



## HOTEL ESTORIL TENDER TO LAUNCH

P7



## POT AT POKER TABLES?

With Atlantic City's gambling heyday now past, New Jersey politicians are aiming to grab marijuana's riches

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## STANLEY'S DAUGHTER MAKES NEW MUSIC

Hong Kong singer and actress Josie Ho is putting out new music, touring Asia and has shot a new travel show

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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## 24 LISTS FOR 14 SEATS

# Rich iconography in most contested election

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P2 EDITORIAL

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PAULO COUTINHO



## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**HONG KONG** will hold by-elections in March next year to replace four lawmakers that were disqualified from the legislature over the controversial manner in which they took their oaths of office. Beijing handed down an unprecedented legal interpretation of the Basic Law in late-2016, which prompted authorities to swiftly dismiss the lawmakers. By-elections will be held for Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West, New Territories East and a functional constituency.

**CHINA** At least nine people have been killed and nine others trapped in mining and tunnel building accidents in China, state media reported yesterday.

**MALAYSIA** A fire that blocked the only exit to an Islamic school dormitory killed 23 people, mostly teenagers, on the outskirts of Malaysia's largest city yesterday, officials said. A government official said a wall separating the victims from a second exit "shouldn't have been there."

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## MGTO says Macau not ready for sharing economy

P7 TOURISM



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times  
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INSIDE



## editorial

Paulo Coutinho



## I VOTE CAEAL

"Prognostics? Only after the game."  
(João Pinto, Portuguese footballer)

The Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) added another dumb rule on Wednesday to the cascade of nonsensical others. Judge Tong Hio Fong said that election teams are required to take down – by zero hour Saturday – all campaigning material, including that posted on the Internet. The instruction concerns the official campaign period – running from September 2 until today.

Apparently, the charismatic slash controversial slash innovative judge's judgement falls under an Electoral Law ruling that determines a 24-hour period of reflection on the eve of the vote. In no civilized country has this awkward rule ever been applied – to my knowledge. I sense here that the "creative industries" state of mind over this town kind of impels people to be creative, no matter how ridiculous their ideas are.

However, in the case of Mr Tong there is no naivety involved. His ideas and interpretations of the law are also dangerous, they violate fundamental legislation and, therefore, pervert people's perception of the rule of law. The recent order to Plataforma bilingual newspaper to remove an interview with a candidate from its website, confusing propaganda with information, clearly violates a fundamental right, the freedom of the press. (The case is now with the courts.)

The new rules heavily enforced by CAEAL's president also make the production of surveys, polls and predictions of the results – the informative and vibrant exercises of any living election – illegal. And he succeeded. Just yesterday, Jason Chao told the Times he won't make any predictions as he has done before. Actually, he will do it, but he won't share it: "It is not safe to share my prediction, because it is not allowed, under the electoral rules, to conduct or share a survey."

CAEAL has made a name for itself and the first on the "list" became quite the champion of this campaign – no one did better (worse), had more exposure, air time, print space, and money than Mr Tong. So I'm hereby declaring my vote goes to him, as a symbol, with its teeth out, of this discredited, inefficient and twisted system of ours. With his evil works, Judge Tong favoured my forever list of choice which is the "Abstention Party", a true winner in the past and – I predict – a bigger winner on Sunday.

People, especially the young, are either as distant from politics as Mars from Earth, they couldn't care less about the election or they are so politically awakened that they want to send a clear signal to the rulers by not participating in this masquerade of democracy.

I also don't believe in a change from within, although I admire those who do and have the strength to dream the impossible dream. The likes of Pereira Coutinho, Agnes Lam, and the pro-democrats, veteran Ng Kuok Cheong and young Sulu Sou. The rubber stamp legislators serve no more the crucial needs of the checks and the balances of this little-big town.

The winner in the universal suffrage election? Chan Meng Kam sponsored lists will rise to the "impossible" four seats. It's just a feeling – not a prediction, dear leader.

Renato Marques

**T**HIS year's campaign for a seat at the Legislative Assembly (AL) brought with it new lists and new iconography.

Notable newcomers include strong graphic representations, such as that of the list number 12 – "Poder dos Cidadãos" [Power of Citizens] headed by Sze Lee Ah. His campaign logo is a closed fist pointed at the observer. Sze portrays himself as a replica of the iconic image of Ernesto "Che" Guevara, the Argentine Marxist revolutionary and guerrilla leader.

Questioned on the use of such symbols, Sze said that he wants to be seen as the leader of the youth and new generation, a similarity he shares with "El Comandante" Che Guevara.

List number 22 – "Ajuda Mútua Grassroots" [Mutual Help Grassroots] – also boasts eye-catching imagery. Its leader Wong Wai Man shows himself dressed in a "Maoist style" military green uniform and carrying a messenger bag bearing the image of Mao Tse-tung.

It is also the only list that features a picture of several fishing nets hanging from a tree in a river or seaside area as the background for its logo. The list name is a hybrid of Portuguese and English languages.

Moving into brighter colors, list number 10 – "Poderes do Pensamento Político" [Powers of Political Thought] features rainbow-colored cubes, falling as in a Tetris game.

This list's campaign posters include the first three candidates in athletic attire representing sports ranging from Basketball to Running.

Pink pops out from the image of list 11 – Aliança de Bom Lar (Alliance of Good Home), which is led by the Women's General Association of Macau's vice president Wong Kit Cheng.

In addition to the color pink and the female element being a clear message of the list, the logo suggests multiple interpretations. The pink logo is represented by several building silhouettes smiling which portrays the sense

## CAMPAIGN IMAGERY

## New candidates



of a "happy home" and a "happy family," which combined resemble a local landmark: the Ruins of Saint Paul's.

Using symbols of democracy such as the "Liberty Torch", list number 23 – "Início Democrática" (non-concordant Portuguese translation of Democratic Start) also presented candidates, both in their depictions in campaign material and public appearances, dressed in plain white.

Another newcomer is list number 24 – União dos Promitentes-Compradores do "Pearl Horizon" para Defesa

dos Direitos (Union of "Pearl Horizon" Buyers for the Rights Protection).

The list aims to address the topic around the Pearl Horizon controversy. Its logo features a green mountain from which five grey bars protrude to represent the building towers. In the campaign poster, the idea of "union" is also created by a photograph of members joining hands in the center, together with a collage of photographs of members in previous Pearl Horizon building demonstrations. All this is presented in



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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement: advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



# bring new iconography



dark tones and in monochrome as black is also the color of the members' uniforms, contrasting with messages in vibrant red.

List number 25 – “Linha de Frente dos Trabalhadores de Casinos” (Casinos Workers' Frontline) is led by Cloee Chao and the main logo is represented by a gaming chip in red and white colors.

Similar symbols follow in the campaign posters where Chao assumes a “croupier” pose to symbolize the connection with the gaming industry.

In order to learn more about the symbolism and the imagery of such creations, the Times spoke to Bibito Henrique Silva, creative director and experienced local graphic designer.

“Macau might be devoid of competence in multiple areas but one thing is

true, graphic design is not one of them,” he said noting the number of talented people on the field and the many international awards some of them achieved. Bibito noted that there is a “problem of demand,” claiming that “it’s difficult to find people with the knowledge, culture, and education (and sometimes courage) to accept creative, efficient and professional work.”

Entering a more detailed analysis of images used during the campaign, he cited the example of list number 12, whose logo appears to spell “POC” when it is fact “PDC”, and highlights the “funny fact” that it works almost as onomatopoeia.

“The PDC list assumes a radical attitude and the logo transmits that. A closed fist is a common political symbol and by itself [it] is a sta-

Macau might be devoid of competence in multiple areas but one thing is true, graphic design is not one of them.

BIBITO HENRIQUE  
PUBLICIST

tement. Not that common is the ‘fist’ facing the public like saying, ‘Vote for me. I promise to punch your face... or someone’s face’... However, sometimes Macau needs someone to bang a fist on the table,” he said, noting that such a message might be ef-

fective for the people.

Bibito described list number 22’s logo as “difficult”, as nothing seems to make sense.

“What does a message of a photo of fishing nets hanging in a tree in a boardwalk by the sea convey?” To Bibito, it means pretty much nothing.

Regarding list number 25, he remarked that such a list is calling for the protection of casino workers. “A casino chip as a logo is obvious and there’s no room for misunderstandings [...] as an advertising professional, I’m prohibited by the law to use any symbol or reference to casinos or gambling in my client’s campaigns... but it looks like Macau elections are governed by a different law.”

As for list 10’s colorful cubes, he said, “If the intention is to show that they will

defend the interest of multiple segments of the society, the message is there, simple but clear. Not sure if [it is] deliberate, but even the colors of the rainbow are there.”

The designer noted that each campaign image seemed to have been crafted with a great deal of thought given to whether it could “appeal to the electorate”.

He thinks that graphic design, together with other communication and marketing tools, can play a role in the “whole campaign.”

Noting the importance of a logo as an identity, he said that “normal democracies’ invest enormous budgets in their political campaigns to inform the public about their projects and policies.” However, he questioned whether it was worth doing so in Macau. [More on p4]





## CAMPAIGN IMAGERY

# Experienced candidates keep traditional image

WHILE the new lists try their own visual identities, traditional and incumbent candidates stand by their well-known public symbols.

Agnes Lam still bears the Civic Watch colors of pink and grey. The same goes for Pereira Coutinho with New Hope's traditional green logo and rice bowl beside a pen and chopsticks, which depict the values of the group.

With Chan Meng Kam's former group splitting into two lists, the former group name and logo has been retained by Si Ka Lon for list number 9.

This has forced a change, although subtle, to the leading candidate of list number 8 – "Associação dos Cidadãos para o Desenvolvimento de Macau" [Citizens' Association for Macau Development] Song Pek Kei, who has kept the round "cycle" shape linked at the center by three interconnected human figures (instead of the Chinese character representing people or citizens) all in orange color (instead of list 9's red).

Continuity is also present for List 14 in Angela Leong's Nova União para o Desenvolvimento

de Macau (New Union for Macau Development) where it has featured a sunflower – a symbol of adoration, loyalty and longevity – for some time.

For this chapter, there has been a change in the name and logo which traditionally identified the New Macau Association (ANM), but it has retained the green of the "progression" arrow, although presented discreetly through the Chinese lettering at the center of the circle.

As for the lighthouse symbol, previously used in other campaigns, it has been continued by list 3 – "Associação de Próspero Macau Democrático" (Prosperous Macau Democratic Association) – headed by Ng Kuok Cheong.

List 13 – "Associação de Novo Movimento Democrático" (New Democratic Movement Association) – is led by Au Kam San and has opted to move away from old symbols and colors. The new logo features a single Chinese character in orange, superimposed over a map of Macau. The Chinese character for "New" is a call-back to his previous affiliation (New Macau).



## CCAC may investigate candidates

A representative of the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) said that an investigation may be launched into a campaign action by the list headed by Mak Soi Kun and Zheng Anting. On the sidelines of a TDM talk show, CCAC deputy head Lam Chin Hong was confronted with a picture that allegedly shows Mak Soi Kun teaching the audience how to vote. Gifts were reportedly awarded during the campaign event.

## CE praises post-typhoon work

Chief Executive Chui Sai On yesterday praised the contribution to post-typhoon relief work by personnel from the government's various finance and economic departments. During a meeting with some of them, Chui pledged that the government would "spare no effort in advancing Macau's response mechanism system for dealing with emergencies; in particular, measures relating to the release of meteorological information and the coordination of search and rescue work," according to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau. The CE also said that "to solve the flooding issues concerning Macau's low-lying areas, the government has drawn up a detailed plan, covering [the] construction of a cross-boundary flood prevention system."

# Heated debate between Portuguese-speaking candidates

THE third candidate of Melinda Chan's List 18 – "Aliança Pr'a Mudança" [Alliance for Change], Jorge Neto Valente, has publicly accused the head of List 6 – "Nova Esperança" [New Hope] José Pereira Coutinho of pandering.

In a debate broadcast on the Portuguese channels of TDM Radio and TV, Valente accused Coutinho of trying to "please Greeks and Trojans," when presenting two versions of his list's political program with different content in Chinese and Portuguese.

Coutinho replied that his list's political platform has many topics to address, which were adapted to target the different communities in Macau.

He said Valente's list represents the values



Jorge Neto Valente



Pereira Coutinho

that have over the years "[caused] trouble for the population" in the legislative system, such as the gaming, real estate and the business sectors.

Coutinho claimed that "to vote on list 6 is to have a useful vote" and said it "is important to keep a voice in the Legislative Assembly (AL) that represents these communities and speaks their lan-

guage. I'm the only first candidate that is in the position to continue to do this," he said, appealing to the voters to "think usefully."

Valente retorted that lawmaker Coutinho has criticized others' proposed solutions throughout the years without providing any alternative of his own.

"You in fact presented

many drafts and projects, but because you can't [enter into a] dialogue [about] any issue with partners in order to reach some consensus; you can't get any of those bills approved. Your efficiency equals to zero," Valente said.

"Which dialogue? The pataca (MOP) dialogue? In the AL everyone plays by their own interests,"

responded Coutinho. "Do not count on me for such deals."

The debate only involved candidates from these two lists as they were the only ones to accept the invitation from TDM.

This was revealed by Valente as he mentioned that there was "little interest from other lists in the Macanese and Portuguese communities" and justified that his list's first priority – to "make the teaching of the two [official] languages in all Macau schools mandatory" – was an idea already being prepared in proposals intended for the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ).

Acknowledging that Valente does have some good ideas and proposals, Coutinho noted that "to vote in the list you represent is to vote for Melinda Chan and not for Jorge Valente," he said, adding that his first act after the election would be to "fight for the right of collective bargaining" by introducing a trade union law. **RM**

## Taipa water pipe bursts

The Macao Water Supply Company said in a statement that a water pipe in Taipa had burst yesterday, but no customers in the area were affected. The damaged pipe is located on Rua Seng Tou, near Taipa Central Park. Macao Water responded by dispatching an emergency team, which closed the nearby gate valves to quickly halt the leak. After an evaluation, Macao Water observed that the broken pipe is a 100mm-diameter steel water pipe used only to provide water to fire hydrants in that area. The company said it believed the burst was "due to the displacement of the pipe joint." It said it has notified those responsible to repair the pipe.



Julie Zhu

## AL ELECTION

# Cloee Chao focuses on gaming employees' welfare

**C**LOEE Chao, founder of the Macau Gaming Industry Frontline Workers' Union and first candidate of list 25, "Linha de Frente dos Trabalhadores de Casinos," said that the top focus of her campaign is on the social welfare of gaming employees.

"I hope to improve the holiday calendar of our gaming employees, as well as their welfare [...] the gaming operators promised a lot, such as housing subsidies [...] I hope that if I can enter the Legislative Assembly [AL], I can speak for some of the requests which we have had for many years," Chao told the Times.

Chao has been asking the government to enhance the welfare of gaming employees for a long time. During a phone interview with the Times, she explained some of the reasons why her platform focuses on gaming-related issues.

"In the beginning [when Macau granted casino operating concessions to more operators] the gaming operators guaranteed that the casinos were offering good welfare conditions and long holidays. [...] However, now, the concessions [have been extended to more operators] but not one extra holiday has been added to the calendar," Chao



Cloee Chao (center) and her supporters

told the Times.

"We all know that the current AL is comprised of many people from the gaming sectors, but they are all bosses, while [the AL] lacks a voice coming from within the primary class," said Chao.

She hopes for a "miracle" election as her campaign has limited

resources.

Besides benefits for gaming employees, the group hopes for a trade union law, fewer non-local workers in some sectors, and stricter tobacco control policies.

Today is the last day for all candidates to carry out their promotional activities.

Despite saying that the evolu-

tion of her campaign "is alright; it is beyond our expectation," Chao mentioned that she faced pressure from some gaming employees.

**I hope to improve the holiday calendar of our gaming employees, as well as their welfare.**

CLOEE CHAO

"Even though they are gaming employees, they lay pressure on us in some chat groups which only have gaming employees, but I don't know whether they were ordered to do so," Chao re-

vealed.

Chao hopes to obtain at least one seat in the AL. For several years, she has organized demonstrations and asked the government for better welfare for all gaming employees.

When recalling her previous efforts, Chao said that there have been good outcomes in the sector.

"The Chief Executive promised that no non-local workers would ever be allowed to work as dealers. In the first several years [after the concessions were granted to more operators] we all thought that it was impossible to ban smoking inside casinos [...] how come these bosses suddenly allow it? The area for the mass market, however already banned smoking. [...] Many casinos also offer bonuses. [...] Many employees tell us about unfair situations that happened to them, and then we contact the casinos, and we receive responses many times," said Chao.

## AL ELECTION

# Housing, universal suffrage, and govt's transparency among top demands

**A**U Kam San, a historical member of the pan-democrat movement in Macau, is defending his seat in the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The political platform of Au's group – list 13 in the legislative election – prioritizes housing policies. It urges the government to make use of Macau's sea reclamation to build affordable housing.

Another key element of Au's platform is the demand for universal suffrage in Macau and a better public transportation network. The group also questions if the government can allow private medical organizations to run public medical entities.

List number 20 is led by Mak Soi Kun. Titled the "União de Macau-Guangdong", it prioritizes issues of livelihood. The group wants a minimum MOP10,000 monthly pension for people aged above 65 years old, and better medical and living welfare conditions.

Another key element of the group's platform is their fo-

cus on the youth. The team's candidates want better policies to help youth buy their own houses and acquire better skills.

List number 1, led by Ching Lok Suen, is the "Novas Ideias De Macau". Its platform includes progressing Macau's democracy and achieving universal suffrage for both the Chief Executive (CE) and Legislative Assembly elections.

List number 2 is led by Ho Ion Sang. The "União Promotora para o Progresso" focuses on housing policies, transportation and the economy. It hopes that the government can pay heed to the reasonable appeals of its citizens, while simultaneously pushing for economic diversification and building a more livable city.

Si Ka Lon heads the Associação dos Cidadãos Unidos de Macau (list 9), which calls for the city's revenue and development to be shared by all sectors. His political platform includes helping vulnerable groups in the community, increasing

RENATO MARQUES



accountability for government officials, ensuring the legal system works more efficiently, improving infrastructure, and rapid develop-

ment of the city while maintaining the highest possible quality.

Wong Kit Cheng and her "Aliança de Bom Lar" (list

11) want to protect women and children's rights by increasing paid maternity and paternity leave as well as retirement pensions. She also wants to build more nurseries for the elderly and improve medical facilities and professions.

List number 12, the "Poder dos Cidadãos," is led by Sze Lee Ah, focusing on youth affairs. The group wants to cancel the voters' registration system so that all permanent residents aged above 18 years old would automatically become voters, allowing more young people to participate in Macau's elections.

Lam U Tou's "Poder da Sinergia" has built its campaign mainly around building a high-quality living space and calling for greater transparency and efficiency of government policy on housing and transportation issues.

List number 17 is led by Lee Sio Kuan, which goes by the Cantonese name "Ou Mun Kong I". Housing issues are its top priority. The group

wants the government to take back unused lands and to let real estate developers build cheaper housing. It also calls for more parking lots equipped with a better drainage system, as well as a better medical insurance system.

Hong Weng Kuan's "Associação dos Cidadãos Unidos para a Construção de Macau" (list 19) aims to solve the issues of Macau's political system, namely clean elections and universal suffrage. It is also focusing on housing policy.

Lam Wai Koi's "A Aurora Dos Trabalhadores De Nível Básico" (list 21) is calling for housing subsidies for retired primary-class civil servants in its main political platform.

List number 22, the Ajuda Mútua Grassroots, was the topic of recent controversy concerning its outrageous publicity methods. Led by Wong Wai Man, the group wants protection of local workers' employment rights. It also wants certain road construction projects to be completed overnight, and all traffic lights to be yellow after midnight.

List number 23 is led by Lee Kin Yun. The "Início Democrática" group seeks universal suffrage for both the CE and AL elections. **JZ**



## 'The Sound of Music' wants young locals

The Broadway and West End musical, "The Sound of Music," is coming to The Venetian Macau in mid December 2017 and the producers are looking for eighteen young performers to cast as the Von Trapp children. Preliminary auditions will be held today and Sunday in Hong Kong and in Macau on September 18, according to a statement issued by Sands China. Applications will be accepted online and shortlisted applicants must meet the eligibility criteria to audition. The producers are looking for children who have a natural talent for singing, dancing, and acting or previous experience performing on stage. Applicants must be aged between 6 and 14 years old, and be between 120 cm and 153 cm tall to play the two boys and four girls being cast. All nationalities are welcome to audition.

## Cultural Center reopens

Three facilities run by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) – the Cultural Center, the Macau Art Museum and the Handover Gifts Museum – will reopen today. The facilities were damaged by the passage of Typhoon Hato when the structure crowning the Cultural Center was bent out of shape.

## FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

# New study suggests MSAR making progress on social welfare

A new study from the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) claims that the government is making good progress towards meeting some of the goals of the MSAR's first Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2020), inspired by central planning programs in mainland China.

Associate Professor Yin Yifen from the Social, Economic and Public Policy Research Centre at IPM, assessed that, "generally speaking, the majority of social welfare programs in Macau have been [making] good progress."

Social welfare is one of the most important parts in Macau's first five-year plan. Out of 21 major targets, there are 16 concerning social welfare, covering medical care, social security, education and environment protection.

According to Yin's study, the government's public expenditure on medical care, social security and education have increased in past years.



The Social Affairs Bureau headquarters

Chinese press agency Xinhua said that medical care expenditure in Macau accounted for 9.2 percent, 10.2 percent and 10.3 percent of the total budget in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. Social security accounted for 25.1 percent, 24.3 percent and 25.2 percent respectively in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and the ratios for education were 14.9 percent, 14.7 percent and 14.9 percent respectively.

During these three years, the proportions of the budget spent

on each area held more or less stable - except in medical care expenditure, which rose by more than 10 percent (1.1 percentage points) – but the absolute budget only increased marginally each year.

Yin said that some medical targets still need greater input from the government to be realistically achieved before the development plan's expiration. For instance, the plan expects 4.4 patient beds for every 1,000 people by 2020, but the current

figure only reaches 2.3.

The report separately noted a strong performance in the exhibition industry recently, and speculated that improvements to regional transportation brought by the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and the expansion of connectivity at the Macau International Airport may aid its further development.

Macau unveiled its first Five-Year Development Plan in September 2016, incorporating its own development into the national strategy of Beijing.

Associate Professor Liu Chen-gkun at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) told Xinhua that "the five-year plan [has] not only inspired the government and its residents as a whole, but also some business sectors."

"Participating in the nation's major strategies can bring Macao tangible results," added Liu, "and can provide the impetus for Macau to keep going forward." **MDT/Xinhua**

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# Sharing economy a demand in other regions, MGTO says Macau not ready

Lynzy Valles

**I**N several regions, the hospitality industry is competing with alternative accommodation such as Airbnb, an online hospitality service dubbed a 'home-sharing' platform. Yet this is not the case in Macau due to the absence of regulations of the sharing economy.

At the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) media briefing held yesterday, PATA CEO Mario Hardy expressed that the association is in favor of the sharing economy, citing its recent partnership with Airbnb.

Hardy told the press that the firm was keen on engaging not only with the association but also with the public and private sector.

Although such alternative options for accommodation in the hospitality industry remain a tough competitor of integrated hotels, the CEO advised hotel operators to be creative and innovative in developing new concepts.

"We have empty properties that are not being used. Why not make them available to other people? Should the government actually regulate that? Absolutely. Should they be paying taxes? Absolutely," said the CEO.

While Macau is currently not embracing the sharing economy - local authorities have not approved Airbnb and have rejected ride-hailing app Uber - Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes defended that the region's po-



Mario Hardy (left) and Helena de Senna Fernandes

pulation is not ready for such arrangements.

Fernandes referred to the two surveys the bureau conducted in

**We have empty properties that are not being used. Why not make them available to other people?**

MARIO HARDY  
PATA CEO

2014 and 2016, which show that residents are not in favor of such schemes at this stage.

The director explained that problems arose when hosts offered illegal accommodation, citing the neighborhood's concerns about clandestine activities and even crime.

"The population is very much against having your private home being rented out for such accommodation. [So] I guess at this point in time it [legalizing sharing economy] won't be possible to push forward," said the bureau head.

Fernandes stressed that it is premature to introduce these concepts until more research has been done on converting independent buildings into family

hostels or similar establishments.

Earlier this year, MGTO announced that, based on the study they conducted in July 2016, society has not reached a thorough consensus on the operation of family hostels in local

communities.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, previously also said that a project which aimed to establish a legal framework for the use of family houses as hostels would not move forward.

Tam also noted that, in order to put such a project into force, they would have had to sufficiently consider its implementation in order to guarantee that the new model "would not cause more problems than benefits."

While Fernandes still pledged to monitor the matter, she noted that there are 600-budget rooms that are available for tourists.

She also proposed that there are legal solutions available on the market if any owner wants to repurpose an entire property as a hotel.

"It's not a problem of Airbnb. It's a problem that existed before Airbnb came into business. [That said, the project] is not really acceptable for the local population," the MGTO director reiterated.

## LESS TOURISTS EXPECTED THIS MONTH

**MACAU GOVERNMENT** Tourism Office (MGTO) director, Helena de Senna Fernandes, said the consequences of Typhoon Hato would be felt through the lower number of tourists in September. Speaking on the sidelines of the PATA Forum, Senna Fernandes said that the number of inbound tourists "went well"

in the first half of August, before the typhoon struck on August 23. Senna Fernandes remarked that the number of tourists has since stabilized to a level similar to a year ago, but added that after September 5, she was not too optimistic about the number of inbound tourists for the rest of the month.

# NYT showcases Hotel Estoril story, revamp still pending

**T**HE controversial redevelopment of Hotel Estoril is facing delays, as it is unclear whether the government will demolish or remodel the building. The hotel was built in 1962 by tycoon Stanley Ho, and its redevelopment has been opposed by several activists.

A report issued this week by The New York Times recounted how the government's decision was heavily criticized by local residents and activists, due to the hotel's role in the city's history and identity.

A plan spearheaded two years ago by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, was intended to revamp the derelict hotel and turn it into a youth recreational and art center. Tam said yesterday that a public tender to revamp the hotel will be launched this month.

However, the matter remains controversial for concerned citizens.

As cited in the report, Sulu Sou, president of the New Macau Association (ANM) and a candidate in this year's Legislative

Assembly elections, voiced that Estoril and other unprotected sites were part of many residents' childhood.

"There's a general sentiment that Macau has changed too fast in the past 10 to 15 years [...] and that's why a lot of young people feel a sense of urgency about [the buildings] being lost," said Sou.

A sociology professor at the University of Macau, Melody Lu, also expressed that some residents felt an emotional connection to the hotel as it was the "first touch of modernity"

they experienced after arriving in the city from the Chinese mainland.

Last year, two members of ANM, including then-president Scott Chiang, were arrested on suspicion of hoisting a black banner on the hotel with white characters in Chinese reading "Alexis Tam: Heritage Killer."

That same year, members of the Cultural Heritage Council overwhelmingly voted in favor of the government's decision not to list the hotel for protection as a cultural heritage site.



The old Hotel Estoril was designed by Macau-born Portuguese architect Alfredo Victor Jorge Álvares. The mosaic stand-

ding in the facade was designed by Oseo Acconci, a builder and sculptor from Italy who moved to Macau in the 1940s.



## REAL ESTATE MATTERS

## The new laws and how they affect you - Part 3

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

This is the final article in the series looking at the revisions to the laws and how they affect you. The main areas revised concern;

1. The right to terminate an agreement
2. The recognition of signatures of the Tenant and Landlord
3. The establishment of an arbitration centre for lease agreement related disputes
4. This week we look at the second and third revisions that concern notarization and arbitration.

## LEASE AGREEMENT SIGNATURES MUST BE NOTARIZED

## What is it?

Both the Tenant and the Landlord must have their signatures notarized on all Lease Agreements.

What's the purpose / intent of the new law? We assume that the motivation of the Government with this revision is to avoid rental scams in any shape or form.

The government has also mentioned the payment of rental income tax as a motivation for the introduction of this measure. However, were this the case, they surely would have followed the much simpler model of requiring all leases to be registered rather than notarized in order to be legally valid.

An un-registered lease would be worthless, and therefore in both parties interests to ensure registration. In addition, hefty fines for non-registered leases would also discourage tax avoidance.

Interestingly, one of the reasons cited by government officials for the low rate of rental income tax disclosure was 'a low level of awareness' amongst Landlords.

## What does this mean for you?

Despite a massive outcry, this measure is unlikely to have any major effect on either party, at least for the present time.

Whilst the revision calls for signatures to be notarized, the job of the notary is simply to check that the signature itself is consistent

with that shown on a recognized document such as a passport or ID (Although not on a Hong Kong ID since they do not show a person signature).

The consequence for not notarizing a lease agreement is that the agreement is invalid, according to Article 212 of Civil Code. As a Tenant this is an additional step in the rental process, and is of course an additional cost both in time and money. The lease agreement will become effective once the signatures of both parties are notarized. As a Landlord this will also mean an extra step in the process, an added expense and potentially a slower turnaround on vacant property. However, once again there is a way to address this issue quickly and efficiently with a minimal cost through your agent or lawyer.

## What are the positives, negatives &amp; other thoughts on the law

On the positive side, this measure may discourage fraudulent contractual activity, and if the government feels that this is the major problem with the Macau housing market, then this is one way to address it.

The largest potential negative of this policy is a withdrawal of the supply from the market. Many owners are reluctant to become Landlords, they simply do not want the hassle of dealing with Tenants.

Combining this policy with the previous one, the incentive for owners to become Landlords seems to have been diminished. However, frankly this is only the case if owners are given bad advice.

The new revisions should offer a higher degree of confidence to Tenants and may therefore help that side of the market, which in turn will offer those owners who have been well advised and prepared an increased opportunity.

## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RENTAL LEASE ARBITRATION CENTRE

## What is it?

The introduction of an Arbitration mecha-

nism to solve Lease Agreement disputes provided that both the Landlord and Tenant agree to the Arbitration process.

## What's the purpose / intent of the new law?

The law courts are swamped, and with cases piling up any easing of the situation is good for all parties concerned.

An Arbitration centre will prove less costly and much faster than pursuing the current legal process. The intention is exactly that; Offering Landlords and Tenants a way to resolve disputes quickly and cost effectively.

## What does this mean for you?

For both Tenants and Landlords, this Arbitration service should be an invaluable resource.

Placing a dispute in the hands of Arbitration should mean that both parties benefit equally at the outset of a dispute, having a neutral party to offer accurate and enforceable guidelines to bring an end to most disputes.

## What are the positives, negatives &amp; other thoughts on the law

The motivation of the centre should be to resolve issues as quickly and efficiently as possible, and therefore as decisions on issues are made with this outcome in mind.

The positives of such a centre are numerous and obvious, and the establishment of this centre is fantastic news for all. Of course, both parties must agree to the arbitration process, and this would usually be done long before any dispute arises.

## Conclusion

We have covered the three main areas of revision in this newspaper article, and hope that it helps to clarify the new laws for you whether you are a Tenant or a Landlord. There has been a lot of criticism of these revisions prior to their being passed, but now they are due to come into effect the question.

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Elise Young

**N**EW Jersey reaped billions from slot machines and blackjack tables in the decades before casino fever jumped state lines. With Atlantic City's gambling heyday now past, politicians in the Garden State are aiming to grab marijuana's riches while neighbors again play catch-up.

Democrat Phil Murphy, with a 25 percentage-point lead in New Jersey's race for governor, has vowed to legalize recreational pot statewide, and has support from key lawmakers likely to win re-election in November. His Republican challenger, Kim Guadagno, has said she favors decriminalizing the drug, even after serving almost eight years as lieutenant to term-limited Governor Chris Christie, who condemns casual marijuana use and calls its profits "blood money."

Beyond the political will and public opinion favoring legalization, New Jersey has a financial incentive to beat New York and Pennsylvania for access to a legalized market where North American consumers spent \$6.7 billion in 2016. Its pension system is the least-funded among U.S. states, and annual payments are increasing pressure on its budget. New Jersey's key indicators will trail the nation's significantly through 2026, with slowing population and job growth, according to a July report by Rutgers University's Economic Advisory Service.

"It's the next opportunity for what I see as an employment boom in New Jersey," said Senator Nick Scutari, a Democrat from Linden whose weed legalization bill had hearings in June, with the understanding that it would be fine-tuned before any voting early next year. Another proposal, by Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, a Democrat from Trenton, would ask voters to permit pot just in Atlantic City.

#### POT PUSH

Marijuana is outlawed federally, and in New Jersey possession is punishable by a USD1,000 fine and six months in jail. More than two dozen states, though, including New Jersey, allow consumption for medical purposes, and recreational use is law in Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. In August, U.S. Senator Cory Booker, a New Jersey Democrat, introduced a bill to legalize the drug nationally, even as President Donald Trump's administration remains opposed and his Republican Party controls Congress.

The New Jersey Libertarian Party last year issued a sta-

# Pot at poker tables? Democrats push weed to boost N.J. finances

BLOOMBERG



tement on April 20 - international "Weed Day" - declaring that in legalized states, predictions about higher crime and the spread of more powerful drugs haven't panned out. State chapter leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Latino Action Network told lawmakers in Trenton that minority users are disproportionately penalized, with lives derailed by convictions for what often were youthful indiscretions. Legal experts, including a county prosecutor, testified that enforcement funding would be better spent on public safety.

## New Jersey used to count on Atlantic City for instant cash during the decades it was the US second-biggest gambling market

#### PUBLIC MOMENTUM

Sixty-one percent of Americans say weed should be legalized, according to a CBS News poll conducted in April. Two years earlier, 51 percent supported it. In 1979, eight years after then-President Richard Nixon declared illicit drugs to be "public enemy No. 1," just 27 percent favored.

Murphy, running for governor after serving as U.S. ambassador to Germany and a Goldman Sachs Group Inc. executive in Hong Kong and Frankfurt, told a town hall crowd in Lambertville in February that he was "all in to legalize marijuana" on justice merits alone. The financial boost, he said, was a sweetener.

"God knows we need every penny we can find," Murphy said. "That's \$300 million to \$500 million we don't have at the moment that we could use."

New Jersey used to count on Atlantic City for instant cash during the decades it was the nation's second-biggest gambling market behind Las Vegas. Casino revenue peaked in 2006, though, and slid for the next 10 years as gambling came to New York and Pennsylvania, forcing New Jersey to shed five of 12 cas-

inos and 11,000 jobs. Last year, the state tax take was \$237 million, just 57 percent of the best year's payout.

#### COLORADO TRIP

New Jersey lawmakers saw a way to undo that damage and then some on a tour of Colorado growers and retailers last year, when that state collected \$157 million in taxes on pot sales.

"Colorado went from 40th in job growth to No. 4," said Senate President Steve Sweeney, a Democrat from West Deptford who was on the trip. "It's becoming one of the youngest states in the nation - they have a growth explosion because people are moving there."

In Pennsylvania, marijuana-related prosperity like that is years off, according to Representative Edward Gainey, a Pittsburgh Democrat. He sponsored the medical-use bill signed by Governor Tom Wolf

in April 2016, more than three years after New Jersey dispensaries started supplying the drug to patients.

"It's too soon for businesses and lobbyists to come in" to advocate for another major marijuana law change, Gainey said in an interview. "Decriminalization would be one step before legalization."

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat in a state with a divided legislature, in January proposed decriminalizing marijuana possession, though he remains opposed to legalizing recreational use. Senator Liz Krueger, a Democrat from Manhattan who has unsuccessfully pitched a recreational bill three times, said any progress New Jersey makes is likely to push New York.

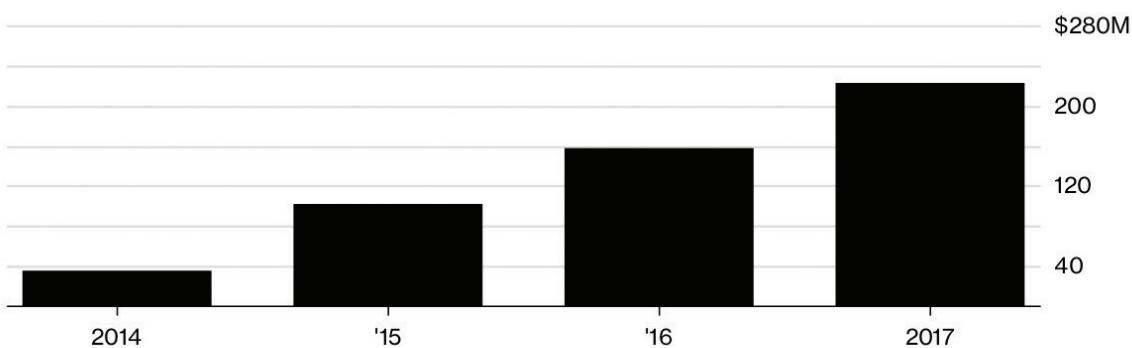
"It's not a structural 'How-the-hell-would-you-do-it?' legislation," Krueger said in an interview. "The public is ahead of the political comfort level here."

In New Jersey, lawmakers and lobbyists said the goal is to have legislation signed within the first 100 days of what they presume will be a Democratic administration. Sales would start about a year later, with particular focus on what other states are doing.

"It's about the importance of having the right-size market, so you don't grow so big that you can't serve the community you seek," said Scott Rudder, a former Republican state assemblyman who is president of the New Jersey Cannabusiness Association, a trade group. "We saw that with the downsizing of the casino industry. Whatever the blueprint turns out to be in New Jersey, it has to be something that can provide a stable economy from a jobs-, tax base- and revenue-planning perspective." **Bloomberg**

### Colorado's Weed Riches

The first U.S. state to allow recreational marijuana has reaped more than \$500 million in revenue from taxes, licenses and fees.



Source: Colorado Department of Revenue

Bloomberg



AP PHOTO



Basi, the giant panda, at the Fuzhou Giant Panda Research Center in Fuzhou (2015)

## China mourns death of oldest panda

CHINA is mourning the death of the world's oldest panda, Basi, who attracted millions of visitors during a visit to the United States 30 years ago. Caretakers in the eastern city of Fuzhou said Basi was suffering from a number of ailments, including liver and kidney problems, when she died Wednesday at age 37. Her body is to be preserved and placed in a museum dedicated to her life, the official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday. "She was very talented and liked weight-lifting, riding a bicycle and playing basketball," Xinhua said. Born in the wild in 1980, Basi was discovered by villagers after falling into an icy river in the western province of Sichuan at age 4 and sent to the breeding center in Fuzhou. She lived out her life there without giving birth to cubs. She made a then-rare visit to San Diego in the United States in 1987, where she drew more than 2 million visitors during a 200-day stay accompanied by fellow panda Yuan Yuan, and was the model for the mascot of the 11th Asian Games, held in Beijing in 1990. The rare giant pandas are China's unofficial national mascot and live mainly in Sichuan's bamboo-covered mountains.

## ECONOMY

# Foreign investment plunges after official curbs

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA'S investment in other countries has plunged since Beijing tightened controls to cool surging spending on British soccer teams, Manhattan real estate and other assets deemed unneeded for Chinese economic development.

Outward investment in the first eight months of this year fell 41.8 percent from a year earlier to USD68.7 billion, the Commerce Ministry said yesterday.

Chinese companies, flush with cash from an economic boom, ramped up purchases of foreign technology and brands in recent years to speed their development. But after a flood of money into sports and entertainment, authorities tightened controls on the flow of capital out of the country last year and said they want investment to focus on technology and other assets needed by China's economy.

China's investment abroad is relatively small compared with that of developed countries, but the surge in spending and Chinese buyers' willingness to pay top prices for premium assets has made them sought after by sellers abroad.

Chinese money plays an outsize role in smaller economies such as in Eastern Europe. Chinese investors also have bought high-profile assets such as New York City's Waldorf Astoria Hotel and the Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment.

Investment this year went mainly into manufacturing, wholesale and retail, and information technology, according to the Commerce Ministry. It said there were no new investment projects abroad in sports,

entertainment or real estate.

"Irrational outbound investment was further contained," a ministry spokesman, Gao Feng, said in a statement on its website.

Chinese buyers also might face more hurdles abroad after the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, said Wednesday he will propose a European system to screen incoming foreign investment.

Juncker didn't mention China but the announcement follows mounting complaints that Chinese buyers are free to make almost any acquisition in Europe while Beijing bars sales of most assets to foreigners.

European sensitivity has been especially high since last year's purchase of Germany's Kuka, a leading industrial robot maker, by China's Midea Group.

Chinese buyers see Europe as more welcoming to investment than the United States, where some deals are required to undergo a security screening.

Earlier yesterday, U.S. President Donald Trump blocked a Chinese government-financed company's purchase of a semiconductor manufacturer, Lattice Semiconductor, on national security grounds.

Chinese investors own all or part of five British soccer teams. One of the country's biggest conglomerates, Wanda Group, paid \$3.5 billion in 2012 for Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment and owns the AMC Cinema Chain.

The central bank governor, Zhou Xiaochuan, said in March the government wanted to curb spending on assets that are "unsuited to the industrial policy needs of the country." He said foreign sports and en-

AP PHOTO



Narendra Modi (left) and Xi Jinping at a BRICS summit

## The August document encouraged companies to plow money into 'Belt and Road' projects, Xi's signature foreign policy initiative

entertainment assets "have not much benefit to China."

A Cabinet document issued in August said Beijing wants to promote "rational, orderly and healthy development of foreign investment while effectively guarding against risks."

The August document encouraged companies instead to plow money into "Belt and Road" projects, President Xi Jinping's signature foreign po-

licy initiative to expand trade links through Asia to Europe by investing in ports, highways, railways, power plants and other infrastructure.

Investment in the 52 countries covered by "Belt and Road" was \$8.5 billion in the first eight months of this year and spending commitments rose 21 percent to \$84.5 billion, according to Gao.

Xi has been moving to reassert control over top state enterprises while reining in private sector conglomerates including Wanda, Anbang Insurance, Fosun International and HNA Group that have expanded abroad.

News reports in July said regulators told bankers Wanda's recent foreign acquisitions violated capital controls.

Wanda's proposed acquisition of Dick Clark Productions, which produces the Golden Globes and the "Miss America" pageant, was called off in March after the seller said Wanda failed to complete the purchase. AP

# Chinese navy ships depart for joint drills with Russia

FOUR Chinese navy ships have departed for joint drills with Russia in the latest sign of growing cooperation between the two militaries that could challenge the U.S. armed forces' role in the Asia-Pacific.

A destroyer, missile frigate, supply ship and submarine rescue ship departed this week from the port of Qingdao, home to China's north sea fleet, the official Xinhua News

Agency reported.

The drills are being held in the Sea of Japan near the Korean Peninsula and the Sea of Okhotsk off the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, Xinhua said.

The exercises are the second stage of an annual joint drill, the first part of which was held July 22-27 in the Baltic Sea — the first time the countries had exercised together in the northern European

waterbody.

Russia and China are closely aligned on many diplomatic and security issues, with both countries calling for a negotiated settlement of tensions on the Korean Peninsula, preceded by North Korea suspending its nuclear and missile activities in return for the U.S. and South Korea halting their regular large-scale wargames.

July's joint drills in the

Baltic stirred concern among countries in the region, where tensions are already high over increased displays of military force by both Moscow and NATO.

Both Russia and China say the exercises are not directed at any third parties.

The Chinese ships taking part in the exercises are among the country's most advanced, components of a growing fleet that poses

a significant challenge to the U.S. Navy's traditional dominance in the Asia-Pacific. Beijing has long chafed at the American presence and is a strong critic of its alliances with Japan, Australia and other countries in the region.

China already has the world's largest navy, with slightly over 300 vessels, compared to the U.S. Navy's 277 "deployable battle force ships," according

to the U.S. Naval War College's China Maritime Studies Institute. The U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence forecasts it will have 313-342 warships by 2020.

While China's ships are technologically inferior to those of the U.S. Navy, their sheer numbers allow China a significant presence on the open sea, institute professor Andrew S. Erickson wrote in a recent study. AP



**T**O say that Josie Ho has been busy is an understatement.

The Hong Kong singer and actress is putting out new music, touring Asia and has shot a new travel show on TLC.

Together with her indie rock band, "Josie and the Uni Boys," Ho is releasing seven new singles on vinyl records, one song at a time. She said her new music is inspired by the psycho thriller film "Split" starring James McAvoy, about three young girls kidnapped by a man who suffers from a multiple personality disorder. Fittingly, the first single is named "Skitzo."

"I believe everyone has at least five personalities, like when you go home and face your parents, your lover, your friends, your colleagues, your boss and like, some PR friends," Ho explained. "Some people have guilt trips about having different faces, like they feel like they're two-faced, which I don't think so. That's why we need to put this concept out there, so when people really understand our lyrics and our music, I hope everyone feels that 'We're OK. We're all OK. We're fine.'"

Split might just be the way Ho, 42, feels about her life. The daughter of Macau casino

## STANLEY'S DAUGHTER

# Hong Kong singer and actress Josie Ho is making new music

mogul Stanley Ho, Ho defied her parents and refused to join the family business. Instead, she wanted to become an actress and singer.

In 1996, she released her first solo albums and also began acting in films. However, it wasn't until she played a prostitute in the 2003 movie "Naked Ambition" that critics began to take her seriously as an actress. For that performance, Ho won the Best Supporting Actress award at the Hong Kong Film Awards. She also attempted to break into Hollywood, gaining a small part in Steven Soderbergh's movie "Contagion" about the SARS epidemic.

This year, Ho is celebrating the 10th anniversary of her band. They will kick off a tour in Tokyo in October, and Ho could hardly contain her excitement.

"I'm going to be able to perform like a Japanese band at their live houses. Those are

AP PHOTO



not just any live houses, those are scared rock and roll, hall of fame places. So I'm really honored to play there," Ho said.

After Japan, Josie and the

Uni Boys head to China, the Philippines and Taiwan before returning home to Hong Kong next spring.

Until then, fans can catch Ho on TLC, "A Taste of Hong

Kong with Josie Ho," where she hosts other Asian celebrities in Hong Kong and shows them around town. Her favorite spot in Hong Kong? Surprisingly, the outdoors. **AP**

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## NATURE

# Long-endangered snow leopard upgraded to 'vulnerable' status

**T**HE elusive snow leopard — long considered an endangered species — has been upgraded to “vulnerable,” international conservationists said Thursday. But experts warned the new classification does not mean they are safe.

The animals still face serious challenges including poaching and loss of prey in their high Himalayan habitat.

“The species still faces ‘a high risk of extinction in the wild’ and is likely still declining — just not at the rate previously thought,” said Tom McCarthy, head of the snow leopard program at the big cat conservation group Panthera.

Snow leopards had been listed as endangered since 1972.

The reclassification announced yesterday by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, or IUCN, followed a three-year assessment that determined there are not fewer than 2,500 mature snow leopards in the wild, and that their numbers are not in steep decline — the two criteria for being considered “endangered.”

Using improved methods for assessing the cats’ population, experts estimated there are at least about 4,000 in the wild, though there could be as many as 10,000.

Scientists have managed to

survey only a small fraction of the animal’s high-mountain range, an area covering some 1.8 million square kilometers crossing into 12 countries in Asia.

Doing the research “is difficult,” said Peter Zahler, coordinator of the snow leopard program at the Wildlife Conservation Society, who was involved in the multi-agency team’s assessment. “It involves an enormous amount of work in some of the most remote and inhospitable regions of the world.”

New technologies, including camera traps and satellite collaring, are “giving us better information about where snow leopards are and how far they range,” he said.

Some positive developments included an increase in the number of protected areas, as well as stepped-up efforts by local communities to protect the animals from poachers.

Communities were also working to prevent cases of local herdsman retaliating for lost livestock by building predator-proof livestock corrals, team member Rodney Jackson of the Snow Leopard

AP PHOTO



Conservancy group said in a statement.

Still, the animals are hunted for their thick fur and bones. They also face declining numbers of wild prey, as domestic livestock have degraded grasslands.

Whether they might be impacted by global warming remains uncertain. But scientists agree the Himalayas are one of the world’s most susceptible regions to climate change.

“Saying snow leopards are

now ‘vulnerable’ rather than ‘endangered’ doesn’t mean they’re safe,” Zahler said. “It doesn’t take much to make large predators disappear from landscapes. We’ve seen it happen over and over again around the world.” **AP**

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## Asian businesses mull tech solutions to fight modern slavery

**A**SIA Pacific business leaders are working on recommendations to protect migrant workers from modern day slavery and to ensure companies’ supply sources are free from such unethical employment, according to Australia’s ambassador for people smuggling and human trafficking.

One idea might be to create a regional website that rates employment recruiters — something already being done in Vietnam, Andrew Golezdzinski said. Another idea could be to designate a common telephone number as a regional hotline, similar to what the sportswear company Adidas provides to its factory workers in China and elsewhere.

Golezdzinski suggested the ideas at a forum of officials and business leaders from 45 Indo-Pacific countries and territories known as the Bali



Process that also aims at ensuring companies’ supply of materials are not tainted by unethical employment.

Participants agreed at the meeting in Perth, Australia, to submit specific recommendations to governments next year.

“We are hoping they will come up with the recommendations for how to better manage the recruitment of migrant workers and the pro-

tection of migrant workers” he said in an interview Wednesday. He said the measures also aim “to manage supply chain transparency so that businesses are not just responsible for what happens in their business, but also who they buy from.”

Migrant workers often end up dealing with recruiters they do not know, being charged high fees and having their passports taken when they

reach their destination, Golezdzinski said.

“And very quickly you are trafficked, in fact, you are in debt bondage,” he said, expressing hope that business leaders agree that “migrant workers should not have to pay for their own recruitment.”

The recommendations will cover employment ethics, transparency standards and safeguards for victims and whistle-blowers. Some will be classed as minimum standards, and some as more ambitious targets.

“There’s a lot that can be done which actually is quite easy but it only works if everyone does it,” Golezdzinski said.

The Bali Process started in 2002 and includes representatives from the U.S., China, India, Japan, Afghanistan, North Korea and countries in Southeast Asia. **AP**

## CAMBODIA

## PM suspending US MIA searches over visa ban

**C**AMBODIAN Prime Minister Hun Sen says he will retaliate against a U.S. halt on the issuing of visas to senior foreign ministry officials and their families by suspending missions by U.S. military-led teams searching for the remains of Americans missing in action from the Vietnam War.

Cambodia’s pro-government Fresh News website reported yesterday that Hun Sen said cooperation with the United States on the MIA search would be suspended until the two countries resolve several issues, especially the visa ban. Government spokesman Phay Siphon confirmed the report.

The U.S. government lists 48 Americans still unaccounted for in Cambodia.

The U.S. Embassy instituted the visa ban on Wednesday, saying that Cambodia had refused or delayed accepting Cambodian nationals being deported by the United States after being convicted of crimes.





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Jill Lawless, London

UK

A government-ordered inquiry into the London tower block fire that killed at least 80 people opened yesterday, with its leader acknowledging that survivors feel a "great sense of anger and betrayal."

Retired judge Martin Moore-Bick said he hoped his investigation would "provide a small measure of solace" by answering how such a disaster could happen in 21st-century London.

The June 14 blaze began in a refrigerator in an apartment at Grenfell Tower before racing through the 24-story building. One aspect of the investigation will be the role of combustible aluminum cladding installed during a refurbishment to the 1970s tower block. Emergency safety checks have uncovered scores of other buildings across Britain with similar cladding.

The fire was Britain's deadliest in more than a century, and provoked intense grief and anger. Many residents accuse officials in Kensington and Chelsea, one of London's richest boroughs, of ignoring their safety concerns because the tower building was home to a largely immigrant and working-class population.

Moore-Bick said he was awa-

AP PHOTO

The fire was Britain's deadliest in more than a century, provoked intense grief and anger



re that "former residents of the tower and local people feel a great sense of anger and betrayal."

"That is entirely natural and understandable," he said. "But if the inquiry is to get to the

truth of what happened, it must seek out all the evidence and examine it calmly and rationally."

Moore-Bick's inquiry will look at causes of the blaze, the response of local authorities and

the country's high-rise building regulations. But some survivors are critical because it will not investigate wider issues around social housing in Britain that many residents had wanted to include.

The lawmaker for the area, opposition Labour politician Emma Dent Coad, said the inquiry might provide "a technical assessment of what happened."

But she said it would not get to the heart of "the bigger questions ... all the 'why' questions that aren't being answered."

London police are conducting a separate criminal inquiry, and have said they will consider whether authorities committed corporate manslaughter.

Residents are also frustrated at the slow pace of the inquiry, which opened exactly three months after the blaze. Moore-Bick said he hoped to begin public evidence sessions by the end of the year and produce an interim report by Easter 2018.

He said "there are many potential witnesses still to be interviewed and many thousands of documents to be reviewed."

"The scale of the task is enormous," the judge said. AP

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12:50	AL elections campaign
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	AL elections campaign
15:00	RTPi Live
16:30	AL Elections Debate (Repeated)
17:40	Europe League: Hoffenheim - Braga (Repeated)
19:25	Cariocas (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	AL elections campaign
21:25	Portuguese Serie
22:10	Cariocas
22:50	AL elections campaign
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Europe League - Highlights
01:25	RTPi Live

## SATURDAY

10:25	Comedy
11:45	Miscellaneous
12:35	Chefs
12:40	Miscellaneous
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
14:50	Soap Opera (PT)
16:50	Non-daily Portuguese News
17:20	Jewel
18:15	Miscellaneous
19:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Drama (PT)
21:50	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

## SUNDAY

10:25	The Last Treasure
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Zig Zag
16:45	Pop Lusa
17:40	Brainstorm
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Documentary Serie
22:00	Special AL Elections
23:00	TDM News
23:20	Special AL Elections

## Offbeat

## PATHOLOGIST SUSPECTED OF DRUNKEN DRIVING TOTED HUMAN ORGANS

Authorities in central Indiana say a pathologist arrested on suspicion of drunken driving had human organs and tissues in his pickup truck when he was pulled over along a rural highway.

Seventy-five-year-old Elmo Griggs was arrested earlier this week in the Morgan County town of Brooklyn after another motorist reported a truck driving erratically along Indiana 67 about 16 kilometers southwest of Indianapolis.

Griggs was released from jail after posting bail. Online court records don't list an attorney for him.

Morgan County Coroner Annette Rohlman says Griggs had several totes inside the truck and in its bed that contained brain and liver samples and internal organs for his private autopsy practice. She says it's not surprising that a pathologist would be transporting such samples.

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

14 SEP - 20 SEP



IT

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:45, 7:15 9:45pm

Director: Andres Muschietti

Starring: Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher, Finn Wolfhard

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



WOLF WARRIOR II

ROOM 2

2:15, 4:45, 7:15 9:45pm

Director: Jason Wu

Starring: Jason Wu, Qian Yu, Nan Yu

Language: Putonghua (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 126min



DANGAL

ROOM 3

2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

Director: Nitesh Tiwari

Starring: Aamir Khan, Sakshi Tanwar, Fatima Sana Shaikh

Language: Hindi (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 164min

## this day in history



General Douglas MacArthur

## 1950 UN STAGES DARING ASSAULT ON INCHON

The United Nations has landed up to 50,000 troops behind enemy lines at Inchon, on the west coast of Korea.

Inchon operates as a port for the South Korean capital, Seoul, and the offensive - the first major counter-strike of the war by the US-led allied forces and the South Koreans - is currently reported to be making good progress towards the city.

Seoul has been occupied by Communist North Korea since shortly after its troops invaded the south of the country without warning on 25 June this year.

The republican government fled its own capital in the face of the aggression, which was immediately condemned by the United Nations.

The United States, which believes the USSR to be behind the North Korean action, has since backed the South Koreans with troops and other military assistance.

Operation Chromite - as the current offensive is known - began at 0600 local time.

A massive fleet of 262 ships, including British, Canadian and Australian vessels, sailed to the coast off Inchon and landed an advance force of US Marines on Wolmi Island, connected to Inchon by a half-mile-long causeway.

They took the island within 30 minutes and carried on across the causeway to the Korean mainland.

The second wave of infantry was delayed by high tides, but landed at 1700 local time. Led by tanks, they pushed two miles inland under covering fire from aircraft which attacked North Korean shore batteries with rockets and bombs.

The allied landing forces were the largest assembled anywhere since World War II.

They were watched by their commander, General Douglas MacArthur, from the flagship of the supporting fleet.

After the initial landings, he signalled to the assault force, "The Navy and Marines have never shone more brightly than this morning."

In a later report to the Defence Department in Washington, he said casualties were light and the whole operation at Inchon was proceeding on schedule.

He also paid tribute to "the clockwork coordination and cooperation between the services involved."

The South Korean Commander-in-Chief, Major-General Chung Il Kwon, said the invading forces were putting pressure on the Communists near Kimpo airfield, a big air base to the north of Inchon.

There has been little resistance from the North Korean People's Army (NKPA), who are believed to have been taken completely by surprise by the attack.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Inchon landings were among the greatest amphibious assaults in military history, and proved a turning point in the Korean War. North Korean forces found their recent advances reversed in the face of the allied offensive, and by the end of the month the United Nations had re-taken Seoul.

General MacArthur pursued the NKPA back behind the 38th Parallel, the border dividing the country into two halves after the end of World War II. UN forces captured the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, on 19 October, but when the Chinese joined the war on 26 November the tide turned dramatically against the allies.

The US Marines were driven back south of the 38th Parallel again, and Seoul was to change hands twice more before the war degenerated into stalemate.

After 18 months of painstaking negotiation, the two sides agreed an armistice on 27 July 1953.

It restored the 38th Parallel as a border and established a 2.4 mile (4km) wide demilitarisation zone.

To this day, the two sides have not signed a peace treaty and remain technically at war.



YOUR STARS

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Instead of automatically expecting people to go back on their word, you can expect that they won't. In fact, you and a dear one can even establish a deeper trust if you have that conversation you've been putting off.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
A work-related matter that's been on hold - making you absolutely crazy for the past several weeks - is about to come to a happy close. Not quite yet, however, and not nearly soon enough.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
You're in quite an unusual mood, aren't you? Not at all up for your typical pursuits: partying, laughing with friends and chatting up new people. No, today you're after intensity.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You may need to do some impromptu counseling this afternoon, so prepare yourself. The heavens have arranged for a good dose of jealousy to circulate around you.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
A nice, grounded dose of stability, a heady potion tailor-made for romance and a collaboration between two particular planets determined to get you worrying about whether your sweetie is being faithful.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
With the possible exception of some fireworks on the job, you'll have a fine time today. So if jealousy or resentment comes up, don't feed any of your valuable energy into it, and it will go away.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
Today could get a little tricky, but only if you let it. The most important thing you can do is to separate yourself from negative energy, gloomy people, and harmful or depressing circumstances.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
You'll be in the unique position of yielding to your elders today, and it may feel weird at first. So if you find yourself in the position of backing down from a dispute with an authority figure - don't feel bad about it.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Despite someone's efforts to dissuade you, what you're still after, first and foremost, is quiet time. You don't want any noise, confusion or ruckus from the maddening crowd.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
There's definitely something to be said for keeping quiet when you have a wonderful secret - you know, the kind that keeps you grinning and staring out the window when you're supposed to be working.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
You're putting out some pretty high-octane vibes at the moment, attracting the attention of just about everyone who happens to amble by. Do them - and yourself - a favor.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
If someone strikes you as not quite on the up-and-up, don't try to talk yourself out of it. Your antennae are consistently pretty keen, but at the moment, they'll be especially accurate.



**SUDOKU**

Easy

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**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	19	28	overcast
Harbin	6	20	clear
Tianjin	22	30	cloudy
Urumqi	11	20	cloudy
Xi'an	19	26	cloudy/shower
Lhasa	12	23	cloudy
Chengdu	20	23	drizzle
Chongqing	24	33	cloudy
Kunming	17	25	shower
Nanjing	20	27	cloudy/overcast
Shanghai	24	27	drizzle
Wuhan	18	30	clear
Hangzhou	22	26	shower
Taipei	28	33	overcast
Guangzhou	26	34	cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	shower/cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	9	20	drizzle
Frankfurt	9	14	drizzle
Paris	10	15	drizzle
London	10	16	cloudy/drizzle
New York	19	27	drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Complacent; 5- Kentucky college; 10- 27th president of the U.S.; 14- Rent-\_\_\_; 15- The Pacific, for example; 16- 160 square rods; 17- Of the nature of a miracle; 19- Sgts., e.g.; 20- Gogol's "\_\_\_ Bulba"; 21- Writer Hemingway; 23- Ill-fated; 26- Weakness; 27- Salty; 28- Son of the sovereign; 29- Minotaur's home; 30- African antelope; 31- \_\_\_ Tin Tin; 34- Oil of \_\_\_; 35- Ridiculous; 36- Temple; 37- Craggy hill; 38- Caper; 39- \_\_\_ de Leon; 40- Left-\_\_\_ compliment; insult; 42- Gadget; 43- Big consumer; 45- Roman goddess of war; 46- Calamitous; 47- Moves with care; 48- Change the decor; 49- Highest rank in scouting; 54- Robert of "The Sopranos"; 55- Chad neighbor; 56- Too; 57- "Betsy's Wedding" star; 58- Romantic rendezvous; 59- Hammer part;

**DOWN:** 1- Newsmen Donaldson; 2- AT&T rival; 3- Nasser's org.; 4- Tip; 5- A stock exchange; 6- Brilliance; 7- Classic autos; 8- \_\_\_ de cologne; 9- Resembling a goose; 10- Pertaining to tea acid; 11- Gradually increasing in speed; 12- Frozen dew; 13- Irritable; 18- Chili con \_\_\_; 22- McNally's partner; 23- Cravat; 24- Monte \_\_\_; 25- Having an alert mind; 26- Former French currency; 28- Tartan; 30- Go into; 32- Early Peruvian; 33- I \_\_\_ vacation!; 35- Unseemly; 36- Writing paper; 38- The King \_\_\_; 39- Warsaw residents; 41- Goat hair fabric; 42- Barren place; 43- Narrow groove; 44- Shampoo brand; 45- Bundles; 47- Like custard; 50- Televisé; 51- Grand \_\_\_ Opry; 52- Employ; 53- Unit of weight;

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E	A	R	L		R	U	L	E	D		A	C	T	S						
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Eddie Pells, Lima

**T**HE tears welling in the Paris mayor's eyes told the story one way. The words the Los Angeles mayor spoke told it another. This was one of those rare Olympic moments when everyone walked away a winner.

Paris for 2024. Los Angeles for 2028. And the International Olympic Committee for transforming its unruly, tension-filled and sometimes corrupt bidding process into a history-making, two-city victory that secures the future of the Games for the next 11 years.

"This is a pretty radical revolution today," LA mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Usually, we have two or three cities crying in a corner, and one glorious victory. In this world, there are enough losers today, enough people who go after dreams to have them crushed. Today, we model something that can be different."

Different, as in the first time the IOC has granted two Summer Olympics at once. And different, in that there was no need for a secret ballot or any last-minute, back-room deal making. This result came after a year's worth of scrambling by IOC president Thomas Bach, who had only the two bidders left for the original prize, 2024, and couldn't afford to see either lose.

There was no drama — the decision had been locked in for more than a month. But to say there was no emotion would not be true.

After Bach called for a show of hands to approve the dual award, dozens of arms shot skyward from the audience; moments later, Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo stood next to the IOC president dabbing tears from her eyes.

"It was a very strong, very emotive moment," Hidalgo said. "We are all united. Altogether, it's very special for us, because in France, and in other countries, that's not usual."

Moments after the vote, Bach handed cards with the winners' names on them to Hidalgo and Garcetti. One read "Paris 2024," and the other "LA 2028." It was a mere formality, yet both mayors held them aloft with wide smiles on their faces.

Both cities will host their third Olympics.

The Paris Games will come on

# Win-win: Paris awarded '24 Olympics, LA gets '28



Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo (center) speaks with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garrett (right)

the 100th anniversary of its last turn. That milestone, plus the fact that Paris has been on the losing end of these bids for 1992, 2008 and 2012, would have made the French capital the sentimental favorite had only 2024 been up for grabs.

Los Angeles moved to 2028, and those Olympics will halt a stretch of 32 years without a Summer Games in the United States. In exchange for the compromise, LA will grab an extra \$300 million or more that could help offset the uncertainties that lie ahead over an 11-year wait instead of seven.

"We're ready now," Garcetti insisted, speaking of a city that has virtually every sports venue already in place.

Without any nail-biting conclusion to see, the post-vote celebration at the Eiffel Tower was a sparsely attended near rain-out. Los Angeles held a small event with Olympians Nastia Liukin and John Naber standing beneath the blazing Olympic cauldron at the famous LA Coliseum, but it was mostly media, and no fans.

Meanwhile, in the Lima exhibition hall, the California-cool LA delegation wore sneakers to the presentation, and was going

to forego neckties, too, before thinking better of it.

In this never-before-seen style of selection, Bach asked the 94 IOC members to allow the real contests to play out at the Olympics themselves and transform the vote from a game of sorts into a pure business decision.

It wasn't such a bad idea considering the news still seeping out about a bid scandal involving a Brazilian IOC member's alleged vote-selling to bring the 2016 Olympics to Rio de Janeiro.

## It is the first time the IOC has granted two Summer Olympics at once

More than that, Bach needed to ensure stability for his brand.

The public in many cities is no longer keen to approve blank checks for bid committees and governments that have to come up with the millions simply to bid for the Olympics, then billions

more to stage them if they win.

That reality hit hard when three of the original five bidders for 2024 — Rome, Hamburg, Germany, and Budapest, Hungary — dropped out, and the U.S. Olympic Committee had to pull the plug on its initial candidate, Boston, due to lack of public support.

"This is a solution to an awkward problem," said longtime IOC member Dick Pound of Canada.

It was solved by Paris and Los Angeles, two cities with a storied tradition of Olympic hosting and an apparent understanding of Bach's much-touted reform package, known as Agenda 2020. It seeks to streamline the Games, most notably by eliminating billion-dollar stadiums and infrastructure projects that have been underused, if used at all, once the Olympics leave town.

Can they deliver? Paris will have the traditional seven-year time frame to answer that. Only one totally new venue is planned — a swimming and diving arena to be built near the Stade de France, which will serve as the Olympic stadium. In all, the projected cost of new venues and upgrades to others is USD892 million.

To be sure, Paris already has much to work with. Beach volleyball will be played near the Eiffel Tower; cycling will finish at the Arc de Triomphe; equestrian will be held at the Chateau de Versailles. And what would an Olympics be without some water-quality issues? There will be pressure to clean up the River Seine, which is where open-water and triathlon will be held.

Los Angeles, meanwhile, will get an extra four years that Garcetti insists is hardly needed. Los Angeles proposed a \$5.3 billion budget for 2024 (to be adjusted for 2028) that included infrastructure, operational costs — everything. A big number, indeed, though it must be put into perspective: Earlier this summer, organizers in Tokyo estimated their cost for the 2020 Games at \$12.6 billion.

Traffic could be a problem — it almost always is in LA — but the city will be well along in its multi-decade, multibillion-dollar transit upgrade by 2028. Those with long memories recall free-flowing highways the last time the Olympics came to town, as locals either left the city or heeded warnings to use public transportation or stay home.

Those 1984 Games essentially saved the Olympic movement after a decade of terror, red ink and a boycott sullied the brand and made hosting a burden. The city points to its Olympic legacy to explain a nearly unheard-of 83 percent approval rating in a self-commissioned poll — not an insignificant factor when the IOC picks a place to bring its crown-jewel event.

Along with Paris, LA is stepping in again to try to change the conversation about what hosting the Olympics can really be.

"I think it's a very positive message about the value of the Olympic movement and the value of the Olympic Games," said Sergei Bubka, the Olympic champion pole vaulter, who is an honorary member of the IOC. "I think we're going in the right direction." **AP**

## FOOTBALL

# World Cup qualifying: Syria to play Australia in Malaysia

**FOOTBALL** Federation Australia says it has received official confirmation that Syria will host the Socceros in Malaysia in the first leg of the Asian World Cup qualifying playoff next month.

As a result of the conti-

nuing civil war in its home country, Syria played all of its third-round Asian World Cup qualifying matches in Malaysia, where the Asian Football Confederation has its headquarters. Officials have stuck with the formula by confirming Hang Jebat

Stadium in Malacca for its Oct. 5 "home" game, despite speculation the playoff could be staged in the Middle East.

The Socceros will host the return match on Oct. 10 in Sydney.

The winner of the Asian

playoff will face the fourth-place team from CONCACAF qualifying in North and Central America in another home-and-away series for a place in next year's World Cup in Russia.

Four countries from Asia have already qualified di-

rectly for the World Cup, leaving a route through the last-ditch qualifies for another two.

Syria, which has never reached the World Cup finals, secured third spot in Group A with a win in Tehran against already qualified

Iran. South Korea also qualified from Group A.

Australia placed third in Group B, edged out on goal difference by Saudi Arabia in the very last game of the round when the Saudis edged already qualified Japan at home. **AP**



opinion

**Kapok**  
Eric Sautedé



UNFAIR IT IS

In a two-round election, you follow your heart in the first round and trust your brain in the second. In Macao, we only have one round, so both heart and brain have to be mobilised together. More so because this unique shot at excessively limited democracy happens within a very unfair system.

Unfair because only 14 seats out of 33 are returned via universal suffrage. That is a mere 42.4% of the legislature elected via some kind of competitive suffrage whereas the Macao Basic Law clearly states that “the majority of its members shall be elected”. Contempt for the ultimate law of the land is thus added to injustice!

To be clear, the so-called 12 “indirectly-elected” legislators do not deserve the label of “elected”, unless exactly matching the number of candidates with the number of seats somehow fits the notion of competition.

Has there been any progress since the handover? Yes indeed, at the pace of what Macao government considers acceptable: we had 10 elected legislators out of 27 in 2001 (37%), growing to 12 out of 29 in 2005 (41.4%) as specified in the Basic Law, and then in 2012, the government took it upon itself to add 2 directly elected seats and 2 indirectly elected seats for the 2013 elections... at the time it was deemed a “successful progress in constitutional development” — an extra 1% for the representation of the population at large!

Unfair because of the voting system. The so-called “modified d’Hondt” mechanism, a subcategory of Party-list proportional representation, is designed to break down the totality of seats into tiny pieces. The original design was fine as far as representativeness was concerned — although it applied to only a fraction of the Assembly — but Macao introduced its own modification for the pre-handover 1992 elections: the quotient ascribed to calculate the allocation of successive seats after the first one was significantly inflated, thus making it quasi-impossible to elect four members on any single list. Obviously, the then president of the Assembly, Carlos d’Assumpção, had not taken lightly that another list, connected to the independent Chinese-backed “livelihood faction” led by Alexandre Ho Si Him, had received the most votes and managed to lodge three legislators in the 1988 chamber. 1992 then saw the first victory of Ng Kuok Cheong, on a democratic agenda, as well as the first election of Fernando Chui Sai On, on a list, strangely enough, representing the Macao Federation of Trade Unions. Since then, the number of lists in competition has soared, and split lists can even be said to be a 2017 “new normal”!

Finally, it is unfair because of the rigidity of the electoral law regarding campaigning — even more so since the December 2016 amendments — and the unbalanced witch-hunt conducted by the Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL). Posting a unique electoral flag outside a dedicated campaigning site is liable to prosecution. But patriotic schools instructing parents on which candidate to choose is of no concern to the Commission. The same goes for the sixty “non-electoral activities involving the distribution of benefits” as detailed by Jornal Tribuna de Macau earlier this week, connected to prominent traditional associations and the lists conducted by Mak Soi Kun, Si Ka Lon, Song Pek Kei, Ho Ion Sang, Wong Kit Cheng, Angela Leong and Melinda Chan. Further, even the CAEAL and the CCAC are for now turning a blind eye on “non-electoral activities intended to confer benefits in which candidates are involved” (!): no less than 62 events for Wong Kit Cheng & co, 24 for Si Ka Lon & co., and an identical 13 events for Angela Leong & co. and Mak Soi Kun & co.

Not so long ago, members of such a traditional and communal association were condemned in first and second instances to prison terms and ineligibility for vote buying despite having denounced selective law enforcement and even political persecution. The times they are a-changin’!

THE BUZZ REPORTS: CHINA ORDERS BITCOIN EXCHANGES TO SHUT DOWN

Regulators have ordered Chinese bitcoin exchanges to close, two business newspapers reported yesterday, after uncertainty about the digital currency’s future in China caused its price to plunge.

Regulators in Shanghai, the country’s financial center, gave verbal instructions to exchange operators to shut down, China Business News and 21st Century Economic Report said on their websites.

The central bank has yet to respond to questions about bitcoin’s future in China but earlier warned it was traded without regulatory oversight and might be linked to fraud. The bank banned initial offerings of new digital currencies last week.

Bitcoin is created and exchanged without the involvement of banks or governments. Rumors that China planned to ban bitcoin has caused its market price to tumble 20 percent since Sept. 8.

# Scientists: Future of oldest tree species on Earth in peril

Scott Smith, Fresno (Calif.)

THE bristlecone pine tree, famous for its wind-beaten, gnarly limbs and having the longest lifespan on Earth, is losing a race to the top of mountains throughout the Western United States, putting future generations in peril, researchers said yesterday.

Driven by climate change, a cousin of the tree, the limber pine, is leapfrogging up mountainsides, taking root in warmer, more favorable temperatures and leaving little room for the late-coming bristlecone, a study finds.

Researchers compare the competing tree species to a pair of old men in a slow-motion race up a mountainside taking thousands of years, and climate change is the starting gun.

“Limber pine is taking all the good spots,” said Brian Smithers, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Davis, who led the research. “It’s jarring.”

The bristlecone pine can live 5,000 years, making it the oldest individually growing organism on the planet, researchers say.

Forests of the diminutive bristlecone pines are found in eastern California, Nevada and Utah. They thrive in desolate limestone soil that is inhospitable to most trees.



Gnarled bristlecone pine trees in the White Mountains in east of Bishop, California

They grow at high elevation, hammered by wind and extreme temperatures.

The punishing conditions give shape to their twisted limbs. To survive long dry spells, parts of the tree dies and sheds its bark appearing dead, except for small spouts of green pine needles, signaling life, researchers say.

## The bristlecone pine tree can live 5,000 years

Among the oldest and most famous is Methuselah standing in the White Mountains of eastern California. It remains unmarked among its grove, so vandals cannot find it.

The bristlecone pine’s dis-

tant relative, the limber pine is also a hearty survivalist, living 2,000 years. Researchers say they found that the limber pine, which typically grows at lower elevations, has begun to “leapfrog” past the bristlecone.

The three-year study involved counting the trees newly sprouting within the last 50 years above the historical tree line. Most of those growing at the higher elevation are limber pine, researchers said.

“It’s very odd to see it charging upslope and not see bristlecone charging upslope ahead of the limber pine,” Smithers said. “Or at least with it.”

Smithers said he could not estimate how many bristlecone pine trees exist throughout the Western U.S. They are not at risk of extinction, but they could be crowded out in some places they’ve grown for thousands of years. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-80 Good	
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Good	
Ambient	65-85 Good	

SOURCE: D5M6

WORLD BRIEFS

**JAPAN-INDIA** India and Japan launched work on a high-speed train line in the western Indian state of Gujarat yesterday during a visit by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The “bullet train” will link Ahmadabad, the main commercial city in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s native state, to India’s financial capital of Mumbai.



**AUSTRALIA** An Australian senator who a month ago provoked an angry backlash by wearing a burqa in Parliament urged lawmakers yesterday to ban full-face Islamic coverings in public places.

**RUSSIA** Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are watching with concern the latest round of Russian military drills that some analysts think might be the largest of their kind since the Cold War.

**AFGHANISTAN** A Finnish woman who had been kidnapped in Afghanistan was released yesterday and is safe, officials said. Finnish foreign minister Timo Soini told a news conference that Finland did not pay ransom “and never would.”

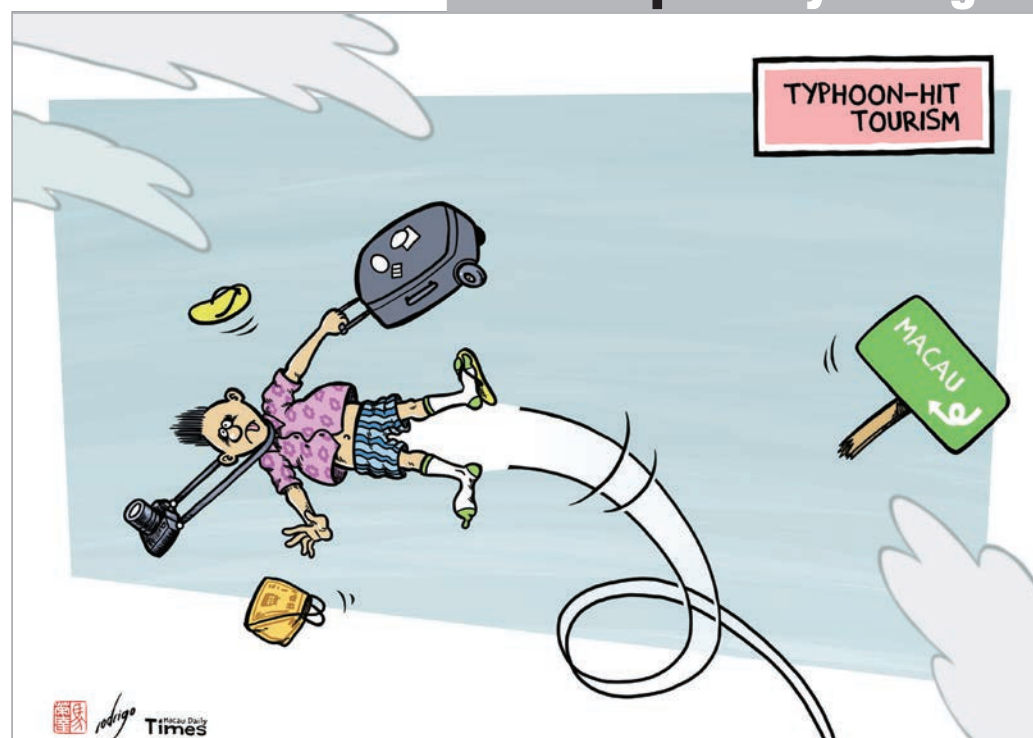
**ITALY-GREECE** The prime ministers of Greece and Italy have stressed that European countries should share the burden of dealing with migration, rather than establish “fences and exclusions that undermine our European values.”



**URUGUAY** Lucia Topolansky, the wife of former President Jose Mujica and a former guerrilla who was imprisoned and later rose through the political ranks to become a lawmaker, has been appointed Uruguay’s vice president. She will also head the Senate and the congress’ general assembly.

**BRAZIL**’s top court has authorized a new corruption and money laundering investigation of President Michel Temer in yet another case that raises the possibility of his suspension from office.

times square by rodrigo



AP PHOTO