

THIS IS MY CITY BY RUI REININHO



P6 MDT FEATURE



VIETNAMESE REFUGEES LURED BACK HOME

Overseas Vietnamese are returning to their homeland, decades after they fled in the aftermath of the communist victory

P9 BUSINESS



REAL, RONALDO & COMPANY IN JAPAN

Ronaldo, Ramos, Navas are all expected to play in the Club World Cup which starts today in Yokohama

P19 SPORTS



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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



INDONESIA A strong earthquake rocked Indonesia's Aceh province, killing nearly 100 people and sparking a frantic rescue effort in the rubble of dozens of collapsed and damaged buildings. More on p12

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES Communist rebels warn President Rodrigo Duterte that they may be forced to end their months-long cease-fire and resume fighting if he does not suspend the government's counterinsurgency program and withdraw troops from rebel-influenced areas.

THAILAND's prime minister warns that the BBC could be prosecuted if an online report published by its Thai-language service about the country's new king is found to have violated the law safeguarding the monarchy's reputation.

JAPAN's defense chief said yesterday that she believes her country's alliance with the U.S. will endure in the Trump administration because it benefits both countries. Defense Minister Tomomi Inada was asked about President-elect Donald Trump's suggestion that Japan build its own nuclear deterrent force. She said Japan expects to remain under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

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Ho Chio Meng's trial worries top lawyer

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FRINGE 2017

Bon Appétit

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Film Awards season opens

Extra

Extra times

weekend Guide

INSIDE

Pui Ching middle school wins Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament

Six students from Pui Ching Middle School won the Mathematics Tournament championship at the recent Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament. The school was the only one from Macau to be invited by the organizers to compete in the US. A student surnamed Chow won first prize in the individual competition, while the team ranked fourth in the overall competition. This year, the tournament was attended by close to 1,000 students from all over the world, with 150 teams in total. Founded in 1998, the Harvard-MIT Mathematics Tournament (HMMT) is one of the world's largest and most prestigious high school competitions.

Macau enterprises register 598 trademarks in mainland China

The Macau Chain Stores and Franchise Association said businesses in Macau registered 598 trademarks in mainland China between January and September, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. Prior to the aforementioned period, Macau enterprises had registered a total of 3,422 trademarks in mainland China. The State Intellectual Property Office of China received 2.8 million applications for registering trademarks last year, and expects the number to exceed 3.5 million this year. In August, the Association launched a consultation service center in Macau to help local enterprises which intend to register trademarks in the mainland.

Seven commercial, cultural and natural projects completed in Hengqin

Seven construction projects in Hengqin were completed this week, including four commercial buildings, one water supply system, one cultural street and one wetland park. According to a report by Jornal Va Kio, the director of the Hengqin New Area Management Committee (HNAMC), Niu Jing, said 65 buildings have already been completed so far this year, which means that Zhuhai is moving faster than expected in achieving its goals for construction in the Hengqin area. Niu said more than 25,000 companies have offices in Hengqin.



Ho Chio meng



Sam Hou Fai



Neto Valente



Jorge Menezes

Renato Marques

THE decision by the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) that ruled against a petition by the defense of the former Prosecutor-General Ho Chio Meng is "worrying," say lawyers Jorge Menezes and Jorge Neto Valente, who is president of the Macau Lawyers Association.

Ho Chio Meng had previously aimed to have the judge Sam Hou Fai recused from the trial over his public comments regarding the case.

Questioned by the Times on the topic, Valente expressed concerns about the way the case was being conducted, and highlighted the decision of another judge, Viriato de Lima. In March this year, de Lima had declared a self-impediment from the decision on the "habeas corpus" petition in accordance with article 29 of the Macau Criminal Code, since he had presided over preliminary hearings.

"According to the information I have and as I was informed, looks like the judge Viriato de Lima took part in the discussion and production of this decision," Valente said to the Times.

"Even if there isn't an outright ban [in] the law, I think it would be of elementary common sense that he wouldn't take part [in] this decision. I see all this with a lot of concern. I think there weren't enough guarantees given to the defense and I think this [case] is not giving a good image [of the judiciary system] and I'm not alone in these concerns [...] The way this trial is being started fails to give the court its prestige."

Elaborating on the case and the reasons behind it, Menezes said, "The law provides that a judge can be refused to act in

TUI's refusal of former Prosecutor's request 'worrying,' lawyers say

the proceedings where there is [the] risk of being considered suspicious, on the basis of a serious and significant reason that is conducive to generate distrust about the judge's impartiality."

On the defense's request to TUI, Menezes thinks that "Ho Chio Meng's lawyer seems to have argued that judge Sam Hou Fai expressed the view that there were strong indications to believe the defendant committed the offences under investigation [...] This doesn't seem accurate regarding the 'habeas corpus' appeal, when the judges didn't express that view. They mentioned only that this was the understanding of the judge who ordered the defendant to remand in custody. The 'habeas corpus' didn't discuss guilt or the facts of the case; it discussed other matters of law."

Regardless, Menezes also agrees that this is not the best starting point for a case that has promised to be complex from the very start. It is likely to be a case without a consensus easily reached.

In Menezes' opinion, the defense scored some points when they argued that "Sam Hou Fai expressed this view [of guilt] in deciding an application regarding access to Ho Chio Meng's tax returns."

"If this is true, the defendant will have his life decided by a ju-

dge who has already expressed the view that there are strong reasons to believe the defendant is guilty," Menezes said. He said the situation was "not helpful" but added that it did not mean that the judge would be incapable of changing his mind.

The legal question is whether the reasons invoked are serious and significant enough to generate distrust about the judge's impartiality.

"There is a relevant level of discretion here, as you can imagine, and impartiality is a matter of degree. So it is not easy to give a black and white legal answer," Menezes said.

"I would have advised the judge not to sit in the panel. We

want both the defendant and the community to unequivocally trust that he will have a fair trial. And we want people to be trialed by judges who do not walk into the courtroom with a particular view of the case or under a particular mindset."

"It is a well-known aphorism that not only must justice be done, it must be seen to be done. It is the role of those engaged with justice to make an effort [to show] that justice is being served – that is perceived to be served – to build trust in the system," he finished.

After the TUI's decision, the first session of the trial has been rescheduled for tomorrow morning.

Lawyers Association reelects Neto Valente to presidency

The elections for the presidency as well as other bodies of the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) were well attended, newly re-elected president Jorge Neto Valente told the Times.

The election took place on Tuesday (December 6) at the Association headquarters and benefited from "very significant participation, although there was only a single-list run for the AAM."

Valente said "around 70 percent of the lawyers" voted and that "with a few exceptions, they voted on the list presented."

Valente, who has helmed the Association for several terms, will resume the main role on the Board of Directors for another two-year period. **RM**

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Lynzy Valles

'THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION'

Guangdong struggling from over capacity, says expert

OVER the last twenty years the MSAR's neighboring region, Guangdong, has undergone some significant changes, particularly relating to its infrastructure and legal framework, said Jeremy Sargent, managing director and partner of Guangzhou-based law firm JSA.

Speaking on the sidelines of the British Business Association of Macau breakfast meeting, Sargent – who is also the chair of the British Chamber of Commerce Guangdong – discussed Guangdong's "industrial revolution", citing infrastructural works such as hundreds of underground railways and direct international flights.

"Over the last twenty years [...] the changes have just been enormous in Guangdong as a whole. Twenty years ago when I arrived, [the city was] sort of very rundown and dirty and now [there are] huge investments and infrastructures," explained Sargent.

There were also several alterations in the legal framework. Two decades ago, there was a fairly basic legal framework for foreign investment, allowing outsiders and foreign businesses to set up business only under ex-



Jeremy Sargent

tensive restrictions and specific conditions.

According to Sargent, a would-be investor had to have a Chinese joint venture partner to establish a business in the territory, adding that foreign businesses were also restricted by rules around trading in China.

Yet with China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2000, traders saw a

relaxation in the region's trade laws.

"There are still some restrictions but compared to twenty years ago, [it's a] big change," Sargent noted.

When China joined the WTO, the country signed an accession document, which listed the extent to which various industries would have to liberalize and over what period of time.

Sargent implied that the progressive relaxation of trade rules has meant year-on-year growth for foreign investments.

"Traditionally China is attracting [between] USD50 [to] USD70 billion a year of FDI [foreign direct investment]. As the rules relaxed, the scope of engagement in the Chinese economy

hugely changed. In the old days it was pretty much manufacturing and export, but now it's almost everything."

He also highlighted that Chinese residents have embraced the Internet, highlighting the growth of e-commerce in China, as seen in the rise of shopping websites Alibaba and Taobao.

Sargent warned that infrastructure investment could decline in tandem with the slowdown in Guangdong's economy, but noted that there are still some 250 airports being planned for construction in mainland China.

"GDP growth was 12, 13 percent in the early days [but] it's now probably 5 to 6 percent. Nobody really knows the true figures. The growth rate has slowed."

The expert added that certain industries in China are struggling as there is "huge over-capacity and lots of consumer goods" in several industries.

GDP growth was 12, 13 pct in the early days... Now probably 5 to 6 pct. Nobody really knows the true figures.

JEREMY SARGENT

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Hotel and catering industry employees awarded in Gold Pin competition

Julie Zhu

THE 2016 Macao Occupational Skills Recognition System (MORS) Gold Pin Competition Award Presentation Ceremony was held yesterday at the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT).

Helena de Senna Fernandes, the director of the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO), presented the awards.

This year, there were 10 competitions and 281 participants from 33 organizations. The categories included Assistant Cook (Western Kitchen), Bartender, and Chinese Cook - Cantonese Cuisine (Intermediate level).

The final round of the competition was held on November 28 and 30 at IFT and at Grand Lisboa Hotel. The competition ran on a process of elimination, with three rounds per section.



Contestants had to secure one of the two winning positions in each section to qualify for the next round. Juries formed by more than 30 respected executives from the industry obser-

ved and assessed the contestants until the final winners were revealed.

For the Assistant Cook category, contestants were given a black box of assorted ingre-

dients and another with general ingredients. They then had two hours to produce a soup and a main course based off the ingredients.

For the Bartender category, the contestants had to set up a functioning theme bar based on a movie character or a celebrity, and then create a cocktail for two people using their own bar.

Winners received a MORS Gold Pin and a MOP8,000

cash award.

21 cooks, bartenders, concierges, bell attendants, waiters and waitresses, among other employees from several local casinos and restaurants, including Le Lapin Restaurant and the Altira Macau, were awarded Gold Pins.

The Gold Pin Competition was first held in the early 2000s. Organized by IFT, the contest celebrates outstanding MORS professionals.

IFT president Fanny Wong told the Times that 9,663 tourism and hotel industry employees from across 17 occupations have obtained the certificate since MORS was first implemented.

In 2009, one occupational school in Zhuhai introduced MORS. More than 2,000 students have since participated in the MORS evaluation.

LIGHTS DIMMED DURING LIGHT FESTIVAL

HELENA de Senna Fernandes, on the sidelines of yesterday's ceremony, said that the authorities in charge of the event have dimmed the brightness of this year's Light Festival so as to create less light pollution.

The director said that the decision was made after MGTO consulted the Environment Protection Bu-

reau (DSPA).

Nevertheless, Senna Fernandes said that MGTO is thinking about brightening up some of the dimmer lights.

"Since we had heard some suggestions last year regarding the light pollution that the light festival would cause, we have done a few changes this time," she explained.

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Lynzy Valles

Fringe Festival to be IC's first event in 2017

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau's (IC) first festival next year, the 16th Macau City Fringe Festival, will be held from January 13 to 22.

With the slogan "A Feast of Creativity, Bon Appétit," the sixteenth edition of the Festival will feature 23 programs and a total of 70 performances.

The 16th edition of the Macau City Fringe Festival, which has a budget of MOP2.8 million, was going to be held last month but had been postponed to January 2017.

The Bureau explained in a press conference yesterday that the event had been rescheduled so that there would be a significant cultural event in the region every four months.

IC vice president Leong Hio Ming explained that the Bureau would host the Arts Festival in May and the International Music Festival in October.

In 2015, the Festival's budget amounted to MOP2.2 million. Leong explained that the increased budget was due to the rising costs of the sites they would occupy.

From theatre halls to narrow streets and from forbidden rooms to the outdoors, the Festival's concept is "all around the city, our stages, our patrons,



our artists," according to the organizer.

The ten-day Festival will also feature collaborations with foreign artists, including "Funeral for the Living," directed by

Daisuke Sagawa and performed by Japanese company Theatre Moment. The feature was awarded the Macao Literary Prize for Best Script.

There will also be a perfor-

mance of "The Other Side of the Sacred," produced by local choreographer Candy Kuok in collaboration with Greek Nina Dipla.

Hong Kong stand-up comedy

champion Vivek Mahbubani will also collaborate with Macau's local artists in "Seven Up."

Other productions – such as "The Smooth Life," a puppet show set to Arabian music which tells the life story of director Husam Abed in a Palestinian refugee camp – will also be presented at the 2017 Festival.

In a bid to continually develop local art professionals, Fringe Festival directors invited several art organizations in Asia to come to the region for arts festivals and artists-in-residence programs.

The 16th edition of the Festival also features the "Workshop on Environmental Dance Theatre," "Workshop for Specific Social Arts Workers" and the "Fringe Reviews."

The workshops encourage interactions between the audience, art professionals and critics.

The shows will be staged in locations such as the Old Court, Macau Art Garden, Ox Warehouse, the Ruins of St. Paul, the Nam Van Lake area and Ká Hó, among others.

Tickets go on sale from Sunday. Registration for the workshops will open on the same day.

According to the IC, the annual Festival is a platform for cultural exchange between local and international artists.

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Two children watch Turtle Giant perform



Rui Reininho reads "ancient Portuguese poetry"

THIS IS MY CITY

Iconic rocker Rui Reininho headlines festival's 10th anniversary concert

Daniel Beittler

MACAU-BASED creative festival This Is My City kicked off last Friday night with a series of live musical performances at Lar-

go do Pagode do Bazar.

This Is My City 2016 celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, a milestone that organizers say offers the chance for a "thoughtful review of how far this festival and its city have come in the last ten years."

Friday night's gig featured the 61-year-old iconic singer-songwriter of Portuguese rock band GNR, with indie-rock band Turtle Giant as their supporting act. Turtle Giant is a trio of Portuguese-speaking musicians from Sao Paulo, Bra-

zil with connections to Macau.

Presenting their latest album "Many Mansions I", Turtle Giant warmed up the outdoor venue for the evening's headline act, beckoning festival-goers to come closer. The band's indie-rock style draws prominent influences from American folk, psychedelic rock and the 1960s rock scene in general.

Turtle Giant has traversed continents performing tracks from their albums and recording many more, having spent significant time in studios in Brazil and Barcelona. In 2012 they recorded their sophomore EP "All Hidden Places", taking advantage of the acoustics of Macau's historic Dom Pedro V Theater, a building they returned to when recording "Many Mansions I".

What got the crowd really going, however, was the appearance of Portuguese legendary artist, Rui Reininho. He briefly appeared after Turtle Giant's set to tease the audience with "an ancient Portuguese poetry reading" before retreating, only to emerge again later in the night to join electronic synthesizer Armando Teixeira on stage.

Described by festival organizers as "a beloved, and often controversial, icon of the Portuguese rock scene [whose songs use] language often enriched

by the slang of his native Porto," Reininho told the Times on Friday night that his collaboration with Teixeira featured four electronic covers of some of his more popular tracks.

His eccentric style came through in his dialogue with the Times, only minutes before he was due to return to the stage.

Reininho, recalling his earlier visits to Macau, said: "I was last here [in Macau] 26 years ago with my band. It has changed so much. It's not a Portuguese colony anymore, but people are more friendly today [than they were before]... they actually look you in the eyes."

"There are no colonial relationships [today]," he said, further remarking on the changes he has observed since his previous visit.

"But there is a still a colonial touch [to the city]. The old men in shops still remember some of the Portuguese words [they learned]. Part of the history is captured and kept in this city."

"Today I call [this city] 'Miami Vice' because it looks like Miami. It's very modern and the girls here are the most beautiful in the world... it must be the Portuguese genes," he joked.

He also said that last week he had a chance meeting with a former girlfriend from his teenage years.

"I bumped into an old girlfriend just around the corner [from here] that I used to have when I was 16," he explained. "She was a psycho," he added, laughing. However, he said the encounter was pleasant.

Asked for his opinion on the dramatic rise of casinos since his last visit, Reininho appeared disinterested. "I am not a gambler," he started, before correcting himself. "Well, I am... rock and roll is a game. Every time that I get on stage is a gamble."

Last events before festival conclusion

THERE are still three events left in This Is My City 2016, the last of which is scheduled for December 13.

Tomorrow, December 9, a number of conferences organized by PechaKucha, a short film screening, and a masterclass will be held at Albergue SCM from 6 p.m.

The PechaKucha concept is simple: discuss 20 images for 20 seconds each. It made its Macau debut in 2010 and has been included in every subsequent This Is My City program, making them a permanent fixture on the festival's calendar.

Event organizers describe PechaKucha as a "viral phenomenon, one that has taken the world by storm," which enables This Is My City and its collaborators to join a global community of creative presenters.

This year, local director Maxim Bessmertny will return to host a masterclass on cinema as well as screen a curated selection of shorts. He previously collaborated with organizers on the 2013 edition of This Is My City, where his film "The Tricycle Thief" was screened.

An "Instameet" event has been organized for Saturday, December 10. Local Instagrammers will meet up in the city for a photography walk.

Starting at noon in the Macau Design Center, the event will connect Instagrammers living in or visiting Macau as they capture scenes from around the city. The resulting pictures will be posted onto an Instagram page created for the event, "TIMC2016 Instameet".

This session builds on the runaway success of social media network Instagram, which "This Is My City" organizers describe as a manifestation of "democratized artistic expression [...] allowing people across the world to share a bit of their esthetic vision with other members of a like-minded community."

The program concludes on December 13, with "Unidentified Acts of Design", an eight-part documentary series screened and presented by Luisa E. Mengoni (from the Victoria & Albert Museum) and Ole Bouman. It will be held at Casa Garden between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. **DB**



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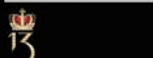
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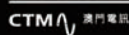
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* Figures expressed in MOP unless otherwise stated

A little earlier than usual, its time to take a look back over the year and review the events of 2016.

The slump in 2015 carried over into 2016, and prices appeared to bottom out in the first quarter of the year and then remain at that level in the second and third quarters.

Around the end of the third quarter, property sales started to pick up, and there was more movement in the market. In this final three months of the year, there has been a small rise prices, and many of the properties that had been stagnant at the lower end of the scale have begun selling again.

Rental prices followed a similar pattern, and anyone renting in the first nine months of the year would find rents reduced by up to 35% from their previous high.

Once again, the biggest demand for rental property was in Taipa as foreign workers try and avoid the logistical issues of buying a car or the horrors of catching a bus.

At the beginning of the year, a nicely appointed 2 bedroom apartment in Taipa that does not have access to any facilities carried an asking price of \$3,500,000 with a rental price range of \$8,000 - \$11,000 per month.

Now that same 2 bedroom apartment in Taipa has an asking

price of around \$3,700,000 - \$3,900,000 with a rental range of \$9,000 - \$12,000 per month. In both cases a rise of around 10%. The same holds true for a 2 bedroom apartment in Taipa in a complex with common facilities such as a gym, swimming pool etc, the current asking prices are up approx. 10% from the first part of this year.

As we go 'up the ladder', the more spacious and 'luxury' apartments remain empty unless they have dropped their rental rates into the mid-range levels below \$25,000. Here is a quick recap of the year in case you have been marooned on a desert island or lost in the jungle for 12 months;

- More low cost housing plans were announced by the government, and there were vicious rumours that Hengqin island was finally going to open up access to Macau residents. Yet again, that didn't happen.

- The supply of new apartments into the market was miniscule

- The Population in Macau at the beginning of the year was approx 645,000. By the end of 2016 the government estimate is around 650,000,

an increase of just 5,000 people

- Rental prices have risen approx. 10% from the start of the year.

- Property values bottomed out then rose by around the same 10% over the course of the year at the lower end of the market, but luxury prices remain stagnant.

- The government had further discussions on 'rent control' procedures, but have yet to finalize a concrete plan. Increasing supply by speeding up the Hengqin connection does not seem to be high on their agenda.

Did the government get it right this year? Below is what we wrote at the end of 2015, and it seems not much has changed;

Well the free market corrected property prices whilst the government is still talking about rent control, delayed border openings, a Taipa Ferry Terminal who's opening date seems to get further away each year and a light rail system that has NO opening date, so you be the judge.

Coming Up: How to control prices in a rising market, a new perspective is needed.

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TECH

Refugees who fled communist Vietnam lured back by startup dreams



Mr Tran Binh, co-founder of San Francisco-based Klout Inc and a partner at Silicon Valley's 500 Startups



John Boudreau

DURING Dang Van Tran's numerous attempts to flee Vietnam at the age of seven he was shot at twice, nearly drowned at sea and stranded on an island. Now 40 years later, he is back in the communist country doing something unthinkable when he finally escaped with 150 others on a fishing trawler: running a startup in Saigon called Butterfly Hub, which helps businesses make data-based decisions in the beauty and fashion world.

Tran is part of a wave of overseas Vietnamese defying personal traumas and family objections to invest in a country they once risked all to escape. That includes his father, who lost everything to the communists in 1975 before seeking a new life for his family in the U.S. On his return, Tran found a country more enamored with iPhones than Karl Marx and with a burgeoning tech startup scene.

"It blew my mind," he said. "So I decided to stay."

The aftermath of the communist victory had a devastating impact

on many of its citizens, resulting in a massive displacement of humanity. More than a million were put into re-education camps, where many died, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. By 2010, more than 1.5 million Vietnamese had resettled in the U.S. alone, while others fled to Australia, Canada and Europe.

"For many, including most of my family, those memories are painful and can be recalled as if they happened yesterday," said Binh Tran, co-founder of San Francisco-based Klout Inc. who returned part-time to Vietnam as a partner at Silicon Valley's 500 Startups, which started a USD10 million fund this year.

The nation they have returned to presents a much different face to the one they fled. The government is actively trying to lure investment in high-technology sectors, education has improved and so have living standards.

Overseas Vietnamese, known as Viet Kieu, are now a driving force in the economy, sending \$13.2 billion in remittances to the country last year, a 900 percent increa-

se since 2000, according to the World Bank.

"Time heals old wounds," said Than Trong Phuc, who fled on a helicopter from the U.S. embassy and returned as Vietnam country director for Intel Corp., playing a role in the decision of the world's largest semiconductor company to invest \$1 billion in Vietnam.

Taiwan, China, India and other countries have for decades benefited from former citizens returning from tech centers such as Silicon Valley. Now Vietnam is trying to catch up and is seeking even more investment.

"Frankly, investments from Viet Kieu do not meet the country's needs," said Le Hoai Quoc, head of the management board of Saigon Hi-Tech Park. A lack of trust in the government has deterred some from investing, he added.

The government offers Viet Kieu incentives, such as visas for up to five years and duty-free imports of used cars. A \$40 million tech park dubbed Saigon Silicon City is being built in Ho Chi Minh City to attract Viet Kieu with tax breaks and subsidized rent.

The county's youthful demo-

graphics and growing middle class are more of a lure. Vietnam's annual economic growth accelerated to 6.4 percent during the third quarter, from 5.8 percent in the previous three months, the General Statistics Office said Sept. 29, behind only the Philippines in Southeast Asia.

More than half of the country's population are online and the number of mobile phones exceeds the number of citizens, Binh Tran said. Flappy Bird, the 2014 gaming phenomenon developed in Vietnam, inspired a generation of new tech entrepreneurs. "We are looking at Vietnam without the painful scars of war and simply see an incredible opportunity for growth and prosperity," said Binh Tran, the 500 Startups partner, who left when he was one-and-a-half years old. "The education system has a strong foundation in math and science, building blocks for computer science. And Vietnam is in love with startups - it seems like every other day there is a hackathon or a pitch competition."

Fossil Group Inc., which sells 30 million watches annually, last

Overseas Vietnamese, known as Viet Kieu, are now a driving force in the economy, sending USD13.2b in remittances to the country last year

year acquired Misfit Wearables Corp. for \$260 million, gaining the wearable device maker co-founded by John Sculley and Vietnamese-American Sonny Vu. Vu returned to Vietnam after leaving as a child to oversee the company's 160-member Ho Chi Minh City software team.

"These people are skilled at world-class levels," Vu said. Esther Nguyen, who grew up in Silicon Valley, returned to Vietnam eight years ago to found digital entertainment website Pops Worldwide, which signed a partnership with Turner Broadcasting Systems Inc. this year. Hao Tran, 24, spent his first two years after graduating from Brown University working for San Francisco-based startup HotelTonight, which offered employees a well-stocked bar, catered meals and free hotel rooms. He moved to Ho Chi Minh City this year to work for 500 Startups' investment team after being inspired by Binh Tran.

"My parents were very anti-Vietnam, like most overseas Vietnamese," said Hao Tran, who also founded a lifestyle website, Vietcetera.com. Now he is working to improve his Vietnamese language skills, which had been limited to what he picked up around the family dining table. Still, Vietnam remains far behind other regions that have attracted successful tech entrepreneurs because of a dearth of early-stage startup funding. The talent pool, while eager, hard-working and low-cost, lack some of the skills found in Silicon Valley, said Ho Chi Minh City tech entrepreneur Dang Van Tran.

And the legacy of war is an obstacle for many Viet Kieu, said Don Phan, 33, a Yale University graduate who founded online baby products store Taembe.com in Ho Chi Minh City in 2013.

"Many of my peers have said they could never do business in Vietnam because of what their parents went through," he said.

After the war, Dang Van Tran's father, a former military officer, was imprisoned as "a traitor" and his mother was sent to a re-education camp for being "a capitalist." Putting the past behind him, he sleeps on a cot in an office outfitted with artificial grass carpet and chairs designed like hands.

"I'm a technology guy," the entrepreneur said. "I want to help create a startup culture. I want to disrupt Vietnam." **AP**

corporate bits

COTAI TRAVEL RECEIVES TOURISM QUALITY AWARD

Cotai Travel was awarded a "Service Star Award - Inbound Service" from the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) as part of the office's Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme. The announcement was made at an awards gala dinner held on Monday, according to a statement issued by Sands China.

The scheme recognizes a

number of restaurants, food and beverage establishments and travel agencies across Macau using criteria based on a "Mystery Shopping Assessment" and a "Service Management System Audit".

Travel agencies that pass the assessment receive a Star Merchant Award, valid for two years, with the two highest scoring agen-

cies - one in inbound and one in outbound categories - receiving a Service Star Award. Cotai Travel earned the highest score and was the sole winner in the inbound category.

Cotai Travel is a travel agency serving hotel guests, conference and exhibition visitors, leisure travellers and visitors to The Venetian Macao.





In this Aug. 14 file photo, players of the Boston Knight volleyball team (front) go up for a spike against the Boston Hurricanes Black team during the August Moon Festival at Reggie Wong Park in Boston



A view of Reggie Wong Park is seen next to a steam plant (right)

Philip Marcelo, Boston

ON the streets, alleyways and parking lots of Boston's Chinatown, immigrants developed a unique style of volleyball now played in Chinatowns across the country. Now, an asphalt court where the game still thrives stands in the way of development.

The prime slice of real estate near the historic Chinatown is steps from busy South Station and home to a 1930s-era steam plant with towering smokestacks and a modern state government office.

But it's also the site of Reggie Wong Memorial Park, a modest asphalt basketball and volleyball court where Chinese immigrants and their descendants play the game known as nine-man. An annual tournament between Chinatown teams across the country started blocks away from the hardcourt in the 1940s and continues to this day.

Nine-man holds a special place for those of Chinese descent, said Tunney Lee, an urban studies and planning professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whose father was a player and organizer.

The game traces its roots to a style of volleyball developed in Taishan, a southern Chinese city where many of the earliest Chinese immigrants hailed from, and became a critical

Volleyballers vs. bulldozers: A Chinatown's history at stake

social outlet for immigrants largely isolated from broader American society.

"Part of the image of the Chinese was that of weaklings who were passive and servile," Lee said. "Volleyball was a skill sport with strategy, teamwork and aggressiveness."

At its most basic, nine-man involves more players — standard volleyball has six players per side — as well as a larger court and modified rules that have allowed for a different style of gameplay to evolve.

Today's organizers say the first intercity game happened in Boston in 1935, between locals and a team from Providence, Rhode Island.

The competitions steadily grew over the years, with Chinese communities in New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Los Angeles fielding teams to play in Boston.

The North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament carries on the intercity rivalry today, hosting an annual competition in a different Chinatown each Labor Day weekend.

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker's administration began seeking proposals last month to buy and develop the 5-acre site that's home to Reggie Wong Park as a centerpiece of his pledge to generate revenue and spur development by unloading underused government land.

Chinatown activists and nine-man enthusiasts have voiced their concerns at community meetings this past year, prompting the administration to require developers to propose ways to carve out a public park somewhere on the site at least as big as the current court.

Patrick Marvin, a spokesman for the state Department of Transportation, which is overseeing the land sale, notes the state is requiring prospective developers to guarantee the park remains public. It is also calling for other open space areas on the development site.

But some in Chinatown want the state to require a larger park with more amenities. They also want guarantees that a temporary space will be car-

ved out during construction so organized games can continue uninterrupted. And they worry not enough housing built on the property will be affordable to lower-wage Chinatown residents.

The park is the latest battleground in the decades-long debate over gentrification in one of the nation's oldest and largest Chinatowns. The neighborhood, with narrow streets lined with independent storefronts and eateries, has withstood waves of redevelopment dating to the 1950s, when an interstate highway was cut through it.

Some want guarantees that a temporary space will set aside during construction so the games can continue

Russell Eng, who coaches teen volleyball at the park, named after his uncle, says it keeps the Chinese community connected even as more increasingly live in suburbs, some of which have sprouted their own satellite Chinatowns.

"Today's Chinatown is geographically wider than what it was when I growing up there," he said. "Reggie Wong Memorial Park serves as the center of the universe for them."

Ursula Liang, who made the 2014 documentary "9-MAN: A Streetball Battle in the Heart of Chinatown," says Boston's predicament isn't unique.

In her current hometown of New York, the Boston-area native says asphalt parks where nine-man is played are being converted into fields for soccer and other sports to draw new residents.

Said Liang: "What concerns me is that while most of these proposals tout things like economic growth and community improvement, ultimately the ideas that win out benefit politicians and businesspeople more than anyone else." AP

British pub visited by Xi Jinping bought by Chinese

A Chinese firm is buying the landmark British pub where former Prime Minister David Cameron shared a pint with China's leader last year.

The Christie & Co. real estate firm said on Tuesday that it had brokered the sale of The Plough pub in Cadsden 40 miles (65 kilometers) northwest of London to the Chinese



In this Oct. 22, 2015 file photo, Britain's former Prime Minister David Cameron (right) drinks a pint of beer with Chinese President Xi Jinping at The Plough pub

SinoFortone investment firm. According to British newspaper, The Telegraph, the pub was reportedly sold for around 2 million pounds (about MOP20.15 million)

Director Neil Morgan said the commercial real estate company was pleased to complete the sale of the pub, which is located near Chequers, the

country home made available to British prime ministers.

He said the pub had become a tourist attraction for Chinese travelers since the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in October, 2015.

Moreover, the establishment has become so famous that it now serves as a template for a chain

of British pubs opening on the mainland. SinoFortone director Peter Zhang said the English pub concept is growing quickly in China.

Other SinoFortone investments in Britain include a proposed theme park called London Paramount Entertainment Resort and a stake in national rail infrastructure, known as "Crossrail 2", connecting the British capital to nearby towns and cities. MDT/AP

US warned over Taiwan leader's planned transit



In this Oct. 10, 2016, file photo, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen delivers a speech during National Day celebrations in front of the Presidential Building in Taipei

CHINA yesterday accused Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen of seeking to use a planned transit stop in the U.S. to score diplomatic points, amid Chinese rancor over an unprecedented phone call between Tsai and U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

Asked at a briefing whether China has asked the U.S. to cancel the stop planned for next month, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang reiterated China's claim to sovereignty over Taiwan and accused Tsai of political machinations.

"Taiwan's administration and leader always perform some petty moves like a transit diplomacy whose ulterior political intentions are clear for all to see," Lu said.

Tsai plans to stop in the U.S. on her way to visit Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, among the island's handful of diplomatic allies. China, which claims Taiwan as a breakaway province, objects to any nation having formal contact with its government. The island has

diplomatic relations with just 22 countries, of which 12 are in Central America and the Caribbean.

The phone conversation last Friday between Tsai and Trump broke a more than 4-decade-old precedent barring such direct communication, and set off a firestorm of controversy in Washington over Trump's apparent indifference to diplomatic protocol. Since the U.S. switched relations from Taipei to Beijing in 1979, the sides have had only unofficial diplomatic dealings, although the U.S. remains a key

“Taiwan's administration and leader always perform some petty moves like a transit diplomacy whose ulterior political intentions are clear for all to see.”

LU KANG

CHINA FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

ally of Taiwan and by law must ensure the island can maintain a credible defense.

China, which split with Taiwan during a civil war in 1949, continues to threaten to use force to reunify with it if deemed necessary.

Beijing cut off contacts with Tsai's government earlier this year over her refusal to endorse the concept that China and Taiwan remain part of a single Chinese nation despite their present state of division. That brought a shuddering halt to the trend in recent years of warming ties between the former archrivals.

In Taipei, presidential spokesman Alex Huang said Wednesday that Taiwan considered it of equal importance to maintain good relations with both the U.S. and China, but also took a swipe at China's response.

"Such overreaction is unnecessary and is also not conducive to the normal development of [Taiwan-China] relations," Huang was quoted as saying by Taiwan's official Central News Agency. **AP**

Seven dead in latest mine blast

SEVEN coal miners are dead and another four still missing after a gas explosion in a central province in the latest deadly accident to strike China's mining industry, authorities said yesterday.

Rescuers were still trying to reach miners trapped underground after the Monday night blast in Hubei province,

according to a statement from the local propaganda department. Rescue workers are pumping air into the mine shaft to aid the rescue effort.

It was the third major mining accident in one week, causing a total of 60 deaths.

China is the world's top producer and consumer of coal. Deadly workplace

events occur frequently despite a stated public commitment to improving worker safety.

The recent series of accidents appears to be a setback for such efforts, prompting new reminders from the government industrial safety watchdog for mining operations to prioritize safety over profits.

China is trying to balance the vast energy demands of the world's most populous country — and an industry that is the lifeblood of several regions — with its commitment to reduce carbon emission as part of the Paris climate agreement. Air pollution that often smothers Beijing and other major cities has provided an additional impetus, amid rising concerns over the effect on health and quality of life. **AP**

HONG KONG

Shareholders lose 99pct as rights offerings go wrong



NO one can fault the managers of Eminence Enterprise Ltd. for lacking chutzpah.

After saddling investors with a 99.99 percent loss over the past five years, the Hong Kong-listed property firm is asking shareholders to plow fresh capital into the business for the eighth time in five years. Eminence plans to raise at least HKD478.2 million (USD61.7 million) in a rights offering next month, twice as much as its current market value.

It's a scenario that often ends badly for Hong Kong investors, who stumped up more than \$16 billion for rights offerings by the city's smaller companies over the past five years, only to watch the median stock drop 36 percent in a rising market. Now, as China gives its citizens greater access to Hong Kong small-caps through a new cross-border exchange link, the city's repeat rights issuers are coming under increased scrutiny.

Chinese authorities have warned investors to be wary of such companies, even as offerings like the one proposed by Eminence remain legal in the former British colony. Beijing's concerns highlight the potential for friction as the exchange link blurs the lines between a high-touch regulatory regime in China and the more laissez faire system in Hong Kong.

"Individual investors from the mainland get burned when they blindly apply their small-cap knowledge to Hong Kong stocks," said Dai Ming, a money manager at Hengsheng Asset Management Co. in Shanghai. "The mainland regulator sees small investors as the market foundation and offers them meticulous parenting. As Hong Kong seeks to boost trading by luring mainland investors, it must step up protection."

For those who do their homework, Hong Kong offers all the information needed to avoid companies with a history of rights offerings that end poorly for shareholders.

The city operates a disclosure-based regulatory regime instead of trying to weed out bad actors ahead of time, Charles Li, the chief executive officer of Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd., wrote in a blog post in September. The bourse's rules offer protections for small investors, including the need for independent stockholder approval on large rights offerings, an exchange spokeswoman said in response to questions from Bloomberg News. Hong Kong's Securities & Futures Commission didn't reply to requests for comment.

For David Webb, a shareholder activist and former board member of Hong Kong's exchange, the city needs to do more to protect its reputation as a major financial hub.

"We are starting to look like the cowboy exchange to China, while they are starting to look like the grown-up and a better regulated market," Webb said. **MDT/Bloomberg**



Rescuers use excavators to search for victims under the rubble of collapsed buildings after an earthquake in Pidie Jaya, Aceh province

INDONESIA

Frantic rescue underway as quake kills scores

A strong earthquake rocked Indonesia's Aceh province early yesterday, killing nearly 100 people and sparking a frantic rescue effort in the rubble of dozens of collapsed and damaged buildings.

Maj. Gen. Tatang Sulaiman, chief of the army in Aceh province, said at least 97 died while four people were pulled from the rubble alive. Another four or five are known to be buried, but he didn't say if they are dead or alive. "Hopefully we would be able to finish the evacuation from the rubble before sunset," said Sulaiman.

The rescue effort involving thousands of villagers, soldiers and police is concentrated on Meureudu, a severely affected town in Pidie Jaya district. Excavators were trying to remove debris from shop houses and other buildings where people were believed buried. TV footage showed rescuers in orange uniforms shining flashlight into the interiors of broken buildings as they searched for signs of life.

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency said 273 people were injured, about a quarter of them serious-

ly. Some 245 buildings were seriously damaged or destroyed, mostly in Pidie Jaya, including 14 mosques and the remainder largely dwellings and shop houses. Roads also cracked and power poles toppled over.

Aiyub Abbas, the chief of Pidie Jaya district, which is located 18 kilometers (11 miles) southwest of the epicenter, said there was urgent need for excavation equipment to move heavy debris and emergency supplies. Footage showed rescue personnel taking bodies in black bags away from the rubble.

Muhammad Reza Faisal, director of Chik Ditiro General Hospital in Pidie Jaya, said the facility, which was damaged by the quake, was overwhelmed with the numbers of injured and many people were being treated in tents pitched on its grounds. He said five of the quake victims died at the hospital.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the shallow 6.5 magnitude earthquake was centered about 19 kilometers southeast of Sigli, a town near the northern tip of Aceh, at a depth of 17 kilometers. The agency had initially placed its epicenter undersea. It did not

generate a tsunami.

For Acehnese, the quake was a terrifying reminder of their region's vulnerability to natural disasters. More than 100,000 died in Aceh after the Dec. 26, 2004, earthquake triggered a devastating tsunami.

"It was very bad, the tremors felt even stronger than 2004 earthquake," said Musman Aziz, a Meureudu resident. "I was so scared the tsunami was coming."

In the capital Jakarta, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said he has ordered all government agencies to take part in the rescue efforts for Aceh, a conservative province that has considerable autonomy from the central government under a peace deal with separatists. The Red Cross Indonesia has deployed emergency response teams and advertised bank accounts for donations. The International Organization for Migration said it had sent an assessment team to Aceh.

The world's largest archipelago, Indonesia is prone to earthquakes due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. **MDT/AP**

THAILAND

PM cautions news media on lese majeste law

THAILAND'S prime minister warned yesterday that the BBC could be prosecuted if an online report published by its Thai-language service about the country's new king is found to have violated the law safeguarding the monarchy's reputation.

BBC-Thai, a relative newcomer among the services of the British Broadcasting Corp., caused a stir when it published a profile of King Maha Vajiralongkorn touching on controversial aspects of his background. The story included details of three of his marriages that ended in divorce and other material that cannot be published by Thai news media without legal risk.

Thailand has a strict lese majeste law against insulting the monarchy that carries a penalty of three to 15 years in prison. No charges have been filed against the BBC yet.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said that because "a news agency has a branch in Thailand staffed with Thai reporters, if they violate Thai laws, they have to be prosecuted. Just like when we go to other countries and violate their laws, we are also prosecuted."

In the days after the story was

published on Friday — one day after Vajiralongkorn ascended the throne — the BBC's office in Thailand received multiple visits from the army and police. The BBC shut the office this week, but continues to broadcast and publish on its website and on Facebook, although some readers said they found the link to the article about Vajiralongkorn now blocked in Thailand.

BBC said in a statement that its Thai-language service "was established to bring impartial, independent, and accurate news to a country where the media faces restrictions, and we are confident that this article adheres to the BBC's editorial principles."

The article sparked outrage among some Thai royalists, with social media groups vigorously criticizing the BBC. The Facebook group "V for Thailand" posted the BBC's Bangkok phone number on its Facebook page, encouraging its followers to call and harass people who work at the news service.

Thai police arrested a student on Saturday for sharing a link to the BBC article on Facebook, releasing him on bail the next day. It was the first arrest under the lese majeste law since Vajiralongkorn became king. **MDT/AP**

AUSTRALIA

Leader rules out generators paying for pollution

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister yesterday ruled out making power companies pay for greenhouse gas pollution they create — a policy option that angered conservative government lawmakers when proposed by a minister this week.

Malcolm Turnbull said a review of the government's climate change policies next year aimed at achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets by 2030 would not include any measures that would inflate electricity bills.

"We are not going to take any steps that will increase the already too high cost of energy for Australian families and businesses," Turnbull told reporters.

The government swept to power at elections in 2013 with a promise to abolish an unpopular carbon tax that was levied against the nation's biggest industrial polluters. Had the former center-left Labor Party government won that election, the tax would have transitioned into an emissions trading scheme in which polluters would pay for carbon credits at a price set by market forces.

Environment and Energy Mi-

nister Josh Frydenberg angered some colleagues on Monday when he said the policy review would consider making electricity generators pay for their pollution through a so-called emissions intensity scheme. Under such a scheme, generators who create above-average emissions for the amount of power they produce would have to buy carbon credits from generators whose emissions are below average or face penalties imposed by the government.

One of the government's most conservative lawmakers, Cory Bernardi, described the policy as "one of the dumbest things I've heard in politics in recent times."

Frydenberg said yesterday, after Turnbull spoke, that an emissions intensity scheme would never be part of government policy.

Australia has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Australia is among the world's worst greenhouse gas polluters on a per capita basis because of its heavy reliance on abundant reserves of cheap coal for electricity generation. **MDT/AP**

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The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB), and it sets new standards in design, comfort and functionality. In doing so it of course remains capable of off-road, with a rugged all-wheel drive system that includes premium class technology for use on and off the highway. The Tiguan 2 is, then, both more SUV and more than an SUV.



Volkswagen

PS : 1) The pictures are for reference only.

2) In the event of any dispute, Volkswagen Hong Kong reserves the right to make the final decision.

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Smoke rises after rebel fighters launch a mortar shell on residential neighborhood in west Aleppo



A Syrian army soldier places a Syrian national flag during a battle with rebel fighters at the Ramouseh front line, east of Aleppo

Sarah el Deeb, Beirut

SYRIA

Rebels pull back further as military gains in Aleppo

SYRIAN government troops and allied militia-men seized more ground in Aleppo's ancient quarters yesterday, further widening their control over an enclave in the divided city that has been in rebel hands since 2012, Syria's state media and an opposition monitoring group said.

With the latest gains, the endgame for Syria's largest city, which has been carved up between the government and the rebel side for the past four years, appeared to draw even closer. If Aleppo — Syria's former commercial hub — is captured by government troops, it would be a turning point in the conflict, putting the four largest cities in

Syria and the coastal region back under state control.

Rebel defenses have collapsed rapidly in the face of a massive government assault backed by Russia and thousands of Iranian-backed Shiite fighters. On Tuesday, Syrian government forces captured Aleppo's centrally located al-Shaar neighborhood from the rebels, security nearly three

quarters of the besieged enclave less than two weeks after launching their ground offensive.

The state news agency SANA said yesterday that Syrian forces established control over two districts north of the Aleppo Citadel in the heart of the city — the Aghiour and Bab al-Hadid neighborhoods — after rebels abandoned positions and retreated further south.

The new gains have choked the rebels, forcing them to pull back to other parts of the Old City, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist group that tracks Syria's civil war, now in its sixth year.

In a statement, the Observatory said dozens of bodies littered streets stretching from al-Shaar to the southern part of eastern Aleppo, including the Old City, as a result of ongoing intense government bombardment.

A map provided by the Syria army showed a quickly shrinking opposition enclave — a pointed leaf-shaped territory in the center, abutting already government-controlled Aleppo districts. The army media said the new gains bring the area controlled

by the government in eastern Aleppo to about 73 percent of its original size, which is estimated to be about 45 square kilometers.

There was no immediate comment from Syrian rebels on yesterday's losses. Wissam Zarqa, an English teacher in eastern Aleppo and an outspoken government opponent, said the rebel retreat from large parts of Old Aleppo was a "bad sign."

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry said a Russian colonel who worked as a military adviser in the government-controlled part of Aleppo has died in rebel shelling.

The fatality marks Russia's third casualty this week, after two nurses were killed in a rocket attack on a makeshift Russian military hospital in Aleppo. The ministry said in a statement yesterday that Col. Ruslan Galitsky was wounded in rebel shelling of a government-controlled neighborhood several days earlier and has died of his wounds.

The Syrian government and its ally Russia have rejected a cease-fire for the war-torn city, keeping up the military offensive that has forced rebel retreats and massive displacement of Aleppo civilians. **AP**

Iraq launches new push in southeast Mosul

AFTER weeks of unchanging front lines, the Iraqi army rolled yesterday into a southeastern Mosul neighborhood held by Islamic State militants, taking a hospital before meeting stiff resistance, the military said.

The push began just after 6 a.m. with a barrage of airstrikes that kicked up dark clouds of smoke in the modest al-Salam residential neighborhood. The bombardment by Iraqi air support and the U.S.-led coalition appeared heavier than previous operations in the area.

Coalition forces providing logistical support could be seen about 4 kilometers from the front.

Iraqi troops also reported fewer car bombs than in previous assaults. After one such attack, at least two military vehicles could be seen carrying wounded from the front.

By evening, Iraqi forces had only secured a few hundred meters and clashes continued. **MDT/AP**

GOV'T SAYS ISRAEL LAUNCHED MISSILES

THE SYRIAN government says Israel has launched several surface-to-surface missiles that hit near a military airport west of Damascus, triggering a fire. The official news agency SANA says the missiles were launched early yesterday from inside the "occupied territories" and fell within the perimeter of the Mezzeh military airport on the western edge of the capital. It added that

no injuries were report. It was the second such Israeli strike into Syria recently, according to the Syrian government. Last week, SANA said Israeli jets fired two missiles from Lebanese airspace toward the outskirts of Damascus, in the Sabboura area. The Israeli military declined to comment on that incident, and there was no immediate comment on yesterday's attack.

NATO chief urges West to keep pressure on Russia



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg prepares to address a news conference yesterday at the organization's headquarters in Brussels

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg is urging Western allies to maintain diplomatic pressure and sanctions on Russia until it respects the peace agreement in Ukraine.

After talks with NATO and Ukraine foreign ministers, Stoltenberg told reporters yesterday of a "massive increase in cease-fire violations" in the conflict-torn east of the former Soviet republic. He said hundreds of explosions are sometimes

reported daily, including many caused by heavy weapons banned under the Minsk peace accords.

"The international community must keep pressuring Russia to respect its obligations, especially while the security situation in eastern Ukraine remains so serious," Stoltenberg said. "It's important that economic sanctions be maintained."

More than 9,600 people have been killed since April 2014 in eastern Ukraine, where Russia-

backed separatists are fighting Ukrainian government troops. Russia and Ukraine have blamed each other for the lack of progress in settling the conflict.

The Minsk peace deal envisaged that Ukraine regains control of the rebellious region's border with Russia after granting the area a special status, holding local elections and offering amnesty to the rebels.

The European Union has imposed sanctions on

Russia over the Ukraine conflict. Some of the measures are due to be extended in January but cracks have appeared in EU unity, and some countries with strong energy and business links to Russia want to see the sanctions eased.

NATO's ties with Russia have been under heavy strain since Russian forces annexed the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in 2014, and Stoltenberg said the seizure will not be recognized. **MDT/AP**

TV canal macau



THURSDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:50 | Planes |
| 16:30 | Popular Music |
| 17:30 | Non-Daily Portuguese News |
| 18:15 | Criminal Minds S.10 (Repeated) |
| 19:00 | Precious Pearl (Repeated) |
| 19:50 | Montra do Lilau (Repeated) |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Talk Show |
| 21:40 | The Toque 12 S2 |
| 22:10 | Precious Pearl |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Champions League Highlights |
| 23:50 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:20 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |

FRIDAY

| | |
|-------|---|
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:50 | RTPi Live |
| 17:20 | UEFA Europa League: Braga - Shakhtar Donetsk (Repeated) |
| 19:00 | Precious Pearl (Repeated) |
| 19:50 | TDM Talk Show (Repeated) |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:15 | Documentary Serie |
| 22:10 | Precious Pearl |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Europa League Highlights |
| 23:50 | Portuguese Movie |
| 01:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |

SATURDAY

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

Offbeat

WIFE WHO KILLED HUSBAND WITH RAT POISON IN FOOD TO BE FREED

A woman who pleaded guilty to killing her husband by slipping rat poison into his food and drinks will be released from prison next week.

Joann Curley, 53, will be free on Monday after serving a 20-year sentence for the 1991 death of her husband, Robert Curley, prison officials told The Citizens Voice.

"I don't feel she served enough time," the victim's sister, Susan Curley Grady, told the newspaper. "She should be serving a life sentence."

Prosecutors say it took more than a year for Joann Curley to poison her husband to death for USD300,000 in life insurance and to keep him from spending \$1.7 million she won in a lawsuit. Robert Curley was hospitalized in September 1991 with flu-like symptoms, complaining of debilitating pain in his palms and the soles of his feet, and began vomiting and losing his hair.

Just as Curley began improving in the hospital, his wife visited, bringing pizza and thallium-spiked tea, authorities say.

The same night, they say, he told a nurse, "Please help me. My wife is trying to kill me; she is not as she seems."

His heart stopped the next morning.

Two days earlier, his wife had won \$1.7 million in the death of her first husband, John, who was decapitated in an accident with a tractor-trailer on a foggy night nearly a decade before.

She was charged with killing Robert Curley after a five-year investigation, which involved investigators exhuming his body under pressure from his sister.

After his death, blood tests on both Joann Curley and her then-4-year-old daughter revealed traces of thallium in their systems, too. Authorities later determined she intentionally swallowed some of the poison and gave some to her daughter to throw suspicion onto her husband's co-workers.

cinema



CINETEATRO

08 Dec - 14 Dec

MY ANNOYING BROTHER

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Kwon Soo-kyung

Language: Korean (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 90min

YOUR NAME

ROOM 1

4.00, 7.45 pm

Director: Makoto Shinkai

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 115min



FANTASTIC BEASTS & WHERE TO FIND THEM

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: David Yavres

Starring: Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min



THE YOUNG MESSIAH

ROOM 3

2.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Cyrus Nowrasteh

Starring: Adam Greaves-Neal, Sara Lazzaro, Vincent Walsh

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 111min



SING

ROOM 3

4.30 pm

Director: Garth Jennings

Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 108min

this day in history



John Lennon

1980 JOHN LENNON SHOT DEAD

Former Beatle John Lennon has been shot dead by an unknown gunman who opened fire outside the musician's New York apartment.

The 40-year-old was shot several times as he entered the Dakota, his luxury apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side, opposite Central Park, at 2300 local time.

He was rushed in a police car to St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center, where he died.

His wife, Yoko Ono, who is understood to have witnessed the attack, was with him.

A police spokesman said a suspect was in custody, but he had no other details of the shooting.

"This was no robbery," the spokesman said, adding that Mr Lennon was probably shot by a "deranged" person.

Witness reports say at least three shots were fired and others have claimed they heard six.

There are also reports Mr Lennon staggered up six steps into the vestibule after he was shot, before collapsing.

Jack Douglas, Lennon's producer, said he and the Lennons had been at a studio called the Record Plant in mid-town earlier in the evening and Lennon left at 2230.

Mr Lennon said he planned to have some dinner and then return home, Mr Douglas said.

The Lennons are said to have left their limousine on the street and walked up the driveway when the gunman opened fire.

It is unclear whether the man had been lying in wait in the entrance to the building for Mr Lennon, or whether he came up behind him.

Witnesses describe the gunman as a "pudgy kind of man", 35 to 40 years old with brown hair.

Other former band members, Paul McCartney, guitarist George Harrison and drummer Ringo Starr are thought to have been informed of Lennon's murder.

Fans have already begun arriving at the scene, many still unaware Lennon has died.

Mr Lennon is survived by his wife, their son Sean, and his son from a previous marriage, Julian.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

John Lennon was shot four times in the back by Mark Chapman who had asked the former Beatle for his autograph only hours before he laid in wait and killed him.

Chapman pleaded guilty to gunning down Mr Lennon and is currently serving life in Attica prison near New York. In October 2004 he failed for the third time to secure his release.

He said he had heard voices in his head telling him to kill the world-famous musician.

Twenty years after his death millions of fans paid tribute to Mr Lennon in his home town of Liverpool and in New York.

His widow launched a campaign against gun violence in the United States to mark the anniversary.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Do a bit of Internet research. Hit the library. Ask your mentor. Maybe even consult your parents. Using the resources available to you is truly intelligent.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your conservative side may put up a red flag when some information comes from an unorthodox source, but don't reject it outright. Sometimes the best gifts arrive in banged-up packages with tacky wrapping paper.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 When other people are stuck in the two-steps-forward, one-step back dance, you're pretty good about sidestepping and coming up with other creative lateral moves.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Expect some conflict between exterior and interior, public and private or extroverted and introverted to emerge now. Consider taking the middle path. There's a compromise here that'll work well.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You have a stellar opportunity to smooth over an uneasy interpersonal situation now. You'll want to be diplomatic but truthful, tactful yet fair. Luckily, you're extra capable of all of these things at the moment.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A forthright attitude and willingness to work with it may be all that's really required. Start an open and honest dialogue, and insist that the other parties involved join in.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You consider yourself a responsible person, but even you have your limits, and a certain situation could have you on the verge of telling someone where to go.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Admit it: You have a tendency to hold things in when you should let 'em out and let the chips fall where they may. Spilling the beans now is endorsed by the stars, and the feeling of relief you'll get is a reward.

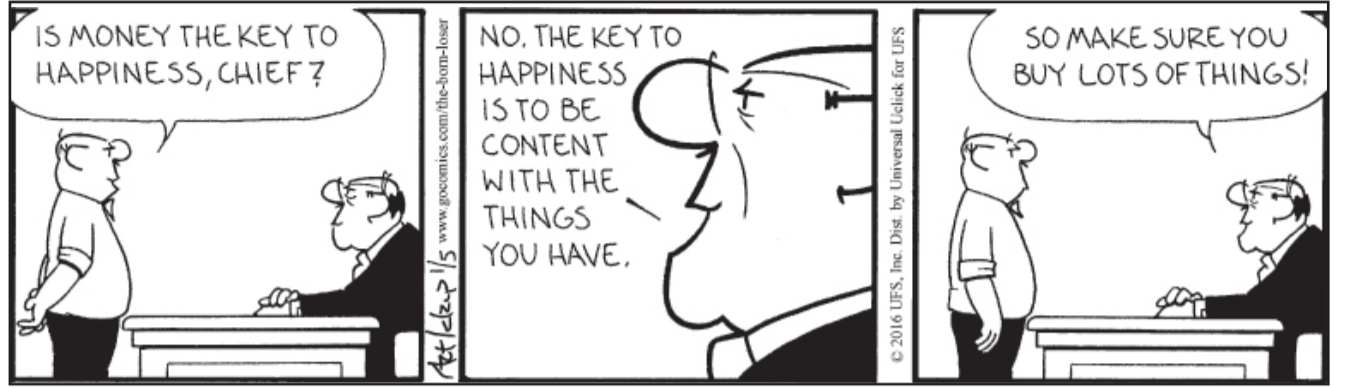
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your trademark freewheeling approach may have landed you in a little bit of a deficit, and economizing isn't your specialty. Chances are, though, that someone close to you is an expert in this particular field.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Saying what you mean -- and meaning what you say -- can feel like a bit of a risk, but then, beating around the bush can get mighty tiring after a while. You can be honest while still maintaining a modicum of diplomacy.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If someone's asking you to do something you're uncomfortable with, you don't have to grin and bear it. Lodge a complaint -- with them, with yourself, even with a third party, if that seems appropriate.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 An idea about a big change could surface in your life now -- one related to work, or a relationship, or a big trip, or your living situation, or all of the above.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

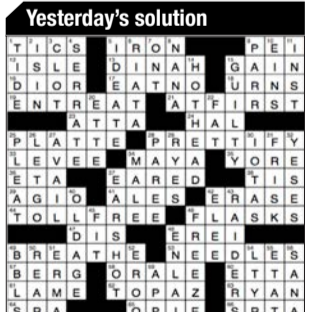
9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather forecasts for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Uterus; 5- Toothbrush brand; 10- Soviet news service; 14- Caesar's wings; 15- Dillies; 16- Fine-tune; 17- Put on the market; 18- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 19- Getting ___ years (aging); 20- Mattress of straw; 22- Songs for two; 23- Crone; 24- Cloudlike mass; 25- Reconstruct; 29- Naught; 33- Run away to get married; 34- ___ about (approximately); 36- Winter Palace ruler; 37- ___-en-Provence, France; 38- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 39- Mil. address; 40- Slay; 42- Hey, over here!; 43- High-fives; 45- Metal marble; 47- Leads on; 49- Very early; 50- Popeye's Olive; 51- Ankle bones; 54- Cemetery; 60- Burnoose wearer; 61- New Zealand native; 62- Sneaky guy?; 63- Marquand sleuth; 64- Light purple; 65- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 66- Nosegay; 67- Actress Graff; 68- Flat circular plate; DOWN: 1- Stinging insect; 2- Olive genus; 3- French Sudan, today; 4- Bellboy; 5- Methuselah's claim to fame; 6- Regrets; 7- ___ well...; 8- Stringed instrument; 9- Youth org.; 10- Notion; 11- Top-drawer; 12- Foul mood; 13- Chamber workers; Abbr.; 21- Fill with cargo; 22- Speck; 24- ___ song (cheaply); 25- Peruses; 26- "Silas Marner" author; 27- Pluck; 28- Off the leash; 29- Nick of "Lorenzo's Oil"; 30- Sir ___ Newton was an English mathematician; 31- One of the two equal sections of a cone; 32- Vulgar; 35- Rejections; 38- Mayberry kid; 41- Paperboy; 43- Eye sore; 44- Frog's perch; 46- Wreath of flowers; 48- Beginner; 51- Pack down; 52- Buck follower; 53- Phooey!; 54- Olympian Devers; 55- Portrayal by an actor; 56- Irish island group; 57- Ethereal; Prefix; 58- Hwy.; 59- Writing table; 61- Year in Edward the Confessor's reign;



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壹號廣場
CENTRAL

REAL Madrid will be seeking to keep alive its chances of a unique quadruple title haul when it travels to Japan for the Club World Cup from today to December 18.

Madrid is trying to become the first team to win the Champions League, Spanish league, Spain's Copa del Rey and the Club World Cup in the same season. It leads the Spanish league, is through to the knockout stage of the Champions League and is alive in the Copa del Rey.

The tournament kicks off today in Yokohama with newly-crowned J-League champions Kashima Antlers facing Oceania champion Auckland City for a chance to advance to the second round.

Zinedine Zidane's Madrid side hasn't been defeated since April at Wolfsburg in the quarterfinals of last season's Champions League. They return to the competition with 13 of the players who lifted the Clubs World Cup title in 2014, where they beat San Lorenzo in the final.

Cristiano Ronaldo, Sergio Ramos and Keylor Navas are all expected to participate, but the biggest absence will be Gareth Bale, who recently underwent ankle surgery.

European teams have been the most successful in the tournament, with eight titles, although it is not considered as high on the priority list for European clubs as it is for the South Americans.

Madrid's main rival for the title will be Copa Libertadores champions Atletico Na-

FOOTBALL | RONALDO IN JAPAN

Real Madrid aiming to add Club World Cup title to honors

cional who will travel to Japan with a strong team but is dealing with the trauma of the recent tragedy that caused the cancellation of the Copa Sudamericana final.

Atletico was to play Brazilian club Chapecoense in the final but the plane carrying the Brazilian team to the game crashed, killing almost all on board.

The Colombian club features goalkeeper Franco Armani, who did not concede a single goal during the group stage of Copa Libertadores, as well as captain Alexis Henriquez and striker Miguel Borja.

Atletico opens its campaign in the semifinals on Dec. 14 in Osaka. Real Madrid's first match is the following day in Yokohama.

In addition to Kashima and Auckland City, Mexican side Club America, South Korea's Jeonbuk Motors and African champions Mamelodi Sundowns will all be looking for a chance to pull off an upset against the favorites.

Club America will be making its third appearance in the tournament, and will feature 16 players with previous experience.

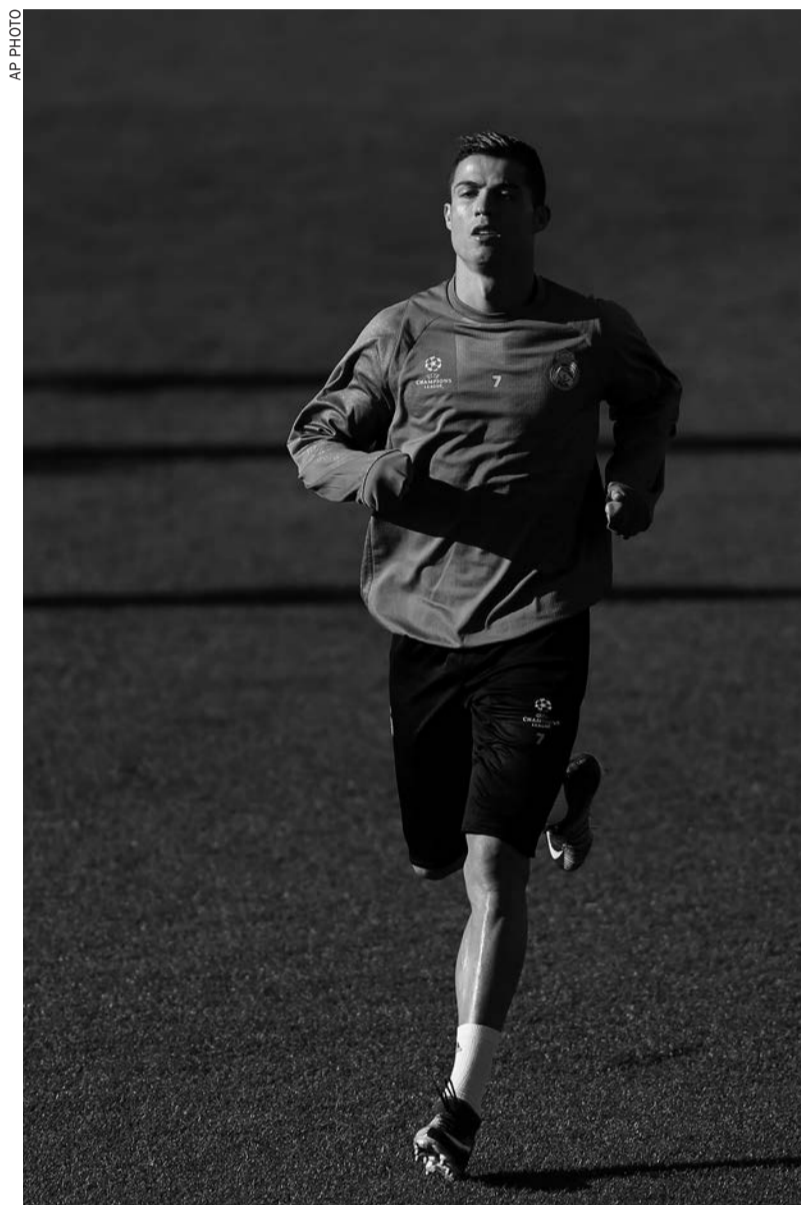
Paul Aguilar is recovering

from a cruciate ligament tear in his right knee, but Moises Munoz and Oribe Peralta will be available.

Recently-crowned Asian champions Jeonbuk Motors will pin their hopes on veteran striker Lee Dong-gook and the Brazilian duo Leonardo and Edu.

Kashima and Auckland City, who owe their place in the competition to their sixth straight OFC Champions League triumph, will vie for a chance to play Mamelodi Sundowns in Osaka on Dec. 11. AP

■ **Ronaldo, Ramos and Navas are all expected to participate, but the biggest absence will be Gareth Bale, who recently underwent ankle surgery**



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Napoli and Benfica reach last 16 after Besiktas crumbles

IN the only group where qualification for the Champions League knockout stages was still to be decided, Besiktas crumbled under the pressure, allowing Napoli and Benfica to progress.

Napoli and Benfica had eight points going into their Group B match, one more than Besiktas, which was playing at already eliminated Dynamo Kiev.

However, the Turkish side fell to a shock 6-0 defeat in a match which saw it finish with nine men. Napoli won 2-1 at Benfica to win a Champions League group for the first time.

"We had already been burned once by looking at the result of the other match," said Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri, whose team had squandered ear-



Benfica's head coach Rui Vitoria (left), walks at the end of the Champions League group B soccer

lier chances to qualify for the last 16. "So, it really hardly mattered to us what was happening in Kiev. We wanted first place to make Napoli history."

Elsewhere, Arsenal topped Group A following its 4-1 win at Basel after

Paris Saint-Germain could only draw 2-2 at home to Ludogorets.

Atletico Madrid had already secured first place in Group D but lost its perfect record in a 1-0 defeat at Bayern Munich. The final positions

in Group C had already been decided and Barcelona beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-0, while Manchester City drew 1-1 against Celtic.

It was meant to be a battle to advance in Lisbon but it turned out to be

a shootout for top spot as Besiktas collapsed in Ukraine.

Napoli won 2-1 at Benfica but both teams qualified for the knockout stage after Besiktas fell to a surprise 6-0 thrashing at Dynamo Kiev.

Substitute Dries Mertens changed the match after coming on in the 57th. The Belgium international set up the opener for Jose Callejon on the hour mark before securing the win in the 79th.

Napoli gifted Benfica a consolation goal three minutes from time when Raul Albiol was caught napping, allowing Raul Jimenez to seize the moment and fire past Reina.

In Ukraine, Dynamo's star winger Andriy Yarmolenko started the ni-

ght's torment for Besiktas with smart footwork on the byline and a cross to the far post for Artyom Besedin to score the ninth-minute opener.

Besiktas looked lively for the next 20 minutes until defender Andreas Beck was dismissed for a collision with Derlis Gonzalez, who was through on goal for Dynamo. Yarmolenko scored the resulting penalty and Vitaliy Buyalskiy soon made it 3-0 with a lobbed effort after a Besiktas defensive mix-up.

A deflected shot from Gonzalez provided Dynamo's fourth in first-half stoppage time. Serhiy Sydorchuk and Junior Moraes added to the scoreline after Besiktas striker Vincent Aboubakar was red-carded for a second offense.

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



GIVE LOVE ON WINTER SOLSTICE

Two weeks from now is the festival of Winter Solstice, Dongzhi, one of the most important festivals celebrated by the Chinese. We have a saying that “Dongzhi is as important as New Year.” Why? Because just as the New Year signifies a new beginning, Dongzhi is the beginning of the return of Yang Qi (energy that is the vital force of life).

Dongzhi is the day when sunlight is shortest and night is longest. As day represents Yang and night represents Yin, ancient Chinese believed that Dongzhi begins the returning of Yang Qi, as the day becomes longer after the Winter Solstice.

So what can we do for the Winter Solstice Festival? One custom from ancient China that has not been practiced much in recent times is Shu Jiu (count nine).

In ancient times, the Han Chinese believed that 81 days after the Winter Solstice, the cold weather ends. Families would prepare a chart with nine rows and nine columns of the word ‘jiu’ on the day of Dongzhi Festival, and crossed each ‘jiu’ off every day to count down to the end of the cold weather. Maybe this is something we could try doing for tradition’s sake, not that we have to suffer any particularly cold weather in this part of the world.

Another thing we can do this Winter Solstice is forecast the weather for the next Chinese New Year. There is an old saying that goes: “Dongzhi dark, New Year bright; Dongzhi bright, New Year dark.” It is believed that if the sun comes up on the day of the Winter Solstice, it will rain on New Year’s Day. We could start a pool on Dongzhi and bet on the weather of CNY, just to make testing the theory more fun.

Finally, food! Every Chinese Festival has special foods with stories behind them. One of the must-eats on Dongzhi is jiaozi 餃子, a Chinese dumpling. The tradition of eating jiaozi on Winter Solstice began during the Han Dynasty.

The story goes something like this: during an extremely cold winter, a renowned physician saw that many poor workers on the street were suffering from tissue damage to their ears, so he started making jiaozi with food that keeps the body warm – like lamb and spices – to help them. Starting on the first day of Dongzhi, the physician started distributing two dumplings in soup to each worker every day. One day, the ears of the poor were healed. Since then, people have eaten ear-shaped jiaozi on Winter Solstice.

Another kind of dumpling we eat on Dongzhi is tangyuan 湯圓, small glutinous rice balls cooked in sweet soup. Legend has it that a beggar and his family went into town on a very cold Winter Solstice, but the wife couldn’t survive the cold weather and passed away. In order to get money to bury his wife, and to avoid the same fate for his daughter, the beggar sold his daughter to a rich family. Before father and daughter parted, someone gave them a bowl of tangyuan. As they shared the food, the father promised to return one day so he and his daughter could share tangyuan again. The daughter made tangyuan every year on Dongzhi, waiting to share them with her father, who never returned.

The foods themselves are just a symbol to help us to remember something important, and the thing that is important on Dongzhi is the same reason we have ear-shaped jiaozi and tangyuan on this day. So don’t forget to share your tangyuan with your loved ones this Winter Solstice, and perhaps keep an eye out for any ears that you could help heal.

THE TRUMP IS TIME MAGAZINE’S PERSON OF THE YEAR

Time magazine named Donald Trump its Person of the Year, bestowing what the president-elect called an “honor” even as he derided the idea that he’ll lead “the Divided States of America.”

That was a reference to Time’s cover line – “Donald Trump: President of the Divided States

of America” – that was positioned next to the cover photograph of the president-elect sitting in his private residence at Trump Tower.

“I didn’t divide ‘em,” Trump said on NBC’s “Today” show. “We’re going to put it back together and we’re going to have a country that’s very well-healed.”



IFFAM

Meet the local directors screening alongside the big names

Daniel Beittler

STANDING alongside the big names taking the stage at the International Film Festival & Awards – Macao (IFFAM) are local directors Tracy Choi and Emily Chan, whose films “Sisterhood” and “Our Seventeen” share a theme: the 1999 handover of Macau.

The directors’ IFFAM submissions explore the pre- and post-handover period, yearning for the quieter and simpler times before the advance of the casinos.

Tracy Choi, the local director behind Cantonese and Mandarin-language “Sisterhood” will showcase one of the 12 competing films in the IFFAM, which tells the story of two young women working in Macau prior to the handover. One of the girls leaves Macau and returns to the city many years later, only to find a bustling casino metropolis.

In an interview with the Times yesterday, Choi said that the impressions of “new Macau” from the perspective of her protagonist in many ways reflect the director’s own feelings



Tracy Choi

after living and studying abroad for several years.

“I grew up in Macau and – like [one of the characters] in the film – I also spent several years after high school outside of Macau, in Taiwan and then Hong Kong,” explained Choi, “When I came back to Macau, I saw the contrasts between the pre-handover Macau when I was a kid, and today.”

“It was difficult to shoot some of the [pre-handover] scenes in Macau as it was hard for us to find locations that seem like the 1990s,” she added, emphasizing the significant changes the city has undergone in the last 17 years.

Emily Chan’s film “Our Seventeen” – also in Cantonese and Mandarin – tackles a similar theme. In her movie, Chan details

the changes she has observed in the city since 1999, through a story of music and youthful romance.

Chan has previously worked with the concept of music as an integral part of her cinematographic career. One of her previous films about Fortes Pakeong Sequeira and his band Blademark was screened earlier this year at the Macau Cultural Center during the MIFVF – Macao Indies. The feature-length documentary is titled “The First Decade of Blademark” and records Blademark’s rise from underground band to one of Macau’s most famous homegrown acts.

For Choi, sharing the platform of the film festival with internationally renowned directors is an honor.

“I think that being part of this festival is great... it’s an honor. I’m so glad that ‘Sisterhood’ is one of the competition films,” Choi told the Times.

“I [will be able to] communicate with other directors and get their feedback on my film [...] We had a meeting with [director-producer] Ann Hoi and she shared her experience with us. That was really helpful and an honor.”

times square by rodrigo



| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Roadside | 75-105 Bad |
| High Density Residential Area | 85-115 Bad |
| Ambient | 85-115 Bad |

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



SOUTH KOREA Ahead of an impeachment vote later this week, lawmakers take turns grilling a K-pop music director, a fashion designer and nearly a dozen others said to be linked to a woman at the heart of a scandal that threatens to bring down South Korea’s president.

INDIA registers a nearly 800 percent spike in the number of so-called honor killings carried out last year, leading state officials and women’s rights groups to demand an investigation into how such crimes persist.

SYRIA Staring a punishing and brutal defeat in the face, several Syrian rebel factions yesterday proposed a five-day cease-fire in the eastern part of the city of Aleppo, as Syrian government troops gain ground. *More on p15*



BRAZIL Police and protesters have clashed outside the Rio de Janeiro state legislature during a demonstration against government austerity measures being discussed by lawmakers. Protesters threw homemade grenades and shot rockets toward the assembly, and police responded with rubber bullets and tear gas.

EU European Union regulators yesterday fined banks JPMorgan Chase, HSBC and Credit Agricole a combined USD520 million for colluding to manipulate the price of financial products linked to interest rates.

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published tomorrow. The Times will be back on the stands on Monday, December 12. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.