



LIMITED ACCESS TO HENGQIN

More details about the scheme that will allow Macau-licensed cars to drive in Hengqin from December 20 were unveiled

P7 POLICY ADDRESS



TAIWAN HOLDS DRILL IN DISPUTED AREA

P10



FOOTBALL TEAM'S PLANE CRASHES IN COLOMBIA

A chartered plane with a Brazilian top tier football team crashed near Medellin, killing 75 people

P15

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

THAILAND's legislature will invite Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn to become the 10th king in the Chakri Dynasty, the latest step in naming the country's first new monarch in seven decades. *More on p11*

THE U.S. economy in the third quarter grew at the fastest pace in two years, with a revised report showing stronger consumer spending than first estimated. The gross domestic product, the country's total output of goods and services, expanded at an annual rate of 3.2 percent in the July-September period, the Commerce Department reported yesterday. That is up from a previous estimate of 2.9 percent.

AP PHOTO



ITALY The woman who is the world's oldest living person has marked her 117th birthday by blowing out all the candles on her cake. Emma Morano received a greeting from Italy's president, read by an official, and a visit from two elderly nieces and her long-time physician yesterday morning to mark the milestone birthday.

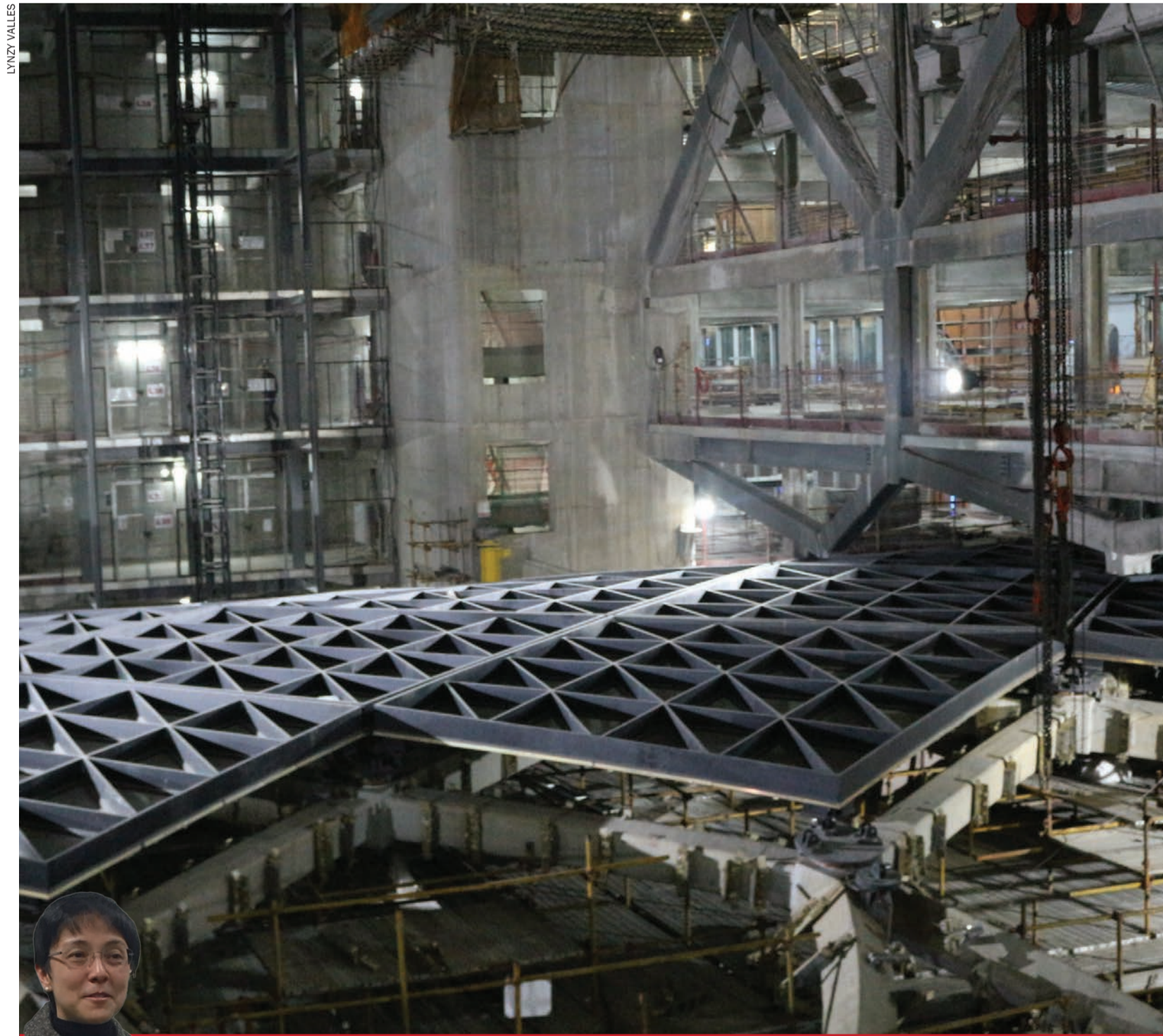
NETHERLANDS

Lawmakers in the lower house of the Dutch parliament yesterday approved a limited ban on "face-covering clothing" including Islamic veils and robes such as the burqa and niqab. The legislation, approved by a large majority in the 150-seat lower house, must now be approved by the upper house of parliament before it can be signed into law.

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Melco Crown's new hotel Morpheus to open in 2018

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INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS MACAO

MGTO chief learning 'along the way' after festival takeover

P3 INTERVIEW

ENVIRONMENT

Forum discusses sustainable development

Julie Zhu

THE 5th International Forum on Clean Energy, hosted jointly by the International Forum for Clean Energy (IFCE Macao), by the China Economic Development Research Association, and by China Energy News, was convened yesterday.

In the two-day conference, nearly 200 government officials, energy experts, academics and industry figures gathered together to discuss the hot issues and problems regarding the development of a clean energy industry.

Yang Chonghui, vice chairman of China Economic and Social Council, said in his speech that energy transformation is “not only an economic and market issue but also a political and strategic issue.”

On September 2015, the protocol “17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted by world leaders at a UN summit.

Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General of the United



Officiating guests and delegates at the 5th International Forum on Clean Energy

Nations, asked the leaders “to implement these goals, which are a shared vision of humanity.”

Ambrose So, director-general of IFCE Macao, said in his welcome speech at the opening ceremony that “energy saving and emission reduction are not only the responsibility of nations and governments. They also require a common understanding by the general public and collective support from all members of society.”

When talking to the media, So said that this year’s forum is different from the last four in terms of theme. This year’s

theme is Clean and Efficient Use of Energy.

“Carbon emissions equal trash, and organizing this

conference created so much trash,” said So. According to him, organizing the conference represents five tonnes in carbon emissions. “We encouraged participants to make donations in order to plant trees in mainland China, so that these trees will completely absorb these emissions in the next ten years,” explained So.

The ceremony also included an awards session to reward the leading people and enterprises that were committed to clean energy in 2016.

Moreover, the forum also published two blue books on clean energy: Report on the Emission Reduction of Green House Gas and Development of Carbon Market (2016) and Report on Development of Clean Heating and Building Energy Efficiency (2016).

The forum also held an IFCE Theme Summit, among other seminars related to energy industry.

SURVEY

Employment surge in hotel sector

THE Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) has released the results of a survey of employment across several economic sectors.

At the end of the third quarter, hotels operating in Macau had 54,600 full-time employees, up by 8.9 percent year-on-year. Average earnings for this sector (excluding bonuses) in September rose by 2.1 percent to MOP16,810. Restaurants had 25,181 full-time employees, down by 9.1 percent year-on-year, with the average earnings rising by 1.2 percent to MOP9,310.

Manufacturing had 9,922 full-time employees, an increase of 7.5 year-on-year; average earnings in September rose by 5 percent to MOP10,270.

Childcare and elderly care had 1,266 and 674 full-time employees, up by 10 percent and 1.8 percent respectively year-on-year, and average earnings in September increased by 10 percent and 12.4 percent respectively to MOP13,910 and MOP13,850.

At the end of the third quarter, job vacancies in hotels (1,869) rose by 245 year-on-year, while those in manufacturing (879) and restaurants (2,141) fell by 142 and 51 respectively. About 70.5 percent of the vacancies in hotels and 68.3 percent of those in manufacturing required junior secondary education or lower.

JAI ALAI RENOVATION TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR

SOCIEDADE DE Jogos de Macau (SJM) chairman, Ambrose So reported that SJM’s Jai Alai complex – a renovated gaming property in the central area of the Macau peninsula - will be finished within this year, although he is uncertain about whether the casino will be open this year or not. So says that more time is needed for Macau to judge whether the gaming industry will continue to recover next year.

“We hope that the gaming industry’s revenue can remain stable or have a slight increase,” said So, “so that the industry and society can both feel a little bit secure and steady.” In regard to the gaming industry’s future, So stated that all parties involved hope to spend more efforts on non-gaming aspects. He believes that Macau’s gaming revenue this year can reach MOP200 billion.

LEGAL WISE BY MdME



Tiago Vilhena*

RETAIL INDUSTRY VERSUS FINANCE BUREAU

A grant of use (also known as “GOU”) is an agreement required to rightfully operate a retail business and is commonly used by owners (landlords) in Macau (and other regions and countries) to regulate the operation of retailers. The GOU is the instrument through which landlords of retail spaces in shopping malls and hotel and casino complexes are able to regulate the businesses that are renting their retail space, businesses that are all profiting from several common services provided by the owner of the property, such as security, cleaning, promotion and others.

Although not expressly established in the Macau Civil Code or under any specific law, this type of agreement is currently accepted as valid and enforceable by the unanimous jurisprudence of Portuguese courts and by legal experts in Portuguese law. Accordingly, the GOU is viewed as an

atypical contract, where the provisions of the Macau Civil Code ruling (commercial) lease agreements have no applicability whatsoever.

In the same way, due to the atypical nature of the GOU, the Macau Stamp Duty Ordinance (Law no. 17/88/M) does not expressly subject it to the payment of any particular stamp duty as for residential and industrial lease agreements. The commercial lease agreements have occupied a grey area, legally speaking, for almost a decade.

However, in 2013, contrary to its common practice, the Macau Finance Bureau (DSF) notified certain owners in Macau that GOUs needed to be qualified as lease agreements for tax purposes and, subsequently, were subject to stamp duty at a 0.5 percent tax rate of the value of such agreements for the whole duration of the contract. A number of disputes have there-

fore been brought to the Macau courts against DSF, who has been collecting the taxes at stake up to now.

Nevertheless, a recent development made the retail industry smile again: the Macau Last Instance Court (TUI) has concluded in a judgment issued two weeks ago that GOUs are not subject to stamp duty for lease agreements, as tax law does not allow application by analogy or extension, as imposed by DSF. In addition, according to TUI, “there was no evidence that the desire of the legislator was to include, in the concept of leasing, the contracts of the shops in the shopping centers,” as he could have done so when the said Ordinance came up for revision in 2001, 2011 and 2012, and these type of agreements had already been widely spread across Macau integrated resorts since the COTAI inception. As a result, the tax paid by the applicant (roughly MOP4million) shall be

reimbursed by DSF.

The decisions of TUI are final and without appeal and although the rule of precedence is not an established rule in Macau’s legal system, the lower courts tend to follow the interpretations of TUI. Hence, the present ruling is of particular relevance, and DSF is expected to abide by it.

Despite the current recession in Macau and the opening of new integrated resorts, the Chief Executive explained recently in a Q&A session on the 2017 Policy Address that the Government expects the city to need an extra 360,000 square meters of retail space by 2025. Meaning that the retail industry will continue to expand in the years ahead, becoming one of the most prominent and important industries of Macau.

Now, when raising income generated from non-gambling sources is the order of the day, shall we expect the Government to persuade the legislator to invert this matter in the near future by updating the Stamp Duty Ordinance? We’re inclined to think so.

* Senior Associate, MdME

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Q&A HELENA DE SENNA FERNANDES
MGTO DIRECTOR

Learning 'along the way' after festival takeover



Daniel Beittler

Head of the launch of the inaugural edition of the International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM) on December 8, MGTO chief Helena de Senna Fernandes sat down yesterday with the media to provide an update on the festival's planning.

The media briefing comes only weeks after the renowned former artistic director of the prestigious Venice Film Festival and the International Film Festival of Rome pulled out of his role as IFFAM director. Marco Müller cited "differences of opinion" as the reason for his sudden departure, a justification that was confirmed by the festival's organizing committee.

Senna Fernandes, who took up the role following Müller's resignation, told the press yesterday that organizing the festival "is a very, very challenging job," and that she is "still learning all of this along the way."

- The festival program was released a few weeks ago. Are there any new developments?

Senna Fernandes (SF) - We have one additional compe-

dition film – called "One Shining Moment" by Hong Kong director, Fruit Chan. That is new information [but] not exactly a new entry. It was always there but on the day of the press conference [when the participating films were announced] there were some copyright issues that we had not yet cleared. So it was not possible to announce it at that time. We have now cleared those issues, so we can now release the information.

- Are you able to disclose more details on the red carpet events?

SF - All of the competition films will have the director and/or some cast members present for the screenings, except one - "150 Milligrams," the French film. Apart from this exception all of the others will have red

■ We will have an independent assessment [...] We will not be evaluating ourselves.

carpet events.

The days that the directors and cast members will be in Macau will coincide with [the screening of] their films. That's why we are arranging red carpets for almost all of the competition films. Of course the gala films will also have red carpets as many of their [respective] cast members will be here.

- What is being done to draw interest from nearby markets?

SF - In Hong Kong, you already see our commercials going out daily across many of the major television stations. We also offer bundle packages [to Hong Kong residents,] which may typically include tickets to IFFAM and ferry tickets.

In terms of China, a lot of the coverage comes from the media there as well as social media.

- Who is going to evaluate the success of IFFAM, and how will they do this?

SF - Attached to the festival itself, we will have an independent assessment [agency] that will assess the degree of success of the festival. That will be

an altogether independent survey because we commissioned this to an outside company. We will not be evaluating ourselves. Obviously they would need to source international coverage of the event as well as consider other parameters that they are considering. That would give us more information and an independent pointer to where we have been successful and which areas we need to improve. For most of the big events that we run these days, we usually include an independent study. [...] We are quite honest with ourselves to this extent.

- Are directors from other film festivals planning to attend?

SF - We have invited over 100 industry professionals to the festival. At this point in time at least six film festivals [...] and their directors have said that they will be coming here [...] and that includes the Busan [International Film] Festival director and those from Tokyo, Toronto and Rotterdam, as well as others. We are waiting for confirmation from a couple more, which might take us up to about ten film festivals.

- Speaking of other directors, will Marco Müller be credited during the festival for his contributions?

SF - We are thinking about that. It's a little bittersweet at this point in time. [...] There are obviously mixed feelings. While I haven't forgotten this issue, it is something that I have to consider very, very carefully. We need to see how we can sort this out.

- What can the festival do for Macau tourism?

SF - In terms of tourism, when a lot of people [in the West] think about Macau, they think of casinos and gambling. They don't know about the Historic Center [of Macau] or any of the open-air places. For tourism, it's very important that we try to entice people to come here to film parts of television shows or films. [...] But if they don't know anything about Macau or the places to visit, nobody will consider Macau. We want to get the awareness [of the city] out, so that they will bring projects here. Without this first contact or impression, it's quite impossible to move ahead.

Fu Luen school new campus inaugurated



Fu Luen School organized a ceremony to celebrate the inauguration of its new campus. The school's new facilities are located at the Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado. The campus has been operating since the beginning of this academic year. The new facilities can provide around 1,000 places to kindergarten and primary school students. It is composed of 12 stories and two underground levels, occupying a total area of 22,000 square meters. The sports field and library will open to the public soon.

Mobile library's books burnt in blaze

A blaze took place at the back end of Edf. Mei Lok Garden, at the Estrada Marginal da Ilha Verde, yesterday in the early morning. Forty people were evacuated and no injuries were reported. The fire then spread to a nearby mobile library, burning some of its books. The Fire Services Bureau says the fire is suspicious and it has already forwarded the case to the Judiciary Police. The Cultural Affairs Bureau assessed the damage. The department announced that the library will still resume operations tomorrow.

Four Macau residents bought counterfeit show tickets

Earlier this week, four Macau residents fell for an online fraud system and have lost a total of MOP92,100, according to the Judiciary Police. The authority believes the crimes were conducted by a single person, but a suspect has not been arrested yet. A female profile claimed to be able to provide tickets for two concerts which would take place in Macau and Hong Kong. A 26-year-old Macau resident paid the suspect MOP55,460 in exchange for a total of 82 tickets, which is the most serious single case in the series of crimes. A 28-year-old Macau male driver also lost MOP31,720.

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Fifth hotel tower at City of Dreams named Morpheus

Lynzy Valles

MELCO Crown Entertainment is scheduled to launch its newest hotel brand at the City of Dreams. The hotel tower, a USD1 billion project named Morpheus, will open in 2018.

The gaming operator yesterday unveiled the latest hotel brand for its fifth hotel at City of Dreams, which is named after the God of Dreams and would cater to the expectations of sophisticated and high-end travelers.

The tower was designed by the late architect Zaha Hadid. It will feature some 780 rooms, restaurants, an executive lounge, a sky pool and VIP gaming and villas will be constructed at the top floors.

According to Lawrence Ho, chairman and CEO of Melco Crown Entertainment, the operator has maintained a high room occupancy (over 90 percent) in Studio City and City of Dreams.

Ho implied that the upcoming hotel would accommo-



Lawrence Ho

date the increasing number of tourists that would enter Macau through under-construction infrastructures, citing the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. The new hotel will feature around 780 guest rooms.

Meanwhile, since Morpheus would feature VIP and premium mass gaming tables, Ho clarified that they would only be moving such tables from its properties.

"The casino portion is not a new casino [but] merely moving some casino tables [...]

from existing facilities to Morpheus [as] it's still part of City of Dreams," he told the press.

When questioned whether the casino floor room would feature gaming tables or slot machines, Ho answered, "It's more likely a space for VIP and premium mass. We haven't decided yet. It's a small area."

As the region's gross gaming revenue has seen significant recovery in the last three months, the CEO hoped that the growth pattern would be stabilized. Yet he

also clarified that Melco Crown is not reliant on the VIP market, noting that their focus is on expanding its premium mass market.

"In the whole of Macau we're the second least reliant on [VIP]. [...] So I'm happy that it [has] recovered but I think the driver of Macau and driver of Melco Crown for years to come is going to be based on mass," he said.

Melco Crown Entertainment is also looking at developing Morpheus into a global brand. As there are a number of resorts globally, in terms of architecture and design, the hotels are "pretty standard looking."

Morpheus is the first high-rise building supported by a free-form exoskeleton steel structure to house a mix of facilities within one cohesive edifice, featuring two sky bridges, five glazing systems and a non-repetitive aluminum cladding.

Zaha Hadid Architects note that the construction incorporates a number of architectural and technological breakthroughs.

Inspired by jade artifacts, no two pieces on the structure are the same. It comprises two towers with a total of 39 floors, connected at both the podium levels and the roof.

Imports decrease 19.3pct year-on-year

Total merchandise for October 2016 amounted to MOP759 million, according to a statement issued by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), down by 0.7 percent year-on-year. The value of re-exports (MOP618 million) for the month slid by 1.6 percent, but that of domestic exports (MOP141 million) rose by 3.3 percent. Meanwhile, total merchandise import decreased by 19.3 percent year-on-year in October to MOP6.09 billion, of which imports of motor cars and mobile phones decline by 54.6 percent and 35 percent respectively. Subsequently, the merchandise trade deficit amounted to about MOP5.33 billion. From January to October 2016, total value of merchandise import fell by 18.2 percent to MOP58.12 billion.

EUAP-M showcase local shorts

The European Union Academic Programme in Macao (EUAP-M) will present the EU Short Film Challenge 2016 tomorrow, where 20 short films will be screened from 7 p.m. in the Student Activity Center Theater (E31) at the University of Macau (UM) campus. This is the third edition of this competition, which involves more than 60 students from the video workshop of the Department of Communications at UM. For this year's competition, students were challenged to produce short films around the theme "#Migrations". Students have used documentary and narrative approaches to explore topics related to Macau. The EU Short Film Challenge 2016 is one of the activities organized by the EUAP-M. Established in 2012, the EUAP-M is a partnership between the UM and the Institute of European Studies of Macau, co-financed by the European Union.

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Renato Marques

MORE details about the scheme that will allow Macau-licensed cars to drive in Hengqin from December 20 were unveiled at the end of Wong Sio Chak's presentation at the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday.

Replying to a question posed by lawmaker Chan Chak Mo, the Secretary for Security, said: "We have to fix some criteria, a connection with Zhuhai must exist, that is, [applicants must] have a life there or have investments there. We can't have all the 250,000 vehicles of Macau going to Hengqin, the island does not support that and this would cause problems on the cross border point." The new measure has been an ongoing topic of discussion between the MSAR, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Zhuhai Municipal Government, via the established cooperation mechanisms.

Final arrangements for the scheme are apparently being defined this week and will be disclosed soon. Pressured by lawmakers, Wong said that authorities in Hengqin are willing to "create a graduated scheme, based on a limited number of vehicles," he said replying to the added pressure on the border checkpoints.

"We hope that after tomorrow's meeting [with Zhuhai Governor] we can have more information to reveal," added Wong remarking that the graduated scheme will have at least two phases and that there will be an evaluation of the results of each phase that will lead to the measures to adopt for the next stage.

During yesterday's debate at the AL, lawmaker Tong had

RENATO MARQUES



Wong Sio Chak (center)

POLICY ADDRESS | WONG SIO CHAK

Circulation of vehicles in Hengqin to be very limited

also been questioned on the possibility of opening a new "entry" to be located at the campus of the University of Macau (UM) in order to relieve the pressure over the Lotus Flower Checkpoint.

"Regarding the possibility of opening a new 'door' into UM, this decision is not under our [control] and we cannot be the ones deciding on that," replied the Secretary, adding that such a measure would violate the agreement established between the SAR and mainland authorities re-

garding the concession of the Hengqin land area to the region.

This was one of the many topics in discussion during the second day of the question and answer session with the Secretary for Security held at the AL yesterday.

The second day of discussions included the topic of the "Tourist Police" and the use of portable video cameras by police patrol teams, among other issues also involving borders like the "single inspection" and the reopening of the cross point of the Inner Harbor.

Regarding the topic of the creation of the "Tourist Police" in the islands (Taipa and Coloane) Wong was questioned by lawmakers Lau Veng Seng and Chui Sai Peng on the number and qualifications of the police officers that would occupy these positions.

The secretary asked the Public Security Police Force (PSP) Commissioner Leong Man Cheong to reply. Leong explained that such a team has been working in the peninsula with "20 officers that patrol normally the area of the Ruins of Saint Paul's and operate on the repression of the criminal [activity] against tourists and on traffic control," adding that such officers use "more careful language and have [bilingual] proficiency."

For the new team, the number of officers "was raised to 30 and the number of areas to be patrolled also increa-

We can't have all the 250,000 vehicles of Macau going to Hengqin.

WONG SIO CHAK

sed from 6 to 10," Leong said, adding "this team will have a constant operation from now on and they will inclusively have a specific uniform - lighter - as well as equipment adequate to their specific functions." Commissioner Leong also took the opportunity to discuss the color scheme (predominately white) of the specific patrol vehicle.

According to the head of the PSP, the officers will patrol in Rua do Cunha as well as other areas in Taipa.

On the topic of the use of the "Portable Video Cameras" by the police officers, lawmaker Vong Hin Fai asked if there

was any law that supported such use based on privacy issues.

Without diving into too much detail, Wong said, "We already did a study before. The law allows it. There isn't any problem."

On cross border matters and regarding the Wanzai Port the Secretary used a similar reply as regarding all other border matters stating, "We can't decide on this matter, we need to wait for an answer from the Zhuhai side." He reaffirmed his availability to "remind" the Zhuhai authorities on the matter in today's meeting.

As for the works regarding the implementation of the method of single-inspection on border crossing Wong Sio Chak said "We have a clearly defined direction but the works are still ongoing. I can't advance much on that."

The Policy Address sectorial discussion will continue tomorrow with the next two days dedicated to collaboration with the Secretary of Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, and his team.

'Mini-storage facilities are fire safe,' CB Commissioner says

MINI-STORAGE facilities in Macau abide by the law of fire safety, the Commissioner of the Fire Service Bureau (CB), Leong Iok Sam, said yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) during the discussion of the Policy Address for 2017 in the area of security. The commissioner was replying to the questions of several lawmakers who raised the question over the two days of questions and answers on the topic of security.

Leong took the opportunity to conduct an evaluation on the matter, raised due to concerns after a fire broke out in a similar facility in Hong Kong in June, resulting in the death of one firefighter.

Regarding the situation in Macau, Leong said: "We know of 21 of these facilities in Macau and we have been sending staff regularly to inspect them." He added: "These facilities are located in industrial buildings, they are equipped with [fire] sprinklers and meet safety standards."

"In any case, we have reinforced the work [on such facilities], namely in the inspection of escape routes and primary firefighting equipment," the head of the CB reassured. RM

CHUI SAI PENG PROPOSES GPS LOCALIZATION FOR TAXIS

REMARKING ON the work undertaken by the Secretary for Security in tackling illegal actions of taxi drivers and transport services operating via mobile apps, lawmaker Chui Sai Peng proposed taxis to be equipped with a GPS localization system "to allow passengers to know where they can

find a taxi." The measure, which would seem to be a compromise between the normal taxi pick-up operations and the service provided by companies like Uber, provides an added "tool" to facilitate inspection by authorities and was well received by secretary Wong, who said it was a "good idea."

GAMING

Imperial Pacific's junk rating may be lowered by Moody's



Imperial Pacific's Best Sunshine Live casino

Matthew Campbell

IMPERIAL Pacific International Holdings Ltd., the operator of a casino on the U.S. territory of Saipan, had its credit rating put on review for possible downgrade at Moody's Investors Service because of concern over funding of a project to build a new resort on the island.

The review of the B2 rating - five levels below investment

grade - reflects a delay in selling bonds that will help finance the project, Moody's vice-president Kaven Tsang said in a statement Monday. The evaluation will focus on the Hong Kong-based company's "ability to secure sufficient long-term funding" and the subsequent impact on its gaming license, as well as the "management of money laundering risk to ensure that its gaming business in Saipan is

sustainable," Moody's said.

Shares of Imperial Pacific fell 0.9 percent in Hong Kong trading yesterday, paring a decline of as much as 4.6 percent.

Imperial Pacific didn't respond to e-mailed and phone requests for comment. Moody's said it will withdraw its provisional B1 rating for the bonds because they have not been issued as planned.

Imperial Pacific's Best

Sunshine Live casino on the remote Pacific island has posted per-table VIP revenues far in excess of those at the grandest gambling resorts in Macau, the world's number-one casino hub. The volume of cash has drawn the attention of the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, which is responsible for alerting prosecutors and other authorities of suspicious financial flows, a person familiar with the matter said this month.

The company, which until a few years ago was focused on the distribution of frozen food, is in the process of building a much larger casino and resort complex, and plans to sell as much as \$650 million in bonds to fund the project. Its chief executive officer, Mark Brown, was formerly a senior executive in U.S. president-elect Donald Trump's Atlantic City casino operations.

Imperial Pacific has said that its Saipan operation complies with all relevant money-laundering and other regulations, and that bets are closely monitored by local and U.S. regulators. It has also said it is not aware of any investigation of the casino by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. **Bloomberg**

Singapore Minister sees steady job market as hiring ticks up

David Roman, Haslinda Amin

SINGAPORE'S government hopes there won't be any deterioration in unemployment next year as the job market keeps pace with 2016 levels, said Ong Ye Kung, the country's minister for education.

With the unemployment rate for residents currently about 3 percent, and industries including health care, precision engineering and aerospace performing well and still hiring, Singapore's employment market was "not bad at all," Ong said in an interview on Bloomberg TV yesterday.

"Next year we hope there's an uptick in several sectors and so we hope we can maintain unemployment the way it is," he said. "But more importantly is long-term unemployment. We have always kept it low and we keep it low by ensuring workers keep on re-skilling."

Singapore's export-driven economy is under pressure amid a slowdown in global trade and lower energy prices that's hurt the oil and gas services industry and caused thousands of job losses. The economy expanded 2 percent last year,

the slowest pace since 2009, and the government forecasts even lower growth this year of 1 percent to 1.5 percent.

Ong, who is also a second minister of defense, joined the cabinet last year and was made a board member of the Monetary Authority of Singapore in August. He was previously a director of group strategy at Keppel Corp.

As a trade-dependent nation, Singapore is concerned about the growing backlash against globalization following the U.K.'s vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. elections. Trump is opposed to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free-trade pact signed between countries including the U.S., Japan and Singapore and has vowed to impose higher tariffs on China.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting earlier this month that he is going ahead with legislation to implement TPP and urged leaders to carry on with the ratification process despite Trump's opposition.

Going further than earlier trade deals, the TPP seeks to lower non-tariff bar-



Ong Ye Kung

riers such as state support for government-backed companies and improving labor and environmental standards.

Koh Poh Koon, Singapore's minister of state in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, said yesterday that TPP is "a very forward-looking" agreement and the country "will continue to work with the other partners" to push for it.

"The principles behind TPP, the trade principles, are relevant to what we are seeing in terms of the modern economy," Koh said in an interview. "We do hope that all future trade agreements incorporate at least elements of what TPP aspires to achieve." **Bloomberg**

opinion

David Fickling, Bloomberg



WHAT MARIAH CAREY CAN TELL PACKER ABOUT CASINO SPLITS

Followers of Crown Resorts Ltd. and its controlling shareholder James Packer must be growing sick of reading about splits.

We're not talking about the end of Packer's tabloid-baiting romance with Mariah Carey. The company's planned spinoff of its international business has threatened to dismember two sets of assets that, in the words of Carey's biggest hit, belong together.

Shareholders who sold the stock yesterday on reports in the Australian Financial Review that the corporate divorce has been put on hold should think twice: The abandonment of the deal could be a blessing in disguise.

Crown shares have fallen about 10 percent since 18 employees were detained by Chinese authorities in relation to its marketing of high-rolling VIP gambling tours. But - as Gadfly argued at the time - the crackdown on foreign rivals was mostly good news for Macau's home team. Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd., the casino that was to form the core of the new spun-off business, is up 24 percent over the same period.

Crown's planned demerger was always a lopsided deal. The proposed international business comprises a 27.4 percent stake in a world-class casino company thanks to its Melco holding, plus a grab-bag of nearly worthless scraps and a stake in a proposed Las Vegas development that could turn into either a money-spinner or a cash-pit.

The domestic business retains a couple of gems in the form of its casinos in Melbourne and Perth, but the attractions of those assets - not to mention a planned Sydney gambling resort catering solely to high-rollers - have been sorely dented by the Chinese crackdown.

Even were that not the case, substantial planned capital spending on building that Sydney site means that analysts expect Crown's notional share of Melco Crown's free cash flow over the coming three fiscal years to comfortably outstrip its own.

The negatives that shareholders will assume if Crown holds onto its uglier international assets - those casinos in the English towns of Milton Keynes and Northampton, a stake in Nobu, the suburban Las Vegas Cannery casino - are comfortably outweighed by the benefits of holding onto its stake in Melco. Rare jewels - whether a stake in a Macanese casino or the diamond engagement ring that Carey reportedly received from Packer - don't come along every day. Crown Resorts shareholders should take a lesson from Mimi: If you've got your hands on something precious, hold onto it with both hands.



Festival in East Timor selects best coffee

THE Coffee Festival of Timor-Leste (East Timor), which aims to select the best coffee and the best cocktail made with this product, will run until December 3, as part of an event open to farmers and groups of associated farmers.

The festival was organized by the Timor-Leste Coffee Association (ACTL) and will include the country's first coffee tasting competition, with professional judges from Australia, Canada, Mexico, Thailand and the United States, Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

"It's the first time that East Timor will have a festival of this kind," said Evangelino Monteiro, spokesman for the ACTL, who added: "East Timor produces high-quality coffee and we want to celebrate it and to inspire people to do even better in future."

In addition to various activities for coffee lovers in Dili, with dining venues also joining in with the event, the festival includes support programs to improve coffee quality for farmers in Ainaro, Aileu, Ermera and Liquica.

The ACTL is a voluntary association that works "to increase the volume and improve the value of coffee sold for export and domestic consumption" through the revitalization of the coffee sector and by contributing to the development of the international brand of Timorese coffee and the training of farmers.

Despite having reduced production – East Timor annually exports coffee worth about USD20 million – Timorese coffee production has experienced resurgence in recent years. **MDT/Macauhub**

Chinese group announces investments in Angola

CHINESE group Huafeng plans to invest USD1 billion in Angola over a period of two to five years, in agricultural projects, livestock, fisheries and industry, among others, said last week in Luanda the chairman of the group, Zhan Yongaiou.

The president of the group said the provinces of Luanda, Moxico, Malanje, Lunda Norte, Huambo, Kuando Kubango, Benguela and Lunda Sul were the regions of Angola chosen to benefit from the investment, taking into account the potential natural resources for investors, according to Angolan news

agency Angop.

Zhan Yongaiou said the company, which has been in Angola for three years, will start by building a centre specialising in the production of agricultural seeds, in Luanda, to develop production of grain, vegetables and tubers and launch breeding of beef and pork cattle, poultry, and fish and build a fertiliser and medication plant.

The President of the Chinese group was speaking at the end of the ceremony to sign an investment agreement with the Technical Unit for Private Investment (UTIP). **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

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A Chinese state newspaper yesterday criticized Singapore over the Southeast Asian city-state's military training with self-governing Taiwan, following the impounding of nine Singaporean infantry fighting vehicles transiting through Hong Kong.

The Communist Party-run Global Times said in an editorial yesterday that Singapore was responsible for the incident, but gave no details about what laws or regulations have been broken by the shipping of the armored vehicles from Taiwan. The vehicles were being sent to Singapore from Kaohsiung, in southern Taiwan, after a military exercise there, when they were seized on last week by Hong Kong.

The editorial said China has long opposed all forms of military cooperation between other countries and Taiwan, which Beijing claims as a breakaway province to be reunited with by force if necessary.

"China opposes the outside world having any form of military cooperation or exchange with Taiwan," the paper said. "Singapore, a state that has diplomatic relations with China, should be cautious in this regard."

Singapore's defense minister, Ng Eng Hen, said yesterday that the city-state supports the "one-China" principle — Beijing's view that the mainland and Taiwan are part of a single Chinese nation — and that Singapore is open about its overseas training arrangements.

"Any training matters between us and other countries are bilateral, and we should not unnecessarily, until the facts come out, muddle the picture and impute various motives," he said.

Ng said Singapore "plays a positive role in cross-strait relations, and we will continue to do so," citing as an example the city-state's hosting of a historic meeting last year between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Taiwan's then-



Nine eight-wheeled Singapore-made Terrex infantry carrier vehicles seized at a container terminal in Hong Kong.

Beijing blasts Singapore's military cooperation with Taipei

■ The editorial said China has long opposed all forms of military cooperation between other countries and Taiwan

president, Ma Ying-jeou.

On Monday, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman

said that Beijing has lodged a complaint with Singapore following the seizure of the vehicles. Geng Shuang reiterated China's opposition to military and other exchanges between Taiwan and the countries China has ties with.

"We urge the Singaporean government to stay committed to the one-China principle," Geng said at a regular briefing.

Last week, Singapore's defense ministry sent a team to Hong Kong to ensure the security of the eight-wheeled Singapore-made Terrex infantry carrier vehicles that

were held by Hong Kong customs on Wednesday. It said the vehicles were not carrying ammunition or sensitive equipment and that the team would "assess the situation."

Singapore's army chief, Maj. Gen. Melvyn Ong, said yesterday that the vehicles had been shipped commercially and the military was still attempting to ascertain the reason for the detention.

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper has said Singaporean authorities would need to contact China's foreign ministry to get the vehicles back. The militaries

of Taiwan and Singapore have long trained together, much to the irritation of Beijing.

The seizure also comes amid Chinese displeasure over Singapore's calls for China to heed international rulings over territorial claims in the South China Sea, which Beijing says belongs to it almost in its entirety. China says international law has no jurisdiction over the matter.

Some experts have speculated that China would use the seized military shipment to pressure Singapore to adopt a friendlier stance toward China on the dispute. **AP**

Taiwan holds rescue exercise in disputed South China Sea

Johnson Lai, Taiping Island

TAIWAN held a search-and-rescue exercise in the South China Sea yesterday as part of efforts to cement its hold over a key island in the strategically vital waterbody.

Eight vessels and three aircraft took part in the drill simulating a fire aboard a cargo ship that forced crew members to seek safety on Taiping in the Spratly island group.



A Taiwan Coast Guard ship (left), and cargo ship take part in a search-and-rescue exercise off of Taiping island in the South China Sea

Both coast guard and navy ships participated in the exercise.

While Taiwan claims all of the Spratlys, it only occupies Taiping and

hasn't challenged the presence of forces from China and other nations

on other islands in the group. Coast guard head Lee Chung-wei told journalists that Taiwan's sovereignty over Taiping is "undeniable," but that it wants to turn the island into a base for humanitarian relief missions in the area.

"The purpose of this drill is to tell international society that we are keen to conduct humanitarian relief on the island. We want to maintain peace in this region

and put away disputes," Lee said.

In recent years, Taiwan's chief rival, China, has been aggressively pushing its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, putting it in conflict with neighbors Vietnam and the Philippines. Malaysia and Brunei also claim parts of the South China Sea, while Indonesia has become increasingly assertive in defending its exclusive economic zone that encompasses rich fisheries and a potential wealth of mineral resources. **AP**

Thailand's parliament invites crown prince to assume throne



In this May 9, 2016, photo, Thailand's Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn is seated at the royal plowing ceremony in Bangkok

Kaweewit Kaewjinda, Grant Peck

THAILAND'S parliament yesterday named Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn as the new king, completing a formal step for the heir to take the throne following the death of his father last month.

The Cabinet, following a 1924 law on succession, submitted Vajiralongkorn's name to the National Assembly after a brief meeting, where members formally acknowledged him as the new monarch.

"I would like everyone to stand up and give their blessings to the new king," said National Assembly president Pornpetch Wichitcholchai. His statement was followed by a cheer of "Long live the king" by all assembly members.

Pornpetch said he would invite Vajiralongkorn to take the throne, the 10th in the Chakri dynasty, which was founded in 1782. He did not say when Vajiralongkorn would formally accept, but Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan told reporters earlier that the royal audience would be in the next few days.

Vajiralongkorn was originally supposed to assume the throne the day his father died, but in a surprise announcement, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said the prince asked for the ascension to be put off so he had time to mourn.

Vajiralongkorn's father, the much-revered Bhumibol Adulyadej, who took the throne in 1946, died on Oct. 13 at age 88 after many years of ill health. In 1972, Bhumibol had designated Vajiralongkorn —

his second child and only son — to be his successor.

The 64-year-old Vajiralongkorn, with a less intense interest in state affairs and a reputation as a playboy, does not command the same level of respect as his hardworking father. He has gone through divorces with three women who have borne him seven children, and his love life is still gossiped about, though privately because of harsh laws that mandate a prison term of three to 15 years for anyone found guilty of insulting the monarchy.

Prayuth's military government declared a full year of mourning for public offices, and most Thais have been somberly dressed in black or white since the king's death, while revelry has been discouraged.

Huge crowds have been paying respects to the king's remains at the Grand Palace in Bangkok. His body will be cremated in an elaborate ceremony that may take place a year or more after his death.

The official coronation of Vajiralongkorn will take place only after the cremation. Bhumibol's coronation was in 1950, four years after succeeding his brother King Ananda Mahidol, who died of gunshot wounds in unclear circumstances.

Although he attends the requisite royal ceremonies and in recent years filled in for his father for some ceremonial and diplomatic duties, Vajiralongkorn is generally a private figure.

The nightly royal news has

frequently shown his three sisters carrying out official duties at home and abroad, while his activities are usually personal and unpublicized, outside of the occasional tabloid story in the country he is visiting. He has spent significant time in Germany, where he maintains several residences.

In 2015, however, he made two high-profile public appearances in Thailand, leading thousands of people in mass bicycling events to mark the birthdays of his mother and his father. Many saw the events as an attempt to boost his image as his succession to the throne loomed.

Efforts to prepare the prince for the throne began in earnest in his early teens. He was commissioned as an officer in the three branches of Thailand's armed forces, and by age 14 was sent to boarding school in England. He continued his studies at a school in Sydney in preparation for Australia's Royal Military College at Duntroon, which he entered in 1972 and graduated from in 1975, shortly after Thailand's neighbors Cambodia, Laos and South Vietnam fell to communist forces.

As rumors about his personal life and behavior circulated widely, palace elders tried to encourage Vajiralongkorn's enthusiasm for military duties with training stints abroad. A 1980 course of advanced military training in the United States whetted his appetite for flying, a passion carried on to this day, sometimes in the wide-bodied jets of national carrier Thai Airways. **AP**

Highly-contagious bird flu found in Japan, culling start

JAPANESE health authorities have confirmed a highly contagious avian flu strain in poultry in two prefectures in northern Japan, with culling of hundreds of thousands of birds starting yesterday at the affected farms.

The government confirmed that the highly virulent H5 strain was detected in birds at a chicken farm in Niigata, where about 40 of them were found dead Monday. Dead ducks at a farm in another prefecture of Aomori also tested H5 positive.

Culling of about 310,000 birds began yesterday at the Niigata farm and will continue through Friday. Workers in hazmat suits dug holes and dumped dead birds in them to contain the spread of virus. About 165,000 ducks in Aomori were also being culled.

Officials restricted the movements of poultry and eggs within 3 kilometers (5 miles) of the infected farms. About 60 chicken farms operate in the neighborhood of the affected farm in Niigata, where about half a million chickens are raised. The farm in Aomori and two other neighborhood operators are specializing in French duck known as "Barbarie."

Suspected bird flu cases have been found in wild birds in those areas since early November.

Environment Minister Koichi Yamamoto told reporters that his ministry is sending experts to the areas for investigation, while raising the caution level to the highest level. The Agricultural Ministry has also dispatched an investigative team to both prefectures. **AP**

Malaysian reform group leader freed after 10-day detention

THE head of Malaysian electoral reform group Bersih, which led a mass anti-government rally this month, has been freed after being held for 10 days without trial under a security law meant for terrorists.

Maria Chin was detained Nov. 18 for "activities detrimental to parliamentary democracy," just a day before thousands of protesters took to Kuala Lumpur's streets to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Najib Razak over a financial scandal. Police said 15,500 people protested, but Bersih estimated the crowd at 120,000.

Chin's release Monday came a day before a court hearing to challenge her detention under the Security Offences Act.

Amnesty International hailed Chin's release from what it called a "farfical detention" and said yesterday that the government must drop any charges against her.

"They should also stop using national security or other repressive laws against government critics for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and assembly," it said in a statement.

Shortly after her release, Chin met with hundreds of supporters in Kuala Lumpur and thanked them for holding nightly candlelight vigils to demand her release. Wearing the trademark yellow Bersih T-shirt, she vowed to fight for the abolition of the security law and to press for political reforms. Bersih means clean in the



Maria Chin Abdullah waves to the crowd during a candlelight vigil in Kuala Lumpur

Malay language.

"My detention is illegal and a violation of my rights," she said.

Najib has kept an iron grip since graft allegations emerged two years ago involving the indebted 1MDB state fund. He founded the fund in 2009 to promote economic development, but it accumulated billions in debts.

The investigations into 1MDB in the U.S. and several other countries are centered on allegations of a global embezzlement and money-laundering scheme.

The U.S. Justice Department said that at least USD3.5 billion had been stolen from 1MDB by people close to Najib and initiated action in July to seize \$1.3 billion it said was taken from the fund to buy assets in the U.S.

The U.S. government complaints also said that more than \$700 million had landed in the accounts of "Malaysian Official 1." They did not name the official, but appear to be referring to Najib. **AP**

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Foster Klug, Kim Tong-Hyung

SOUTH Korean President Park Geun-hye said yesterday that she'll resign — if parliament arranges the technical details — in her latest attempt to fend off impeachment efforts and massive street protests amid prosecution claims that a corrupt confidante wielded government power from the shadows.

Opponents immediately called Park's conditional resignation offer a stalling tactic, and analysts said her steadfast denial that she has done anything wrong could embolden her enemies. The country's largest opposition party, the Minjoo Party, said it would not let Park's "ploy to avoid impeachment" interfere with a planned vote on impeachment that could take place this Friday or the next.

Park, who did not take questions from reporters after her live address to the nation, said she will "leave the matters about my fate, including the shortening of my presidential term, to be decided by the National Assembly," referring to parliament.

"If the ruling and opposition parties discuss and come up with a plan to reduce the confusion in state affairs and ensure a safe transfer of governments, I will step down from the presidential position under that schedule and by processes stated in law," she said.

How exactly this might play out is still unclear. But some saw Park's speech as a clear effort to avoid leaving office, despite the resignation language.

One clue that she was trying to buy time, said Yul Shin, a politics professor at Seoul's Myongji University, was her comment on "shortening" the presidential term, which he said would require a time-consuming constitutional amendment. Park is to end her single five-year term in early 2018.

"There is no possibility that the opposition parties will accept her offer; not when the public is this angry," Shin said. "She apparently wanted to buy more time, but in the end she

S. Korean leader offers conditional resignation amid scandal

AP PHOTO



might have hastened the end of her presidency."

Others said lawmakers could shorten Park's term just by securing a vote of two-thirds of the 300-member parliament — the same number of ballots needed to get Park's impeachment motion passed.

Park's speech came as opposition parties were closing in on an impeachment motion. Even some of her allies have called on her to "honorably" step down rather than face impeachment. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of people have rallied in Seoul each Saturday to demand her ouster.

The country's two largest opposition parties said they will propose to the presidential office two former senior prosecutors as candidates for a special prosecutor to independently investigate the scandal. Under

a law passed by parliament earlier this month, Park has three days to pick a special prosecutor among the two candidates.

Park, in her speech, continued to deny accusations by prosecutors that she colluded in the criminal activities of her long-time friend Choi Soon-sil, who, despite having no official role in government, allegedly had a say in policy decisions and exploited her presidential ties to bully companies into giving large sums of money to businesses and foundations that Choi controlled.

"Not for one moment did I pursue my private gains, and I have so far lived without ever harboring the smallest selfish motive," Park said. "The problems that have emerged are from projects that I thought were serving the public interest and benefiting the country. But

since I failed to properly manage those around me, [everything that happened] is my large wrongdoing."

Instead of buying her more time, Park's conditional re-

She apparently wanted to buy more time, but in the end she might have hastened the end of her presidency.

YUL SHIN
SCHOLAR

signation offer may embolden street protesters and further fan the anger of her critics because she continues to deny wrongdoing over the scandal, said Choi Chang Ryul, a politics professor at South Korea's Yongin University.

Chung Jinsuk, floor leader of Park's Saenuri Party, defended her speech as showing a "determination to avoid confusion in state affairs," and said that parliament should "overcome factions" to agree on the process and timeline for Park's exit.

Opposition parties had first planned to put the impeachment motion to a vote on Friday, but it could be moved to Dec. 9 so that the parties can solidify a strategy.

South Korea's first president, Syngman Rhee, quit and fled to Hawaii amid a popular uprising in 1960. The succeeding government was overthrown by a coup by Park's late father, the military dictator Park Chung-hee, whose rule also abruptly ended after he was assassinated by his spy chief in 1979. Choi Kyu-hah then became acting president, but was forced out of office eight months later after a military coup led by Chun Doo-hwan, who would eventually become president.

At the heart of the scandal is Choi Soon-sil, the daughter of a late cult leader and mentor who became close to Park after her mother's assassination in 1974.

Prosecutors have so far indicted Choi, two ex-presidential officials and a music video director known as a Choi associate for extortion, leakage of confidential documents and other charges.

Park, who has immunity from prosecution while in office, has refused to meet with prosecutors. Her lawyer, Yoo Yeong-ha, has described prosecutors' accusations as groundless. **AP**

Philippine gov't historian resigns over dictator's burial

Jim Gomez, Manila

THE Philippine government's top historian resigned yesterday to protest the president's decision to allow the burial of dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a heroes' cemetery, in a growing political storm over the entombment.

Maria Serena Diokno said in a statement that

she will join protests against the Nov. 18 burial, including one scheduled at a pro-democracy shrine today.

Diokno, who was chairwoman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, said Duterte could have blocked Marcos's burial in the cemetery despite a Supreme Court decision

that dismissed petitions against the entombment.

Diokno said the burial was wrong, "denies our history, erases the memory of lives lost and destroyed, mocks the collective action we took to oust the dictator."

Marcos was ousted in a 1986 "people power" revolt, a largely peaceful, army-backed uprising that

helped inspire similar mass actions against authoritarian regimes worldwide. His presidency was marked by largescale corruption and human rights violations, including disappearances, killings and torture of thousands of political dissidents.

Duterte, whose father served in Marcos's Cabinet, allowed the burial on

grounds that there was no law barring his interment at the Heroes' Cemetery, where presidents, soldiers, statesmen and national artists are buried. It was a political risk in a country where democracy advocates still celebrate Marcos's ouster each year.

Duterte's decision was upheld earlier this month by the Supreme Court.

Marcos opponents had 15 days to appeal the decision, but Marcos's family, backed by Duterte's defense and military officials, buried him at the cemetery last week in a secrecy-shrouded ceremony with military honors.

The stealthy burial enraged democracy advocates and sparked protests in Manila and other cities. **AP**

Young immigrants who came forward now worried about future

Alicia A. Caldwell, Washington

HUNDREDS of thousands of young immigrants living in the country illegally willingly came out of the shadows and identified themselves to the Obama administration on the promise that they'd be safe from deportation and allowed to work. Some may now regret that decision.

President-elect Donald Trump has promised to immediately scrap the program that protected these immigrants. If he does, it's not clear whether he would take action against the more than 741,000 participants. But if he decides to pursue them, the government now has their addresses, photographs and fingerprints.

Twenty-year-old Nancy Villas was among the first to apply for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in the summer of 2012, waiting in line hours at a sign-up site at Chicago's Navy Pier. Since then she's been working part time at a child care center to pay for college classes. Now she's worried she may eventually be forced to return to Mexico, a coun-



Nancy Villa stands on a street in Chicago. Villa was brought to the U.S. illegally from Mexico while a child

try she left when she was 9.

"I knew it was the only way to have better opportunities," Villas said. "I took the risk without thinking that somebody would want to take it away."

Revoking the deportation protection would make those young immigrants vulnerable

Trump made illegal immigration the cornerstone of his campaign, promising to build a massive wall along the Mexican border and deport millions of people living in the country illegally. Once he takes office, Trump can almost immediately rescind the promised protection and, with it, likely void the accompanying work permits.

But there is little to suggest that he would move swiftly to deport program participants. In a post-election interview with CBS' "60 Minutes," Trump said he would focus initially on criminal immigrants living illegally in the U.S. He said that could be about 2 million to 3 million people, though that figure is likely inflated.

Mark Krikorian, executive director for Center For Immigration Studies, said the fears of program participants may be overblown.

"Unless there's a crime issue or something specific that's going to draw attention to an individual, I can't see how they'd be a priority," said Krikorian, whose think tank describes itself as low-immigration, pro-immigrant.

President Barack Obama initiated the program to shield from deportation young immigrants, some of whom don't even remember their native countries. It didn't give the im-

migrants legal status, only "deferred action" — meaning they wouldn't face deportation while they participated.

There was never a guarantee that it would last beyond Obama's term as president. A former immigration official who helped craft the program, John Sandweg, said the White House and the Homeland Security Department considered the reality that a future president could end it. But at the time, he said, it appeared that revoking already-approved protections would be politically difficult.

"These are the kinds of kids you should bring out of the shadows," said Sandweg, a former acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "I don't think anyone envisioned a President Trump when this was created."

Trump wasn't subtle about his opposition to the program. He called it an "illegal amnesty" and promised to "immediately terminate" the program. And since winning office, Trump has said he will nominate immigration hardliner Sen. Jeff Sessions as attorney general. As he considers other Cabinet vacancies, Trump has met with Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who led his state's court fight to prevent an expansion of the deportation protection plan.

When the program started,

the Obama administration suggested that application files would not generally be used for enforcement efforts. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services addressed the concern in its published "frequently asked questions," saying information would be shared with enforcement officials only if someone "meets the criteria" for deportation proceedings.

But revoking the deportation protection would make those young immigrants almost immediately eligible to face deportation.

Sandweg said going after participants would be a massive logistical undertaking that would only worsen backlogs in an already overburdened immigration court system where many people wait years for a final decision.

Adding about 750,000 to the court system "would do nothing for public safety," Sandweg said.

Nonetheless, the mere prospect of that has prompted some Democratic lawmakers to ask Obama to protect these immigrants with pardons before he leaves office.

And advocates for the young immigrants have pledged to keep up their fight to win public and political support for overhauling immigration laws.

"We organized across the country, we shared our stories publicly and we came together. We took direct actions and held politicians accountable," said Cristina Jimenez, executive director and co-founder of United We Dream.

Under a Trump administration, Jimenez said, that won't change. **AP**

AD

INSTITUTO INTERCIVIL
MACAU
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Luis Benavides, Joshua Goodman

A chartered plane with a Brazilian first division football team crashed near Medellin while on its way to the finals of a regional tournament, killing 75 people, Colombian officials said. Six people survived.

The British Aerospace 146 short-haul plane, operated by a charter airline named LaMia, declared an emergency and lost radar contact just before 10 p.m. Monday (0300 GMT) because of an electrical failure, aviation authorities said.

The aircraft, which had departed from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, was transporting the Chapecoense football team from southern Brazil for the first leg Wednesday of a two-game Copa Sudamericana final against Atletico Nacional of Medellin.

"What was supposed to be a celebration has turned into a tragedy," Medellin Mayor Federico Gutierrez said from the search and rescue command center.

The club said in a brief statement on its Facebook page that "may God accompany our athletes, officials, journalists and other guests traveling with our delegation."

Dozens of rescuers working through the night were initially heartened after pulling three passengers alive from the wre-

Brazilian football team's plane crashes in Colombia; 75 dead



ckage. But as the hours passed, and heavy rainfall and low visibility grounded helicopters and complicated efforts to reach the mountainside crash site, the mood soured to the point that authorities had to freeze until dusk what was by then a body recovery operation.

Images broadcast on local television showed three passengers arriving to a local hospital in ambulances on stretchers and covered in blankets connected to

an IV. Among the survivors was a Chapecoense defender named Alan Ruschel, who doctors said suffered spinal injuries. Two goalkeepers, Danilo and Jackson Follmann, as well as a member of the team's delegation and a Bolivian flight attendant, also survived.

The plane was carrying 72 passengers and nine crew members, aviation authorities said in a statement. Local radio said the same aircraft transported Argen-

tina's national squad for a match earlier this month in Brazil, and previously had transported Venezuela's national team.

British Aerospace, which is now known as BAE Systems, says that the first 146-model plane took off in 1981 and that just under 400 — including the successor Avro RJ — were built in total in the U.K. through 2003. It says around 220 of are still in service in a variety of roles, including aerial firefighting and overnight freight services.

Alfredo Bocanegra, the head of Colombia's aviation authority, said initial reports suggest the aircraft was suffering electrical problems although investigators were also looking into an account from one of the survivors that the plane had run out of fuel about 5 minutes from its expected landing at Jose Maria Cordova airport outside Medellin.

A video published on the team's Facebook page showed the team readying for the flight earlier Monday in Sao Paulo's Guarul-

hos international airport.

The team, from the small city of Chapeco, was in the middle of a fairy tale season. It joined Brazil's first division in 2014 for the first time since the 1970s and made it last week to the Copa Sudamericana finals — the equivalent of the UEFA Europa League tournament — after defeating two of Argentina's fiercest squads, San Lorenzo and Independiente, as well as Colombia's Junior.

The team is so modest that its 22,000-seat arena was ruled by tournament organizers too small to host the final match, which was instead moved to a stadium 480 kilometers to the north in the city of Curitiba.

"This is unbelievable, I am walking on the grass of the stadium and I feel like I am floating," Andrei Copetti, a team spokesman, told The Associated Press. "No one understands how a story that was so amazing could suffer such a devastating reversal. For many people here reality has still not struck." **AP**

AD



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what's ON



2016 MACAU OPEN BADMINTON

TIME: 8:30am-8:30pm (Nov 30)
12:30pm-8:30pm (Nov 1-2)
12:30pm-9:30pm (Dec 3)
12:30pm-5:30pm (Dec 4)

VENUE: Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion / Rua de Ferreira do Amaral

ADMISSION: MOP150 (One Day Ticket; November 29-December 2); MOP400 (One Day Ticket; December 3-4)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6698 9877

ARTWORK EXHIBITION "TANUKI'S NEST"

TIME: 11am-10pm (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2016

VENUE: Anim'Arte NAM VAN, located at Nam Van Lakeside Plaza at Avenida Panorâmica do Lago Nam Van

ADMISSION: Free

"MEMORIES OF MOMENTS - MACAO AND LUSOPHONE AFRICAN AND ASIAN REGIONS IN PHOTOGRAPH POSTCARDS" EXHIBITION

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

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Archives of Macau, No. 91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

A SEXAGENARY REVISION - MASTERS OF THE MACAO ARTISTS SOCIETY

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

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Handover Gifts Museum of Macao, Av. Xian Xing Hai Macao

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

Offbeat

CHERNOBYL SHELTER SAFELY PLACED OVER EXPLODED REACTOR



A massive shelter has finally been installed over the exploded reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear plant, one of the most ambitious engineering projects in the world.

The half-cylinder-shaped shelter began being moved toward the reactor on a system of hydraulic jacks two weeks ago and reached its destination yesterday, a significant step toward liquidating the remains of the world's worst nuclear accident, 30 years ago in what is now Ukraine.

Workers will now begin dismantling unstable parts of the original cover, the so-called sarcophagus, which was built over the reactor shortly after the explosion to contain radiation.

The new shelter is 275 meters (843 feet) wide and 108 meters (354 feet) tall and cost 1.5 billion euros, according to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. **AP**

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
18:05	Once Upon A Time Sr.1 (Repeated)
18:50	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:40	TDM Interview (Repeated)
20:15	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Criminal Minds S10
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

24 Nov - 30 Nov



SHUT IN

ROOM 1

2.15, 6.00, 9.45 pm

Director: Farren Blackburn

Starring: Charlie Heaton, Naomi Watts, Jacob Tremblay

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 91min

YOUR NAME

ROOM 1

4.00, 7.45 pm

Director: Makoto Shinkai

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 115min

FANTASTIC BEASTS & WHERE TO FIND THEM

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: David Yates

Starring: Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min

SHOW ME YOUR LOVE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Ryon Lee

Starring: Nina Paw, Raymond Wong, Ivana Wong

Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 121min

FANTASTIC BEASTS & WHERE TO FIND THEM

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: David Yates

Starring: Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min

MACAU TOWER

17 Nov - 30 Nov

FANTASTIC BEASTS & WHERE TO FIND THEM

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: David Yates

Starring: Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min



this day in history



1995 CLINTON KINDLES HOPE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The people of Northern Ireland have given a rapturous welcome to President Bill Clinton, the first serving US president to visit their country.

At the end of an emotional day that saw Bill and Hillary Clinton visit communities on both sides of the sectarian divide, the president lit Belfast's Christmas lights from behind a bulletproof screen.

Standing in front of a giant Christmas Tree shipped over from Belfast's twin city, Nashville, Tennessee he told the thousands of Clinton fans that America and Northern Ireland were "partners for security, partners for prosperity, and most important, partners for peace".

The president and the first lady had spent the day mobbed by ecstatic crowds both on the Protestant Shankill Road and the Catholic stronghold of the Falls Road.

Then after a short helicopter ride to Londonderry, Northern Ireland's predominantly nationalist second city, tens of thousands waving the American flag, the Stars and Stripes, turned out in the bitter cold to greet the couple, who were accompanied by SDLP leader John Hume.

But it was a nine-year-old girl that provided the most poignant moment of the day just hours after Mr and Mrs Clinton arrived in Northern Ireland.

Catherine Hamill was one of two children - one Protestant and one Catholic - chosen to read a message to Mr Clinton before his address to workers at the non-sectarian Mackies Metal Works in West Belfast. She recalled the time her father, Patrick, had been shot dead by the Ulster Freedom Fighters in 1987.

She told an audience of 500 guests: "My first daddy died in the Troubles. It was the saddest day of my life. I still think of him. "Now it's nice and peaceful. I like having peace and quiet for a change instead of people shooting and killing. My Christmas wish is that peace and love will last in Ireland for ever."

Clearly moved, the president made his speech urging both sides in Northern Ireland to maintain the 15-month-old ceasefire through continued dialogue. Unionist politicians who believe he is biased towards Catholics will have been pleased to hear him condemning "punishment beatings".

On their way from Aldergrove airport Bill and Hillary Clinton had stopped the motorcade to for what seemed to be an impromptu bit of shopping at Violet Clarke's grocery shop in the Protestant Shankill Road.

Later, in the Catholic Falls Road, the couple "happened" to meet Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams when they popped out of their limousine to visit McErean's bakery.

Swamped by local wellwishers, the world's press failed to capture the public hand-shake between the US president and the leader of an organisation that many believe is the political wing of the IRA. It was a passerby who snapped the moment that was then broadcast around the world.

The president met Mr Adams again for a 20-minute meeting in Belfast tonight. He is said to have been encouraged by his talk with Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, but less so with the Rev Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionists.

He had urged all three to use a "twin-track" process to talk through their differences.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The president's visit to Northern Ireland was regarded as a great success with politicians of both sides praising his even-handed and sensitive approach.

Only two months later hopes for a lasting peace were shattered when the IRA broke its ceasefire by bombing London's Docklands on 10 February 1996.

The IRA announced a new ceasefire in July 1997 but negotiations and sporadic violence continued until the Good Friday peace agreement was signed in May 1998.

The problems of decommissioning persisted despite the IRA's more relaxed stance over time which resulted in the opening up of some of its arms dumps to international inspectors.

In July 2005 the IRA declared an end to its armed struggle and two months later the decommissioning body announced the IRA had destroyed all its weapons.

President Clinton was re-elected to office a year after his Ireland visit. His presidency ended in 2001.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Forward motion is definitely your favorite kind, yet when it comes to a certain relationship, you've been feeling more comfortable lately just letting things be.

Taurus April 20-May 20 In interpersonal relations, you'll want to be careful not to clam up, but there's also such a thing as saying too much. Try asking questions -- it's usually a safe conversational tactic.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 While other people may be looking forward to getting new material things, you have your eye on a prize more suited to your curious, exploratory nature -- something more experiential.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Seek a balance over the next few days -- some group activities, some precious time alone with your partner (if you have one) and definitely some moments by yourself.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Friendships and even romance are in the picture now, and what a warm and joyful picture it is. Of course, socializing is marvelous, and you're marvelous at it, but the one-on-one moments will be even more meaningful now.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Knowing you, you're probably planning special meals and organizing the family gatherings right about now, and as always, you like a place for everything and everything in its place.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your great energy makes you extra attractive and gets you lots of positive attention, which, in turn, gives you more great energy. It's a wonderful cycle for you -- and for those around you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Making a decision may be difficult now, and you'll definitely want to toss some ideas back and forth -- perhaps with a trusted colleague, mentor or friend.

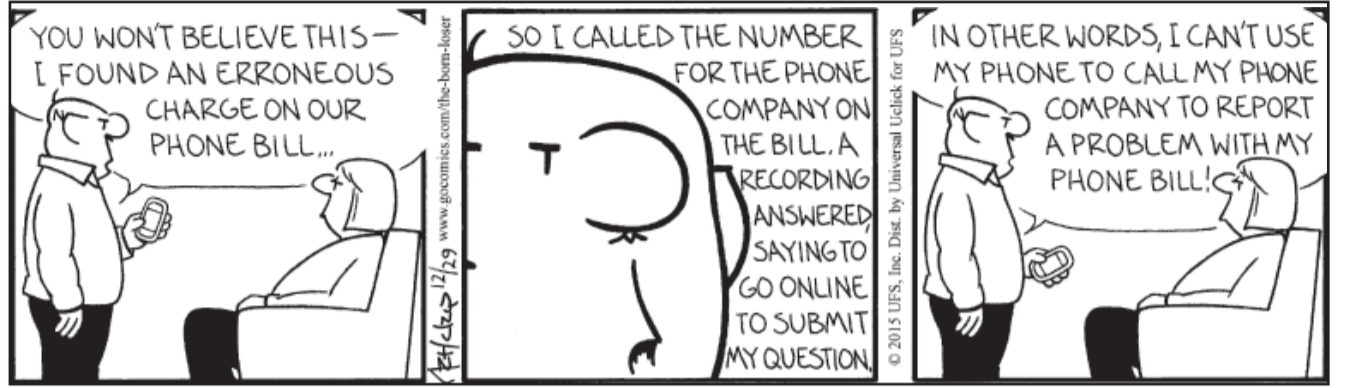
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Too bad, because after all, so do they. They haven't had a good laugh in a long time, and they need you. It's admittedly your astrological job to entertain, so don't deprive them any further.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You may be tempted to push the limits with an authority figure now in some manner or another. The stars wouldn't recommend it at the moment, though. Keep it low-key and suss out the situation further.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Someone you've had your eye on will be more than happy to stay up late tonight, chatting away about every subject imaginable. Brew some coffee and make yourself available.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 At the same time, you can begin to let go of some old emotions that have outlived their usefulness and make room for what's fresh and new. It's all occasion for much rejoicing!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Like some juries; 5- Distinguishing characteristic; 10- Suffix with buck; 14- On the main; 15- Artist Matisse; 16- Capital city of Peru; 17- Do followers; 18- Kind of kitchen; 19- Exclamation to express sorrow; 20- Cromwell's cavalry; 22- Movie critic Roger; 23- Evergreen tree; 24- Singer's syllable; 25- Sudden inclination to act; 29- Sparkler; 33- Greeting; 34- Neat rival; 36- Imitator; 37- JFK posting; 38- Go gaga over; 39- Shoe width; 40- "Rule, Britannia" composer; 42- Waist band; 43- White-and-black bearlike mammal; 45- Turned; 47- Polite agreement; 49- Queue after Q; 50- General on Chinese menus; 51- Words on a Wonderland cake; 54- Place of refuge; 60- Baseball family name; 61- Bowwow; 62- Dogg; 63- It's over your head; 64- RadII neighbors; 65- Take ___ Train; 66- Ego; 67- ___ is human...; 68- Flat sound; DOWN: 1- Mata ___; 2- Consumer; 3- Verne captain; 4- Profitable; 5- Belonging to them; 6- Went through, as the paper; 7- Initial stake; 8- Part of the eye; 9- Can metal; 10- Montgomery's state; 11- Irritate; 12- Actor Epps; 13- Kiln for drying hops; 21- Silage storage tower; 22- Important time; 24- Air-filled rubber hoop, become fatigued; 25- Do ___ a Waltz?; 26- Paris subway; 27- Factory; 28- Broke off; 29- Grimy; 30- ___ can of worms; 31- I ___ vacation!; 32- Sleep images; 35- "You've got mail" co.; 38- Help a hood; 41- Worn over the ears in cold weather; 43- Hey!; 44- Quantities; 46- Mao ___-tung; 48- One engraving; 51- "â€ˆcountrymen, lend me your ___"; 52- Tropical plant; 53- Kit item; 54- Han ___ was a "Star Wars" character; 55- First class; 56- Tenn. neighbor; 57- Sounds of pleasure; 58- Hwys.; 59- Votes for; 61- Place;

Yesterday's solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
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
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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Jerome Pugmire, Abu Dhabi

F1 | ANALYSIS

Strain of fighting Hamilton will have taken toll on Rosberg

THE strain of fighting against Lewis Hamilton for the past three years will have sapped the strength of Formula One champion Nico Rosberg.

That verdict comes from a man who knows Rosberg better than most — his father Keke Rosberg, the 1982 F1 champion.

“He has a lot of seasons behind him and I’m sure that, especially, the last three seasons have taken a high toll,” Keke Rosberg said in the F1 paddock at Abu Dhabi where his son clinched his first title on Sunday after being runner-up to Hamilton in the previous two years.

“They’ve been very hard seasons, because you’re fighting for the championship for three years in a row, constantly,” Keke Rosberg said. “It’s much tougher than trying to finish sixth. I don’t know how much it’s taken out of him.”

Asked what he thinks his son will do next, the 67-year-old Keke Rosberg joked “maybe he retires tomorrow.”

Actually, he expects his son to continue for a few more years yet.

“There’s quite a lot of mileage left in him,” he said.

Next season promises to be an intense battle as Rosberg defends his title and Hamilton tries to wrest it back. Furthermore, the 19-year-old Red Bull driver Max Verstappen will be pushing them hard, as will four-time F1 champion Sebastian Vettel — whose Ferrari team ended the season without a race win.

“If you don’t raise your game, you freeze [...] You have a lot of talented people here who put in a big effort,” Keke Rosberg said as he stood outside the Mercedes motorhome.

“The level is always high in Formula One. Look at Max, he is the teammate of [Daniel] Ricciardo. Or Sebastian, he is the teammate of [Kimi] Raikkonen,” he continued. “On that level, when you take the top three teams, all of them have been world champions already, or at Red Bull they’re all young talents. That’s the level we have.”

The hallmark of Rosberg’s

AP PHOTO



Nico Rosberg (left), cheers his teammate Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton on the podium in Abu Dhabi

title-winning campaign was a steely resolve under Hamilton’s pressure, allied to high levels of consistency.

“You never have a 100 percent season. You’re not going to win all the races. It’s a bit like golf,” Keke Rosberg said. “When you hit the ball behind the tree, you have to recover from there. So

even on a bad day, a golf pro plays a bad shot and recovers. That’s the difference. It’s the performance on a bad day, those points count.”

He was partly speaking from his own experience, having won the 1982 title despite winning only one of the 15 races that season.

Seeing his son win the title as the sun was setting in Abu Dhabi on Sunday evening was a strange feeling for Keke Rosberg.

“After the last two laps I was quite relieved, to be honest,” Keke Rosberg said. “I was a little bit nervous.”

Father and son were different

Italian officials announce deal to keep F1 race in Monza

The Italian Automobile Club says it has signed a deal with Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone to keep the Italian Grand Prix in Monza for the next three years.

Ecclestone and ACI president Angelo Sticchi Damiani had already agreed verbally to terms in September.

Sticchi Damiani says “with a lot of work despite a ton of difficulty, we’ve formally signed the contract for Monza.”

While details were not announced, the deal is reportedly worth 68 million euros (USD72 million), slightly less than the 25 million euros (\$26.5 million) per year Ecclestone requested.

No circuit has hosted more F1 racing than Monza, which was on the inaugural 1950 calendar and dropped off only in 1980 when Imola hosted the Italian GP.

Next year’s Italian GP is scheduled for Sept. 3. **AP**

Next season promises to be an intense battle as Rosberg defends his title and Hamilton tries to wrest it back.

kinds of drivers in different eras. Rosberg Sr. was a dashing driver who loved to bash his car around the track in an occasionally reckless manner, while Rosberg Jr. is far more meticulous and methodical.

But the mutual admiration shines through.

“For me it’s the story of father and a son, purely. I could have been a dentist, makes no difference,” Keke Rosberg said. “I’m happy for my son and that’s it. What I did is so long ago. It was a happy time, but it doesn’t carry you 30 years after.”

Keke Rosberg secured his title driving for the Williams team yet only won five races in his career, while 31-year-old Nico Rosberg already has 23 wins — albeit in an ultra-dominant Mercedes car.

“He is [a champion]. He is standing on his own two feet. Don’t forget, I did like 114 Grand Prix in my life and he’s now done 200 or something,” Keke Rosberg said.

“So his level of experience and knowledge of the sport is so much higher than mine was. Also engineering, they are so much deeper in there than we were, it’s like a completely different world.”

“We knew we had four wheels and that’s it.” **AP**

Rowing, canoe sprint, swimming to remain at Tokyo venues

OLYMPIC organizers agreed yesterday to keep the rowing, canoe sprint and swimming venues at their planned sites in Tokyo for the 2020 Games, while postponing a decision until Christmas on a possible switch for volleyball.

Representatives of the International Olympic

Committee, Tokyo organizers and Japan’s central and city governments have been discussing ways of reducing costs, including possibly moving three sports from planned new venues to existing ones.

The group was established in October after a Tokyo government panel said the Olympics cost

could exceed 3 trillion yen (USD27 billion) unless drastic cuts were made.

At yesterday’s four-party talks, Tokyo organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto proposed putting a 2 trillion yen (\$18 billion) cap on total Olympic costs. A final budget has yet to be released.

IOC vice president

John Coates, who heads the international body’s coordination commission for Tokyo, said the ceiling was too high.

“The IOC has not agreed to that amount of money,” Coates told reporters.

“We believe the cost can be significantly lower than that,” he added, citing “high figures” on the

rent. “We can make some savings on those figures.”

The Tokyo panel had initially proposed moving the rowing and canoe sprint venue, currently planned at the Sea Forest in Tokyo, to Miyagi prefecture, 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Tokyo, after its cost estimate soared to nearly 50

billion yen (\$450 million). A new feasibility study shows the cost could come down to around 30 billion yen (\$270 million).

“Considering the cost, location and various other factors, we have decided to hold (the rowing and canoeing) at the planned Sea Forest site,” Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike said. **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



DRIVERLESS MACAU

To me it is clear that we are in a major transition in road transport. In the not too distant future, when people want to go somewhere they will simply call a driverless car to come and pick them up and drop them at their destination, and pay by an electronic funds transfer. Most people will not own a car, and will not have a driver's license. The few cars needed will be all-electric and owned by transportation companies. I think that in Macau we should be encouraging this transition, and not modelling ourselves on the apocryphal (and misrepresented) story of King Canute futilely trying to stop the incoming tide.

It may seem to be science fiction, but my vision of the future of personal road transport has a lot of merit. Because the cars can be highly utilized driving people around 24 hours per day a lot fewer cars will be needed so that the roads will be much clearer. There will also be very few parked cars, so that the streetscapes can be made much nicer. The cars will all be electric so there will be no roadside air pollution, again improving the streetscapes. Driverless cars will also be much safer because they will communicate and collaborate and behave predictably. They will also be better at giving way to pedestrians.

So we could have a very green and park-like Macau where people can comfortably walk short distances, and quickly and easily get very safe rides for longer trips in cars that are very unobtrusive. Goods could be delivered automatically by driverless trucks at convenient "off peak" times. It all sounds a bit idyllic, but possible, nevertheless.

However, to achieve this goal, we in Macau need to decide that we want it and then proactively work to achieve it. Moreover, this goal will eventually be achieved at different times in different places, and in Macau we should aim to be among the first, and not the last. I have said many times to many people that Macau needs to be a "city of the future" and a showcase of what can be achieved for the whole region - we are small enough and rich enough to do it, and it provides an excellent way for Macau to diversify its economy (by exporting technology and consulting services to the region).

We will not achieve this vision by making Uber illegal. These kinds of services are taking over from taxis all round the world because they are better and cheaper. In Macau we should be looking to change our laws and policies to facilitate the development of such car services and not resist them. Why can't Macau lead the way to identify and put in place ways to overcome the known problems with Uber-type services? They are an essential component of a driverless car future.

We will also not achieve this vision by making it difficult to have all-electric cars in Macau. Again, we should be putting in place laws and policies to facilitate all-electric vehicles and encouraging people to get them. Encouraging all-electric taxi fleets with financial and other incentives are an excellent place to start.

We will not achieve this vision without encouraging a more cashless Macau - we need more, and more flexible, low cost electronic payment systems. We need changes to the local financial system and regulatory framework to enable simpler electronic payments for goods and services.

We will not achieve this vision without rethinking our urban planning, streetside parking and road laws so that they can cater for and encourage driverless vehicles. We need to envision a pedestrian friendly, walkable Macau where unobtrusive vehicles can be readily called for longer trips. What is stopping us?

THE BUZZ 7 INJURED BY TURBULENCE AS CHINA AIRLINER APPROACHES SYDNEY

Seven people were injured when a Chinese airliner struck turbulence as it approached Sydney airport yesterday, officials said.

Five passengers and two crew members were taken to a hospital after China Eastern Airlines Flight 777 from Kunming, China, landed, airline general manager Kathy Zhang said. All were in stable conditions, she said.

Three complained of neck pain and the others suffered back pain, a minor head injury, a jaw laceration and a broken wrist, Ambulance Service regional manager Ryan Lovett said.

Passengers were moving about the Airbus A330 when it suddenly plunged, flinging several to the ceiling, Lovett said.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

No national TV exposure for Atlantic City



Boardwalk Hall (left) in Atlantic City

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

WHEN the new year arrives in Atlantic City, the eyes of the nation will be elsewhere. An anticipated big-name concert at Boardwalk Hall that was to be featured in ABC's national New Year's Eve broadcast won't happen.

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority says the show, which had been envisioned as part of the agency's USD11.9 million deal to keep the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, could not be finalized due to scheduling and financial concerns.

The agency's deputy executive director, Chris Howard, said the kind of A-list entertainers it wanted for Atlantic City weren't available.

"The big-name artists we were looking for - we didn't

want some small opening act, we wanted a true difference-maker - they're typically not on tour this time of year," he said.

It's the latest embarrassing slight to Atlantic City, which can't seem to catch even a small break.

Earlier this month, Republican Gov. Chris Christie's administration took over Atlantic City's assets and major decision-making power, determining that the seaside resort, struggling with a half-billion dollars in debt, was unwilling or incapable of making the difficult choices needed to get its finances in order.

Five of the city's 12 casinos have shut down in the last two years, including the most recent, the Trump Taj Mahal on Oct. 10. Real estate mogul Donald Trump, who's now

the Republican president-elect, built it in 1990, but his friend and fellow billionaire Carl Icahn closed it after a lengthy labor dispute with its main union.

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority collects state-mandated casino payments and approves them for redevelopment projects designed to improve the city.

In February, it signed a contract with the Miss America Organization to keep the pageant in the city for the next three years. As part of that deal, Dick Clark Productions was to feature an Atlantic City show on its "New Year's Rockin' Eve" broadcast for the next three years. Dick Clark Productions is the broadcast production partner of the Miss America pageant, and its willingness to tout Atlantic City was seen as a sweetener to the deal to renew the pageant's run in the city.

Most of the casinos have not announced headline entertainers for New Year's Eve, opting instead for parties and in-house entertainment. Resorts Casino Hotel is hosting The Spinners, the 1970s R&B group, not exactly the demographic ABC is looking for in a national broadcast. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Zhang Liyun



An installation artwork of a traditional Portuguese rooster in Lisbon, Portugal. Made of traditional black, red and yellow colors and equipped with 16,000 LED lights about 10 meters high and weighs about 3.5 tons, it attracts many visitors. The art work was created by renowned Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos and is on display in the center of Lisbon until the end of this month before it will be ferried to Beijing and Shanghai of China to celebrate the advent of lunar Chinese new year of the Rooster. In 2015, Ms Vasconcelos created an installation titled "Valkyrie Octopus," which was on display at the MGM Macau's Grande Praça for several months.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

U.K. The government says a contentious internet surveillance bill that creates databases of Britons' online activity has become law. House of Commons Speaker John Bercow told lawmakers yesterday that the Investigatory Powers Bill had received formal royal assent. It was passed by Parliament earlier this month.

UGANDA's government says 149 people have been arrested in a restive region near Congo where clashes with a tribal militia have killed at least 62 people. Most of those killed are guards who protected a traditional monarch accused of harboring rebels in the western Kasese district.

MOZAMBIQUE The International Monetary Fund said it will begin discussing a new program for Mozambique after the southern African nation asked for urgent financial support. The country has taken steps toward stabilizing the economy to clear the way for discussions, the fund said.



AP PHOTO

CUBA Schools and government offices were closed yesterday for a second day of homage to Fidel Castro, with the day ending in a rally on the wide plaza where the Cuban leader delivered fiery speeches to mammoth crowds in the years after he seized power.

SOUTH AFRICA's Jacob Zuma blamed a western plot and opposition collaborators for the bid by officials in the ruling party to oust him as the nation's president as he refused to resign, saying he won't hand himself over to his enemies.