other suspects), 69 counts of abuse of power, and 19 counts of fraud involving large amounts of money.

The case also involves several others, some of whom include Ho's relatives.

Macau Lawyers Association President Jorge Neto Valente previously told Radio Macau that it is unjust that Ho's case has moved faster than others, describing the accusation as "shocking."

According to Valente, it seemed as though Ho was only dedicated to committing crimes, which he doubted.

"How is it possible to develop such a conspiracy theory and write 10,000 pages worth of a lawsuit accusing one person of more than



1,000 crimes?" he asked.

The statement issued by TUI reacts to the "concerns of some Macau lawyers" over the fact that the trial of the former top judge was called too soon, given its complexity and the number of crimes involved.

TUI stated that "trials involving arrested suspects have always [taken] priority."

Cases being judged by the Court of First Instance (TJB) are admissible provided the people under preventive arrest are judged within five months. However, TUI states that TJB "has hundreds of

trials to make, while TUI, at this moment, has only this one in first instance [sic]."

TUI addresses another issue raised by Valente, who claimed that the defendant's lawyer had "20 days to read the case's 10,000 pages and prepare a response document."

According to TUI, the process has been open to the defendant lawyers since September 6.

"The process was consulted many times by several lawyers of the suspect. To date, the defendant or his lawyers never complained about the lack of access to the process."

Au Kam San believes that universal suffrage can be implemented

LAWMAKER Au Kam San pointed out that Macau is more advanced in terms of its Legislative Assembly (AL) and Chief Executive (CE) elections than neighboring regions. He thus argued that it is feasible to adopt genuine universal suffrage for elections of both the AL and CE.



Au Kam San

According to a report by All About Macau, Au noted that there are no conditions suggesting that Macau is unsuitable for universal suffrage and that Macau's society has changed tremendously over the past 40 years. Au added, however, that there has not yet been a discussion of whether a new AL structure should be established to represent the reality of current society and the public will.

Au argued that the "one person, one vote" system represents the most balanced participation for each resident when electing for

the AL instead of allowing certain groups of people to have two votes.

Au believes that Macau's politics and culture mean there will be no chaos if the outcomes of future ALs are elected through genuine universal suffrage.

He admitted that achieving universal suffrage in Macau will take a while and will require strategic timing, adding that it was very important to improve public awareness. It is also key, he said, to let residents take the initiative to participate in social activities and promote a democratic system.

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RENOVATION
works on the Tap Seac Square Commercial Centre (also known as Glass House) began in early November, it has emerged.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement that the renovation covers a total area of 5,200 square meters in the five-story building, which included three basement floors and two levels above ground.

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau is following up the tendering of the project, which has a construction period

Glass House renovation kicks off

of around 330 days.

The project includes the reinforcement of waterproofing works, and the restoration of electrical and mechanical installations, fire safety equipment, water supply and drainage, electricity supply, surveillance and broadcasting systems. Adjustments will also be made to how some of the existing space is used.

Once the works are complete, tendering for



the Glass House will be open to the public. Cultural and creative entities

will be able to set up shop and promote the growth of their industries. The

related works are expected to be carried out in the fourth quarter of 2017

and the Tap Seac Square Commercial Centre is expected to reopen in the second half of 2018.

During the renovation period, the "Temporary Rehearsal Venue Booking Programme of Tap Seac Square Commercial Centre" will be suspended. The "Portuguese-speaking Countries Food Products Exhibition Centre", located in the R1 section of the venue, will remain open to the public.

MACAU GP

Local Motorcycle GP team meets fans at several events

Renato Marques

MACAU'S local team, CF Racing Team 32, is using the days before the on-track action starts to engage in a number of activities with fans.

On Sunday, the team held a prize-giving ceremony at the Tissot shop at Macau Square, which was the result of a Facebook campaign that awarded a wristwatch from the Swiss brand to one lucky fan.

The fan in question was Jeaselle Bilag, who took home the Tissot MotoGP 2016 Limited Edition.

Also present were representatives of the brand in Macau and all team members, including rider Allann-Jon Venter, who presented the fans with autographs.

The tour continued with a "meet the fans" dinner at The Roadhouse Macau at Broadway, where a group of local fans and owners of the premium motorcycle Yamaha R1M had the chance to "rub shoulders" with the riders and team members in a relaxed environment.

Representatives from the motorcycle brand's official local importer



Jeaselle Bilag (center) took home the Tissot MotoGP 2016 Limited Edition

also attended the dinner to show their support for the team.

"We are very happy and glad to be supporting the CF Racing Team 32 and its rider Allann-Jon Venter," said Riders Square representative Marjorie Lau, adding that "the event [dinner] was a very meaningful opportunity for our customers to meet the team and riders, and also to get together to watch the MotoGP race that ended up with Yamaha's Lorenzo win, so it was all perfect."

Team owner João Fernandes also told the Times that the even-

ts will continue in the days leading up to the Grand Prix, with visits to Yamaha Macau facilities and Flora Luso-Chinese Primary School on the cards.

CF Racing Team 32 is the only local team listed for the 50th Anniversary of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix.

Established in 2014 by former local racer João Contente Fernandes, the team has since listed multiple participations in the GP in efforts to promote the sport locally.

Macau Daily Times is a media partner of CF Racing Team 32.

EDUCATION

Macau-wide English Speech Contest winners announced

THE 15th Macau-wide English Speech Contest and the 21st Century National English Speaking Competition Macao Regional Contest took place over the weekend.

The contest was established in 2002 to promote the use of English in Macau and to promote the teaching of the English language.

The contest is organized by the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) in partnership with several other entities. Since its fourth edition in 2005, the competition has enjoyed a nationwide affiliation with China Daily's National English Speaking Competition. Over the years, many of the winners have advanced to the national English-speaking competition. This year's winners were Devara



Gabriel Wangke (Lower Primary School Category); Jade Catherine Alberti (Upper Primary School Category); Sarah Ruas Dias Soares (Junior High School Category); Mariana Caldeira Copeto Castro Maçarico (Senior High School Category); Cheung Pui Weng (College Category) and Joana Cheong Mesquita Ferreira (Open Category).

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Review of the Government's Work in 2016

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Coordination and Planning with a Long-term Perspective



Successfully organised the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.



Established the Committee for Development of the Commercial and Trade Cooperation Service Platform between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, chaired by the Chief Executive.



Announced the Five-year Development Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2016-2020).



Established the Commission for the Coordination in the Management and Development of Macao's Waters, chaired by the Chief Executive.



Commenced the study of the Medium-to-long-term Plan for Usage and Development of the Waters of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2016-2036).

Administration and Justice

Administration Reform

- Essentially completed the first stage of departmental restructuring;
- Conducted a public consultation on the preliminary plan for the establishment of a municipal organisation that is not an organ of political power;
- Formulated a restructuring plan for consultative bodies;
- Completed the consultation process on the Civil Servant Ranking System (first stage), and commenced the related research work (second stage);

- Implemented on a trial basis the public services appraisal mechanism, to introduce third-party evaluation; and
- Implemented the new unified recruitment system, and improved the promotion and training system.



e-Governance

- Promoted electronic public services, and launched 15 kinds of electronic public services during the year;
- Completed optimisation of the workflow for approving and issuing administrative permits and licences for 18 items related to retail, food and beverage, and restaurant businesses; and
- Constructed an online registration and public notary system.



Legal Work

- Amended the Electoral System for the Legislative Assembly of the Macao Special Administrative Region, which passed its first reading at the Legislative Assembly;
- Promulgated and put into effect the Animal Protection Law; and
- Formed a taskforce for drafting the Maritime Area Management Framework Law, and commenced the related consultation and drafting work.



People's Livelihoods

Healthcare and Sports

- Completed the Territory-wide Health Survey Pilot Scheme and the Colorectal Cancer Screening Pilot Programme;
- Established the Geriatric Ward and Alzheimer's Disease Treatment Centre;
- Established the Children's Comprehensive Assessment Centre;
- Passed the Legal System on the Handling of Medical Incidents;
- Completed the reconstruction of Coloane Health Station and the expansion of Seac Pai Van Temporary Health Station;
- Completed construction of Coloane Public Health Clinical Centre; and
- Completed the third Macao Residents Physical Fitness Assessment Report.



Education and Youth

- Launched centralised registration for admission to first year of kindergarten;
- Completed the interim review of the Ten-year Development Plan for Non-tertiary Education;
- Participated in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS);
- The bill on the Tertiary Education System passed its first reading in the Legislative Assembly;
- Launched the Chinese and Portuguese Bilingual Talent Training and Education and Research Cooperation Subsidy Scheme; and
- Launched the Thousand Talents Programme.

Culture and Tourism

- Completed the consultation on the Macao Tourism Industry Development Master Plan;
- Completed the first batch of cultural heritage assessments, involving 10 real estate properties;
- Launched a cultural tourism product - Anim'Arte NAM VAN;
- Opened Patane Library to the public; and
- Launched a 24-hour library services pilot scheme.

Elderly and the Underprivileged

- Announced the Ten-year Action Plan for the Provision of Services for the Elderly for 2016-2025;
- Completed documentation on the Ten-year Development Plan for Rehabilitation Services 2016-2025;
- Passed the bill on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence; and
- Continued implementing all measures for supporting the elderly and the underprivileged.



Economic Development

Platform between China and PSCs

- Opened the Portuguese-speaking Countries Food Products Exhibition Centre in Macao;
- Promoted organic integration of the trade and economic cooperation services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries and the national "Belt and Road" initiative;
- Enriched the contents and functions of the China and Portuguese-speaking countries trade and economic cooperation and talent information website;
- Facilitated the development of an import, export and re-export credit insurance scheme; and
- Officially launched the Macao Renminbi Real Time Gross Settlement System.

Diversification

- Steadily developing the convention and exhibition industry, with conventions as the priority;
- Completed formulation of the Statistical Benchmark System for Measuring Progress with Macao's Adequate Economic Diversification;
- Considered development of specialised financial services;
- Expedited the construction of a public services platform for the Guangdong-Macao Chinese Medicine Technology Park and its initiatives to attract capital and investment;
- Launched incentive measures to promote development of e-businesses;
- Promoted cross-boundary e-business development through regional cooperation;
- Implemented and optimised the Young Entrepreneur Assistance Scheme;
- Fully leveraged the functions of the Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre; and
- Supported young people with establishing businesses through regional cooperation.



Support and Assistance for SMEs

- Offered secondary aid to enterprises that had already repaid their loan under the SME Assistance Programme;
- Launched the advanced version of "Services on the Doorstep" and deployed "Enterprise Liaison Officers";
- Actively encouraged large corporations to purchase local products; and
- Established the "Certified Shop" e-services platform.

Gaming Industry

- Announced the study report on the "Interim Review of Gaming Liberalisation for Games of Fortune in Macao: Economic, Social, and Livelihood Impacts and Operating Conditions for Concessionaires";
- Amended the By-law on the Regulation of Casino Gaming Promotion Activities; and
- Encouraged gaming operators to make more efforts to develop non-gaming elements.

Securing Employment

- Launched the Facility Maintenance Technical Training Programme, on a paid leave basis;
- Enforced the Law on Minimum Wage for Cleaning and Security Workers of the Property Management Industry;
- Prioritised amendment of the Labour Relations Law regarding paid paternity leave and overlapping leave;
- Raised the proportion of local employees at management level in gaming corporations; and
- Continued developing professional accreditation programmes.



Housing and Commuting

Transport

- Completed the feasibility study on the construction of the fourth cross-harbour bridge and the related marine environmental assessment;
- Essentially completed the main structure of the elevated bridge for LRT Taipa line and 11 LRT stations;
- Commenced construction of the LRT depot superstructure;
- Completed the feasibility study for the LRT Seac Pai Van line;
- Completed the interim review of the General Road Traffic and Transport Policy of Macao (2010-2020);
- Completed the open tender for 250 ordinary taxi licences and 100 special taxi licences;
- Implemented time-limited public transport lanes from Barra to Lam Mau Tong; and
- Gradually introduced the trial run of the Taipa Ferry Terminal.

Environmental Protection

- Completed the interim implementation and effectiveness assessment of the Environmental Protection Plan of Macao (2010-2020);
- Formulated the Macao Solid Waste Resources Management Programme;
- Facilitated decision making on the location of the collection point for inert construction and demolition materials;
- Announced the By-law on Unleaded Gasoline and Light Diesel Oil for Motor Vehicles;
- Formulated short-, medium- and long-term planning for introducing and promoting environmentally friendly vehicles in Macao; and
- Essentially completed construction of the natural gas trunk pipe network in Coloane and Taipa.



Land and Housing

- Re-tendered for the construction of phase 2 of the Mong Ha Public Housing project;
- Completed construction of Cheng I Building, a Home-Ownership Scheme housing project in Ilha Verde, and Iat Seng Building, a public housing project;
- Completed construction of Seac Pai Van Social Facilities Building;
- Announced the consultation report on Legal System of Public Housing; and
- Public consultation on new public housing categories would soon commence.



Urban Planning

- Completed, within a year, the Macao Special Administrative Region Urban Development Strategy Study (2016-2030);
- Established the Urban Renewal Committee; and
- Completed compilation of the General Report on the Third Phase of Public Consultation and Public Opinion Survey Regarding the Overall Planning of New Urban Areas.



50 new local projects recommended to Hengqin



Guangdong-Macau Industrial Cooperation Park

THE government will recommend another 50 investment projects for the Guangdong-Macau Industrial Cooperation Park in Hengqin to the Board of the New Hengqin Zone, which were received during the application period, according to the Macau Institute for Trade and Investment Promotion (IPIM).

An initial group of 33 investment projects was presented by the Macau government to the Board of the New Hengqin Zone in April 2014, according to the statement released by IPIM.

The new projects are in different sectors, including tourism and leisure, logistics, research and scientific and technological development, cultural and creative industries, high and new technologies and health and wellness.

These projects must be in line with the development plan for the New Hengqin Zone, and it is the Board's responsibility to make a decision on each proposal, after analyzing their content, including the industries involved, operational strategies and investment capacity, among other factors.

Of the 33 projects presented in April 2014 a total of 16 have been approved and their promoters have acquired land in the industrial park at auction.

These projects involve a total investment estimated at over 80 billion patacas (USD10 billion) and most are linked to the sectors of tourism and leisure, cultural and creative industries, high and new technologies, scientific research and development and technology, trade and logistics.

IPIM's statement added that the Macau government in order to promote the continued development of the Industrial Park, will maintain close communication with the Board of Management of the New Hengqin Area, recommending new projects where they are beneficial for the economic diversification of Macau and the growth of the industrial park. **MDT/Macauhub**

BLOOMBERG



Thai AirAsia eyes China expansion

LOW-COST carrier (LCC) Thai AirAsia has plans to expand its fleet in China, revealing that it is planning to add five to six aircraft per year over the next few years.

Thai AirAsia CEO Tassapon Bijleveld told CAPA TV that half of the additional aircrafts would be allocated to China, its largest international market.

China has accounted for 26 percent of the carrier's total international capacity to date. Thai AirAsia currently, has 38,880 weekly seats across 14 routes in the Thailand-China market.

CAPA-Center For Aviation stated that China accounts for 13 of the combined 35 international destinations to which Thai AirAsia/

Thai AirAsia X flies.

Thai AirAsia currently serves 11 destinations in mainland China. Its sister medium/long haul LCC Thai AirAsia X serves another two Chinese destinations.

The airline, a joint venture between the Malaysia's AirAsia and Thailand's Asia Aviation, is keen to grow its base at U-Tapao near the city of Pattaya, which opened

Thai AirAsia is keen to grow its base at U-Tapao which is linked to Macau

in September 2015 and is linked to Macau.

The expansion on the U-Tapao/Pattaya base would enable new routes to China.

The low-cost airline has two A320s based at U-Tapao operating three domestic and four international routes – including the two mainland Chinese routes, Macau and Singapore.

According to Bijleveld, all the U-Tapao routes “are doing very well”, and the Pattaya market is promising.

The carrier is also considering launching routes from Hat Yai to Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore.

Through the first three quarters of 2016, Thai AirAsia's passenger numbers increased by 19 percent to 12.86 million.

Thai AirAsia plans to add five A320neos aircraft in 2017. Under its current five-year fleet plan it envisages a fleet of 71 aircraft by the end of 2020.

Further, Thai AirAsia is also expanding in India, which it referred to as a logical growth market for Thailand.

corporate bits

MGM CO-PRESENTS WORKSHOP TO RAISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AWARENESS



MGM joined hands with Special Olympics Macau for the second consecutive year to present the “Penz13 BMW Motorrad by MGM and Special Olympics Macau” art workshop in an effort to raise awareness of social inclusion within the local community.

The collaboration also highlighted the artistic creativity of the Special Olympics' athletes in the context of the Macau Grand Prix.

According to the operator's statement, a total of 100 athletes from Special Olympics Macau

participated in an art workshop to collectively create colorful works of art that have been imprinted as decals on the two Penz13 BMW Motorrad motorcycles and racer helmets, sponsored by MGM for the Macau Grand Prix 2016.

The artistic designs incorporate numerous hand palms in rainbow hues, symbolizing social inclusion, joy and harmony. This initiative marks the fifth art-focus collaboration between MGM and Special Olympics Macau.

CEM PARTICIPATES IN POWER SERVICE SEMINAR

CEM is participating in the “Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau Power Industry Services Seminar,” a vital platform aiming to enhance regional cooperation and promote the development and collaboration of power companies in the three regions.

The seminar is hosted by Guangdong Power Grid Co., Ltd. (GPG), CLP Holdings Limited (CLP) and CEM individually, on a rotational and annual basis.

In its 21st edition this year, the seminar was hosted by GPG in Dongguan with the theme of “New Technologies, New Services” with over 100

delegates from the power companies.

As cited in the press release issued by CEM, Bernie Leong, chairman of CEM executive committee said that the rapid advancement of science and technology has driven the development of different industries, allowing the quality of service to be constantly improving.

This year's seminar is in line with the trend of building a smart city and will allow participants to have in-depth discussions about the important role played by new technologies in the development of power services.

BENE AT SHERATON GRAND PRESENTS CHRISTMAS MENU

Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central is celebrating the ‘12 days of Christmas’ at Bene with a selection of 12 classic Italian home-style dishes.

For the ‘1st Day of Christmas,’ on Christmas eve, Bene will offer guests a ‘Pig Porchetta Tradizionale,’ a roasted suckling pig from the ‘old country’ that is roasted in Bene's stone oven for two hours. This Italian classic offers a subtle blend of tastes and textures, described Sheraton Grand Macao in a statement.

The Italian restaurant will serve ‘Roast Turkey with Chestnut, Mushroom Pomegranate Sauce,’ ‘Baked Hokkaido Scallops’ and ‘Braised Beef in Red Wine’ during brunch on Christmas Day. While a ‘Lamb Loin with Apricot Sauce,’



a dish that combines herbs with succulent lamb, will be served for dinner.

The Italian restaurant will feature several festive menus until December 31, such as the ‘Zampone, Stuffed Pig Trotter,’ and ‘Iberico Lamb Loin and Ribs,’ which will be served on Boxing Day.

Daniela Wei, Matthew Campbell

ON a tiny island in the western Pacific, at the end of a duty-free mall wedged between a one-story laundromat and a cell-phone shop, you'll find what may be the most successful casino of all time.

The awkwardly named Best Sunshine Live hardly looks like a high-roller hub. Construction workers bet USD5 or \$10 at a time on roulette and baccarat in a fog of nicotine. Clustered in a far corner are a handful of tables for so-called VIP gamblers, which at 8.30 p.m. on a September Saturday are almost empty. A nearby bar has just a couple of patrons.

Nothing about the facility, which opened last year on the U.S. island of Saipan, hints at the money flowing through it—table for table, far more than at the biggest casinos in Macau, the world's number-one gambling capital. Nor is there any sign of the connections of its owner, Hong Kong-listed Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., which has a market value of \$2.4 billion.

It's a power list that includes a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, a former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and three former U.S. governors, including past chairmen of both the Democratic and Republican National Committees. Behind them all: a Donald Trump protégé, Mark Brown, who ran the Republican president-elect's Atlantic City casino empire and is now Imperial Pacific's chief executive officer.

With that backing, Best Sunshine is posting numbers that stagger industry veterans. The daily reported revenue for each of its VIP tables in the first half of the year, about \$170,000, is almost eight times the average of Macau's largest casinos. Its 16 VIP tables alone generate revenue that's more than half of the receipts from 178 high-stakes tables at Wynn Resorts Ltd.'s flagship casino in the Chinese territory, a 20-story palace with three Michelin-starred restaurants.

The revenue figures, or actual wins by the house, are just a fraction of total bets. In September, Imperial Pacific reported a record \$3.9 billion in bets at its casino—meaning the 100 or so high-rollers who it says come through its doors monthly each wagered an average of \$39 million.

Those volumes of cash are drawing the attention of law-enforcement officials. The U.S. Treasury's Financial

Crimes Enforcement Network, which is responsible for alerting prosecutors and other authorities of suspicious financial flows, has taken notice of the activity at Best Sunshine, according to a person with knowledge of the matter. The person asked not to be identified because the information isn't public. Spokesmen for the Treasury and Department of Justice declined to comment.

"I've heard every question that you have in your mind. All my guys, my friends in Macau say this is bullshit," Brown said in an interview, adding that he's not aware of a Treasury inquiry and has not been contacted by the agency. "We are very transparent. We don't want to do anything to break the law."

The story of how Saipan's casino came to enjoy such puzzling success is a tale of money and political intrigue that stretches across the Pacific, connecting it to top power-brokers in Washington and New York, 14 time zones away. But above all, it links the island with the burgeoning ranks of China's super-rich and the fathomless wealth, obtained legitimately or otherwise, that they're seeking to move around the world.

It is cash that has bent the course of the global economy, flowing from Beijing and Shanghai to London, Sydney, Vancouver and other international cities. Along the way, it's washing up in unheard-of volumes on an obscure speck of American soil thousands of miles from almost anywhere.

The money has arrived on Saipan as Chinese President Xi Jinping intensifies an unprecedented crackdown on corruption and capital flight from the world's second-largest economy. Macau's casinos, traditionally a relatively simple avenue for citizens to spirit funds offshore in violation of currency controls, are a key target of his efforts, driving high-stakes gambling elsewhere.

"It's like pressing a balloon down—it's going to pop up somewhere else," said Grant Govertsen, an analyst at advisory firm Union Gaming. The somewhere else is Saipan, he said.

Large-scale capital flight may be what accounts for the revenues at Best Sunshine, according to executives at three Macau gambling promoters, who spoke on the condition they not be identified bad-mouthing a competitor. The numbers are simply impossible if they are not inflated or facilitating money-laundering, they said.

Four analysts who focus on Macau's gaming indus-

SAIPAN

Big money, big questions



Mark Brown

try and have examined Imperial Pacific's figures said they can't understand how it could report VIP bets totaling HKD105 billion (\$13.5 billion) and revenue of HKD3.8 billion in the first half of the year. They asked not to be identified because they don't cover the company, whose shares have dropped 24 percent this year.

Even the rare high rollers betting several hundred million Hong Kong dollars wouldn't be enough to generate those kinds of revenues, the executives said. One executive, who works with some of Macau's largest casinos, said he's never been able to attain Saipan's daily average even on a single day in 20 years in business.

Asked about the discrepancy, Brown said he believes Macau casinos are under-reporting figures, with off-books betting not showing up in official reports. Many gaming tables at Macau resorts are underused, which accounts for the high revenue from the limited tables in Saipan, according to Imperial Pacific. Brown also said the company is stepping up its anti-money-laundering procedures to match those at international banks, and that about 750 prolific gamblers whose backgrounds it knows have accounted for the bulk of revenue since Best Sunshine opened.

In what it said was an effort to "enhance its integrity," Imperial Pacific earlier this

year appointed to its board James Woolsey, who ran the CIA in the early 1990s and was among national-security advisers to Trump's White House campaign. He joined Eugene Sullivan, formerly a senior U.S. military judge, who was appointed last year. Sullivan declined to comment; Woolsey didn't respond to requests for comment.

A separate advisory committee for business strategies and government relations, formed in April, includes former FBI director Louis Freeh and Ed Rendell, previously governor of Pennsylvania and chairman of the DNC. Freeh didn't respond to requests for comment.

Former New York Governor David Paterson was also

an adviser to Imperial Pacific from August 2015 to this spring, when he resigned to pursue other opportunities. Paterson didn't attend any meetings about the Saipan casino "beyond due diligence and security-expert recommendations," said a spokesman, Sean Darcy.

It was Paterson who pitched Freeh and Rendell on joining the committee, according to the latter.

"They wanted some Americans involved in case anything came up with the regulation or legalities," Rendell said in an interview, adding that he and Brown were previously acquainted from his efforts as governor to bring gambling to Pennsylvania. "The biggest selling point to me was the trip to the Mariana Islands, a part of the world where I've never been."

Rendell said he is paid \$5,000 a month for his role, and that his work so far has mostly been limited to making an introduction to Haley Barbour, the ex-Mississippi governor and RNC chairman who's now a prominent lobbyist. The Saipan revenues are possible because Macau's casino industry is "cratering," Rendell said.

Barbour now also advises Imperial Pacific. He said he'd not yet had "the chance to get into the details of the business," and was not concerned about accepting the role "because I have high regard" for Rendell and Woolsey.

Proximity to the corridors

■ The story of how Saipan's casino came to enjoy such puzzling success is a tale of money and political intrigue that stretches across the Pacific

at Trump protege's remote casino



The awkwardly named Best Sunshine Live

of power is a dramatic change for Imperial Pacific, which is controlled by a mother-and-son duo from mainland China and for most of its existence was called First Natural Foods. In 2013 it recorded gross profit of just \$1.25 million. The following year it embarked upon an unusual metamorphosis, announcing it would move from frozen food into the greater opportunities of gambling by paying \$30 million to apply for a casino license on Saipan, the capital of the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At the time the island, with 50,000 inhabitants and such poor infrastructure that the Centers for Disease Control advises against drinking the tap water, was hardly a tourist hub. Local legislators wanted to change that, and earlier in 2014 had reversed years of opposition to casinos.

The casino law was introduced and passed in the Marianas' House on March 3, and in the Senate the following day, without being referred to committee. A lawsuit filed by a local activist, Glen Hunter, alleged the process violated rules that forbid "legislators from holding surprise sessions where acts are undertaken as part of a se-

cret agenda." Before voting for the law, Senate President Ralph Torres and other legislators had visited Hong Kong for "fact-finding" purposes, Torres said in a deposition. He also said he was "not sure" if he'd fully read the bill before the Senate acted on it.

As Imperial Pacific closed in on a 40-year casino license, the only other bidder, Marianas Star Entertainment Inc., also sued the government. It alleged that "significant benefits" were illegally provided to legislators by casino investors, and that regulators refused to investigate whether Imperial Pacific was linked to them. The suit was unsuccessful; Imperial Pacific said those investors "were not connected" to the company.

A spokeswoman for Torres, now the Marianas governor, said there is "no evidence to support" allegations of improper benefits to legislators. Imperial Pacific's deal did include above-board payments. The company agreed to pay \$15 million annually to top up the Marianas pension fund. Another \$20 million a year would go to a community fund, according to the island's gaming regulator. And it added a remarkable sweetener: a one-time \$10 million

■ Brown said he believes Macau casinos are under-reporting figures, with off-books betting not showing up in official reports

payment to cover the home electric bills of everyone on the island.

To run the Saipan project, Imperial Pacific hired Brown, who got his start as a teenage blackjack dealer in his native Atlantic City, before rising through the ranks of Trump's casinos to become a senior executive. The real-estate mogul cited Brown among his trusted advisers in his 2004 book, "Trump: How to Get Rich," and Brown returned the favor in May this year by telling Fortune that his old boss was "great with women" and has "a great brain."

Brown left Trump in 2005, heading to Macau to oversee Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s pro-

ject to build a replica of the Venetian hotel. He departed in 2009; two years later Las Vegas Sands was plunged into turmoil by a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation into potential violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in Macau over a period that overlapped with Brown's tenure. In 2012, Australian regulators denied him a license to work at Sydney's Star Casino for reasons they didn't disclose.

Las Vegas Sands this year settled the allegations for \$9 million without admitting guilt. Brown was not accused of wrongdoing, and said he was never involved in the investigation.

A chance at economic revival hasn't silenced local critics of Brown's latest project. At his low-slung office in the Saipan village referred to grandly as Capitol Hill, legislator Ramon Tebuteb said he fears the island is becoming a "safe haven" for illicit Chinese money. "It will happen, and I think it has happened," said Tebuteb, the minority leader in the Marianas House of Representatives.

The neighboring island of Tinian provides a cautionary tale. Last year the U.S. Treasury fined the Tinian Dynasty casino \$75 million for "willful and

egregious" violations of anti-money-laundering rules. It closed afterward.

Saipan's gambling watchdog is adamant there's no impropriety on its watch. The Commonwealth Casino Commission was created in 2014 and oversees only Best Sunshine, the island's sole casino. The commission's members are paid \$20 an hour for time spent attending official meetings only, according to the territory's casino law.

"We do not cahoot with the licensee," Edward DeLeon Guerrero, the commission's executive director, said in an interview. "Have you seen corruption in other parts of the world? Probably. From my experience, I have not seen that."

DeLeon Guerrero, a former customs chief and court administrator, hadn't worked in a casino-related job before taking on the role of regulating Best Sunshine. Although he conceded the commission faces a steep learning curve, "this is America. We protect our borders," DeLeon Guerrero said. "Movement of money we track 1,000 percent."

Brown has huge plans for Saipan. Near Best Sunshine, construction is underway on Imperial Pacific's planned new hotel and resort. According to renderings, it will resemble a 1.5 million square-foot mash-up of the Forbidden City and the Palace of Versailles with a 100-foot glass sculpture of an undulating dragon in the lobby, reached via hallways drenched in golden filigree. After that, plans call for "20 six-star themed hotels, 11 world-class casinos," and a kilometer-long "duty-free shopping boulevard."

Imperial Pacific is planning to sell as much as \$650 million in bonds to finance the project, Brown said. The company says it and future partners may spend as much as \$7 billion, which would amount to one of the largest resort projects in history. It may all sound improbable—but then so is the notion that a storefront casino on Saipan could out-earn the titans of Macau.

"A legitimate high-stakes gambler wouldn't want to spend time in this place," Hunter, the plaintiff in the suit against the Saipan casino law, said of Best Sunshine. "Have you seen it? It's a duty-free store with a fresh coat of paint and some chandeliers." **Bloomberg**

China said to pump brakes on US dealmaking after Trump win

Alex Sherman
& Jonathan Browning

CHINESE buyers keen to continue 2016's rapid dealmaking under a Donald Trump presidency are being given one piece of advice: Wait and see.

Bankers and lawyers are already counseling some Chinese clients to hit the pause button until Trump clarifies his stance on cross-border deals for U.S. targets, according to three advisers to Chinese clients, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private.

Acquisitive Chinese companies have led a blockbuster year of dealmaking in 2016, accounting for about USD225 billion of overseas purchases this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's more than triple the level of the same period a year earlier - and the biggest chunk of the money has been spent in the U.S. If Trump follows through on his campaign rhetoric, however, their enthusiasm could be short-lived.

"There's at least a short-term pause," said Annabella Fu van Bijnen, a partner at law firm Linklaters LLP in Hong Kong. "Given the way Trump has run his campaign there's not a lot of policy clarity. Investors might be a bit more cautious given the protectionist sentiments that were expressed."

One of the hallmarks of Trump's presidential campaign was an insistence that China has taken advantage of the U.S. on



trade deals. The president-elect has pledged to label Beijing a currency manipulator. He's also vowed to lower corporate taxes in an effort to tempt companies to stay in, or return to, the U.S.

Some of the biggest effects could be seen in the technology and entertainment industries, where Chinese buyers have been particularly active. Just this month, billionaire Wang Jianlin's Dalian Wanda Group Co. agreed to pay \$1 billion to acquire Dick Clark Productions Inc., the television studio behind the Golden Globe awards and Miss America beauty pageant. The deal followed Wanda's \$3.5 billion purchase earlier this year of Legendary Entertainment LLC,

the Hollywood production house that worked on the "Dark Knight" Batman trilogy.

Trump's administration could also bring changes to the way that U.S. regulators treat deals. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., the body tasked with reviewing acquisitions of companies that could have implications for national security, is chaired by the Treasury Secretary.

Until that position is filled it's unclear how CFIUS will judge Chinese interest in U.S. targets. Advisers are pushing temporary caution.

"People are still in the process of working out what it means," said Joseph Chow, who formerly led Moelis & Co.'s Chi-

na business and now runs CJC Partners, a financial advisory firm in Beijing. "He has some tough rhetoric but he's a businessman."

China's interest in U.S. companies spiked earlier this year as the world's second-largest economy by nominal gross domestic product searched for growth outside its borders.

Through June, buyers from the country accounted for about 24 percent of total deal volumes, Gregg Lemkau, Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s global co-head of mergers and acquisitions, said at the time. That's an increase from the usual annual output of about 10 percent, he said.

The largest announced Chinese deal of the year is the acquisition by China National Chemical Co., known as ChemChina, of Switzerland's Syngenta AG in February for about \$43 billion. The deal, which was approved by CFIUS in August but is still going through European regulators, is the biggest-ever foreign acquisition by a Chinese firm.

Despite the increase in activity, dealmaking under the Obama administration hasn't always been easy.

Chinese deal flow for U.S. technology companies has already slowed in recent months af-

ter several acquisitions failed to make it through regulatory processes. Tsinghua Unisplendour Corp.'s \$3.8 billion investment for 15 percent of Western Digital Corp. fell apart in February after the deal came under a U.S. national security review from CFIUS.

In January, Dutch company Royal Philips NV said it was canceling the sale of its lighting-components business to a Chinese-led consortium due to CFIUS concerns. Fairchild Semiconductor International Inc. also passed up a higher offer from a Chinese group on the grounds it might not get a U.S. security nod, opting instead for a bid from domestic suitor ON Semiconductor Corp.

Despite the slowdown, other sectors continue to generate interest. China Oceanwide Holdings Group Co. agreed to acquire Richmond, Virginia-based insurer Genworth Financial Inc. last month for \$2.7 billion. Still, investors have already shown skepticism that regulators will allow the deal, pushing Genworth's shares more than 20 percent below its acquisition offer price.

"CFIUS has always been a political body," said David Tang, Managing Partner for Asia at law firm K&L Gates in Hong Kong. "It consists of elected officials or officials appointed by elected officials, so it absolutely captures the policy framework of the elected administration. It will expand or become narrower as a reflection of the politics."

Not all deal advisers are certain there will be a slowdown, particularly in industries that the Chinese government has earmarked for investment. Semiconductor deals, for example, have been booming, in part due to a national Chinese mandate to invest more than \$100 billion to become a leading player in the chip industry.

"To date at least, I haven't seen any hesitation or change in posture by Chinese buyers and investors," said Chuck Cooney, a partner in Morrison & Foerster LLP's Palo Alto, California office who regularly advises Chinese acquirers on U.S. targets. "In fact, just within this week, we've started several new technology M&A and financing projects on behalf of Chinese buyers and investors."

Manufacturing firm acquires Voltage Pictures for USD350 million

THE flow of Chinese capital into Hollywood continues.

China's Anhui Xinke New Materials has acquired an 80 percent stake in Midnight Investments, owner of film financing and production company Voltage Pictures, for USD350.71 million (2.39 billion yuan).

The Chinese company is best known for copper processing and manufacturing electric wires and cables, but it is now branching out into the film business, Reuters reported yesterday.

Founded by producer Nicolas Chartier in 2005, Voltage Pictures began as a foreign sales outfit before venturing into production with Kathryn Bigelow's *The Hurt Locker* in 2010. The company has since produced over 150 films - mostly mid-budget projects in the \$15 million to \$40 million range - including *Dallas Buyers Club* (2013) and the forthcoming horror flick *Keep Watching*, starring Bella Thorne. The company also has produced some television, such as *True Justice*, starring Steven Seagal, and

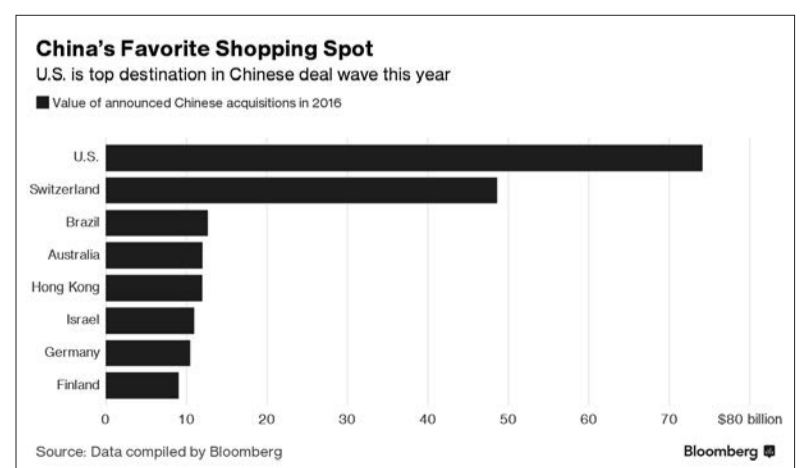
Leverage, with Timothy Hutton.

Voltage and Xinke didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The buyout is just the latest episode in a busy year of China-Hollywood dealmaking. Other high profile acquisitions include Dalian Wanda Group's purchase of Legendary Entertainment and Dick Clark Productions, for \$3.5 billion and \$1 billion, respectively. Los Angeles-based Tang Media Partners, which is backed by Chinese investment, also snapped up IM Global over the summer.

Earlier in November, Anhui Xinke New Materials launched Wotaiji International Media, a subsidiary structured to acquire media and entertainment assets. The firm says the acquisition of Voltage will strengthen its position in the Chinese and international film business, while boosting profitability.

The parent company is listed on the Shanghai stock exchange; its market capitalization yesterday was \$1.15 billion (RMB7.79 billion).



AP PHOTO



Zheng Gao of Shanghai, China, photographs the front pages of newspapers on display outside the Newseum in Washington, the day after Donald Trump won the presidency

Brad Pitt back in China after reported ban over Tibet film



Brad Pitt has made his first promotional appearance for a movie in China since reportedly being banned over a film about Tibet almost 20 years ago. He spent 40 minutes giving autographs to Chinese fans yesterday and 20 minutes at a tightly controlled media event promoting his latest movie. The Chinese government reportedly didn't like his 1997 film "Seven Years in Tibet" because of its portrayal of harsh Chinese rule in Tibet. Reporters were not allowed to ask questions at the event in Shanghai held to publicize the World War II romantic thriller "Allied." Interest is high in his recent divorce from Angelina Jolie Pitt.

Austrian police claim bust of big Chinese prostitution ring

Austrian police say they have arrested six people suspected of running a large-scale prostitution ring with young Chinese women who were recruited with promises of jobs as masseurs or au pairs. A police statement says six Chinese nationals have been detained and a seventh is being sought for allegedly forcing around 150 "frightened and cowed" women into prostitution. The victims had to pay up 10,000 euros (USD10,750) for Austrian entry visas and were forced to hand over their passports before being sent to bordellos in and around Vienna. Once there, they were under constant watch and their earnings were confiscated. The suspects were arrested late last week. They are not being identified in keeping with Austrian confidentiality laws.

Teheran and Beijing sign military cooperation agreement

Iran's state TV is reporting that Iran and China have signed an agreement to hold joint military drills and cooperate in fighting terrorism. Iranian Defense Minister Gen. Hossein Dehghan signed the agreement yesterday along with his Chinese counterpart Chang Wanquan. In addition to the joint military training exercises, the report said that Iran and China seek to "create a collective movement to confront this threat" of terrorism. The two nations have upgraded their military ties in recent years, with each country's naval ships visiting the other's ports.

Xi reaffirms US relations in talk with Trump

CHINESE President Xi Jinping reaffirmed the importance of relations with the United States in a phone conversation with President-elect Donald Trump yesterday, opening communication with a politician who had been strongly critical of China during his campaign.

State media reported that Xi congratulated Trump on his election and said cooperation was the "only correct choice" for China and the U.S., the world's two biggest economies.

"At present, there is an important opportunity and huge potential in China-U.S. cooperation," Xi told Trump, according to the reports.

Trump's office said in a statement early yesterday that Trump thanked Xi for his well-wishes on his election.

"During the call, the leaders established a clear sense of mutual respect for one another and President-elect Trump stated that he believes the two leaders will have

one of the strongest relationships for both countries moving forward," the statement said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the two sides have agreed to maintain close contact, build good relations and work toward a meeting between Xi and Trump "as soon as possible."

"What I want to point out is that China always maintains close communication with the U.S. side, including Mr. Trump's team, and we will carry on doing that," Geng said at a news conference.

Speaking Sunday during a visit to Turkey, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China would continue cooperation with President Barack Obama's outgoing administration to ensure a "smooth transition of bilateral ties to the next U.S. administration." Xi and Obama are scheduled to meet at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru next week.

"China is willing to push for greater progress in Chi-

na-U.S. ties on the new starting point on the basis of the principles of non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation," Wang was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

During the election campaign, Trump accused China of unfair trade practices and currency manipulation and threatened to slap a 45 percent import tariff on Chinese products. He said China's building of man-made islands in disputed waters in the South China Sea was a sign of its disrespect for America, and vowed to bulk up the U.S. military.

Despite that, Chinese state media and government-backed scholars largely favored Trump over his Democratic Party rival Hillary Clinton. As secretary of state, Clinton was seen as a chief proponent of the U.S. "pivot" to Asia that is viewed by China's leaders as an attempt to contain their country's rise to global prominence.

Beijing's rivalry with Washington largely boils

down to economics, especially China's USD334 billion trade surplus with the U.S. and American accusations of unfair subsidies for exporters and the condoning of intellectual property theft.

The sides are also opposed over security in east Asia, particularly China's assertion of its territorial claims in the South China Sea. Beijing has closely aligned its foreign policy with Russia, putting it at odds with the U.S. over issues including the civil war in Syria and the deployment of U.S. anti-missile defenses in South Korea.

Aside from his criticisms of Beijing, Trump has touted his business dealings with Chinese companies, although he is not known at present to have any major investments in the country.

Trump's espousal of a more isolationist foreign policy could also benefit China by weakening U.S. support for longtime Asian allies such as South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. **AP**

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Nick Perry, Wellington

NEW ZEALAND

Authorities plan rescue of thousand tourists stranded by earthquake

NEW Zealand is planning to send in military helicopters and a navy ship to rescue about 1,000 tourists and hundreds of residents who remain stranded in the coastal town of Kaikoura after a powerful earthquake cut off train and vehicle access.

The magnitude-7.8 quake struck the South Island just after midnight. It left two people dead and triggered a small tsunami. It also brought down rocks and mud that swept across highways and cracked apart roads.

Home to about 2,000 residents, Kaikoura is a popular destination for travelers taking part in whale-watching expeditions or wanting a stopover with mountain views. But the quake knocked out water supplies and sewerage systems and left people with no easy way out.

"From all directions, Kaikoura has essentially been isolated," Air Commodore Darryn Webb, the Acting Commander of New Zealand's Joint Forces, told The Associated Press. "There's a real imperative to support the town because it can't support itself."

Webb said the military planned to begin using four NH90 helicopters today that could each transport about 18 people out of the town at a time. He said a ship was also leaving Auckland on Monday night that could potentially pick up hundreds of people if weather conditions allowed.

"We're going to get as many people and belongings out as quickly as we can," Webb said.

He said the weather forecast wasn't looking great and the operation could take several days. He said that if needed, a C-130 military transport plane could drop fuel, water, food and other supplies to the town.

Elsewhere, strong aftershocks continued to shake New Zealand yesterday, rattling the nerves of exhausted residents. The country was largely spared the devastation it saw in 2011 when an earthquake struck the city of Christchurch and killed 185 people. That quake was one of New Zealand's worst disasters, causing an estimated USD25 billion in damage.

Sunday's quake [Macau time] caused damage in Wellington, the capital, and was also strongly felt in Christchurch. Residents said the shaking went on for about three minutes.

Police said one person died in Kaikoura and another in Mt. Lyford, a nearby ski resort. Several other people suffered minor injuries in Kaikoura, police spokeswoman Rachel Purdom said.

Prime Minister John Key flew over the destruction in Kaikoura by helicopter as aftershocks kicked up dust from the landslides below. Cars could be seen lying on their sides and parts of the road were clearly impassable.

"It's just utter devastation," Key said.

He later toured the area and met with locals. He estimated the cleanup effort would run into the billions of dollars and said clearing the debris and blocked roads could take months.

Kaikoura resident Terry Thompson said he was out of town when the quake struck but



A landslide blocks State Highway One and the main trunk railway line north of Kaikoura

managed to reach his wife on her cellphone before the phone died.

"She said the glass exploded right out of the double ranch-slider," he said. "The neighbor's chimney was gone, there were breakages and things smashed everywhere."

Thompson said his wife helped a 93-year-old neighbor and a tourist into her car and drove to higher ground.

"They stayed in the car all night but couldn't sleep," Thompson said. "They're all very, very tired and concerned about the state of their property."

Video taken from a helicopter near Kaikoura showed three cows stranded on an island of

grass in a paddock that had been ripped apart in the quake. The patch of grass was surrounded by deep ravines of collapsed earth, trapping the animals where they stood.

The quake temporarily knocked out New Zealand's emergency call number, 111. In Wellington, it collapsed a ferry loading ramp, broke windows and caused items to fall from shelves. It also forced hundreds of tourists onto the streets as hotels were evacuated.

Australians Paul and Sandra Wardrop and their children, Alexander, 15, and William, 12, were on the 10th floor of the Park Hotel when the shaking began.

"We felt that the building was going to collapse," Sandra Wardrop said. "You could hear the sounds of the building shaking and see cracks appearing in the walls, in the plasterwork in the bedroom."

The family was among dozens of people who took shelter in the capital's parliamentary complex, which threw open its doors.

Police, meanwhile, stepped up their patrols after receiving several reports of burglaries in homes and businesses that had been evacuated due to the quake.

Authorities in Wellington told people who work in the city's central business district to stay home yesterday. Officials said some large buildings were showing signs of structural stress. The city's suburban rail network was shut while crews checked tracks, bridges and tunnels.

New Zealand, with a population of 4.7 million, sits on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes are common.

The location of this quake largely helps explain why the damage was so minimal compared to the 2011 temblor, said Mark Quigley, associate professor of active tectonics at the University of Melbourne in Australia. The 2011 quake was located almost directly beneath Christchurch, meaning tens of thousands of people were exposed to the most violent shaking at the epicenter. Yesterday's quake was centered in a rural area that is home to just a few thousand people.

The quake was centered 93 kilometers northeast of Christchurch at a depth of 23 kilometers, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS initially estimated it had a magnitude of 7.4 before revising it to 7.8. AP

INDONESIA

Miss Transgender crowned in a slap for hard-liners

TRANSGENDER people and gay activists from across Indonesia have defied a wave of hatred against sexual minorities to crown a Miss Transgender at a national pageant held in absolute secrecy.

A handful of journalists were notified just a few hours in advance of the location of the event, held in Jakarta, to prevent any attempts by Islamic hard-liners to shut down the pageant. And because of the risk of discovery and violence, organizers asked those present not to post anything on social



Qienabh Tappii (center), holds her trophy as she stands on the stage with first runner up Sefty Castanyo (left), and third place winner Amanda Sandova (right), after winning the Miss Transgender Indonesia pageant in Jakarta

media during the contest. Qienabh Tappii, a 28-year-old representing Jakarta who wore a figure-hugging, iridescent metallic gown, triumphed over more than 30 other contestants Friday night

to be crowned Miss Waria Indonesia 2016. She will represent Indonesia at an international pageant to be held in Thailand next year. "Waria" is the Indonesian word for transgender, a term for people whose sense of their gender is different from their sex at birth.

"I'm very happy, I feel like I want to cry," said Tappii, standing next to a 2-meter-tall gold and red trophy while cradling a smaller one.

"Tonight is the beginning of my struggle for my rights as a waria," she said. "I want waria to

be accepted, appreciated and understood in our society, and to be equal with other Indonesians. I will work really hard to achieve it."

The successful staging of the pageant was an important morale boost and self-affirmation for a community that is increasingly under siege.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, is often held up as practicing a moderate form of Islam. But that reputation for tolerance has been undermined in the past year as the media and religious and politi-

cal leaders stoked prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, framing them as a threat to the nation.

It was in part a backlash against the worldwide advance of LGBT rights, and in particular the success of the gay marriage movement in the U.S. and the high-profile battles there over whether transgender people can use the public bathrooms of the gender they identify with.

Indonesia's conservatives want to push LGBT people back into the margins of society and deny them legal rights. AP

Josh Lederman, Washington

IT was supposed to be his grand valedictory tour. Now President Barack Obama must use his last major trip abroad to try to calm shocked world leaders about the outcome of the U.S. election, and what comes next when Donald Trump is president.

Trump's unforeseen victory has triggered pangs of uncertainty at home and grave concerns around the world. Though Obama has urged unity and said the U.S. must root for Trump's success, the president's trip to Greece, Germany and Peru forces him to confront global concerns about the future of America's leadership. Obama departs today on the six-day trip.

In some ways, there's nothing to say," said Heather Conley, a Europe scholar at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Conley said Obama's trip, planned when it seemed certain Hillary Clinton would win, had been designed to reassure the world that the U.S. had regained its footing after a toxic campaign that unnerved foreign capitals. "Now the president has the unenviable task of telling his counterparts and explaining what Europeans are now coining 'the Trump effect,'" Conley said.

For months, Obama lent credence to those concerns as he urged Americans to reject Trump. Standing alongside Singapore's prime minister in August, Obama said Trump was "woefully unprepared" because he lacked "basic knowledge" about critical

Obama will get many questions about Trump on last major trip



President Barack Obama meets with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office

issues in Europe, Asia and the Mideast. And during a visit to Japan, Obama said he wasn't the only world leader worried about Trump.

"They're rattled by him, and for good reason," Obama said in May. "Because a lot of the proposals that he's made display either ignorance of world affairs, or a cavalier attitude, or an interest in getting tweets and headlines instead of actually thinking through what it is that is required to keep America safe and secure and prosperous, and what's required to keep the world on an even keel."

Now, Obama must pivot and reassure the U.S. and other

countries that somehow, it will all be OK.

On his trip, Obama is stopping first in Athens, where he'll tour the Parthenon, meet with the prime minister, and give a speech about democracy and globalization that will take on new relevance in light of Trump's election. He'll use his visit to Berlin to show gratitude to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, his closest foreign partner, and to meet with key European leaders.

In Peru, he'll attend a major Asian economic summit in Lima, and also meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

For the most part, foreign leaders have politely if cautiously congratulated Trump on his victory, in public statements and phone calls.

A few have been more effusive, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose perceived sympathies for Trump became an election issue and who now says he wants to fully restore U.S. relations under President Trump.

In Europe, where Obama has sought unity with allies to counter Russia's growing influence, NATO members are alarmed by Trump's suggestions that the U.S. might pull out of the alliance if other countries don't pay more.

■ He'll attend a major Asian economic summit in Lima, and also meet with Chinese President Xi and Australian Prime Minister Turnbull

Many of the same nations are wrestling with whether last year's historic climate change deal can be salvaged after Trump's threats to pull the U.S. out.

Conversely, Trump's "America first" motto has resonated deeply with nationalists and skeptics of globalization who see Trump as a kindred spirit. After all, it was Trump who dubbed himself "Mr. Brexit" after the U.K.'s vote to leave the European Union.

Asian leaders who painstakingly negotiated a landmark free trade deal with the U.S. are swallowing the reality that Congress will not approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership any time soon. Obama planned to meet with TPP country leaders in Peru, but the White House acknowledged the deal is all but dead because Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has ruled out a vote on it before Trump takes office.

Trump is vehemently opposed to TPP and similar deals. That could benefit China, which is eager to fill any void in regional leadership left by a U.S. withdrawal and has its own competing free trade scheme. Yet Beijing has reason to be wary, too: Trump has threatened a trade war with China and vowed to go after the Asian powerhouse for what he deems currency manipulation. **AP**

Trump, McConnell and Ryan: Unlikely new power trio for DC

WASHINGTON'S new power trio consists of a bombastic billionaire, a telegenic policy wonk and a taciturn political tactician. How well they can get along will help determine what gets done over the next four years, and whether the new president's agenda flounders or succeeds.

President-elect Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell make up an unlikely alliance, one defined in advance mostly by Trump's opposition to the Washington establishment that Ryan and McConnell exemplify.

Trump and Ryan clashed throughout the campaign, with Trump taking offense when Ryan initially refused to endorse him and later distanced himself over the audio of Trump talking about groping women.

"Paul Ryan, a man who

doesn't know how to win (including failed run four years ago), must start focusing on the budget, military, vets etc.," Trump groused over Twitter last month.

But that was then, this is now, as Ryan, the GOP's 2012 vice presidential nominee, said Thursday after meeting with Trump at the Capitol.

"The past is in the past," Ryan said in an interview on Fox News Channel. "This was an unconventional year, he was an unconventional candidate, but the point is we unified, especially at the right point, at the end. And it worked."

Indeed, thanks partly to Trump's coattails, Ryan and McConnell limited expected losses to their majorities and will enter the new administration with control of both chambers of Congress and the White House. For now the glow of victory

appears to be soothing past tensions. And Republicans aligned with all three note they have something very important in common: They need each other.

"Ryan needs Trump to accomplish his policy agenda," said GOP Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, in comments that apply to McConnell as well. "Trump needs Ryan to get things to his desk."

There are well-known policy disagreements to navigate on issues like trade, immigration, Medicare and Social Security, where Trump's proposals and campaign rhetoric often flew in the face of Ryan and McConnell's standard business-friendly Republican approach.

But Trump's own unfamiliarity with the tedious business of legislating, and unformed policy positions in some cases, may give Ryan and McConnell a unique opportunity to

fill in the details. That would be a welcome role for both - McConnell as a deeply experienced legislator and dealmaker, and Ryan as an eager wonk who chaired the Ways and Means Committee before becoming House speaker. Ryan is steeped in details on reforming taxes and reshaping entitlement spending - although Trump has been critical of Ryan's past budget proposals.

"I don't think there's any question that a President Trump will be looking for legislative expertise," said Josh Holmes, McConnell's former chief of staff. "Some of that comes from the staff that he hires, and some of that will come from allies on Capitol Hill."

Moreover, Ryan's personal political future, including potential presidential ambitions of his own, may depend in part on how effectively he mana-

ges the relationship with Trump.

The speaker's tepid embrace of Trump during the campaign angered some conservatives in his conference, stirring talk that he could face a challenge to his speakership.

Unlike Ryan, McConnell was quick to endorse

se Trump as soon as he clinched the GOP nomination. McConnell never wavered on that, nor provoked Trump's ire over Twitter. At 74, McConnell has reached the long-sought pinnacle of his career as Senate majority leader, and unlike Ryan, 46, has no potential higher ambitions to manage. **AP**

RNC CHAIRMAN PRIEBUS CHOSEN AS WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

IN THE year of the outsider, Reince Priebus was the face of the Republican establishment. Yet the Republican National Committee chairman would come to earn the trust and confidence of President-elect Donald Trump, who on Sunday named Priebus as his chief of staff, along with flame-throwing media executive Stephen Bannon as his chief strategist.

The position puts Priebus at the power center of the new Trump administration. The 44-year-old Wisconsin political operative will help guard access to the president-elect, guide policy and political decisions, and if past practice holds true, will often be, along with Bannon, the last person Trump consults before making major decisions. Priebus has no governing experience in Washington.

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Wednesday, 30/11/2016

China's New Foreign and Security Policy Assertiveness

Speaker: Prof. Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Professor and Head, Department of Government and International Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University

FMBA Breakfast Meeting

Introduction: From Deng Xiaoping's well-known 'low profile diplomacy', China's foreign and security policy on the world stage has become more assertive under Xi Jinping, contesting United States' dominant position, particularly in the Asia-Pacific area. Hear how it affects us.

Date: Wednesday, 30th Nov. 2016

Time: 9:00-10:30 am (Reception: 8:45am)

Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16 Promenade Meeting Room (6th floor)

RSVP before 2 pm on Nov. 28th info@francemacau.com or Tel: 8798 9699

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what's ON



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

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACAU 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

MACAU LANTERN FESTIVAL- ARTISTIC INSTALLATIONS
 TIME: 24hours
 UNTIL: November 20, 2016
 VENUE: One Central Promenade
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2822 9838

LITTLE RABBIT LANTERNS, AN EXHIBITION BY CARLOS MARREIROS AND FRIENDS - PART 11
 TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays, opened on public holidays)
 UNTIL: November 20, 2016
 VENUE: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery / Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

AFA AUTUMN SALON
 TIME: 10am-7pm, (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
 VENUE: Orient Foundation, Casa Garden
 UNTIL: November 30, 2016
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDENT EXHIBITION: SHARE
 TIME: 2pm-7pm (Mondays to Saturdays)
 UNTIL: December 3, 2016
 ADMISSION: Free
 VENUE: Center for Creative Industries, G/F Macao Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

Offbeat

ALASKA: BURGLAR DRESSED AS NINJA TAKES KATANA SWORD FROM CARD SHOP

A katana sword is missing from an Alaska card shop after a burglar in a ninja outfit broke in.

KTVA-TV reports (bit.ly/2euGPOQ) security cameras filmed the costumed suspect entering the Anchorage business sometime after it closed Friday and leaving with what looked to be the Japanese-style, curved sword.

Spenard Bosco's employee Erich Helmick said inventory is being checked but that so far it seems the sword is the only item missing.

Helmick said the Anchorage Police Department responded to the incident and a report has been filed.

Anyone with information is asked to call police.



Ninja Breaks In, Steals Sword



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13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	Chief Executive's speech on the policy report for 2017
17:40	Chief Executive's Press Conference (Live)
18:20	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:10	Drama
19:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
20:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:00	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)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

11 Nov - 16 Nov

YOUR NAME

ROOM 1
 2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
 Director: Makoto Shinkai
 Language: Japanese (English and 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

DOCTOR STRANGE

ROOM 3
 (2D) 9.30 pm
 Director: Scott Derrickson
 Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams
 Language: English (Cantonese)
 Duration: 115min

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

**1977 PRINCESS ANNE GIVES BIRTH TO MASTER PHILLIPS**

Princess Anne has given birth to a boy - the first royal baby to be born a commoner for more than 500 years.

Both baby and mother are said to be in good health. Princess Anne was driven to St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, west London at 0400 on Tuesday by her husband, Captain Mark Phillips.

He was with the princess when their son was born less than six hours later at 1046 in the hospital's maternity unit.

The royal gynaecologist, George Pinker, was also at the birth.

But fortunately for the princess the tradition requiring a government minister to witness royal births was ended before the birth of Prince Charles.

The name of the child, who weighed 7lb 9oz, has not yet been announced.

Shortly afterwards the princess telephoned her mother with the news and Captain Phillips rang his parents in Great Somerford in Wiltshire where the church bells were rung in celebration.

Official announcements of the birth were posted on the railings of Buckingham Palace and the Home Office in Whitehall.

A 41-gun salute was fired at the Tower of London to welcome the baby, who is fifth in line to the throne.

He was born plain Master Phillips because, in spite of being the Queen's daughter, Princess Anne possesses no hereditary title.

Both the princess and her husband are said to have rejected an offer from the Queen of titles which would have enabled their children to be born into the peerage.

The Queen was among the first to visit her daughter and new grandson in a private wing of the hospital.

She smiled broadly and waved to a crowd of about 200 people as she arrived.

Speaking to reporters as he left after visiting his wife and new son, Captain Phillips said he was "relieved it's all over and very pleased".

On being asked what his son was like Captain Phillips replied: "About the same as any other baby I should think".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The baby was named Peter Mark Andrew Phillips. He was joined by a sister - Zara Anne Elizabeth - in 1981. They are the Queen's only untitled grandchildren. Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips divorced in 1992. The princess married Commander Timothy Laurence - who once served as an equerry to the Queen - later the same year. Captain Phillips remarried in 1997 and had a daughter, with his new wife, a former Olympic horse rider. The baby, Stephanie, was Captain Phillips' third daughter - he fathered an illegitimate child during his marriage to Princess Anne.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Don't worry too much about that obstacle in your path — it's much less important than it seems. In fact, it may be simpler to just go at it than to try to think up ways to get around it.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You feel fantastic and you should be able to get almost anything done today — no matter how ambitious it seems at first. Things could get really weird for a bit, but that's all part of the process.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
A hidden strength comes into play today, and it could make the difference between success and failure. Don't be shy, because you need to make sure that you're pulling out all the stops.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
It's your job to get things moving today, so make sure that you're lively and paying attention when people start to gather. It's easier than you may think to start up some new project.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
This is a bad time to get near temptation — your energy isn't as resistant as you would like, and that could mean that you're doomed to overindulge. You could bring along a friend with better discipline.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your expressive side is out in force today — which could mean that someone close is going to get an earful! The good part of it is that this clarity should shake things up for the better.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You're feeling a heavy burden today — one that might start to be a drag before the day's even half over. There is an upside: You can get support from an unlikely source if you just ask.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If it feels hopeless today, take heart — you hold the key to success. It's not all that often that you can rely solely on yourself, but today gives you the opportunity to do just that. Take charge!

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
This isn't the time for lofty goals or for big, crazy dreams — you need to make sure that you're realistic and, if anything, mundane. There's nothing wrong with just cleaning the kitchen, you know!

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Indulge your inner child today — eat that ice cream, skip out of work early or do whatever else your impulsive side decides on. You may find yourself moving in a great new direction!

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
A relative regales people with stories of your past — but you're not so sure they happened quite the way they say they did. Join in or add a comment to correct the record, but this dispute may not get settled soon.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You finally get beyond that illusory feeling of anxiety or despair and see it for what it really is: just another obstacle. It's easy to move beyond it and see what comes next!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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2				6				
4	6			7	1			
5		1	9					

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	4	11	foggy/cloudy
Harbin	-6	-3	sleet/snow
Tianjin	7	10	smoggy/clear
Urumqi	-4	5	clear
Xi'an	6	11	cloudy
Lhasa	3	14	clear
Chengdu	10	14	cloudy
Chongqing	14	17	overcast/drizzle
Kunming	8	21	clear
Nanjing	14	18	cloudy/overcast
Shanghai	16	22	drizzle
Wuhan	11	17	cloudy/drizzle
Hangzhou	15	22	drizzle
Taipei	21	27	clear/cloudy
Guangzhou	22	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	28	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	4	-2	drizzle/moderate rain
Frankfurt	1	4	drizzle
Paris	3	9	cloudy/drizzle
London	2	11	drizzle
New York	4	13	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Nuisance; 5- Bandleader Shaw; 10- Actress Ward; 14- Circle overhead?; 15- Divinity; 16- Irish island group; 17- Percussive instrument; 18- Lend ___ (listen); 19- ___ but known...; 20- Defer action; 23- ___ and rave; 24- Musical gift; 25- Line of cliffs; 28- Corroded; 31- Stickum; 35- Mistakes; 37- Baseball bat wood; 39- Sent down for the count; 40- In spite of; 44- ___-wop; 45- Cooking container; 46- Tranquil; 47- Nasal grunt; 50- Wide shoe size; 52- Trimmed; 53- Use, consume; 55- Linguist Chomsky; 57- Obsidian; 63- Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace; 64- Pertaining to the kidneys; 65- Fork prong; 67- Rapper born Tracy Marrow; 68- Plain writing; 69- Belinda Carlisle's "Should ___ You In?"; 70- ___ majesty; 71- Sensitive spots; 72- 1963 role for Liz;

DOWN: 1- Third degree?; 2- Lawman Wyatt; 3- Insult; 4- The day following today; 5- I don't give ___!; 6- Soprano Scotto; 7- Fastens a knot; 8- Let's just leave ___ that; 9- Eagle's nest; var.; 10- North African desert; 11- Part of QED; 12- Stow, as cargo; 13- Black cuckoo; 21- Island in the Bay of Naples; 22- Doze; 25- Dispatches; 26- Sing like Bing; 27- Threepio's pal; 29- Sensation provided by buds on the tongue; 30- Superlative suffix; 32- One on slopes; 33- Heavy metric weight; 34- Created a border; 36- Indy 500 sponsor; 38- Owns; 41- Weed whacker; 42- Sherpa's home; 43- Theatrical; 48- Narrate; 49- Tic-___-toe; 51- Sheath; 54- Diamond protectors; 56- Leers at; 57- Bad habit; 58- Bullfight cheers; 59- Emperor after Claudius; 60- Are you ___ out?; 61- Window ledge; 62- Dagger; 63- Like Abner; 66- DDE's command;



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Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

CRISTIANO Ronaldo scored twice and missed a penalty in Portugal's 4-1 win over Latvia in World Cup qualifying yesterday, but the European champion still trails group leader Switzerland.

Switzerland kept its 100 per cent record with a fourth straight win but was often labored in beating the Faeroe Islands 2-0.

Goals in each half from recalled forward Eren Derdiyok and captain Stephan Lichtsteiner were enough on a rain-swept evening.

The Swiss stay three points ahead of Portugal, due to its victory when the teams played in September to open the qualifying program.

Ronaldo, who missed that game in Switzerland, has scored seven of Portugal's 16 goals in three games since.

Against Latvia, Ronaldo opened the scoring with a 28th-minute spot kick, then saw his penalty in the 59th hit the left-hand post and bounce away off the goalkeeper's legs.

Latvia levelled through substitute Arturs Zjuzins in the 67th before Portugal substitute Ricardo Quaresma's crosses let William Carvalho restore the lead with a header and Ronaldo make the win safe with a volley. Defender Bruno Alves added a fourth in stoppage time.

Earlier, third-placed Hungary

FOOTBALL

Ronaldo, Portugal win but trail Swiss in World Cup qualifying



BLEACHERREPORT.NET

beat Andorra 4-0.

Switzerland has seemed to ease off against the group outsiders since starting with impressive wins against its two closest rivals.

Still, the Swiss were seldom threatened and also struck the frame of the goal in each half against the Faeroe Islands, who lost 6-0 at home to Portugal last month.

Derdiyok showed high-class technique to open the scoring in the 27th minute, taking a long lofted ball from Valon Behrami with a controlling first touch. He then struck a low left-foot shot past goalkeeper Gunnar Nielsen.

It was the 11th goal of Derdiyok's 56-match international career which has only rarely fulfilled the 28-year-old forward's

early promise.

Admir Mehmedi's shot struck a post in the 78th five minutes before Lichtsteiner sealed the three points. The veteran right-back advanced deep into the penalty area to meet left-back Ricardo Rodriguez's cross with a bouncing header.

In Budapest, Hungary captain Balazs Dzsudzsak created first-half goals for 37-year-old Zol-

tan Gera and Adam Lang. Adam Gyurcsó and Adam Szalai added late goals.

Hungary has seven points from four matches, and next travels to play Portugal in March. Then, Switzerland will be favored to beat Latvia at home.

Switzerland extended their perfect starts to join Germany as the only European teams with four straight wins on the road to Russia while Belgium beat Estonia 8-1. Belgium's 21-goal tally is Europe's best, and Eden Hazard and Romelu Lukaku were both on target in Brussels.

Two big names returned to the scoresheet for the Netherlands in a 3-1 win at Luxembourg. Arjen Robben was playing his first international game this year, and Memphis Depay scored twice.

Only group winners advance direct to the 2018 World Cup finals, and four runners-up will go to Russia through a playoff round. **AP**

AD



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opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



UNIFIED EXAM IS A TUMOR

While every student around me complains about how bad it is to be in school and sit exams which are fit for only one kind of student, the city's four universities are about to adopt a unified exam in the next academic year.

Can it be that horrible? Can this exam really damage Macau's diversified education system, as some opponents of this kind of exam have said?

To me, Macau's education is not diversified, but neither is education anywhere else in the world. And I know this is not an original idea. In fact, I grew up hearing that schools are bad.

Macau's education system will stay the same for at least the next 50 years. I say this because I don't see these four universities having a good market in Macau.

Children born into a certain social class will go abroad to pursue their degrees. Another class of children will go to mainland schools without taking any exams, which easily solves several problems. However, there will be a group of students enrolling in these four universities, and their numbers are considerable.

Regardless of the examination system we establish for the students, the education system in Macau will stay the same as long as the market is stable.

However, this does not change my personal view that such a system is still bad. Together with the recommendation system, which allows local students to go to the mainland for a university degree, there are two 'tumors'.

A unified exam consists of one exam for all students with questions drawn from the fields of Chinese, English, Portuguese, and Math. Arguing for the inclusion of English, Portuguese, and Math subjects is not necessary, as these subjects represent either Western culture or the exact sciences.

These subjects will change nothing but the students' ability to use these particular instruments.

Those who want to enroll in the four local schools will study hard trying to get a higher score. If the exams are written very well, then the students might improve their knowledge in these subjects in a non-practical way if we don't take math into account.

What really matters, to me personally, is the Chinese subject. When the four universities draft the Chinese exam, it will involve Chinese history, culture and values. These topics which underlie the structure of a single exam, are a lot more influential than history books in the sense that I see language as the real history, not the books themselves.

These universities will share a common value in a single paper. What will that value be? I think everyone will have their own opinions. But it will be a common value.

Let's establish an example: suppose that ten students need to take the unified exam next year, although only five choose to take it. These five will be trained in values represented in the exam.

As a mainlander all these years my peers and I were educated in certain values and traditions that were taught by older individuals our culture says we must respect. I have felt, and am still feeling, the ingrained values that a unified exam can trigger in me.

If this unified exam trains students to share common values, then Macau will become a place where there will be no tolerance towards something that is different. That is what I consider a tumor.

THE MALAYSIAN OPPOSITION LAWMAKER JAILED FOR EXPOSING 1MDB AUDIT

A prominent Malaysian opposition lawmaker with a reputation as a whistleblower was sentenced to 18 months in jail for releasing one page of a classified document on a controversial state investment fund.

A Malaysian rights group called the sentence a "dangerous chill on free speech" that could lead to a more repressive and unaccountable government.

Rafizi Ramli, vice president of the People's Justice Party, was found guilty by the court of violating the Official Secrets Act by possessing and disclosing content of a government audit report on the indebted 1MDB fund, founded by Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Rafizi, who often makes allegations on alleged government wrongdoing, said he would appeal.



THE brightest moon in almost 69 years will be lighting up the sky this week in a treat for star watchers around the globe.

The phenomenon known as the supermoon will reach its most luminescent in North America before dawn, having reached its zenith in Asia and the South Pacific last night. Across the international dateline in New Zealand, it will reach its brightest after midnight local time.

The moon orbits the Earth in an oval shape. The moon

will be at its brightest this week because it is coming closer to the Earth along its elliptical orbit than at any time since January 1948. The supermoon will also bring stronger than usual high tides, followed by plunging low tides the next morning.

Viewers can expect to see a moon about 14 percent larger in diameter and about 30 percent brighter than when it's at its furthest distance from the earth. It won't be as big and bright again for another 18 years.

NASA says its closest approach occurred at 11:21 GMT yesterday when the moon came within 356,508 kilometers. That's from the center of the Earth to the center of the moon.

According to the astronomy website earthsky.org, the term supermoon entered usage five years ago when the closest full moon fell on March 19, 2011. The scientific term is perigee full moon.

In 2034, the moon will come even closer, within 221,485 miles. That, too, will be a supermoon. **AP**



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

WORLD BRIEFS



MYANMAR 34 people were killed after they attacked government troops in western Rakhine state over the weekend, but residents of the villages belonging to the Muslim Rohingya minority say the victims they saw were unarmed civilians.



INDIA The crisis sparked by the shortage of cash in India following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's anti-graft measure to ban high-value currency bills has hit the movement of goods in Asia's third-largest economy. More than half of an estimated 9.3 million trucks under the All India Motor Transport Congress have been affected as drivers abandoned vehicles midway into their trip after running out of cash.

GERMANY A Syrian man's business was daubed with a Nazi swastika and set on fire in the eastern city of Magdeburg. Police said in a statement that a witness reported seeing three men smash the glass front of a tanning studio, followed by an explosion and a fire. Officers found a freshly painted swastika and the word "Out" painted on a wall.

AUSTRIA's interior ministry says that of the 287 Islamic radicals identified in the country in the past few years, 40 percent arrived as migrants looking for asylum. The ministry says its data covers a period from early 2011 and ending July 1 of this year. It released the data yesterday in answer to a parliamentary query from the right-wing and anti-migrant Freedom Party.

THE RUSSIAN military says one of its fighter jets based on an aircraft carrier currently near Syria's shores has crashed on a training mission, but its pilot survived. The Defense Ministry said yesterday that the crash of the MiG-29 fighter will not affect the operations of the Admiral Kuznetsov carrier.