



**LIGHT FESTIVAL KICKS OFF**

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**HO CHIO MENG'S TRIAL POSTPONED**

The cause for the postponement was a request from Ho's defense to excuse Sam Hou Fai from the process

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**KENYAN AND NORTH KOREAN WIN MARATHON**

Kenyan athlete Peter Kimeli and North Korean Kim Ji Hyang were the winners of yesterday's Macau Int'l Marathon

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**

AP PHOTO



**US/CHINA** With a 10-minute phone call and two tweets, Donald Trump inspired banner headlines and renewed hopes across Taiwan for a stronger partnership with the United States, while also inflaming the complex relationship between the U.S. and mainland China.  
More on p10

**MALAYSIA's** prime minister leads a protest rally against what he calls a "genocide" of Rohingya Muslims as he calls on the world to step up the pressure on Myanmar.  
More on p13

**PHILIPPINES** The vice president says she will resign her Cabinet post, citing "major differences in principles and values" with President Rodrigo Duterte and an unspecified plot to remove her from the vice presidency. Leni Robredo said yesterday that she will resign today as housing secretary, an appointment made by Duterte, but will stay on in her elected post as vice president.

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**FINANCIAL TIMES**

**South Korea - Park strife**

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# Sharing economy model extends to Macau

P5 MDT REPORT



## 'Latin City' parade attracts nearly 120,000 spectators, organizers claim

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## Latin Parade attracts nearly 120,000 spectators, organizers claim

Lynzy Valles

**I**N vibrant colors and cultural costumes, approximately 50 local and foreign groups took part in the "Parade through Macao, Latin City" that spanned several streets of the region yesterday.

In celebration of the 17th anniversary of the territory's handover to China, the parade's motto was "An Annual Celebration for the Entire City – VIVA" and was themed "VIVA's Adventures through Shan Hai."

The parade, which comprised of nearly 1,200 participants, featured performances such as Cantonese opera, martial arts and theatre performances, as well as folk, tra-

ditional and oriental dance.

On parade day, VIVA crossed the time gate at Largo da Companhia de Jesus, taking off from the Ruins of St. Paul's, along with performing groups from Latin-speaking countries and other regions, as well as local talents.

The parade featured various activities such as a photography contest that invited residents to participate and capture the highlights of the event.

This year's parade was also organized on the same day as the "2016 Macao Galaxy Entertainment International Marathon" and the opening ceremony of the "Macao Light Festival 2016," which was held in the evening.

According to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the governmental departments of the cultural, sports and tourism areas cooperated in a bid to "develop a synergistic effect."

Meanwhile, the Indian Cultural Association of Macau, which joined the parade for the fifth consecutive time, performed an Indian fusion-themed dance – featuring contemporary, Bollywood and gypsy dances.

The association's president, Victor Kumar, told the Times: "Year by year we see a lot of colors and a lot of cultures. Macao is good place to be for the artists to bring the spirit [of] joy."

When asked about the new

elements the association had witnessed in the 2016 parade, Kumar noted the vibrancy of the new features and sculptures brought by the groups from Europe.

Another participating group from Panama who joined the local parade for the third time remarked, "We love the energy. [...] We always make new friends [and] it is always a pleasure to come [as] the music and energy is great."

As previously reported, the parade has a MOP15 million budget, a decrease of MOP1 million compared with last year's show.

IC president Ung Vai Meng told TDM that this year's parade attracted nearly 120 thousand residents and visitors.

## Global Media Industry Development Conference held in Macau

Julie Zhu

**T**HE Macao Global Media Industry Development Conference 2016 was held recently, marking the second time this event has been held in Macau.

Over 150 people working in the media industry, including communications students from mainland China and representatives of the local government, gathered together to explore the latest developments in the media industry.

Cui Bao Guo, vice dean of Tsinghua School of Journalism and Communication, informed the media that the mainland's traditional media has been suffering a continuous decline in its sales, and that he believes digital media will be the upcoming trend.

Cui is also concerned about how digital media and traditional media could be combined in the future, arguing that neither communications academics nor the media industry have reached a consensus on the issue.

The scholar stated that China currently has the most internet users compared to the rest of the world, and that digital media and new technologies will lead the media industry.

Cui also expressed the view that Donald Trump's victory in the 2016 United States presidential election occurred because he had mainly used online media to express himself, whereas Hillary Clinton chose traditional media, such as newspapers.

In a presentation he delivered to the conference participants, Cui revealed that China's communications industry has increased 12.3 percent year on year in 2015. Internet media market now represents 51.8 percent of China's entire media industry.

Another trend in the mainland's media industry is the shift in news content. According to Cui, robotics-related news has been increasing in China – while there were only a few hundred news features on robotics last year, the number has surged over 10,000 this year.

The conference was sponsored and supported by the Macao Foundation and by the Government Information Bureau.

This is the second time that Macau has hosted the conference. The first time was in 2013.

## 'Treasure of Light' kicks-off at Nam Van Lake

**F**OR the second consecutive year the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) is organizing the "Macao Light Festival."

The inauguration ceremony of the event took place at the Nam Van Lake Nautical Center last night. The 2016 edition of the Light Festival will run from yesterday's inauguration to December 31, and has the theme "Treasure of Light." It will light up eight scenic spots connecting the Nam Van Lake Nautical Center to Barra Square, also passing through Anim'Arte Nam Van, St. Lawrence's Church and the Mandarin's House, among other locations. This year, the organizers invited citizens and visitors to search for the seven lost gems of Goddess A-Ma, attributing

a different meaning to each spot and guiding the participants through a tour of some historical sites of the region, away from the main touristic spots and the city center.

Highlights of this year's festival include video mapping locations, particularly the one named "Sailing," located at the starting point of the route. It features a video mapping on the water screen and a new music and light show named "Melody of Light" staged at Anim'Arte Nam Van.

Director of MGTO Helena de Senna Fernandes remarked in the opening speech that the inauguration of the Light Festival is on the same day as other major events like the "International Marathon" and the "Latin Parade." In her opinion, these



colorful calendar events will "show the city's glamour." Senna Fernandes added that she looks forward "to see more visitors coming from around the world once again to enjoy the Macao Light Festival and experience the festive vibes in town," which include the anniversary of the handover and the Christmas holidays.

The light shows will be held every day from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. **RM**

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**T**HE opening session of the trial of former Prosecutor General Ho Chio Meng, scheduled for this morning, was postponed last Friday.

The cause for the postponement was a request from Ho's defense for Final Appeal Court (TUI) judge president Sam Hou Fai to be excused from the process as he was previously involved in the case during the enquiry phase, and in the audience of appreciation of the habeas corpus request that was then denied.

According to the statement issued on Friday by TUI, Ho's defense invoked Article 32 of the Penal Code claiming that during the investigation held by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), Sam had authorized the investigation for the assets declaration of the former Prosecutor General and his wife, and also had taken part in the ruling over the request for a habeas corpus based on unlawful imprisonment in early March this year.

The court must now wait for a decision on the defen-

# Ho Chio Meng's trial postponed



se's request before they are able to determine a new date for the first session of this trial.

Legal procedures dictate that there is a 10-day period for Sam to reply, after which his response will be analyzed by the judge in charge of the case in an unspecified time period.

Ho was detained in preventive custody for over nine months after he was arrested in a case involving alleged illicit business transactions amounting to MOP167 million, between 2004 and 2014, a period that Ho was heading the Public Prosecutions Office (MP).

He has been accused of many crimes including 434 counts of unlawful participation in businesses, 56 counts of money laundering (in total of 75 together with other suspects), 69 counts of abuse of power and 19 counts of fraud involving large amounts of money. **RM**

1-2-3 INCIDENT | 50TH ANNIVERSARY

## Panelists describe riots, call for remembrance



Daniel Beittler

A panelist event was held yesterday afternoon in the basement of the Portuguese Bookshop, near Senado Square, where several panelists shared stories about the 1-2-3 Incident and iconic photographs of the protest and riots, with the aim of promoting knowledge of the incident within Macau.

The 1-2-3 Incident culminated on December 3, 1966, when months-long tensions in Macau ignited riots and subsequent police repression across the territory.

Fifty years ago, the local government declared martial law in

the territory following riots and conflicts between the Portuguese administrators and the disgruntled population. Eight people were killed in the conflict and around 200 others were injured.

Witnesses of the events of 1966 this week appealed to Macau residents to remember the event

**■ The riots were inextricably connected to the events of the Cultural Revolution**

and for the government to introduce the riot to the city's history textbooks, lest it be forgotten.

The riots were inextricably connected to the events of the Cultural Revolution in the People's Republic of China, which began in the same year. The spillover of ideology from the mainland revolutionaries, mixed with anti-colonial sentiment, resulted in months-long tensions bursting open.

The initial trigger for the dissent, however, was caused by a dispute over permission to build a private school in Taipa, sponsored by left-wing organizations. Officials within the Portuguese administration essentially blocked the construction permit expecting, though failing, to receive bribes from the school's sponsors. After a prolonged period of delay, the residents started construction on the school without the permit, leading to police involvement.

Despite the eventual intervention of the Portuguese army in Macau, local authorities were not able to entirely repress the dissent and in 1967 accepted many of the protesters' demands.

Scholars such as Carmen Amado Mendes of the University of Coimbra, regard this concession as the moment Portugal lost "de facto sovereignty over Macau."

Similar pro-Communist, anti-colonial riots emerged in Hong Kong in 1967, originating from a minor labor dispute. The demonstrators clashed violently with local police forces, eventually turning to terrorist attacks and even assassinations of some members of the press who were opposed to the violence.

## Kenyan and North Korean win marathon

**T**HE 35th Macau International Marathon took place yesterday morning. The male champion of the 42.195 kilometer course was Kenyan athlete Peter Kimeli, who finished with a time of 2 hours 12 minutes and 52 seconds. Kimeli won the USD47,000 cash prize.

The athletes from Kenya dominated the male race, taking also second and third place. Dominic Kangor Kimwetich finished second in 2:13:19 and Suleiman Kipkesis Simotwo with 2:15:21.

The female champion, Kim Ji Hyang, came from

North Korea and finished the course with a time of 2:36:16. Kim won a cash prize of USD40,000. Joan Jepchirchir Kigen finished second with a time of 2:36:48 and Chemtai Rio-notukei, also from Kenya, finished third with a time of 2:38:19.

The marathon race started at 6 a.m. and was followed by the half-marathon, which started at 6.15 a.m. Around 10,000 participants from 46 countries participated.

A special prize was awarded to the oldest athlete, 79 year-old Kuan Kam Tong.



Peter Kimeli



Kim Ji Hyang



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Lynzy Valles

# Company vows to extend sharing economy model to Macau

A Hong Kong-based company keen on fostering eco-friendly efforts is set to expand its market in the region to further promote the sharing economy model.

ECrent Worldwide Company, founded in the neighboring region in 2013, is a platform where users can both rent and rent out items such as mobile phones, household items and vehicles.

The publicly listed Hong Kong firm said that it has various groups operating independently in 40 countries, with its website currently attracting some 35 million visitors.

ECrent provides opportunities for enterprises and individual retailers. The platform allows users to list their items online as available for rent, particularly items that are expensive to purchase and are not widely used by the lender.

As a saying in the sharing economy community goes "access trumps ownership," Gotham Mamik, ECrent marketing and sales manager noted, adding that the company holds a simple concept: rent and share.

"If it can be bought, it can be rented," he told the Times. "We are actually facilitating, bringing renters and rentees together and letting people share with each other."

ECrent is seeking to create a cohesive all-in-one eco-system, which is why the company planned to expand in Macau - as there is significant wastage in the tourism-centered territory.

According to Mamik, "the sharing economy is the next wave," which is why he sees a vast market in the territory.

"[Macau is] one of the places that we feel this concept can be successful; but more importantly it is direly needed in the tourism industry because the maximum wastage takes place during recreation and vacationing," the manager explained.

"[Macau could] start a wave [...] at least running parallel to consumerism where people go on vacation [and] they could rent and create this harmonious sharing concept," he continued.

As ECrent manages each



Gotham Mamik

market independently, the company pursues a different approach in different regions - catering to the needs, demands and demographics that exist in each particular region.

Presently the company collaborates with various brands and retailers, including Tesla Motors and a recent partnership with a convenience store chain.

"We're also trying to start an eco-system of a culture where we collaborate with partners with the same vision as us," he explained. "We [will] be providing them with rental cellphone chargers. [Just] pay HKD10 and we give you mobile charges within 24 hours [and] you can return it in any [chain] stores," Mamik added.

The platform allows users to either generate income or save money, encouraging them to use items responsibly through renting as there has been a significant growth in consumer habits.

Mamik claimed that the com-

pany has created a simple economic transaction value. With posting fees ranging from USD2 to USD6, the platform currently has 200,000 registered users and approximately 500,000 items available for rent.

"Now it's coming to a point where landfills are just insane," he said, implying that modern consumer behavior was worsening.

The Hong Kong based company rolled out a "Residential Sharing Platform" - both online and offline - launching a new service in housing communities and resident blocks around Hong Kong.

ECrent will supply an online portal for resident communities to rent and book venues, parking spaces and actual rental items. The aim is to encourage neighbors to share and rent from one another to reduce consumerism.

The company claimed that such efforts would improve communal living as well as provide an ancillary source of re-

venue for management offices, which could then direct earnings towards improving building facilities.

Businesses can also create microsites, a shop-in-shop model on the firm's website where they can manage and rent out their own items.

"We also partner with NGOs and provide them with free microsites to further their own cause," said Mamik, mentioning ECrent's latest collaborations with U.S.-based NGO, Nona Network.

When questioned whether the platform faces regulatory uncertainty, similar to what Uber is facing, Mamik stressed that the company has already taken

this into consideration.

"We've already gone through the process. Reason being is we are not conducting the transaction. You as a renter are just coming up and posting on our site," he explained. "We are a bridge connecting people to share, [so there will be] no legal hassles," he confidently said.

Yet Mamik admitted that main hurdle for the company is to persuade people to believe and utilize the company's concept.

The sales and marketing manager said that its market in China has been growing - much to their surprise as the country is dominated by new money. He also noted that ECrent is currently in the process of filing as a public listed company in the United States, as the firm has a significant presence in the country.

Director of the upcoming ECrent Macau, Kyan Su Lone, believes that not only can sharing economy foster green initiatives but could also provide a platform for young entrepreneurs.

"I think ECrent advocates the sharing of resources and it could be a force for environmental protection," he noted.

As the region is committed to becoming a world tourism and leisure center, Kyan is confident that ECrent can contribute to the region's vision. Kyan explained that tourists coming to Macau could reduce the burden of carrying heavy luggage by renting necessary items.

"[It could] bring a lot of convenience for travelers. Also, I have been concerned about opportunities for young people, and I hope ECrent can provide a platform for young people to start a business in Macau," he concluded.

Although there is currently no exact date when ECrent Macau will commence operations, the firm hopes that it will be launched by the beginning of next year.

Sharing economy is the next wave.

GOTHAM MAMIK

## UM to spend MOP300 million on renovation works

SEVERAL government department heads and representatives of the University of Macau (UM) attended an early meeting of the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly to inform the committee about the

details of their projects under the budget.

Next year's Program of Investment and Administrative Development Expenses (PIDDA) of the UM will cost around MOP507 million, compared with MOP593 million last year.

According to UM, the school will use more than MOP200 million to purchase two nuclear magnetic resonance machines.

However, lawmaker Kwan Tsui Heng pointed out that each of Ma-

cau's two main hospitals - Kiang Wu Hospital and the Hospital Conde de São Januário - has one nuclear magnetic resonance machine.

UM claims that each machine serves a different purpose: one for teaching

and the other for academic research. The school says it is discussing the granting of the machines with both hospitals.

Also according to UM, another MOP100 million of the budget will be used for the school's renova-

tion, in order to cope with the increasing number of students.

The school will also use part of the budget to hire additional human resources, as many of the school departments need more staff. **JZ**



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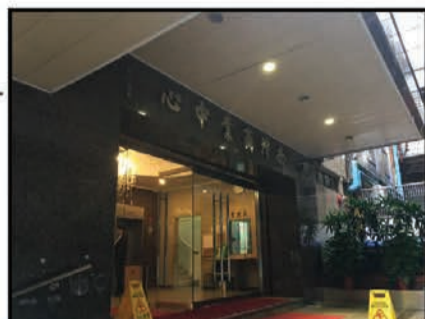
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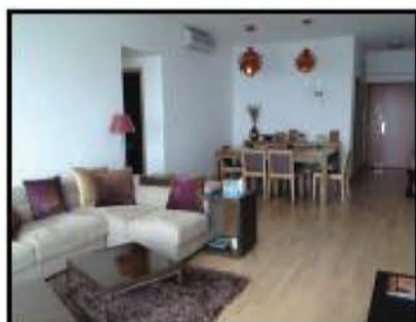
Located in the pedestrian shopping area of Taipa village, this is a unique opportunity to rent a great space. Recently upgraded by the owner the property had two toilets, one on each level.

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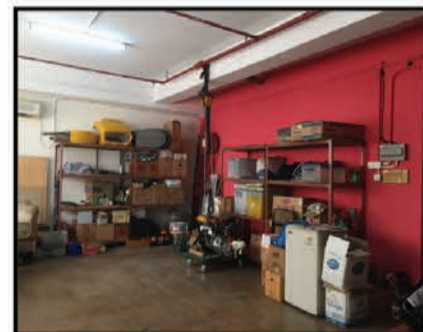


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ALEXIS TAM | POLICY ADDRESS

# Portuguese education and medical professionals dominate lawmakers' questions

Julie Zhu

**T**HE region's poor medical services and university education, especially Portuguese-language teaching, were widely discussed during Alexis Tam's second day at the Legislative Assembly (AL) where he presented the Policy Address for 2017.

Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho took the opportunity of having the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture at the AL on Friday to criticize Macau's healthcare system. "How much do you know about the people's bitterness? [People] need to sell their houses to get access to medical services," said Coutinho, adding that "the biggest problem with Centro Hospitalar Conde de São Januário (CHCSJ) is management."

He noted that Macau has needed 18 specialists for the past 10 years, but so far, the city has only trained one.

"You really have a problem: your management is poor," accused Coutinho. Earlier, CHCSJ was accredited by the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS) in recogni-



Alexis Tam (center)

tion of CHCSJ's international standardized medical technologies and health care services.

However, the lawmaker does not consider this award as significant because it was not granted by the Australian government.

Tam disagreed with Coutinho. He emphasized that the recognition was granted by the ACHS, which is a non-profit organization. Tam claims that Macau spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in order to get that accreditation.

"[What you said] is murdering all the efforts that were spent

by all [my] colleagues from CHCSJ," said Tam. "You said that our management has problems, [...] what you said is completely false."

The secretary reminded attendees again that the hospital passed all criteria listed by ACHS.

"There are things that [we] do not need to pay for them," said Coutinho, in reply to Tam. "The public's eyes are crystal clear," he added, indicating that the public will know the effectiveness of local medical services, but not through an international recognition of the city's healthcare quality.

"When you are working, you need to be more devoted and subjective," the lawmaker added.

Another topic which has long been discussed in Macau is the training of Portuguese-speaking students.

Angela Leong, Gabriel Tong, Lau Veng Seng and Coutinho all voiced their concerns about this issue.

Lau recommends the city enhances education in Portuguese, and also in Chinese teaching in Portuguese-speaking countries, in order to attract native Portuguese-speakers to build their working careers in

Macau.

Leong also suggested the local government sends Chinese teachers abroad to teach Chinese in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Tam, in reply to the aforementioned lawmakers, agreed that Macau should not only promote Portuguese but Chinese as well outside the territory. He noted that the local government is supporting the University of Macau (UM) and the Macao Polytechnic Institute in organizing Chinese courses. He also revealed that UM will establish a Chinese-Portuguese speaking human resources training centre. "Macau is a very good place, and [has] good education," said Tam, adding "[it] attracts many students from Portuguese-speaking countries to study here."

Tam praised Leong's suggestions about sending Chinese teachers abroad to teach Chinese.

He claims that the local government "has clear goals, and will put more resources into Portuguese education." The secretary also vowed to train more Chinese-Portuguese translators. However, Tam's answers did not please Coutinho.

"[It has been 17 years], and only now do you know we need translators?" asked Coutinho, adding that "these things should have been there already."

"You have done many things, [many of them] are mere shows, and many of them are impractical things," criticized Coutinho.

Leong Lai, director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) replied to more questions on the aforementioned topic, saying that there are more parents starting to consider Portuguese as a useful course and that more schools have applied to DSEJ to open Portuguese courses.

## CHUI SAI CHEONG SUGGESTS DEMOLISHING SCHOOL

**CHUI SAI** Cheong has suggested to Alexis Tam that the government should move the Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luis Gonzaga Gomes in order to allocate that land for a second phase of Hotel Estoril's development. Chui said that he has discussed the matter with many local professional groups, and that some of them

have suggested the same solution. "Personally, I agree with these friends' idea. I hope the secretary can bring it [the idea] back to do some research," said Chui. However, Chui's suggestion was immediately refused by Tam. "I can reply to you right now: we will not do it," said Tam, adding "that school is a relic, and it is protected."

## Kart Grand Prix to commence December 8

The 2016 Macao International Kart Grand Prix will be held from December 8 to 10 at the Coloane Karting Track. The Organizing Committee hosted a press conference last week to provide details of the event, organized by the Automobile General Association of Macao-China (AAMC). Around 150 karters from Australia, China, Taiwan, France, Germany, Italy, Indonesia, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Spain, Thailand, U.S., Hong Kong and Macau will compete in seven races involving a total of 11 groups, including the Asian Karting Open Championship. The event is admission-free.

## Macao Orchestra to offer second concert

The Macao Orchestra is set to offer an additional performance of the concert "Journey into the World of Music – Peter and the Wolf," after the initial concert was close to being sold out only shortly after going on sale. According to a statement from the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), high public demand has led to the additional concert, which will be held on December 18 at 5 p.m. The concert will present the classical music fairy tale "Peter and the Wolf" by Sergei Prokofiev, in collaboration with Platypus Theatre from Canada. The IC statement claimed that the performance is certain to "bring musical inspiration to local children" through its original and engaging storyline that invites children to "laugh, sing and empathize with the characters." The performance will be conducted in Cantonese and English.

## Cross-region transfer of abandoned cars debated

The Environment Protection Bureau (DSPA) recently visited the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China in Beijing, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The two parties discussed the environmental protection cooperation between Macau and Guangdong, particularly the possibility of transferring Macau's abandoned cars into mainland China. However, as there are no previous records involving such movement, and also because the transfer involves mainland China's laws, regulations and policies, the two parties have only discussed the current environmental protection situations existing on both sides.

## Gov't studies charging fees in public healthcare services

**L**AST Thursday, Alexis Tam revealed that the local government would conduct research on Macau's healthcare system. On Friday, Tam mentioned that this will include studies about whether Macau's public hospitals will start charging fees to all of their patients.

Tam said that the local government has already engaged a Hong Kong organization to conduct research on the medical care system. "We must do it like this, [...] we are doing what we should do," said Tam.

On Friday's AL meeting, several lawmakers raised questions on healthcare-related topics. Lawmakers Angela Leong, Au Kam San and Fong Chi Keong, among others, discussed topics such as the continuously increasing budgets of hospitals.

Some of the lawmakers worry that Macau's public healthcare services will expand uninterruptedly, which will lead to greater government expenditure.

Tam pledges that the government will not keep expanding Macau's social welfare system. "Actually, we are doing it [providing free public healthcare services] not because we want to do it," explained Tam.

However, he noted that offering free public healthcare to residents has been regulated since Macau was under the Portuguese administration, and "according to the Basic Law [...], Macau government must comply with the law which says that the government must maintain the social welfare, [...] we can not exploit our residents' rights, I hope everyone understands."



**M**ACAU'S casino shares dropped in Hong Kong trading after last week's Executive Council disclosure that the city may require inbound travelers to disclose cash holdings of more than 120,000 patacas (USD15,000) at entry.

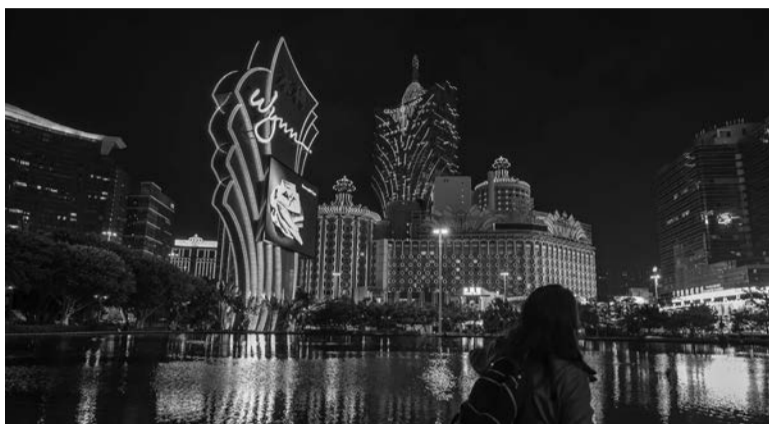
Sands China Ltd. fell 4 percent to HKD36.50, the biggest decline in 11 weeks. Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. dropped 4.7 percent and Wynn Macau Ltd. slipped 4.5 percent, while the benchmark Hang Seng Index fell 1.4 percent.

"The report is throwing cold water on reviving sentiment for the casino industry," said Ronald Wan, chief executive at Partners Capital International in Hong Kong. "After a big rally of late, gaming stocks were in overbought territory anyways."

The \$30 billion gaming industry in Macau has rebounded as operators including Wynn Macau opened new, billion-dollar resorts. Gross gaming revenue

## GAMING

## Casino shares drop after cash disclosure rules report



rose for the fourth straight month in November, recording the strongest year-on-year growth since February 2014.

Analysts were split on whe-

ther news of the cash disclosure, reported after Thursday's market close, would have a long-term effect on gaming companies.

"Negative knee-jerk reaction on this headline would provide an even better buying opportunity for investors," DS Kim, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Hong Kong, wrote in a note. The move "does not have anything to do with China's capital control, nor does it target the gaming industry."

Michael Ting, a Hong Kong-based analyst at CIMB Group Holdings Ltd., said the step would be part of a clear trend of China clamping down on capital controls.

"The risk is that this could be just the beginning and there could be more measures going forward," he said. MDT/Bloomberg

## Li Ka-Shing is said to have bid for Australia's Duet Group



Li Ka-Shing

**H**ONG Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing's Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. has offered to buy Duet Group at a premium of about 28 percent in a bid to win control of the Australian infrastructure company's pipeline assets, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Hong Kong-based company made a conditional offer of AUD3 a share for Duet last week, said the people, asking not to be identified as the details are private. The offer values Duet at about AUD7.3 billion (USD5.4 billion), according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The board of the Australian company plans to consider the offer, the people said.

The bid for Duet would be the latest attempt by Li to bolster his Australian business this year. The tycoon experienced a setback in August when the Australian government blocked CKI and State Grid Corp. of China from buying a majority stake in state-owned power network Ausgrid.

Expanding his business in Australia would also help Li diversify away from the U.K., the biggest profit generator for his flagship firm CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd., as Britain's decision to split off from the European Union threatens to undermine the economy. Bloomberg

## Humanoid robot aids customs at Gongbei Port

**L**AST month, customs officials at the Gongbei Port of Entry began using Sanbot, an intelligent humanoid robot designed and built by QIHAN Technology Co. Ltd. (QIHAN), to help increase efficiency, security and customer experience at the busy border crossing.

Sanbot is a service robot powered by a robust, cloud-enabled app ecosystem designed to be deployed in a wide variety of settings including retail locations, schools, hospitals and more.

"The use of Sanbot by Gongbei Customs demonstrates just how versatile Sanbot's AI platform truly is," said Zhuang Yongjun, chief technology officer at QIHAN.

"We truly believe that robots like Sanbot have the potential to change how service industries operate – and that includes helping customs workers operate and secure ports around the globe," added Zhuang, who also commented on the ability of administrators "to tailor Sanbot's capabilities and behaviors to the needs of their specific use."

Gongbei Port of Entry is the main bor-

der crossing between Macau and mainland China and is the largest land port in China. In 2013, more than 99 million people were processed through Gongbei. Currently, 50 Sanbot units are being used at Gongbei.

"With thousands of travelers passing through each day, Gongbei Customs is always looking for new solutions to help us ensure that service is fast and our borders remain secure – Sanbot fit that mold perfectly," said Zhao Min, director of Gongbei Customs.

Taking advantage of Sanbot's cloud platform – the cornerstone of its "Robotics-as-a-Service" model – customs officials are able to equip Sanbot with new functionality, including the ability to answer passengers' questions in 28 different languages, perform facial recognition to help detect potential security threats, and alert human workers of questions and tasks outside its capabilities.

Using a powerful set of AI algorithms, the Sanbot units at Gongbei have been programmed to respond to over 3,000



commonly asked questions and provide guidance on local laws and regulations to travelers crossing the border.

Founded in 2006, QIHAN is a global CCTV surveillance equipment and solutions provider headquartered in Shenzhen, with a focus on next-generation robotics and artificial intelligence technologies. MDT/AP

### corporate bits

#### WYNN MACAU CONTINUES TO SUPPORT 'WALK FOR A MILLION'



Wynn Resorts subsidiary, Wynn Macau, has continued to financially support the annual charity event "Walk for a Million," organized by the

"Charity Fund from the Readers of Macao Daily News" this year, according to a statement from the gaming operator.

In addition to a donation of MOP500,000 made to the charity fund, Wynn has also encouraged team members and their families to participate in the charity walk.

A check presentation ceremony was held yesterday at Wynn Palace. It was attended by numerous executives from the two properties, including Ian Michael Coughlan, the president and executive director of Wynn Macau. Also in attendance was a delegation from the Charity Fund, led by the president of its directive council, Antonio Jose de Freitas.

Employees of Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace are set to walk together with their families during the charity event on Sunday, December 11.

#### GRAND COLOANE TO CONTINUE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Grand Coloane Resort's Christmas Village will continue in the upcoming Sundays of this festive month.

Last week, the resort, together with Anima Macau, hosted the Christmas Village opening day with various stalls offering arts and crafts workshops, Christmas goodies and a charity painting sale.

Held in the resort's outdoor area, the event also featured the launching of Anima's charity program and the hotel's pet-friendly dining area, plus international F&B stalls and a kids' activity corner.

According to a press release issued by the resort, the event-goers and villagers were pleased with the "village" at-



mosphere and the sense of community during the event – especially the new pet-friendly dining area at The Fire Place, where they were able to enjoy a good time with their pets while dining. The Grand Coloane Resort is the first five-star hotel in the city to welcome pets – however, pets and

owners are required to follow the dining etiquette.

Highlights of the Sunday markets include festive F&B offerings, kids' activities, arts and crafts workshops, and stalls selling Christmas goodies, drawings, framed photographs of Coloane and handmade jewelry and scarves.





Sonangol's headquarters in Luanda

ANGOLA

# Sonangol needs to undergo financial restructuring

ANGOLAN state oil company Sonangol needs to undergo financial restructuring and USD1.569 billion to guarantee payments until the end of this year, said on Thursday in Luanda the chairman of the Board of Directors, Isabel dos Santos.

Dos Santos also said that revenues from Sonangol have been falling since 2013 "without operating costs falling in line with this drop, "she estimates gross revenues of \$15.325 billion and that this year the company will not pay dividends to the State.

"Sonangol's gross revenue in 2013 was \$40.070 billion, in 2014 was \$24.657 billion, in 2015 it was \$16.212 billion and this year, 2016, we estimate gross revenues of \$15.325 billion," according to a statement issued by the company.

The statement added that "at the same time the company's operating costs have not fallen as much as the drop in revenue, estimated at \$11.957 billion in 2016, a decrease compared to \$14.443 billion in 2015."

Isabel dos Santos was appointed to chair Sonangol last June and last week revealed that the valuation carried out since then, for "full knowledge of the initial situation," detected "inconsistencies between the accounts and the real information of the company" and "a lack of control over various investments."

The Chair of the Board of

Directors even said that the situation, "is much more serious than scenario originally outlined," forcing "management decisions as a matter of urgency."

The financial debt of the group for 2016 is estimated at \$9.851 billion, there is currently "a need to take on new financing" based on financial commitments "yet to be funded," so that Sonangol "can make payments until the end of the year, "a need that totals \$1.569 billion."

The management of Sonangol was led from 2012 until the appointment, in June 2016, of Isabel dos Santos, by Francisco de Lemos Jose Maria, who in turn succeeded Manuel Vicente, who was then became vice president of Angola.

Isabel dos Santos also said an "oversizing of the structure" of the group had been detected, with about 22,000 people linked to Sonangol, 8,000 active workers, more than 1,100 non-active workers and more than 8,000 workers from temporary employment agencies.

The statement said that the investment portfolio is currently characterized by problematic projects such as the Lobito Refinery and the Barra Ocean Terminal and large investments with no return, outside of Sonangol's core business, namely investments in areas such as health, hospitality, real estate and renewable energy. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Create A Better  
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During the last couple of months, the world has taken significant steps for global collaboration on climate change; however, there is still much to be done. In addition to tackling climate change, depletion of natural resources, destruction of ecosystems, and extinction of wildlife are among many other environmental issues that require global action.

At MGM, we believe, that by working together each one of us can make a difference and play a role in helping to reverse these trends. Through our vision, Create a Better Tomorrow Today, we believe the actions we take now will contribute to the society and environment of tomorrow, and therefore committed to acting now for a better future.

Environmental Sustainability

Minimizing environmental impact in 2016

Throughout 2016, MGM continued to make great strides in minimizing its environmental footprint. Year-to-date, significant steps have been taken to reduce environmental impacts, such as:

- *Energy & emissions:* Reducing energy consumption by 4% through energy reduction initiatives, as well as consuming 2,822 less tons of CO2 emissions through electricity consumption reduction measures (or the equivalent of taking 446 cars off the road for an entire year!)
- *Water:* Implementing an innovative water recycling scheme to recycle condensate water from our air-conditioning system for flushing in our toilets.
- *Waste & recycling:* Reducing our waste sent to the incinerator by 12% (the equivalent weight of over 93 African elephants!), whilst expanding our recycling efforts and recycling items from across our departments, such as metals, plastics, paper, cardboard, cooking oil, guest room soap and electronics waste.
- *Green procurement:* Continuing our practice of choosing products that are better for the environment, leading to achievements such as over 90% of lighting now being high-efficient LED lighting (which is 75-90% more energy efficient than incandescent lighting) and 100% of our paper being sourced from responsibly-managed forests.
- *Green building:* Implementing a large scale green building project throughout the design and construction of MGM COTA1 - MGM's second property, which is due for opening in the second quarter of 2016.

At MGM, we realize that by taking even small steps in our day-to-day, our team of 5,800 can together create significant positive environmental impact. In 2016, we held a range of activities to engage our employees in environmental protection, such as through the Let's Waste Less Campaign, the Recycling Bag Design Competition, Energy Conservation Week, Earth Hour and the annual tree planting & maintenance program. Further, through our Sustainability Committee, as well as our Green Team, we ensure ambassadors for sustainability are embedded within our business.



Knowledge sharing with the community



We also aim to share with the community what we have learned through many years of dedication to sustainability, and hope to collaborate for better progress and also inspire others to take action. In 2016, MGM held sustainability seminars and back-of-house green tours with students from the University of Macau, as well as the Macau Polytechnic Institute. During the year, MGM's in-house sustainability experts also played active roles in forums and panels for knowledge sharing at events such as the Forum on Macao Integrated Tourism and Leisure Enterprises and Corporate Social Responsibility on Green Initiatives and Sustainability, the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum, the CSR Asia Summit in Hong Kong and the US/China ASHRAE Conference on energy conservation in Beijing.

2016 recognition



Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Indexes

In 2016, we were honored to have been recognized for our contribution to sustainability having been chosen as one of the top corporate sustainability leaders in Macau, Hong Kong and Mainland China that are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, in the Hang Seng Sustainability Index.



Further, we are also proud that MGM COTA1 will have environmental sustainability at its heart, having received the China (Macau) Green Building Design Label - the first private sector company, as well as the largest entity, to have received this award in Macau.

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# Trump's call inspires hope in Taiwan, concern in PRC



U.S. President-elect Donald Trump (left), and Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen

Johnson Lai, Nomaan Merchant

WITH a 10-minute phone call and two tweets, Donald Trump inspired banner headlines and renewed hopes across Taiwan for a stronger partnership with the United States, while also inflaming the complex relationships between the U.S., mainland China, and the self-governing island China regards as a renegade province.

Whether the U.S. president-elect meant to jump into the generational fight between China and Taiwan remains an open question. But by speaking to Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, Trump upended four decades of American foreign policy and engaged China directly on the issue of Taiwan, which Beijing has threatened to reclaim by force if necessary. No American president or president-elect has publicly

spoken to Taiwan's leader since the U.S. ended their formal diplomatic relationship in 1979.

Four of his words drew particular attention in Taiwanese newspapers: Trump's reference, in a follow-up tweet, to Tsai being "the President of Taiwan."

The phrase is far from benign for China, which regards any reference to a Taiwanese president as an unacceptable acknowledgement of Taiwan's statehood. Official Chinese pronouncements typically refer to the Taiwanese president as "the Taiwan regional leader."

Chinese leaders have indicated they dislike Tsai, who was elected in January from a pro-Taiwan independence party and became the island's first female president. An editorial from the state-run China Daily newspaper admonished Tsai and said the call would "bring nothing substantial but illusio-

nary pride."

As for Trump, the newspaper said the incident "came as a striking move," but was not as important as "it seems to be."

Taiwanese are generally considered to support independence or the status quo, in which China and Taiwan maintain robust social and economic exchanges while the island retains its democracy and de facto independence, over unification with China. Chinese President Xi Jinping, however, has warned that the issue of unification cannot be put off indefinitely.

Yang Chih-kai, a 22-year-old university student at Taiwan's Tamkang University, said Saturday that the call raised Taiwanese hopes for a stronger relationship with the United States.

"People will think that the U.S. will keep on helping Taiwan protect itself against China's threat," Yang said.

Chen Chun-hao, a 43-year-old designer, said Trump might "bring more help" to Taiwan now that both sides had opened a dialogue.

"I believe that this could help Taiwan in its international status and its global situation," Chen said.

Kao-cheng Wang, dean of Tamkang University's college of international studies, said he believes Trump might increase American military exports to Taiwan, over Beijing's vociferous opposition, and try to strengthen economic ties between the two sides.

"Trump will not be restricted by the established foreign policy," Wang said. "The diplomatic policy may be flexible after he takes office."

China cut off diplomatic contact with Taiwan in June, one month after Tsai took office, accusing her of refusing to endorse the concept that Taiwan is a part of China. Last month, Xi met with Taiwan's opposition leader, Nationalist Party Chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu.

Zhou Qinfen, a retiree from China's eastern Jiangsu province visiting Beijing on Sunday, echoed several other Chinese interviewed who said they consider Taiwan to be an inextricable part of China.

"If an American president who has only been recently elected starts opposing the uni-

**Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi blamed Taiwanese leaders for playing a 'small trick'**

ty of China, the people of China will never agree with that," she said.

The Taiwanese presidential office said Trump and Tsai discussed issues affecting Asia and the future of U.S. relations with Taiwan. Tsai also told Trump that she hoped the U.S. would support Taiwan in its participation in international affairs, the office said, in an apparent reference to China's efforts to isolate Taiwan from global institutions such as the United Nations.

Taiwan's presidential office spokesman Alex Huang said separately that Taiwan's relations with China and "healthy" Taiwan-U.S. relations can proceed in parallel. "There is no conflict [in that]," he told reporters in Taipei on Saturday.

After Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi blamed Taiwanese leaders Saturday for playing a "small trick," China said it would issue a diplomatic complaint with Washington.

That is likely only the beginning of China's response, said Douglas Paal, a former director of the American Institute in Taiwan, which unofficially represents U.S. interests in Taipei.

Wang's comment "is intended to give time for Trump to back away from or desist from moves to elevate treatment of Taiwan," said Paal, now vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "China will watch carefully to see what he does. But Taiwan will be seen as in need of some form of punishment."

One potential move for China is to apply new pressure to the 22 states that have formal diplomatic ties with Taipei, Paal said. Most of the world and the United Nations already recognize Beijing as the official government of China.

What happens next will hinge on whether the call is seen as a "complicated accident" or an intentional signal of new policy, Paal said.

"Beijing will watch closely to see which it is," he said. "But until someone from Trump Tower explains further, it is unknowable." AP

## Death toll in country's second coal mine blast rises to 32

THIRTY-TWO miners were confirmed dead yesterday in the second coal mine explosion in a week in China, state-run media reported.

The gas explosion hit the mine in Chifeng city in the Inner Mongolia region midday Saturday. Out of 181 miners working underground, 149 managed to get out

and the rest died, official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The mine was operated by the Baoma Mining Co. Ltd., Xinhua said.

News of the blast came just hours after 21 miners who were trapped for four days after an explosion hit their unlicensed coal mine were confirmed dead in northeast

China's Heilongjiang province. Four people were arrested in connection with that disaster.

China's mining industry has long been among the world's deadliest, and top work safety regulators have acknowledged that some mines cut corners on safety standards due to financial pressure. AP



Rescuers prepare to enter the accident site to search for trapped miners after a gas explosion at the Baoma Mining Co. Ltd. in the city of Chifeng



David Tweed

HONG KONG

# Lawmaker purge risks tipping balance in Beijing's favor

**H**ONG Kong moved to oust four more pro-democracy lawmakers, an escalation of a weeks-long oath-taking controversy that threatens to tip the balance of power in China's favor in the city's legislature.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying filed a lawsuit Friday seeking to disqualify the legislators on grounds they failed to properly deliver their oaths of office before taking up their seats in October. Those targeted for removal included Nathan Law, 23, a leader of the 2014 Occupy Central protests, and Leung "Long Hair" Kwok-hung, 60, a long-time antagonist of the chief executive.

"This is an unprecedented attack on the opposition and the will of the people," said Kevin Yam, a convener of the Progressive Lawyers Group. "What we are seeing here is a total lack of restraint in the exercise of power."

The move follows a court decision last month to vacate the seats of two pro-independence advocates who insulted the country and waved banners saying "Hong Kong IS NOT China" during an Oct. 12 swearing-in ceremony. The incident prompted an unprecedented intervention by the Chinese government to declare that oaths of allegiance to the nation must be taken "sincerely and solemnly."



Leung Kwok-hung during the swearing in ceremony of Hong Kong's Legislative Council

Thousands took to the streets to protest against Beijing's action, which lawyers and civil rights advocates said infringed on the "high degree of autonomy" promised to the former British colony before its return to China in 1997. The two ousted lawmakers are considering petitioning the city's highest court after losing their first

appeal Wednesday. The Hong Kong government said in a statement after filing the latest lawsuit that the "decision to start these legal proceedings is purely based on the law," and not political considerations. The four targeted either altered their oaths, added political comments or introduced props to the ceremony, such as

a yellow umbrella that symbolizes the 2014 protests. None of them advocated independence from China. The removal of all six lawmakers would temporarily shift the balance in the 70-seat Legislative Council, giving the pro-establishment camp an opportunity to weaken the few procedural tools the opposition can use to stop

**This is an unprecedented attack on the opposition and the will of the people.**

KEVIN YAM  
PROGRESSIVE LAWYERS GROUP

or stall legislation. However, the democratic side would retain the power to block changes to the city's Basic Law, such as proposals to let Beijing vet leadership candidates.

The four lawmakers were joined by pan-democratic peers in an impromptu protest outside the legislative chamber on Friday. Law said he hadn't received any notification from the government or the courts and was consulting lawyers on a response, Radio Television Hong Kong reported. **Bloomberg**

## Rural China banks with USD4 trillion assets facing debt test

**B**OND investors are weighing rising risks that smaller Chinese banks will fail against growing signs the government will do anything to avoid a financial meltdown.

A lender called Guiyang Rural Commercial Bank Co. in the southwestern province of Guizhou sparked concern that risks among smaller lenders are spreading after its rating outlook was cut last month following a jump in overdue loans to 30 percent of the total. That compares with just 3 percent at the nation's biggest lender. Short-term borrowing costs surged for the riskiest lenders including rural commercial banks, which hold 29 trillion yuan (USD4.2 trillion) of assets, 13.4 percent of the total amount in China's banking system.

Yet confidence in the go-

vernment's readiness to step in and offer support to struggling borrowers is rising as authorities allow a credit-fueled recovery of manufacturing activity, helping an official factory gauge match a post-2012 high last month. While 17 onshore public bonds defaulted in the first half of the year, there have since been only seven. The combination of government support and desperation for yield helps explain why Guiyang Rural was able to sell a junior bond at 4.7 percent last month, 1.7 percentage

**Some small banks are expanding aggressively.**

WEN BIN  
CHIEF RESEARCH ANALYST

points less than a similar offering last year.

"Investors have yet to suffer losses from any bank capital securities, which adds to their confidence," said He Xuanlai, a Singapore-based credit analyst at Commerzbank AG. "Smaller banks have a less diversified business profile and will likely get less support from the central government compared with bigger banks. Still, the base case is the government is still not ready to let any bank fail in a disorderly way."

That assumption has helped cut the extra yield investors demand to hold AA-rated five-year bank subordinated notes over AAA rated peers to a record low of 81 basis points, from 113 at the start of the year. There are some positive fundamentals. Rural banks are tied with the big five state-owned banks for the best Tier 1

capital ratio at 12 percent, according to an analysis by Natixis SA.

Investors must balance that against more negative signals. Because of their limited size, rural bank lending tends to be more concentrated and prone to the vicissitudes of regional economies. The average non-performing loan ratio for rural banks was 2.5 percent at the end of 2015, the worst among four types of lenders in China, according to Natixis.

Guiyang Rural reported overdue loans jumped 3.4 billion yuan in the first half to 9.18 billion yuan amid a slowing economy. China Chengxin International Credit Rating Co. cut its outlook on the AA-rating to negative. Multiple calls to various departments at the lender went unanswered.

In addition to Guiyang Rural, Bank of Liuzhou



Co. has been added to a credit watch list by Golden Credit Rating International Co. Two calls to the lender went unanswered.

"It is unsustainable to have 30 percent overdue debts," said Zhu Yu, a partner at the financial services unit of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. "Smaller banks are worse at controlling credit risk than bigger peers. We expect more downgrades."

Signs of financial stress and liquidity pressure are starting to show up. Short-term paper rates

for China's riskiest banks jumped by the most on record in November and longer-term bond yields are responding. The yield on AA-rated five-year bank subordinated notes surged 55 basis points over the past month to 4.63 percent, in line with their AAA counterparts.

"Some small banks are expanding aggressively," said Wen Bin, chief research analyst at China Minsheng Banking Corp. "But their risk management and operational capacities are limited, so investors in small banks face higher risks." **Bloomberg**



# 2016 MACAO International Kart Grand Prix

## CIK - FIA Asia Pacific Championship

### 08-11/12

Coloane Karting Track, Macao

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協辦 Coorganized by: **RAEM** 澳門特別行政區政府體育局 Instituto do Desporto do Governo da RAEM Sports Bureau of Macao SAR Government

**Macau** 澳門特別行政區政府旅遊局 DIRECÇÃO DOS SERVIÇOS DE TURISMO MACAO GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE

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 Avenida da Amizade, Edif. Grande Prémio de Macau R/C, Macau  
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Ali Kotarumalos, Stephen Wright

# Indonesians rally for tolerance after blasphemy protests

TENS of thousands of Indonesians rallied in the center of the capital Jakarta yesterday, calling for tolerance and unity after massive protests by conservative Muslims against the city's minority Christian governor.

The crowds filled a major traffic circle in the heart of the city and sprawled into its main thoroughfares.

The demonstrators waved "We Are Indonesia" signs and a giant red-and-white national flag was held aloft by hundreds of people.

The capital of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, has been rocked in the past month by two major protests against Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, who is being prose-



Balinese dancers perform during a rally in Jakarta. Thousands of Indonesians rallied in the center of the capital Jakarta yesterday

## A demonstration against Ahok on Friday drew at least 200,000 people

cuted for alleged blasphemy. The movement against Ahok, who is the first ethnic Chinese to be governor of Jakarta and the first Christian in half a century, has raised communal tensions and challenged Indonesia's reputation for practicing a moderate brand of Islam.

A demonstration against Ahok on Friday drew at least 200,000 people. An anti-Ahok protest on Nov. 4 attracted at least 100,000 people and turned violent, with one dead and dozens of protesters and police injured.

Hard-line Muslim groups are demanding Ahok's immediate arrest. Police say his detention is not necessary and have called for the legal process to be respected. Yesterday's rally coincided with a weekly car-free morning in Jakarta when a central artery of the city is

handed over to pedestrians for a few hours.

Police estimated 30,000 people turned up, said Jakarta police spokesman Argo Yuwono.

Organizers called it the "Parade of Indonesian Culture" and it featured traditional dances from Sabang in westernmost Aceh to Merauke in easternmost Papua.

National leaders of political parties under the pro-government coalition behind President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, an ally of Ahok, delivered short speeches on the importance of keeping the ethnically diverse nation united.

"We have to fight to materialize the aims of our independence. That will not happen if we are scattered, blaspheming, humiliating each other and no longer trust each other," Surya Paloh, chairman of the National Democratic Party, said from the main stage.

"Our main enemies are stupidity and poverty. Therefore we ask the current government to work harder and always consistently with the people's aspirations," Paloh said.

Blasphemy is a criminal offense in Indonesia and punishable by up to five years in prison. AP

## Body parts found after Indonesia plane with 13 disappears

INDONESIAN rescuers yesterday recovered body parts in the sea where a police plane with 13 people aboard is believed to have crashed the day before.

The light aircraft lost contact Saturday on the way to the island of Batam, which is near Singapore, after taking off from an island off the southeast coast of Sumatra. All those aboard, including five crew and eight police passengers, are feared dead, officials said.

The M28 Skytruck plane is believed to have plunged into 24-meter deep waters, said National Search and Rescue Agency chief Henry Bambang Soelistyo.

He told a news conference that remains probably of the victims were found in the area where villagers earlier retrieved a seat and a bag containing a cellphone and police documents.

TV footage showed police uniforms and other clothing also were retrieved from the sea.

Search teams involving Indonesia's navy, customs office and maritime police as well as aircraft from Singapore were scouring a 518-square-kilometer sea area for the wreckage of the aircraft, Soelistyo said. Divers also were deployed, he said.

## Malaysian PM leads protest against 'genocide' of Rohingya

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Najib Razak led a protest rally yesterday against what he called a "genocide" of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority, as he urged Asian neighbors and the world to step up the pressure to stop the violence.

Najib said the rally at a stadium in suburban Kuala Lumpur will send a strong message to Aung San Suu Kyi's government that "enough is enough."

"U.N. please do something. The world cannot sit by and watch genocide taking place," Najib said to loud cheers from thousands of Muslims, including Rohingya refugees. "The world cannot say it is not our problem. It is our



Najib Razak (center), holds hands with other leaders during a protest against the persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar

problem," he said.

The plight of Rohingya in predominantly-Buddhist Myanmar has galvanized Muslims in Southeast Asia and beyond. Denied citizenship although they have lived in Myanmar

for generations, Rohingya have faced persecution that exploded in intercommunal violence in Rakhine state in 2012 that left hundreds dead and forced more than 100,000 into squalid camps.

The violence has again

flared up as Myanmar's military launched attacks on Rohingya villages following deadly strikes by unknown assailants on police posts along the border with Bangladesh in October.

The top U.S. diplomat

for East Asia, Daniel Russel, said that the escalation of violence risks inciting jihadi extremism in Myanmar and Bangladesh and called on neighboring countries, including Malaysia and Indonesia, to resist the urge to stage protests that could further stir religious passions.

Najib said the persecution of the Rohingya is an insult on Islam. He said he had asked Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to stage a similar rally in Jakarta to put the pressure on Myanmar, because he said the charter of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to which all three countries belong, ensures the protection of human rights.

The Malaysian government-led protest marks a departure from the long-standing policy of non-interference by ASEAN members in each other's affairs.

"I will not close my eyes and shut my mouth

th. We must defend them [Rohingya] not just because they are of the same faith but they are humans, their lives have values," Najib said.

Some critics accuse Najib, who is grappling with a financial scandal, of using the rally to win the support of his country's Muslim Malays ahead of general elections due in 2018, which may be called earlier.

In a strongly worded statement Saturday, Malaysia's Foreign Ministry said there were some 56,000 Rohingya refugees in Malaysia. It said it has an obligation to halt the "ethnic cleansing" of the Rohingya and ensure security and stability in the region.

Malaysia has also summoned the Myanmar ambassador over the issue, and withdrew from two scheduled friendly football matches against Myanmar this month. Hundreds also protested outside the Myanmar Embassy last week. AP



Christine Armario,  
Andrea Rodriguez

# Fidel Castro's ashes interred in private ceremony in Cuba

**F**IDEL Castro's ashes were interred in a private ceremony yesterday, ending nine days of mourning for the man who ruled Cuba for nearly half a century.

The military caravan bearing his remains in a flag-draped cedar coffin left the Plaza of the Revolution in the eastern city of Santiago at 6:39 a.m. Thousands of people lined the two-mile route to Santa Ifigenia cemetery, waving Cuban flags and shouting "Long live Fidel!"

The ceremony was led by Castro's younger brother and successor, President Raul Castro, who wore his green military uniform as he placed the older man's ashes into what appeared to be a niche in his tomb, a simple, grey, round stone about 15 feet high. The niche was then covered by a plaque bearing the single name, "Fidel."

The ceremony was attended by Castro's wife, Dalia Soto del Valle, other members of his family and presidents Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela and Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, among others.

The ceremony appeared to last about 90 minutes and took place entirely out of the public eye after Cuban officials made a last-minute cancellation of plans to broadcast the start of events live on national and international television. Interna-

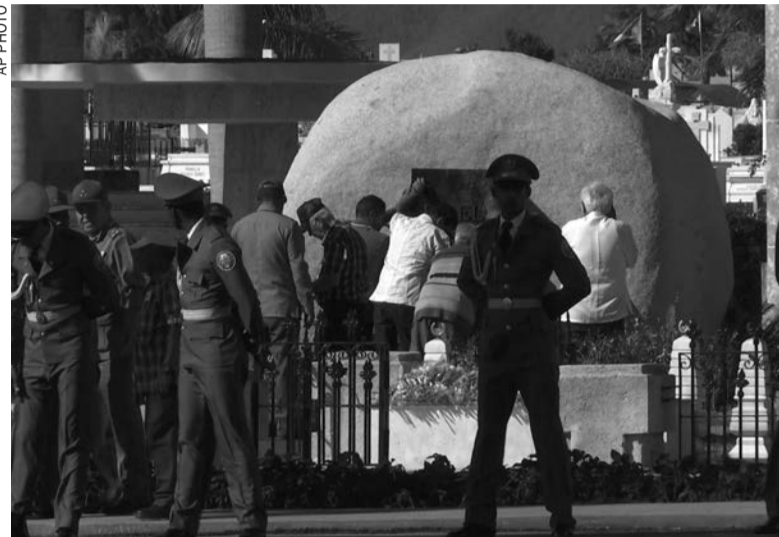
tional media were barred from the ceremony.

The tomb stood to the side of a memorial to the rebel soldiers killed in an attack that Castro led on Santiago's Moncada barracks on July 26, 1953, and in front of the mausoleum of Cuban national hero Jose Marti.

Before the ceremony wrapped up, martial music could be heard outside the cemetery, where Ines de la Rosa was among the mourners gathered. She said she would have liked to watch the ceremony on television, but "we understand how they as a family also need a bit of privacy."

Fellow mourner Elena Vinales said she wasn't surprised that the images of the ceremony were not broadcast. "It seems to

■ **The tomb stood in front of the mausoleum of Cuban national hero Jose Marti**



Workers sealing the grave where the ashes of Fidel Castro were interred at the Santa Ifigenia cemetery in Santiago

be a family moment," she said.

The decision to keep the ceremony private came the morning after Castro's brother, President Raul Castro, announced that Cuba would prohibit the naming of streets and monuments after the former leader, and bar the construction of statues of the former leader and revolutionary icon, in keeping with his desire to avoid a cult of personality.

"The leader of the revolution rejected any manifestation of a cult of personality and was

consistent in that through the last hours of his life, insisting that, once dead, his name and likeness would never be used on institutions, streets, parks or other public sites, and that busts, statues or other forms of tribute would never be erected," Raul Castro told a massive crowd gathered in the eastern city of Santiago.

He said that Cuba's National Assembly would vote in its next session on the law fulfilling the wishes of his brother, who died last week at 90. The legislatu-

re generally holds a meeting in December and under Cuba's single-party system, parliament unanimously or near-unanimously approves every government proposal.

Fidel Castro, who stepped down in 2006 after falling ill, kept his name off public sites during his near half-century in power because he said he wanted to avoid the development of a personality cult. In contrast, the images of his fellow revolutionary fighters Camilo Cienfuegos and Ernesto "Che" Guevara became common across Cuba in the decades since their deaths.

Mourning for Castro has been fervent and intense across the country since his death, particularly in rural eastern Cuba, where huge crowds have been shouting Castro's name and lining the roads to salute the funeral procession carrying his ashes.

"All of us would like to put Fidel's name on everything but in the end, Fidel is all of Cuba," said Juan Antonio Gonzalez, a 70-year-old retired economist. "It was a decision of Fidel's, not Raul's, and I think he has to be respected." **AP**

## Iran demands that Obama allow US sanctions to expire

**I**RAN'S President Hassan Rouhani demanded yesterday that U.S. President Barack Obama not sign an extension of U.S. sanctions, saying the bill is a violation of a landmark nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.



Hassan Rouhani

On Thursday the U.S. Senate voted to extend the Iran Sanctions Act by 10 years. Speaking in an open session of Iran's parliament Sunday, Rouhani said Obama is "obliged" to let the sanctions expire.

The nuclear agreement

between Iran and six world powers lifted a variety of international sanctions in exchange for limitations on the Iranian nuclear program. However the U.S. still maintains its own separate set of sanctions, which will expire on Dec.

31 if Obama does not sign the extension into law.

Rouhani promised a "prompt response" from Iran if the U.S. sanctions are extended.

"We are committed to an acceptable implementation of the deal but in response to non-commitment, violation or hesitation in its implementation, we will act promptly," he said. **AP**

AD

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## what's ON



EXHIBITION "TRACES AND VISION – LONGZHOU 'SHEHUO' FOLK PERFORMANCES, PHOTOGRAPHY BY WU XIAOPENG"

TIME: 9am-9pm

UNTIL: January 8, 2017

VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau

ADMISSION: Free

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ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (Closed on Wednesdays, opened on public holidays)

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary / Rua do Seminário Cantonese Guided Tour: 3pm-4pm (Saturdays and Sundays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

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

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

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## Offbeat

## MACAW POSES IN MAN'S MUG SHOT AFTER UNLUCKY COURT APPEARANCE



A 4-year-old macaw named "Bird" is an instant celebrity after appearing in a posed booking mug shot in Oregon with his unfortunate owner.

Craig Buckner left Bird in a tree outside court in Washington County while he went in for an appearance Thursday in an ongoing drug and theft case, said Sgt. Bob Ray, the sheriff's spokesman.

Buckner was not expecting to be arrested, but when he fell asleep while waiting for his case to be called, he was taken for a drug urine test and failed, Ray said.

When he realized he was going to be arrested, Buckner got very upset and deputies finally realized why. "He was very concerned about Bird the bird," Ray said. "Very distraught."

Bird was 30 feet up the tree, Ray said, and it was getting dark and rainy. Temperatures were in the low 40s. Deputies realized there was no way Bird — a tropical parrot — would survive overnight, but he would not come to them.

They eventually brought Buckner outside and removed the restraints from one of his hands.

Bird immediately flew down to Buckner and landed on his shoulder.

The macaw stayed with deputies for several hours and feasted on peanuts until they reached a friend who could pick Bird up.

While they waited, deputies let Buckner's feathered friend sit on his shoulder in a set up booking shot, just for kicks.

They also took a real booking photo of Buckner without Bird — but the macaw still managed to photo bomb it with a few of his colorful feathers, Ray said.

"It's quite funny," he said. "How can you resist that?"

The department is proud of how it landed the Bird, even if it did take extra time on a busy day, Ray said.

"We're not all robots. We're humans, we love animals and we want to do the right thing," he said.

"For the animal, and for Mr. Buckner too." AP

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:55	Debate on Transportation and Public Works Policy Report for 2017 (Live)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sport
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	UEFA Champions League 2016/2017 Magazine Programme
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

01 DEC - 07 DEC

## CRAYON SHINCHAN MOVIE 2016\_

ROOM 1

2.15, 6.00, 9.45 pm

Director: Wataru Takahashi

Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 104min

## YOUR NAME

ROOM 1

4.00, 7.45 pm

Director: Makoto Shinkai

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 115min

## FANTASTIC BEASTS &amp; 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



## THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS\_

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15 pm

Director: Derek Cianfrance

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Alicia Vikander, Rachel Weisz

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min

## SHUT IN\_

ROOM 3

9.30 pm

Director: Farren Blackburn

Starring: Charlie Heaton, Naomi Watts, Jacob Tremblay

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 91min

## MACAU TOWER

01 DEC - 07 DEC

## UNDERWORLD BLOOD WARS\_

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Anna Foerster

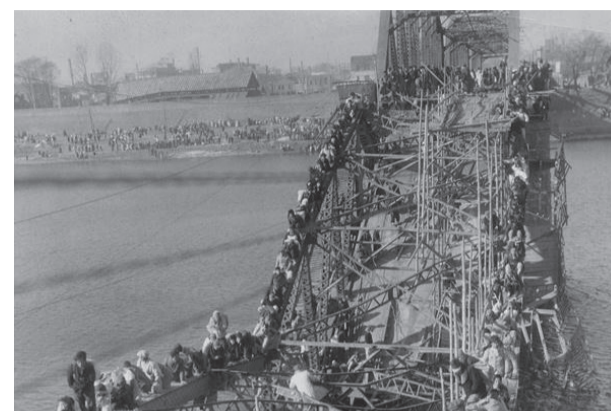
Starring: Kate Beckinsale, Theo James, Lara Pulver

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 91min



## this day in history



## 1950 PYONGYANG TAKEN AS UN RETREATS

Chinese troops have entered the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, as United Nations forces are pushed steadily back towards South Korea.

The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) invaded the south in June this year. Forces from the UN and Republic of Korea led a counter-offensive on 15 September.

North Korean forces quickly retreated back over the 38th parallel and General Douglas MacArthur ordered troops to pursue them into North Korea.

On 19 October Pyongyang was captured and by 24 November, North Korean forces were driven back almost to the Yalu River which marks the border of China.

But two days later, as General MacArthur prepared for a final offensive Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) joined the NKPA to launch this latest counterattack.

Today in Pyongyang, the CCF had to wade across the Taedong River because American engineers had destroyed bridges to the deserted city and burned all supplies and equipment that might help enemy forces.

Thousands of refugees are waiting to be taken from the north to the south bank by small boats. Meanwhile in the north-east of the country, up to 20,000 US Marines and 7th Division infantrymen are totally surrounded by Communist Korean and Chinese forces south of the Chosin reservoir.

Reports from the headquarters of X Corp say marines and soldiers are now under fire from six Chinese divisions and enduring some hardship in sub-zero temperatures.

Allied aircraft are supplying the trapped troops with ammunition and food and have evacuated 1,700 wounded men to hospitals on the coast. The British Commonwealth 29th Brigade, the rearguard of the Eighth Army, has retreated to positions further south of Pyongyang.

And two companies of the US 187th Airborne Regiment are fighting Communist troops near Sibyon, 112 km south-east of Pyongyang. UN reinforcements have been sent to the American paratroops.

In Washington, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee had a meeting with President Harry S Truman to discuss events in Korea.

And General Omar Nelson Bradley, general of the army, has been explaining the seriousness of the situation to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Yesterday President Truman condemned the Chinese for joining NKPA forces and escalating the war.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The dramatic events at the Chosin Reservoir were reported as one of the greatest and bloodiest retreats in US Marine Corps history. For two weeks, during one of the coldest winters on record, the First Marine Division, 200 British Marine Commandoes and elements of the US Seventh Division fought their way to the sea port of Hungnam along a narrow route through the mountains of North Korea - the Funchilin Pass.

They had support from ships in Hungnam that provided naval gunfire and navy and marine aircraft. At Hungnam, the Navy re-deployed more than 100,000 marines and soldiers of the X Corps, and evacuated over 100,000 North Korean refugees.

All UN troops retreated south and in January, 1951, the Communists recaptured Seoul, the South Korean capital. UN troops prepared a second counterattack for March 1951 and by June had recaptured Seoul.

The Korean War cost about two million lives.

It ended with an armistice on 27 July 1953 which established a fixed demarcation line with a four kilometer demilitarization zone.

The armistice was only ever intended as a temporary measure but remains the only safeguard for peace on the Korean peninsula.

American troops remain stationed in the demilitarized zone and around the 38th parallel separating North and South Korea.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're not feeling as comfortable as you would like with this new social situation...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're feeling a bit caught up in emotional drama today - so much so that you might feel weird about speaking out loud.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to show those people what you're made of - which could mean almost anything.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Someone comes to you with a proposal that sounds too good to be true.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your psychic powers are in play today - which probably means that your hunches are a bit more accurate than usual.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 An old ambition turns out to be unrealistic - but that's okay! You pride yourself on your common sense.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Today is all about money - so make sure that you're paying attention to your accounts.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You feel stronger than ever today - and with good reason! Your amazing personal energy helps you to see the difference between where you are and where you want to be.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're stuck in your head for much of today, but that's no big deal - in fact, you really need to make sure that you're exploring inner space.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Feel confident in the decisions you make today - you are sharp enough to see all the angles and think through everything that matters.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 A recent move up (at work or somewhere else) leaves you with mixed feelings.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Emotions are boiling over today - but you can see that it's all for the best.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is 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

CROSSWORDS ACROSS: 1- Carta; 6- 1972 Kentucky Derby winner; 10- There oughta be...; 14- AKA; 15- 'The Dead', classic horror movie; 16- NYC cultural center; 17- Slender gulls; 18- Mantel piece; 19- Lab gel; 20- Cream cake; 22- Anarchy; 24- Gal of song; 26- Themes; 27- Encase; 31- Ply; 32- Pays attention to; 33- Come up; 36- Russian space station; 39- Woody's kid; 40- Night noise; 41- Surrealist Salvador; 42- Pas' partners; 43- Japanese-American; 44- Shake awake; 45- Brief instant; 46- Distinctive; 48- Adhesive; 51- Wheel center; 52- Foresee; 54- Generic; 59- Regrets; 60- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax; 62- Thespian; 63- I'd hate to break up...; 64- Actress Ward; 65- Currency unit in Nigeria; 66- And here it is!; 67- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 68- Ribbons; DOWN: 1- Spouse; 2- A Baldwin brother; 3- Female child; 4- Granny; 5- Aids; 6- Gun, as an engine; 7- Lendl of tennis; 8- Be a guest; 9- Tavern; 10- Charlotte; 11- Reasoning; 12- Accumulate; 13- Friendly; 21- College cheer; 23- dicit; 25- Inclines; 27- Ersatz; 28- Zeus's wife; 29- Congers; 30- Tumult; 34- Fish eggs; 35- Whiskey type; 36- Lanai neighbor; 37- 'Casablanca' role; 38- Cambodian currency; 40- Illness; 41- Dwarf with glasses; 43- Bottle part; 44- Reverberating loudly; 45- Midday nap; 47- Play on words; 48- March man; 49- Cornered; 50- Alpine song; 52- 'Animal House' house; 53- Fabric ridge; 55- Final Four org.; 56- Take from me; 57- Oliver Twist's request; 58- Historical times; 61- Deranged;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

A large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters pre-filled.

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
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Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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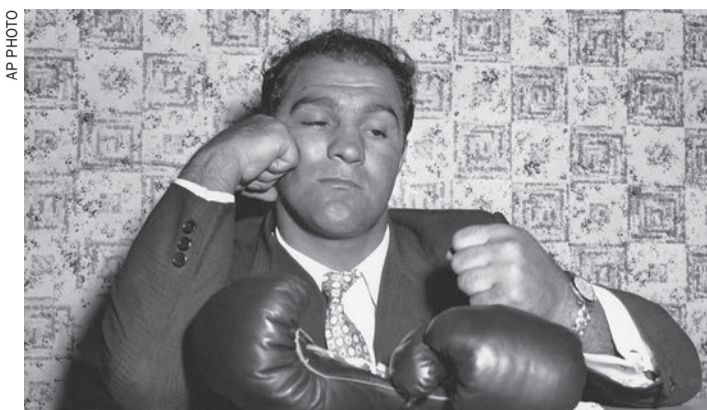
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Rocky Marciano



Justine Henin (left)



Magic Johnson

# A look at sports stars who retired early



Nico Rosberg celebrates his championship win

**N**ICO Rosberg stunned the world of Formula One and beyond by announcing his retirement on Friday at the age of 31, five days after winning his first drivers' championship.

Here are some other sports stars who retired at a young age:

## BJORN BORG (TENNIS)

Borg retired at the beginning of 1983, aged just 26. Considered to be one of the greatest tennis players of all time, the Swe-

de won Wimbledon five times in a row and also claimed six French Open titles.

Borg failed to win the US Open in 10 tries, losing four finals — 1976 and 1978 to Jimmy Connors, and 1980 and 1981 to McEnroe.

He played only one tournament in 1982, reaching the quarterfinals in Monte Carlo, before announcing he was quitting the game.

## ROCKY MARCIANO (BOXING)

Marciano had been the world heavywei-

ght champion for four years and won all 49 of his fights — 43 by knockout — when he retired in 1956 at the age of 32. The American wanted to spend more time with his family.

He died 13 years later in a plane crash.

Marciano, nicknamed the "Brockton Blockbuster," remains the only heavyweight champion to retire undefeated.

## MARCO VAN BASTEN (FOOTBALL)

Van Basten won three Ballon d'Or titles and two European Cups as well as the European Championship with the Netherlands in a glittering career that was cut short by injury at the age of 28.

He also helped Ajax to three Eredivisie titles and Milan to four Serie A trophies.

Milan's Champions League final defeat to Marseille in 1993 would be his final match due to persistent ankle problems that forced his retirement two years later.

Van Basten went on to a career in management, coaching Ajax and the Netherlands among others.

## LORENA OCHOA (GOLF)

Ochoa was the top-ranked female player when she announced her retirement in 2010 at age 28, putting aside golf so she could start a family. Coming two years after the retirement of Annika Sorenstam at the

age of 37, the LPGA was robbed of another of its biggest names.

Ochoa was probably the best-known athlete in Mexico who was not a soccer player, winning 27 LPGA titles and two majors — the Women's British Open in 2007 and the Kraft Nabisco Championship in 2008.

Ochoa gave birth to her first child 20 months after retiring.

## JUSTINE HENIN (TENNIS)

The seven-time Grand Slam winner was still No. 1 in the WTA rankings when she shocked the world of tennis with the news of her retirement at age 25 in 2008.

She said she had lost the desire to train and wanted to rediscover the "small pleasures" of life.

Before Henin, no reigning No. 1 had retired from the women's game.

But the break did not last long. The 2004 Olympic champion returned 20 months later and reached the 2010 Australian Open final. She retired for good in January 2011 because of a lingering elbow injury.

## MAGIC JOHNSON (BASKETBALL)

The Lakers point guard ended his career on Nov. 7, 1991 after he found out he was HIV positive.

One of the most gifted basketball players in the NBA with huge charisma, Johnson was 32 when he retired after 12 seasons with the Lakers, who drafted him in 1979.

Johnson did not stay away from the game long. He was the MVP of the 1992 All-Star game and won a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics before briefly coaching the Lakers in 1994 and returning to the court for 32 games in 1996 before calling it quits for good. **AP**

**S**ERGIO Ramos stepped up once more for Real Madrid in a major match, scoring in the 90th minute to secure a 1-1 draw at Barcelona's Camp Nou Stadium on Saturday.

"[Ramos] always shows up for games like this one," Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "He never gives up. That is what Sergio brings."

The Spain defender charged in to head Luka Modric's free kick past goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who got a hand on the ball but couldn't keep it out.

Luis Suarez's header from a free kick by Neymar had given Barcelona the lead in the 53rd, but Barcelona squandered the opportunity to finish off its fierce rival.

The stalemate favored Zidane's Madrid, which left Camp Nou with its six-point advantage atop the table intact with Barcelona second.

## LA LIGA

# Ramos strikes in 90th as Madrid draws 1-1 at Barcelona



Messi looks down as Real Madrid players celebrate (background), after Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos scored their side's first goal

"Our effort paid off," Ramos said. "We were able to maintain the difference. We can't go crazy. There is still a long way to go, but we depend on ourselves."

Madrid, which also extended its unbeaten streak to 33 consecutive matches, is searching for its first domestic league title

since 2012.

In his 12 seasons at Madrid, the 30-year-old Ramos has a knack of striking late in big games, including his headed goal to force added time in the 2014 Champions League final, which Madrid went on to win against Atletico Madrid. He also scored an equalizer — after 90 minutes were up — against Sevilla in this season's UEFA Super Cup, with Madrid again emerging the winner.

"What we have to highlight is the heart of this team. We believed until the end and got an important draw," Zidane said.

Ramos' goal on Saturday stunned Barcelona, which was on the cusp of reviving its title defense.

Instead, it has now drawn three rounds in a row and only won two of its last seven matches overall, a particularly poor run for a side boasting an attack of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Suarez.

"When you don't score [for] 2-0, this is what happens,"

Suarez said. "We have to stay strong and keep going [...] we are still alive."

Before kickoff, both teams observed a minute of silence for victims of the plane crash in Colombia which included players from the Brazilian team Chapecoense.

## AGENT PUBLISHES RONALDO'S TAX DOCUMENT IN SPAIN

**CRISTIANO RONALDO'S** agent has released a document that allegedly shows the player is in compliance with Spain's tax authority. The document published by company Gestifute, ran by Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes, allegedly shows that Spanish fiscal authorities certify

that the player is "up to date on his obligations."

The document's release comes a day after European media outlets released what it claimed were details of apparent tax arrangements made by top soccer players and coaches, including Ronaldo, Jose Mourinho and Mesut Ozil.



opinion

Rear Window  
Severo Portela



TROUBLE IN MIND

In these trumped up times of simple-minded populism, we would rather like to begin with a quote borrowed from the Hong Kong Free Press, selected blindly from the matrix of social network comments: "Oh god, you don't have to outpace Beijing in limiting yourself, you know...". Secretary Chan confirmed that in no way had the Central Government asked for or suggested that the MSAR apply any new regulations on Legislators to such oath-taking protocol, assuming the initiative was to be a means of "optimizing the legal system"; furthermore, a statement from the Government Information Bureau assumed its pre-emptive motivation, precisely to "prevent" misunderstandings in the future. Excessive care is taken to not assume openly or loudly the true colors of a revision on the Election Law that would prevent, yes prevent, those candidates who may have proved to have failed, or violated, the Basic Law or if their loyalty is considered questionable, from running for a Legislative Assembly (AL) seat, much less to be seated.

Veteran pro-democracy lawmaker, Ng Kwok Cheong, had no difficulty explaining the situation in terms of a Government eager to show its loyalty to Beijing "by following the Chinese Government's ruling on Hong Kong's Basic Law and introducing disqualification rules to our laws".

This is not a detour, but shall we break the matter and Ng's proposition into two parts. The first one is somewhat of a description of the facts (diagnosis), and the second is the set of rules and regulations needed to prevent situations like the elected lawmakers, Sixtus "Baggio" Leung and Yau Wai-ching who were disqualified from the Hong Kong LegCo (therapeutics).

Regarding the first part we do have to clarify that resorting to the tool of diagnosis aims not at any potential Macau separatist or localist: such a breed is not known among pro-democracy circles. Actually, the Hong Kong affair was a serious challenge to LegCo and PRC dignitas, and as such was handled through courts, as it had to be. The Court of Appeal sided with the High Court Ruling decision that the pair declined to take the mandatory oath, thus violating article 104 of the Hong Kong Basic Law.

We do mention here diagnosis as a metaphor for the shadow Beijing's (NPC) decision to respond to the Hong Kong legislative impasse with a constitutional interpretation released before the lower court came to a decision on Sixtus and Yau's, let us say, iconoclastic oath. Albeit no hints of the Hong Kong anti-China sentiment can be found in pro-democracy organizations, among liberals or as a brand of the much-known dissenting views circling the petite enclave, the Election Law will still contemplate provisions to disqualify candidates to be: Not through due process in courts but by a mere non-independent government kind of panel, echoing the trend of administrative rules.

Such an honorable institution is to decide if a candidate's loyalty is sound, if he or she has broken the Basic Law, and, even more frightening, the commission can assess cases of repentance! New Macau Association's Jason Chao puts things mildly, one would say given his historic wisely: the lack of objective criteria is problematic! It is, indeed, so much so, the possibility to apply the new law retroactively is haunting the city.

Whether or not this piece of legislation will be needed, does not diminish its profile as a thought police. There are tasks that thought cannot renounce!

THE CAR ACCIDENTS IN ZHUHAI CAUSED 82 DEATHS FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER

From January to October, car accidents in Zhuhai caused a total of 82 deaths in the city. Some 332 people were injured from the accidents, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. Compared to last year, two fewer deaths and 25 fewer injuries were recorded. Six of the deaths were caused by drivers under the influence of alcohol, which is a decrease of four deaths compared to 2015.

A total of 348 traffic accidents took place in Zhuhai. However, the city is still ranked among the top cities in the Guangdong province with fewer car accidents occurring.

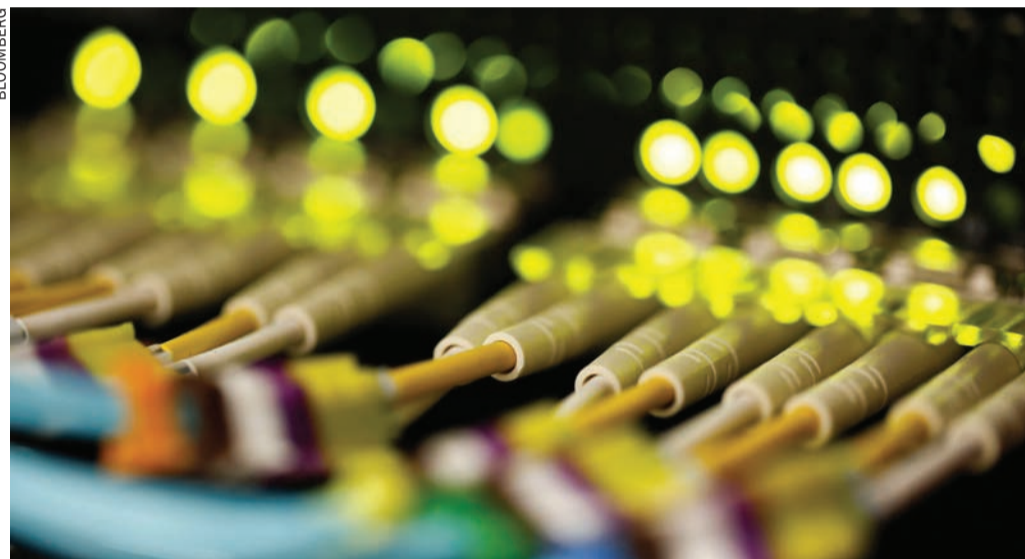
Most noticeable are the numbers related to Zhuhai's "peng ci" cases. "Peng ci" is a term that

originally stands for "touch porcelain." It typically describes a situation where a person deliberately creates motor accidents in order to claim for compensation.

Zhuhai police said that it had recently received approximately 100 reports which are likely to be "peng ci" cases. Through its official WeChat account, Zhuhai police reminded the public that "peng ci" cases have recently been occurring far more frequently than in any other seasons.

The police also reminded drivers to install dashboard cameras to ensure that they have video evidence in the event of being involved in "peng ci" cases.

Philippines asks Bangladesh for probe results on stolen millions



Cecilia Yap

THE Philippines asked Bangladesh for the results of its investigation into a USD81 million cyber heist as it commits to help the Bangladesh central bank recover stolen reserves, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said in a statement.

Dominguez and other Philippine officials met last week with a high-level delegation from Bangladesh, led by Anisul Huq, the south Asian nation's Minister of justice. The delegation thanked the Philippine government for helping in the return of \$15 million of the funds stolen by hackers in February from the Bangladesh Bank, and which found its way to the Philippines,

the Department of Finance said in a statement.

The hackers stole \$81 million from Bangladesh Bank's account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which said instructions to make the payments were authenticated by the SWIFT message system, widely used by financial institutions. The episode highlighted vulnerable links in the payment network underlying the global financial system.

Dominguez said the government will continue to help recover the rest of the funds following processes required under Philippine laws. At the meeting, Philippine officials asked that Bangladesh share with the Department of Justice and the Anti-Money Laundering Council the results of

its investigation into the heist.

"There were certain judicial processes... that you had to go through to make sure that there would be no challenge to your taking the funds," Dominguez was quoted as telling the Bangladesh delegation. "We are pursuing lawsuits on your behalf, actually, as vigorously as we can." Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla asked Bangladesh officials for a full report on the investigation to strengthen the Philippine government's position on behalf of Bangladesh in the court proceedings, the Department of Finance said in the statement. The Bangladesh officials have committed to sending updates on the probe, it said. **Bloomberg**

MUSIC

Legendary Cellist performs at CCM

THE Macao Cultural Centre (CCM) presented Mischa Maisky in a cello recital at its Grand Auditorium last Friday.

The master cellist was accompanied by his pianist daughter Lily Maisky and performed a wide range of masterpieces by musical talents such as Gabriel Fauré, César Franck and Astor Piazzolla. The performance included works composed by Camille Saint-Saëns and Francis Poulenc, according to a statement released by CCM.

Regarded as a true heir of Russia's delicate poetry and technical brilliance, Maisky was the disciple of master cellists Mstislav Rostropovich and Gregor Piatigorsky and a frequent collaborator of renowned pianis-

ts such as Martha Argerich, Boris Berman and Radu Lupu, amongst many others.

His recordings have won numerous awards, such as the Record Academy Prize in Tokyo. Besides his prizes and studio work, the legendary musician has been playing with many of the best orchestras in the world, like the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics.

Music critic Chow Fan Fu hosted an accompanying talk introducing the audience to the cello and sharing his views on the master and the repertoire to be played at the concert.

Maisky is set to perform his next concert in Taiwan.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



**INDONESIA** Tens of thousands of Indonesians rally in Jakarta, calling for tolerance and unity after massive protests by conservative Muslims against the city's minority Christian governor. [More on p13](#)

**MADAGASCAR** Relatives of some of the 239 people who were on a Malaysia Airlines plane that vanished in 2014 arrived in Madagascar on Saturday to ask for help in the search for debris from the missing aircraft that may have drifted across the Indian Ocean.

**US** A fatal fire Friday night at a party in a converted warehouse in the San Francisco Bay Area has claimed the lives of at least nine people. More than two dozen are still unaccounted for. Fire officials say the roof collapsed during a music event.

**CUBA** Fidel Castro's ashes were interred in a private ceremony yesterday, ending nine days of mourning for the man who ruled Cuba for nearly half a century. [More on p14](#)



**BRAZIL** Thousands of protesters are crowding Rio de Janeiro's beachfront to express disgust with public corruption and to support the judges and prosecutors pursuing those crimes.

**AUSTRIAN** right-wing candidate Norbert Hofer has conceded to his left-leaning rival in the country's presidential election. Hofer says in a Facebook post that he is "endlessly sad" about his loss, adding, "I would have been happy to take care of our Austria." Hofer conceded as preliminary results showed Alexander Van der Bellen ahead with 53.3 percent of the vote compared to Hofer's 46.7 percent.