



**A GUIDE:
WHERE TO
GO FOR THE
NEW YEAR'S
COUNTDOWN**

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**GOVERNMENT TO CURB
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY FEES**

The ExCo wants to limit agencies' recruitment fees to a maximum of 50 percent of an employee's salary

P4



**US SHOULD SUPPRESS
DEMAND FOR OPIOIDS**

The US should cut down demand for opioids, a top Chinese drug enforcement official said yesterday

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GREATER BAY

Macau may have to compromise autonomy

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RENATO MARQUES



WORLD BRIEFS



SOUTH KOREAN
President Moon Jae-in said yesterday the country's 2015 agreement with Japan to settle a decades-long impasse over Korean women forced into wartime sexual slavery was seriously flawed. *More on p12*

VIETNAM Courts have handed down harsh prison sentences to two dozen people after finding them guilty of terrorism and subversion, including in a bombing linked to an exiled group, state media reported yesterday.



RUSSIA President Vladimir Putin says Russia's actions in Syria have demonstrated the power of the nation's modernized military to the world. He said more than 48,000 Russian troops who took part in the Syria campaign were fighting for their "homeland, for a just and fair cause."

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FROM HALLS TO HOLIDAYS

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INSIDE

MACAU DAILY TIMES
PERSON OF THE YEAR
Sulu Sou
Lawmaker



3-2-1...

Where to go for the New Year's Eve countdown

Lynzy Valles

SEVERAL integrated resorts are hosting countdown parties, featuring music and entertainment to celebrate New Year's Eve on Sunday.

Sands Resorts Macao welcomes guests and visitors to celebrate with an outdoor countdown celebration at The Venetian Macao Lagoon and the forecourt of The Parisian Macao with an evening of music and entertainment.

The integrated resort will fea-

ture Kolor & Candy Lo, Andy Frasco & the U.N., Blue Note and a 3D light and sound display at midnight.

On the stroke of midnight, the countdown clock will transform the façade of The Venetian Macao into a magnificent 3D light show. At the Parisian, the majestic Eiffel Tower will also countdown the end to the year with a dazzling light show.

At The Macallan Whisky Bar & Lounge, guests can celebrate the arrival of 2018 with whisky and champagne, served at spe-

cial prices, and lucky draw prizes, while China Rouge will present a dancing show and DJ performance.

Meanwhile, Studio City offers "The Biggest Night" NYE Celebration Package. The package will begin with the opportunity to enjoy a drink in the figure-8 Ferris wheel in a private cabin, followed by unlimited drinks, snacks and canapes at Premiere Bar.

VIP admission to Pacha's Circus Freaks New Year's Eve event and countdown is availa-

ble to only 150 guests.

Each cabin is entitled to one lucky draw entry at Premiere Bar. The prizes will include a NYE Table Package at Pacha Macao, including four bottles of Moët & Chandon Champagne and Batman Dark Flight tickets.

At Macau's Fisherman's Wharf, its annual party will feature rock and roll band Mr., popular singers Sammy Sum, J.Arie, Vivian Chan, Naomi Li, together with local group MFM and the band Crossline. The set will play until midnight.

Hard Rock Café Macau will host a "Bling Bling New Year's Countdown Party" from 10 p.m. and will feature a series of activities including a raffle and games. Seats will be offered on a first-come-first-basis and standing space will also be available.

The Roadhouse Macao will present its "Rock into 2018!" party with prizes, a midnight balloon drop and a limousine service.

Ponte 16 Resort will be presenting a series of celebratory activities from the afternoon of New Year Eve including festive delicacies and rewards continuing into the night.

The C AllStar group from Hong Kong and Macau singer Terence Chui have been invited to perform at the "Ponte 16 New Year's Eve Countdown Music Party 2017".

Hong Kong artist Mayao Ma and Macau singers Ken Sou and Ring Hun and a local dance group are also set to perform.

Participants will also enjoy the chance to win a free trip to Bangkok with 5-star hotel accommodation for two and other prizes in the Ponte 16 Resort Countdown Lucky Draw.

Gaming regulator grants more tables for Wynn Palace, Parisian Macao

Gaming operators Wynn Macau and Sands China will each be getting the 25 new-to-market gaming tables to which they were entitled for their casino resorts Wynn Palace and Parisian Macao respectively, as of January 1, 2018, GGRAsia reported. "Both Wynn and Venetian have submitted applications for the 25 new gaming tables and DICJ has issued the respective approval," stated the DICJ this week. In the case of Sands China, the application for the remaining 25 gaming tables was submitted by Venetian Macau Ltd, the entity holding the Macau gaming license on behalf of the Hong Kong-listed entity.

Gongbei seized counterfeit goods during nationwide action

DURING the past three months, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) registered 253 cases of intellectual property infringement, according to a statement released by the Chinese Customs authority.

The seizure of more than 3.11 million items helped the ri-

ghts holders to restore economic losses of RMB74.4 million, according to China's Customs authority.

The nationwide action took place across various regions, including Zhuhai, Guangzhou, Xiamen, Ningbo, Shenzhen and Shanghai.

The Gongbei Customs authority issued

223 customs declarations involving intellectual property infringement.

Gongbei Customs seized 8,229 lamps and lanterns and 353 lighting accessories that were declared ready for export by a Zhongshan company.

As part of a joint action with Xiamen customs, the Gongbei

customs authority also seized 350,000 boxes of mosquito-repellent incense worth more than RMB390,000.

The nationwide seizure was done to protect the reputation of China's brands.

The GACC believes that the action enhanced the global reputation of Chinese

companies in terms of international trade. It also believes that the action has made the international community aware of the reality that the "made in China" stereotype has been rigorously updated so that goods may now be more accurately referred to as being "created in China" instead. **JZ**

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ANALYSIS | GREATER BAY AREA

Macau may have to compromise on its economic autonomy

Daniel Beittler

A policy advanced by Beijing for both political and economic purposes, the Greater Bay Area envisions a giant metropolis binding together the 11 major settlements of the Pearl River Delta region. With a combined population fast approaching the 70 million mark and a GDP of some USD1.4 trillion last year, this highly urbanized region is set to become the world's richest bay area by 2030, beating out rivals in Tokyo, San Francisco and New York.

The idea of a Greater Bay Area originated in Shenzhen as early as 1996, but only since 2016 has it been mentioned in Chinese national policy, even if it is rarely given the benefit of elaboration.

In the absence of a detailed synopsis of what the Greater Bay Area will actually entail, the implication of such an enormous project on Macau's economy belongs firmly in the realm of speculation.

The bay is in some ways a microcosm for a transformation occurring across China, as the country shifts from bread-and-butter manufacturing to a services-based economy.

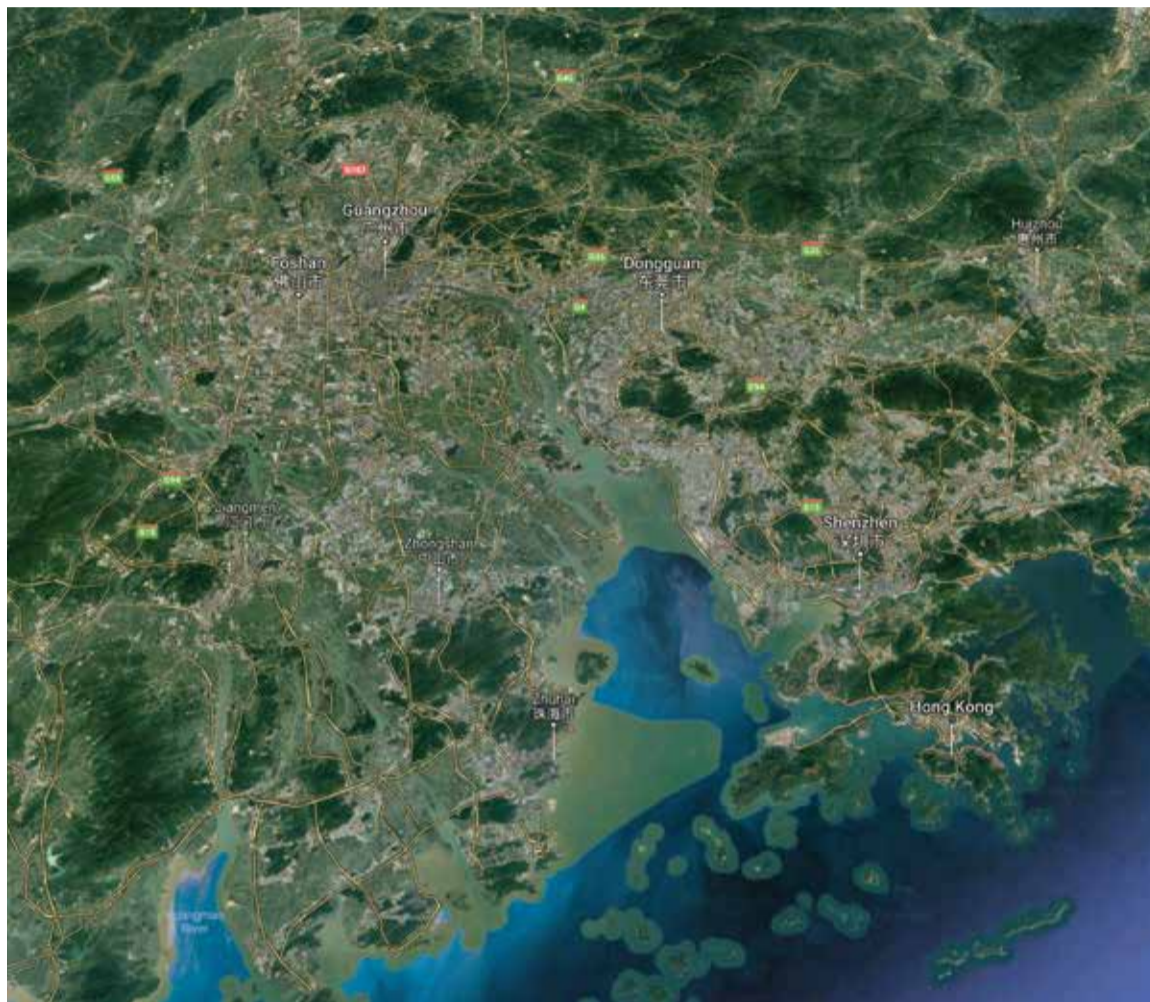
But nowhere is the shift more evident – and appropriate – as it has been in Guangdong Province, along the coastal areas that make up the Pearl River Delta.

For centuries, this part of China has been the most exposed to outside cultural influences. Not only did westerners settle in the enclaves of Hong Kong and Macau, bringing with them cultural traditions, industrial innovation and religion, but a significant portion of the overseas Chinese diaspora can trace their roots back to Guangdong too.

The young cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai, just across the border from the two SARs, also make this region particularly fertile for such a project. They owe their rapid growth to the settlement and labor of Chinese migrants, who bring with them a touch of multiculturalism and an interregional, if not international, mindset.

Analysts are now beginning to weigh in on the project – including HSBC's Greater China CEO, Helen Wong, who gave the "magnificent" project a glowing review recently and described its vision as "not unrealistic."

"Combining the strengths of these core cities together with rest of the Pearl River Delta ci-



ties' vast resources, spaces and cheaper labor, the Greater Bay Area will see substantial improvement in its strength in global cooperation and competition, and ascend to become an important global city cluster for innovation, finance, shipping and trade," Wong wrote in an article for Singapore's Channel NewsAsia.

▲ A tourism rivalry between Macau and Zhuhai might one day become a reality

Though ill-defined in terms of substance, the project will inevitably have wide-ranging implications for Macau and Hong Kong between now and the mid-century 'integration' dates.

One of the most pressing issues is to what extent the Greater Bay Area will compromise economic autonomy in the two regions.

Achieving the policy's stated goal of accelerating economic integration will no doubt require the lifting of certain market protections and the curtailing of self-governance, as has been

the case in the European Union experience.

At the same time, the Macau SAR government will likely want to retain its labor market protections and preferential treatment toward local companies.

This raises interesting dilemmas for Macau, given its village-like economy.

It also raises the pertinent question of whether the Greater Bay Area project will pry open lucrative government and casino contracts to firms in the Pearl River Delta region. If it does not, then the area will continue to function as separate, municipal economies, contrary to the idea of a single economic powerhouse.

A future where chemical companies from Jiangmen and design firms from Zhongshan supply the chemical requirements of the Hospital Conde S. Januário and design the interiors of hotel lobbies may be a matter of decades away. Or sooner.

In the long-term, this might create the sort of economic specialization that could truly transform the region into the "important global city cluster" that Helen Wong predicts. But in the near-term, it would likely price out many of Macau's SMEs and unravel the entrepreneurial spirit that the local government is so keen to encourage.

It might also lead to intense

inter-city competition as local rivals vie for the same market niches.

The recently-inaugurated Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect is a sign that the Central Government is edging the two cities onto equal footing with respect to the financial services industry; a symbolic gesture that could pave the way for future stock market unification.

A tourism rivalry between Macau and Zhuhai might one day become a reality in the south of China too. Disparities in visa requirements, tourist offerings and transportation infrastructure might influence where the Chinese customer chooses to holiday.

Already there are signs of discord over the adjacent island of Hengqin – the tourist development project owned by Zhuhai and financed by Macau, which was supposed to bridge their respective tourism sectors.

The good news is that the tourism offerings of Zhuhai and Macau will eventually come to complement one another. Zhuhai is home to the beaches, natural scenery and most maritime activities, while Macau has its colonial heritage, its gastronomy and its gambling industry. They have been developed with these specialties in mind and – except for Hengqin – the two cities have deliberately avoided stepping on each others' toes.



Nine compete for management contract of five car parks

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) received a total of nine bids to provide management services in five car parks. The five car parks are in the DSAT building, Edificio Fai Fu, Edificio Lido, the Taipa Ferry Terminal and Edificio do Lago. The successful bidder will provide management services starting from May for a six-year period. The car parks in Edificio Lido were damaged during Typhoon Hato.

Customs clarifies controversy surrounding online post

Macao Customs have clarified through a statement that it is not selling seized USB flash drives. Two Facebook accounts called Electronic Storm and Electronic Products claimed via posts that several USB flash drives, which had been previously seized by the Macao Customs, were being sold cheaply. "After negotiations between the Macau government and the Customs, the products are now for sale at a low price. [...] Up to a 90 percent discount," the post reads. Macao Customs clarified that "no such thing" exists and they continued by saying that "since the post resorted to news pictures from the Macao Customs to issue fake information, the occurrence has already been forwarded to the related department for follow-up."

Sign language suggested for government's public consultations

The Macau Deaf Association (MDA) has suggested that the government should equip public consultations and other information events with sign language interpreters and text translations for the convenience of the hearing impaired, which may include senior citizens. Yesterday, MDA president Lau Sut Man noted that many senior citizens have compromised hearing, and that they and the deaf community's rights to receive information should be protected. She also considers that the government's audio inquiry hotlines do not allow people with hearing problems to obtain information appropriately, and has suggested that the government should provide information services through mobile applications.

Julie Zhu

Government proposes additional holiday benefits for civil servants

THE Executive Council (ExCo) proposed that civil servants should not need to notify their departments in advance to take annual leave, spokesman Leong Heng Teng announced at a press conference yesterday. The council has concluded their discussion of the draft of the amendment to the public administration staff regulation.

Currently, civil servants are obliged to notify their departments eight days in advance regarding their annual leave.

Civil servants who have worked for six months in the first year of

their service can enjoy annual leave in advance in the subsequent six months.

The new amendment also grants more rights to civil servants regarding the transfer of leave between different years.

Currently, the public administration employee regulations allow civil servants to transfer a maximum of 11 days of their an-



FINE INTRODUCED OVER EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES' INFRACTIONS

THE EXCO also announced a draft law regarding employment agencies, proposing that an employment agency should charge a maximum of 50 percent of the monthly salary of a job seeker (later referred to as an employee) as a service fee. The service fee should be collected within 60 days from the date that the employee entered into an employment relationship with an employer. Each employment agency should have at least one employment instructor, according to the new draft. The draft also bans employment agencies from providing services to those

who live in Macau but are not Macau residents, further proposing fines against agencies that engage in illegal conduct. The acting director of the Labour Affairs Bureau, Chan Un Tong, said yesterday, during a press conference, that until the end of October, Macau had a total of 148 employment agencies, with 141 of these charging for their services. Chan also reported that, in 2017, approximately 40 infractions by employment agencies were recorded, with the majority of these cases concerning agencies that introduced jobs to non-resi-

dents. The new law proposes a maximum of 33 days to be transferrable.

However, the new policy can only be applied if civil servants were unable to take annual leave due to work reasons, not due to personal reasons.

If a civil servant wishes to transfer annual leave for personal reasons, a maximum of 11 days' leave will remain transferrable instead of the expanded 33 days.

The amendment also grants more benefits to civil servants regarding sick leave. Under the draft amendment, a civil servant who takes 15 days of sick leave or fewer will not see a reduction in their salary; but if a civil servant takes between 16 and 30 days of sick leave, then 50 percent of their salary for the corresponding number of absent days will be deducted.

The draft includes the adjustment of shift work regulations,

suggesting a rest period of a minimum of 10 hours between each shift.

The shifts must be changed at least once every month, and for every four weeks of shiftwork, the civil servants must have at least one day off on a Saturday or a Sunday.

Civil servants will be compensated for working on a public holiday, or if their day off from their shift work period overlaps with a public holiday.

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“Wynn Local SME Network” Boosts Support for Local SMEs

Since 2016, Wynn Resorts (Macau) S.A. and the Macao Chamber of Commerce have cooperated to present a total of four Wynn Local SME Procurement Partnership Meetings. The impact of these business matching activities is already being felt, with Q3 2017 data revealing a 44% surge in Wynn's procurement from the three types of enterprise (local small and micro enterprises, “Made in Macao” enterprises and enterprises by young entrepreneurs) compared with Q2 2017.

The last business matching event in September also marked the official launch of the “Wynn Local SME Network”, a Wynn initiative designed to further foster the development of local SMEs, particularly the three types of enterprise, effectively collating the efforts made by all sectors of society in order to create more opportunities for SMEs.

REGULAR PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS



Naturally, such strong interest in the program and its results do not appear out of thin air, with Wynn having been long committed to supporting local SMEs, working in tandem over the years with a policy of giving preference to local suppliers. Since the launch of the Macao SME Procurement Partnership Program in April of last year, Wynn has partnered with the Macao Chamber of Commerce in hosting four SME partnership meetings, supporting the three types of local enterprises. Together, these four meetings have been attended by over 700 representatives from local SMEs.

The Wynn program provides local SMEs with procurement item opportunities across 36 essential categories, from food and beverage to hotel operations, property facilities to service contracts, and beyond. During partnership meetings, Wynn's procurement representatives and those from related departments become acquainted with local SME representatives and explain the company's procurement needs to each of them, ensuring clear understanding and so enhancing the effectiveness of the meetings. Representatives from local banks were also invited to offer suit-



able schemes supporting the business development of local SMEs as needed.

INITIATING E-PROCUREMENT

When Wynn launched the Macao SME Procurement Partnership Program early last year its clear intention was to achieve its goals by making full use of e-services. Consequently, Wynn commissioned the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) early last year to organize the “Macao Procurement Platform Mobile App Design Competition” with the objective to help micro, small and medium enterprises find more business opportunities through the effective consolidation of procurement information.

The awards ceremony, marking the successful conclusion of the design competition, was held in July of last year, whereby local micro-to-small-sized design company Blupurple Interactive Media Ltd. scooped first place for its invention of the mobile application ChoicePro, a procurement platform for local SMEs that enables large enterprises to centralise the release of procurement information, facilitate new partnerships between them and local SMEs and improve their local supplier database. ChoicePro now hosts a growing user base of over 800 registered enterprises.

At the latest “Wynn Local SME Procurement Partnership Meeting”, CPTTM was invited to present ChoicePro to SME representatives and assist them with registration. As a result, the number of registered users jumped 9% in a single day.

BUSINESS EXPANSION, BRIGHT PROSPECTS



Wynn has throughout the course of the year taken various measures to improve the local business environment and enhance the competitiveness of SMEs. Sunview Construction Co. Ltd., for example, a local small-to-medium-sized construction company founded by Macao registered engineer Ken Chan in 2012 – attended the SME Procurement Partnership Programme for the first time in July of last year, later being selected to be one of Wynn's service providers and receiving their first order from the company in October of the same year. Currently, the company mainly provides Wynn with services such as hotel interior and exterior repair and renovation, as well as furniture design and construction.

Chan emphasised that, in less than a year of dealing with Wynn, they have secured so many orders from the company that it has resulted in a 10% growth in revenue: “The partnership with Wynn has not only brought more revenue,” he said, “but has also enhanced our business management skills. Gaining insights into the construction requirements of large enterprises and learning from their abun-

dant management experience certainly supports the steady and sustainable development of our company.”

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES CREATE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



In view of the growing demand for information technology in Macao, Fei Lok and two friends jointly established Tenfold Information Technology Ltd. five years ago, which is now one of Wynn's service providers. Starting with only two employees, the company now has more than 20 staff.

Maintaining and expanding the business and a dearth of capital and industry professionals are daunting challenges that Lok has managed to overcome by tapping into the SME Aid Scheme launched by the Macao Government. This has resulted in a more stable cash flow, enabling the company to secure its overall operations and business expansion.

“Apart from loan assistance, the government has given us a lot of support in terms of industry updates, personnel training and so on, this can help them improve their service quality,” says Lok, “and when other clients learn that our company is a service provider to Wynn, they usually put their trust in us and initiate a partnership. This has indirectly brought us more business opportunities.”

DSAL denies any gov't controversy regarding minimum wage bill

Renato Marques

THE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) refuted accusations that have been circulating on online social networks in a statement. The government is being criticized in these accusations for having a tendentious attitude regarding whether domestic workers should be eligible to receive the minimum wage. DSAL noted that the bill on the full implementation of the minimum wage is currently under public consultation.

The DSAL says that such information is false and that the government has not yet taken any position on this matter.

The government also reaffirmed that the public consultation document specifically mentions the following:

"Given the specificity of the work performed by domestic workers, as well as the capacity to support the economic burden of families that hire them and the current situation of demand and supply of human resources in Macau as well as other factors, [the question] has been raised [...] whe-



ther domestic workers should be excluded from the application of the minimum wage or not."

In the same statement, the government expressed its hope that the public consultation would "hear the views of the several sectors of society" and that the information and statistical data provided in the consultation document could "serve as a reference for the public, wishing to actively participate in presenting their views during the consultation period."

In a statement, DSAL issued a reminder that all citizens wishing to participate in the pu-

blic consultation can do so by accessing the website (<https://www3.dsal.gov.mo/survey/minimumwage>).

In a separate topic and speaking to the media earlier this week, lawmaker Leong Sun Iok has said that cooks in the region need to receive an increase in their salaries.

According to the lawmaker from the Workers Association, there are currently more than 13,000 cooks, most of them working in the local hotels, making an average salary of MOP18,530, while others face a lower income of about

MOP10,370 (on average). Iok suggests increasing cooks' salaries to retain talented cooks in Macau and attract new people into the high demand profession.

The Workers Association had also raised the fact that the hospitality industry is one that is tremendously dependent on non-resident labor, adding that the unreasonable salaries offered in the market make it difficult to attract young people. The difficult conditions in the hospitality industry have led to the replacement of local cooks with non-local workers to lower expenses for companies.

Exports expand on back of casino products in November

THE figures released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) show that trade exports on merchandise have risen by 26 percent year-on-year as of November this year, reaching a total amount of MOP1 billion. Topping the list of the major increases were casino-related items that surged by 651.6 percent.

Total merchandise imports rose by 11.3 percent year-on-year to MOP7.5 billion, leaving the trade deficit in November at MOP6.57 billion. Leading the growth in imports were construction materials rising by 44.7 percent, and handbags and wallets increasing by 35.9 percent.

In the first eleven months of 2017, the total value of merchandise exports increased by 11.7 percent year-on-year to MOP10.38 billion, of which the value of re-exports (MOP8.75 billion) grew by 16.9 percent, but that of domestic exports (MOP1.63 billion) declined by 10 percent. The total value of merchandise imports went up by 5.3 percent year-on-year to MOP67.98 billion, leaving the merchandise trade deficit at MOP57.6 billion

during this period from January to November. In terms of the destinations of the merchandise exports, those to mainland China increased by 21.5 percent year-on-year to MOP1.96 billion, of which exports to the nine provinces of the Pan Pearl River Delta grew by 14.8 percent to a total of MOP1.75 billion. Exports to Hong Kong (MOP6.07 billion), the EU (MOP175 million) and the U.S. (MOP174 million) rose by 17.9 percent, 5.9 percent and 17.8 percent respectively.

In contrast, exports to the Portuguese-speaking countries (MOP0.7 million) dropped by 88.2 percent year-on-year.

Regarding the place of origin of the merchandise imports, mainland China continues to lead (MOP22.74 billion) although it has registered a drop, followed by the Portuguese-speaking countries (MOP589 million).

The imports from the EU grew by 12.9 percent to MOP17.27 billion.

External merchandise trade totaled MOP78.36 billion in the first eleven months of 2017, up by 6.1 percent compared with MOP73.86 billion a year earlier. **RM**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA HONOURS 10-YEAR TEAM MEMBERS



Sands China Ltd. has a total of nearly 8,500 team members who have been working with the company for 10 years or more. Among them, the 6,200 team members who began their service with the company in 2006, 2007 or 2008, will be honoured. More than three-quarters of the group are residents.

Sands China is showing its appreciation by presenting the team members with "The Perfect 10" commemorative service pins and award trophies.

In addition, the company is giving out a

MOP500 food and beverage voucher to each of these team members as a token of gratitude for their continued support.

To kick-start the celebration, Sands China recently honoured a group of 60 leadership team members for reaching their 10-year service anniversaries at a ceremony in mid-December at The Venetian Macao. These leadership team members will then continue the celebration with the other team members at departmental celebrations starting in March 2018.

CEM INSTALLS EV CHARGING STATIONS IN EIGHT CAR PARKS

This year, CEM has installed additional electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in eight public car parks in a bid to support the green commuting policy of the MSAR.

In total, there are 43 additional EV charging stations installed, of which seven are quick charging stations and 36 are medium-speed charging stations, providing charging service to EVs at 50 parking spaces.

A total of 26 Macau public car parks are currently equipped with EV charging facilities, with 106 chargers available for EVs and E-bikes.

Twenty-one car parks in Macau Peninsula are equipped with EV charging stations – three in Taipa and two in Coloane, with



different charging speeds to suit different needs.

Battery levels can reach up to 80 percent in 30 minutes with quick charging, while reaching a fully charged battery level will take about four hours on medium-speed charging and about eight hours with standard charging.

MACAU LEGEND'S LOGO EXPLOITED

Macau Legend Development Limited has alerted its customers and the public that its corporate logo, properties' trade names, trademarks, and photo images have been recently exploited by fraudulent websites.

The group announced in a statement that these websites, social media platforms and groups include www.boying.hk and "Macao Lijun group (HK) Co. Ltd." among others. These fraudulent websites will often ask the public to open investment accounts.

According to the statement, these websites may use the portrait of the Macau Legend CEO and executive director David Chow and refer to him as the chairman of the purported company.

The company clarified that neither the group nor Chow has any connection with the companies named in the fraudulent materials, adding that the company does not and will not invite customers or the public to participate in any investment.

NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN

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JULIET RISDON

Buying a property is exciting, but it is an investment that requires sound information and careful analysis. If you are not sure where to begin, it at times be overwhelming and lead you to make decisions based on your emotions and 'gut feel'. Although these are not things that can be altogether ignored, if you are buying purely as an investment more focus should be put on the numbers and conditions of the investment.

I would like to introduce a simple macro-level tool called taking 'A RIDE' which you can use to determine whether the timing and the market you are considering investing in is right for you.

A – ACTUAL

When it comes to property investing, everybody and their uncle has an opinion that they would like to share. Although you can listen to other people's advice and take them as reference to gauge the general sentiment of the market, you should always refer to actual data and information instead of opinions to make your final investment decision. If it is not supported by hard data, even newspaper articles (yes, even this one!) should be taken with a grain of salt, and you should never shy away from putting on your thinking hat and doing your own critical analysis.

So where can you get some actual data in Macau? Here are some options:

1. www.dsec.gov.mo - Statistics and

Census Service Macau (DSEC)

2. Recent property transaction data from reputable local magazines and newspapers – not opinion pieces!

3. Property registration offices – In Macau detailed property information is publicly available and can be obtained at a small fee

R – RATIO

The price-to-income ratio is basically the average property price divided by the average annual salary. This is a general indication of how affordable the property is and affects the demand side of the equation which we will discuss a bit later. As you can imagine, the ratio tends to be very high in Macau in comparison to some foreign markets but nonetheless the market stays relatively active due to various other economic factors.

I – INTEREST RATES

It's no surprise that the structure and amount of mortgage due has a large impact on the feasibility and potential of a property investment. We have been experiencing extremely low levels of interest rates globally in recent years which many investors have rightly leveraged to their advantage. Under these circumstances borrowing from banks is usually quite straight forward, but when rates are higher as they have been in the past investors tend to consider more creative ways of financing or simply go to a different market with cheaper rates to borrow money. But while doing this it is important to also consider

the currency exchange rates and fees.

D – DEMAND & SUPPLY

Going back to basic economics, demand and supply are one of the most important factors to consider in investment strategy. In a small city with limited geographical space like Macau, the demand side tends to move more dramatically as we've seen since 2010 but the supply side is more static, with tight government regulations and licensing protocols. During the first seven months of 2017, residential building permits issued fell by 14% from the same period last year while completions increased 13.5 times over the same period.

E – ECONOMY

The last factor, Economy, is the broadest consideration of all but one that cannot be ignored. This includes any demographic shifts, changes in investment or legislation, and the general health of the economy measured by GDP and GNP. Macro political and economic factors must also be taken into account such as Beijing's VISA policy for tourists which we've seen to significantly impact the real estate sector.

Although not a comprehensive model, taking 'A RIDE' will help orient you when first starting to consider your property investment and provide a framework which you can work with. I hope this article has been useful to you, and if you would like to discuss investment opportunities in Macau please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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LeEco founder's assets seized as China pursues absent web mogul



A Chinese court has seized all the assets owned by LeEco founder Jia Yueting it could unearth, as the country's legal bodies step up action against an internet entrepreneur who once declared war on Apple and Tesla Inc.

The Beijing First Intermediate People's Court seized more than 1.3 million yuan (USD200,000) in bank deposits, the court said in a statement posted on its website this week. And it's eyeing Jia's shares in publicly listed Leshi Internet Information & Technology Corp. as well as two Beijing properties targeted in previous cases, it said without elaborating. The court said it took action after agreeing to enforce a petition from a securities firm in Fujian proving to recover more than 200 million yuan it claimed Jia owed.

The seizure deals yet another blow to the outspoken founder of a Netflix-style service who expanded aggressively into smartphones and automobiles by borrowing heavily against equity, then faced a serious cash crunch. LeEco's founder eventually shifted his focus to U.S.-ba-

sed electric car startup Faraday & Future Inc., which was said to have struggled to raise cash. This month, the country's highest court placed Jia on a public list of bad debtors and China's markets watchdog demanded he return to deal with Leshi's financial woes.

"Jia Yueting has no other bank deposits, housing registration records or automobile registration records that the court can execute upon," the Beijing court said in its statement.

The court didn't outline specifics of the Fujian brokerage's complaint except to say it involved an alleged failure to honor obligations. A LeEco representative said she had no knowledge of the matter.

Leshi Internet remains the largest listed vehicle in the LeEco empire but has been suspended from trade since April. The China Securities Regulatory Commission said this week that despite repeated calls from the regulator, the founder has yet to show up and deliver on a promise to provide interest-free loans to the Shenzhen-listed firm mired in a "huge amount of debt."

It's not clear where Jia is, though Faraday has operations in the U.S. Chinese media including the Securities Daily reported he told a staff meeting earlier this month that Faraday had managed to raise more than \$1 billion in Series A financing, without naming his investors. **Bloomberg**

AD

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XI HAD A GREAT 2017

Five key challenges that await next year

CHINA'S President Xi Jinping had a better-than-expected 2017, quietly strengthening his hand both at home and abroad. Next year will put those gains to the test. Here are five key challenges he faces in 2018:

KEEP THE MIDDLE CLASS HAPPY

China's economy proved resilient in 2017, with growth on pace for its first full-year acceleration since 2010. Yet economists forecast a slowdown next year, and rising U.S. interest rates are set to complicate China's deleveraging push.

Xi's biggest challenge next year is "sustaining popularity in the face of potential economic problems," said Susan Shirk, chair of the 21st Century China Center at the University of California, San Diego.

Other issues that risk stirring discontent among the middle class include polluted air, education quality and online censorship. A series of social problems - from migrant evictions to poor villagers shivering without heat in the winter

- showed this year how quickly things can go wrong.

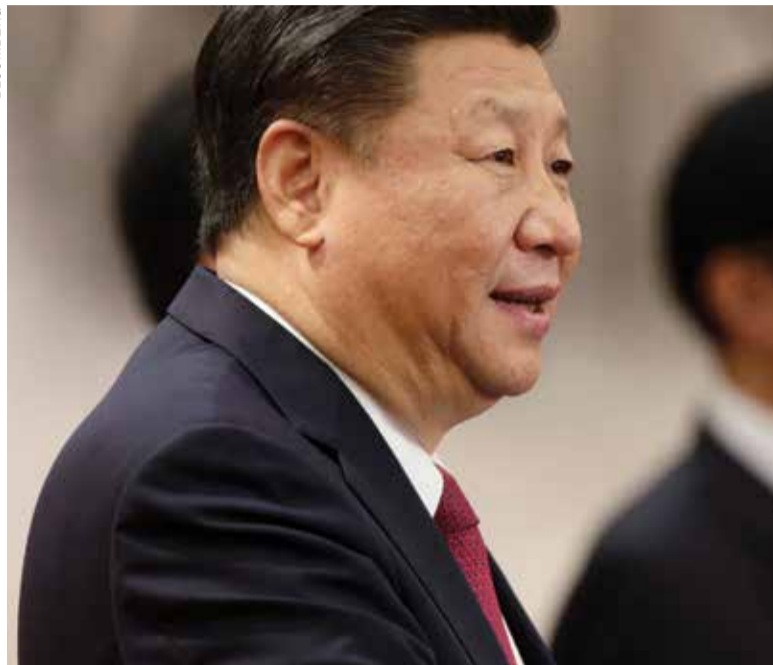
KEEP THE PEACE

China embarked on a much more proactive foreign policy in 2017, seeking to mediate disputes between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh, and even Israel and Palestine. Driven mainly by its expanding economic interests around the globe, China's relative inexperience in conflict resolution gives it a chance to try some fresh approaches.

Still, Xi's biggest foreign policy headache is on his doorstep: North Korea. Kim Jong Un's regime is getting ever closer to gaining the ability to strike the U.S. with a nuclear weapon - and Trump has threatened war to stop him. While China has responded to Trump's pressure by tightening sanctions to unprecedented levels, it remains to be seen if Xi can stave off military action.

KEEP EXPLOITING ASIA'S WORRIES ABOUT TRUMP

Trump's focus on reducing



BLOOMBERG

trade deficits in Asia with friends and foes alike provided an opportunity for China to improve strained ties throughout the region. In 2017, China saw better relations with Myanmar, Singapore, Vietnam, and the Philippines - all nations that it had sparred with recently.

Still, China risks overplaying its hand. Any economic coer-

cion to achieve its geopolitical aims threatens to scuttle the recent goodwill.

KEEP A COOL HEAD

China's strategy of "strategic composure" in dealing with Trump's tweets appeared to pay off. Dire predictions of a trade war failed to materialize, while Xi and Trump shared

warm words in meetings in Florida, Hamburg and Beijing. This month, China had a measured response when Trump called China a "revisionist" power that is challenging U.S. influence around the globe.

Next year might be dicier, with the North Korean threat growing and the U.S.'s trade deficit with China set to widen.

KEEP LOOKING LIKE A REFORMER

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of economic reforms that put China on a path to becoming a global economic juggernaut. Xi already rolled out several big-bang measures at the start of his second term in late October, including relaxed limits on foreign ownership of banks and securities firms.

Through much of his first five years in office, a debate raged over whether Xi was a market reformer or an economic nationalist. Now with unrivaled power, Xi is poised to show the world just how far he'll go in opening up the world's second-largest economy. **MDT/Bloomberg**

AD

Academic Year 2018/2019

Central Registration for Children Entering Kindergarten for the First Time

Aims
To optimise schools' enrolment mechanism, allowing schools to know the demand for school places as early as possible; to simplify the registration process for parents enrolling their children in infant education for the first time, enabling parents to choose the school for their children as early as possible.

Eligibility
Macao residents aged 3 by 31st December, 2018, who will enrol in infant education in Macao for the first time.

Gentle Reminder:

- To enrol in Macao schools, non-Macao Residents must possess a stay or residence permit for over 90 days issued by the authorised entity of the Macao SAR. Parents must process the registration at any of the DSEJ counters. "Registration slip" can be printed out from the DSEJ website/ at the DSEJ counters.
- Schools set no limit to the number of registrants and interviews. There is also no priority for early registration in the central registration system. Therefore, parents do not need to rush to be the first to register.
- The DSEJ will provide "Service of consultation and arrangement of school places" to parents who are in need.

Timeline (Year 2018)

Enrolment information	Starting from 1 st January onwards, parents can consult the enrolment information on the DSEJ website or school website.
Central Registration	Parents register on the DSEJ website or at the DSEJ counters between 5 th and 20 th January.
Schools release the interview date and time	Between 2 nd and 13 th February
School admission interviews	Between 1 st and 31 st March
Printing out the "Registration slip"	Macao residents print out "Registration slip" at the self-service kiosks between 25 th March and 5 th April
Release of the admission list and submission of the "Registration slip"	Schools release the admission list between 9 th and 10 th April
	Parents of admitted students submit the "Registration slip" to the school selected for their children to attend between 11 th and 14 th April (On school working days)
Release of the admission list of waitlisted students and submission of the "Registration slip"	Starting from 16 th April onwards, schools release the admission list of waitlisted students
	Parents of waitlisted students submit the "Registration slip" to the preferred school or conduct process for transferring their children to another school between 16 th and 30 th April
Enrolment at other schools	If children have not been admitted to any school until 16 th April, i.e. after schools release the admission list of waitlisted students, or parents want to enrol their child in other schools, parents can visit the DSEJ website to check the status of K1 places available at different schools, and go to the schools that still accept enrolment for enquiries and registration.

Inquiry number : 8397 2309
For details, please browse DSEJ website: www.dsej.gov.mo

DSEJ app

DSEJ account on Wechat
Wechat ID: dsejmacau

Foreign office criticizes embassies for 'interference'

CHINA'S foreign ministry accused the American and German embassies yesterday of interfering in its affairs after they objected to the prosecutions of an activist and a lawyer who handled sensitive cases.

Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters a joint statement by the embassies calling for Wu Gan's release and for lawyer Xie Yang to be allowed to return to work was irresponsible.

Wu, who criticized Chinese officials online, was sentenced Tuesday to eight years in prison on subversion charges. Xie was convicted of inciting subversion but spared a prison term after he admitted com-

mitting the offense. "The embassies of those two countries are diplomatic missions, which have no right to point the fingers at China's internal affairs and judicial sovereignty," Hua said. "We hope the relevant embassies can have a clear understanding of their duties and do something to help improve mutual trust, mutual understanding and cooperation, not the opposite."

The embassies' statement criticized the "serious mistreatment" of Wu and Xie in detention. "We urge Chinese authorities to view lawyers and rights defenders as partners in strengthening Chinese society through development of the rule of law," it said. **MDT/AP**

Beijing: US should not blame China for opioids

Gerry Shih, Beijing

THE United States should look within to cut down demand for opioids which are fueling its deadly drug crisis rather than stressing unsubstantiated claims that China is the major source of these chemicals, a top Chinese drug enforcement official said yesterday.

China and the U.S. have worked to build a close working relationship to fight global flows of illicit synthetic drugs, but their collaboration remains fraught.

Yu Haibin of the China National Narcotics Control Commission told reporters there was little evidence showing China was the source of much of the chemicals used in the production of the powerful opioid fentanyl. President Donald Trump in November blamed a "flood of cheap and deadly" fentanyl made in China for the deadliest drug epidemic in



A press release detailing some of the chemical substances to be banned

U.S. history. "China doesn't deny that shipments to the U.S. happen, but there isn't the proof to show how much — whether it's 20 percent or 80 percent," said Yu, adding that U.S. authorities have only sent him information about six shipments from China in the past year.

He urged the U.S. to share more data and police intelligence with Chinese authorities and said rampant

over-prescription of pain medication and lax cultural attitudes toward drugs had fueled massive demand for opioids in the U.S.

Insufficient drug education and the trend in some states of legalizing marijuana have hurt drug enforcement efforts, he said.

"As many states decriminalize marijuana, the public's attitudes and trends of thinking toward drugs will also have a bad effect" on the

fight against hard drugs, Yu said.

Chinese officials have been eager to tout their collaboration with American counterparts on drug enforcement as a bright spot in the occasionally rocky relationship.

Officials in Beijing said yesterday they busted a fentanyl factory in November and seized 4.7 kilograms of the substance thanks to a tip-off from U.S. Immigration and Customs about a major online purveyor named "Diana" that turned out to be a front for a 19-person drug ring scattered across China.

China wanted to work more closely with U.S. law enforcement, as well as authorities in Mexico, a transshipment point, Yu said.

China has backed a successful U.S. proposal this year to add several fentanyl precursors to a U.N. list of controlled substances. China has listed the two chemicals, NPP and 44-ANPP, under domestic drug laws, officials said.

AD

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N. Korea boat captain charged in theft

Japanese authorities have indicted the North Korean captain of a boat that drifted to its coast on charges of stealing a generator from an uninhabited island. The captain and his nine crewmembers on the dilapidated boat were rescued near a tiny island off of Hokkaido, northern Japan, in late November. Japanese police this month arrested the captain and two crewmembers on suspicion they stole a generator and appliances from a barn on the island. Japanese media, including NHK public television, say prosecutors yesterday charged the captain with theft. The prosecutors' office refused to confirm the Associated Press' phone inquiry from Tokyo.

Vietnam party chief praises fight against corruption

Vietnam's Communist Party chief has praised the country's fight against corruption, saying it has reached an "unprecedented level" and achieved positive results. Nguyen Phu Trong was speaking at an online government conference yesterday that was for the first time also attended by other top party and government officials. Trong's comments come as country's most high-profile court case in decades is set for next month. Nearly two dozen former oil executives including a former Politburo member are accused of embezzlement and mismanagement.

India chides Pakistan for treatment of officer's family

India lashed out at Pakistan yesterday for its treatment of the wife and mother of an Indian naval officer on death row for spying during their first meeting since his arrest. India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj accused Pakistan of disregarding the cultural and religious sensibilities of Kulbhushan Jadhav's family under the pretext of security precautions, including the removal of bangles and other ornaments as well as a change in attire and shoes. Swaraj said in a statement in India's Parliament that Monday's meeting in the Pakistani capital could have proved to be a positive step in improving ties between the two countries. The criticism is expected to exacerbate tensions between the longtime rivals who have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947 and regularly exchange fire along their disputed territory in Kashmir.



A statue representing sex slaves is seen near the Japanese Embassy in Seoul



South Korean president calls sex slave deal with Japan flawed

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in said yesterday the country's 2015 agreement with Japan to settle a decades-long impasse over Korean women forced into wartime sexual slavery was seriously flawed.

Moon's statement in which he vows unspecified follow-up measures to meet the victims' demands potentially throws the future of the deal in doubt, two years after both countries declared it as "final and irreversible."

The statement came a day after a state-appointed panel concluded that Seoul's previous conservative government failed to properly communicate with the victims before reaching the deal.

The panel also said parts of the deal were not made public, including Japanese demands that the South Korean government avoid using the term "sexual slavery" and provide a specific plan to remove a bronze statue representing sex slaves in front of its Seoul embassy. South Korea in response said it would formally refer to the victims as "victims of Japanese military comfort stations" but didn't make any clear promise about the statue, according to the panel.

"It has been confirmed that the 2015 comfort women negotiation

between South Korea had serious flaws, both in process and content," Moon said in a statement read out by his spokesman.

"Despite the burden of the past agreement being a formal promise between governments that was ratified by the leaders of both countries, I, as president and with the Korean people, once again firmly state that this agreement does not resolve the issue over comfort women."

While his comments seemed to suggest that Seoul may seek a renegotiation of the deal, which would surely anger Tokyo, Moon also said that the issues over history shouldn't affect the efforts to build "future-oriented" relations between the countries.

Some experts see it as unlikely that Moon's government will spark a full-blown diplomatic row with Japan by scrapping the deal when the allies face pressing needs to form a strong united front against North Korea's growing nuclear threat.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono on Wednesday said that Japan stands by the agreement, which he said was reached through a legitimate negotiation and that any possible attempt toward a revision would make the relations between the countries "unmanageable" and "unacceptable."

Asked whether Moon's attack on the deal means that a renegotiation may be inevitable, Seoul's Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kyu-duk didn't provide a straightforward answer, saying only that his government will pursue "sincere and practical" measures as soon as possible to restore the honor and dignity of the victims.

This agreement does not resolve the issue over comfort women.

MOON JAE-IN
SOUTH KOREA PRESIDENT

Under the deal, Japan agreed to provide 1 billion yen (USD8.8 million) in cash payments to the dwindling number of surviving victims, while South Korea said it will try to resolve Japanese grievance over the statue in front of the embassy.

The deal came under heavy criticism in South Korea where many thought the government settled for far too less. Japan

has been angry that South Korea hasn't taken specific steps to remove the statue and similar monuments in other places in the country, insisting there has been a clear understanding to do so.

The deal had been negotiated under Moon's conservative predecessor Park Geun-hye, who was ousted from office and arrested in March over a corruption scandal. Moon vowed to redo the deal during his presidential campaign, but has so far avoided specific talk about any renegotiation since taking office in May.

The Foreign Ministry said government officials will hold extensive discussions with victims and experts before deciding whether to pursue changes to the deal.

Disputes over sex slaves are a legacy of Japan's 1910-45 colonial occupation of the Korean Peninsula. Many in both North and South Korea, divided at the end of the Japanese rule, still harbor bitter resentment against the Japanese occupation.

Historians say tens of thousands of women from around Asia, many of them Korean, were sent to front-line military brothels to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II. **AP**

MYANMAR

Illegal drone charges against journalists dropped

A Myanmar court yesterday dropped additional charges against two foreign journalists and their local staff who were arrested in October for allegedly flying a drone over the parliament.

Lau Hon Meng, a Singaporean, and Mok Choy Lin, a Malaysian, working

for the Turkish state broadcaster TRT will be freed from detention together with their local interpreter Aung Naing Soe and driver Hla Tin on Jan. 5, after serving a 2-month prison sentence for illegally flying a drone, their lawyer said.

Khin Maung Zaw said that authorities dropped

more the serious charges of importing a drone without permission and immigration violations against the foreigners after concluding that the journalists and their staff did not intend to endanger national security.

Authorities also wanted to maintain good diplo-

matic relations with the countries of the two journalists, he said.

The journalists and their staff were detained Oct. 27 after attempting to fly a drone over the legislative complex in the capital, Naypitaw.

In a separate case Wednesday, a court extended

the detention of two Reuters journalists and set their trial for Jan. 10 on charges of violating state secrets.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested Dec. 12 for acquiring "important secret papers" from two policemen. The police officers had worked in Rakhine state, where abuses widely blamed on the military have driven more than 630,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. The charges are punishable by up to 14 years in prison. **MDT/AP**



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Inna Varenysia, Horlivka

UKRAINE

Authorities and separatist rebels swap prisoners

UKRAINIAN authorities and Russian-backed separatist rebels on Wednesday conducted the biggest exchange of prisoners since the start of an armed conflict in the country's east, marking a sign of progress in the implementation of a 2015 peace deal.

Rebels from the self-proclaimed separatist republics in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions handed over 74 captives, while Ukraine's government delivered 233. Some had been held for more than a year.

Larisa Sargan, a spokeswoman for the Ukrainian prosecutor general's office, said on Facebook that one of the 74 prisoners released by the separatists indicated she would stay in Donetsk.

Carrying their belonging, the prisoners were turned exchanged in the town of Horlivka and the village of Zaitseve, in an area dividing the separatist regions and Ukraine. One held a cat.

"I'm out of hell. I have survived," said Yevhen Chudentsov, who served with one of Ukraine's volunteer battalions in the east and was taken prisoner in February 2015.

Chudentsov said he faced threats and beatings while in rebel custody, and his front teeth were knocked out. He was initially sentenced to capital punishment, which was later changed to 30 years in prison. He said after his release in Horlivka that he would join the Ukrainian military again.

The exchange was supervised by observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a trans-Atlantic security and rights group that has deployed monitors to eastern Ukraine.

The OSCE welcomed the swap and urged the two sides to build on the momentum from it.

"Allowing such a significant number of people, who have been held on both sides, to re-

AP PHOTO



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (right) speaks to prisoners who were released by separatists, on board a helicopter

turn home before the New Year and Orthodox Christmas is a very welcome development," said Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl, the OSCE chairman. "Today's exchange is not only a humanitarian act but also a helpful step in confidence-building."

Ukraine was supposed to release 306 people, but dozens chose to stay in Ukraine or had been freed earlier, said Viktor Medvedchuk, who monitored the exchange on the Ukrainian side.

Many of the captives were not combatants. Some were activists and bloggers who were charged

with spying or treason.

Anatoly Slobodyanik, one of the prisoners traded by Ukraine, said he didn't want to go to the rebel side and would return to his home town of Odessa.

"I'm not guilty of anything and I don't want to go to the other side," he said.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko praised the Ukrainian prisoners held by the rebels for their endurance.

"I'm grateful to all those who remained loyal to Ukraine in those unbearable conditions," Poroshenko said while greeting the free captives. "They have

shown their adherence to the principles of freedom and independence."

The Ukrainian leader also hailed German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron for helping organize the exchange.

Merkel and Macron welcomed the swap, saying in a joint statement that they "encourage the parties to the conflict also to enable the exchange of the remaining prisoners, grant the International Committee of the Red Cross full access and support the ICRC's search for missing people."

The simmering conflict between the separatists and government troops in eastern Ukraine has killed more than 10,000 people since 2014.

■ Many of the captives were not combatants. Some were activists and bloggers who were charged with spying or treason

The 2015 deal brokered by France and Germany and signed in Minsk, the Belarusian capital, envisioned a prisoner exchange, but the two sides argued continuously over lists of captives and only a few dozen had been traded prior to Wednesday. Separatist leaders and a Ukrainian government representative finally agreed to the exchange last week, with the head of the Russian Orthodox Church acting as mediator.

Merkel and Macron emphasized that the exchange and a recommitment to a comprehensive cease-fire "should also serve to build up confidence between the parties to the conflict, also with a view to the full implementation of the Minsk agreements." AP

PERU

Two top officials quit government amid political crisis

Franklin Briceno, Lima

TWO senior officials have resigned from Peru's government, the latest in a wave of defections amid a political crisis in the South American country.

Minister of Culture Salvador del Solar announced his resignation on Twitter without giving a reason for his decision, while presidential adviser Máximo San Roman said in a letter to embattled

President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski that his recommendations were not being taken into consideration.

Their departures come days after the resignations of three members of parliament from the president's party and his minister of interior.

Kuczynski only barely survived an impeachment vote by congress last week for alleged corruption, and he set off protests at home and abroad with a

Christmas Eve pardon of jailed former President Alberto Fujimori in what many Peruvians viewed as a political payback.

Kuczynski said he granted a medical pardon to the ailing 79-year-old former president on humanitarian grounds. The action allows Fujimori to leave prison after serving less than half a 25-year sentence for human rights abuses, including killings of 25 people by the military, that took place

during his administration in the 1990s.

Relatives and a lawyer for some of the victims called for judicial authorities or the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to reverse the pardon for Fujimori, who issued an apology from his hospital bed for people "wronged" by his government.

"Fujimori killed my son, and now Kuczynski in a cowardly and cruel manner ends up killing the rest of the family," one of

AP PHOTO



The personal doctor of former President Alberto Fujimori talks to reporters outside the clinic where the leader was hospitalized, in Lima

the relatives, Javier Roca, told reporters.

Abstentions by lawmakers from a party led by a Fujimori son allowed Kuczynski to narrowly avoid being impeached over a payment that

his consulting firm received a decade ago from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht, which has admitted bribing public officials throughout Latin America to win public works contracts. AP

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TALENTED
10
俊傑十面觀

為慶祝《特寫》創刊十週年，我們邀請到十位城中年輕才俊，與我們大談澳門未來

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:30	Miscellaneous
17:25	Zig Zag
18:20	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:20	Portuguese Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
01:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:15	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Moon Circus
11:30	Miscellaneous
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Portuguese Serie (Resume)
16:30	Miscellaneous
17:20	Miscellaneous
18:15	Miscellaneous
19:15	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Drama (PT)
21:40	Portuguese Serie
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Magic Circus Show
16:55	The Voice Portugal
19:20	Non-daily Portuguese News
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:50	New Year's Eve Concert - Count Down 2017/2018 (Live)
00:15	Wendy Nazare
01:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:05	RTPi Live

Offbeat

SPECIAL DELIVERY: FAMILY WELCOMES SECOND CHRISTMAS EVE BABY

For one suburban New York family, Christmas Eve is turning into a tradition of very special deliveries.

Newsday says Stony Brook residents Jacki and Josh Grossman had their second son on Sunday, four years after their first son arrived.

Baby Elliott and older brother Oliver were delivered at Stony Brook University Hospital by Dr. Phil Schoenfeld. The doctor has worked Christmas Eve at the hospital for the past 17 years.

Jacki Grossman says she "couldn't feel more blessed" than to have her boys share such a special day. She says, "It must have been meant to be."

Oliver says he doesn't mind sharing his birthday with his new brother. His mother says he ran around the hospital spreading the news.

cinema



CINETEATRO

21 DEC - 27 DEC



COCO

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15pm

Director: Lee Unkrich

Starring: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal, Benjamin Bratt

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 105 min



STAR WARS EPISODE VIII

ROOM 2

9:30pm

Director: Rian Johnson

Starring: Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Mark Hamill

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 150 min



THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Michael Gracey

Starring: Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, Zendaya

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 105 min



PADDINGTON 2

ROOM 2

4:30pm

ROOM 3

2:30pm

Director: Paul King

Starring: Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Hugh Grant

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 103 min



JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

ROOM 3

2:00, 8:00, 10:00pm

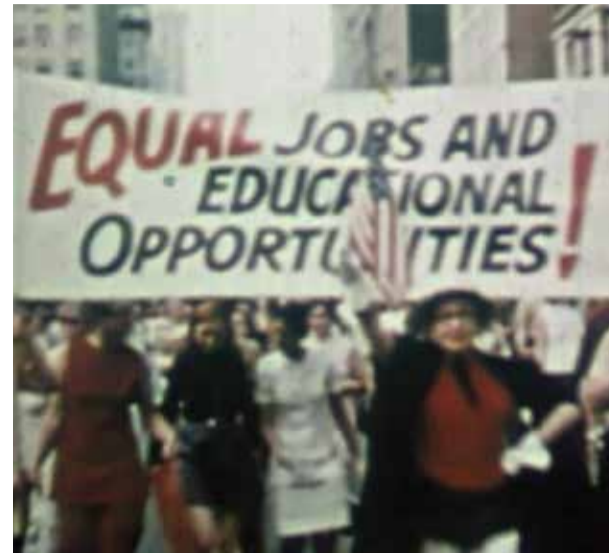
Director: Jake Kasdan

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Kevin Hart

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 119 min

this day in history



1975 NEW LAWS TO END BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Radical new legislation introducing a woman's right to equal pay and status in the workplace and in society have come into force in the UK.

The Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts will prevent women being paid less than their male counterparts. The Acts are being introduced to coincide with the end of the International Women's Year.

Sex discrimination by employers, unless they employ five or fewer people, is now illegal as is any form of bias by landlords, finance companies, schools and restaurants.

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has been set up, and under the Act it has a duty to promote equality of the sexes.

Job advertisements will now have to be sexless and it will no longer be possible to offer a position exclusively for males or females.

In every day language there will be many changes for example, such as "firemen" becoming "fire fighters".

The impact of the Acts is far-reaching and affects the media and education.

The EOC has begun issuing guidelines to discourage advertisers showing women in stereotypical roles of domesticity or in submissive work.

But with no means of enforcing this there have been criticisms the organisation is toothless, although many advertisers have taken heed and plan to be more representative.

The Inner London Education Authority is already considering the replacement of "sexist" reading material which uphold stereotypes, for example a woman in the kitchen and a man at work.

These are currently not barred by the Acts but in a booklet sent to 13,000 head teachers, managers and governors of schools the authority recommends "myths and taboos" should be tackled.

Advisory panels of teachers are also considering lobbying authorities to make mathematics compulsory up to the fifth year in a move designed to help girls.

But the most poorly-paid women are unlikely to gain a lot from the new legislation the Low Pay Unit said in a report yesterday.

Despite the gradual introduction of equal pay until its final implementation today women's earnings have risen to only 55.5% of men's earnings from 51.1% in 1972.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Sex Discrimination Act is applicable to men, women, and children of any age and also prohibits discrimination against someone who is or is not married.

The Act came as a culture shock to many in a society where some venues still barred women.

Some employers attempted to circumvent the Equal Pay Act by changing women's job descriptions or employing women for roles in which there was no male equivalent position.

But they faced fierce resistance from the authorities.

Many commentators said the combined Acts were too radical to introduce at once and public attitudes would need to change before they were readily implemented and this would take time.

Twenty five years after its implementation a survey showed the Acts had helped close the pay difference in the gender gap from 40% less than male counterparts, to 20%.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
It's hard to convince people you don't know well that you mean what you say, even if you've said it (and meant it) a thousand times before, and all those others can vouch for you.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You're ready to take someone under your wing who shows real promise, and they're so honored that they can't believe it's actually going to happen. They may even be waiting for the other shoe to drop.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
When something fails to go as it should with an authority figure, it's too easy to blame it on them - aren't they just there to irritate, aggravate and annoy us, anyway? You know better, though.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You're currently wrapped up in making some kind of relationship work - platonic, romantic or professional, it really doesn't matter. You want to make and keep a promise.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You're much fonder of making things public - regardless of the issues - than of keeping them a secret. Still, every now and then, it's absolutely essential to let things out in the right way.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
If this isn't the right time to propose making your relationship permanent, there just may not be a better one. Be brave, be willing to get those feelings out and let your loved one know that.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
You can tell what's really going on by the way that one person has been making excuses to walk by you, by the glances they've been tossing your way across crowded rooms.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
It's tough for you to listen when someone offers advice on a subject you're sure you know everything about. That's the case now - or at least, that's how you feel at the moment.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Family or not, your people have always struck you as being a bit on the loony side. Still, they're close, so you've been patient and working the smiles, nods, and shrugs whenever you're questioned.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Public displays of affection just aren't your style. Occasionally, a tear or a grin you weren't expecting might slip by you, unnoticed - by you, that is. The rest of the world pretends not to see.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Yesterday opened your eyes in many ways, the biggest of which was the fact that your current relationships need some tweaks. You may even be thinking that it's you, not the others, who need to make those changes.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Every now and then, everyone feels insecure. It could be because someone whose loyalty we're unsure of says or does something that makes us feel doubtful. That doesn't mean we're right about it everything, though.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

4			3	8		5		
5			2	6	9			
	9	8	4					
1		4	7					
2								7
		3	2			4		
		2	8	5				
9	2	1				3		
5	3	4				6		

Easy+

4				6	7			
			1			9		
9	6	8	4					
		9	7					5
2	9				4	7		
6			2	5				
				8	1	5	6	
8		5						
	4	7						3

Medium

		9		3	5			
7	4		2					
			5			9	6	
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4			3				1	
			7	5		6	4	
9	2			7				
			1			6	3	
	4	8			1			

Hard

5			4		8			
3		1						
2								
6	3			2				
	1					4		
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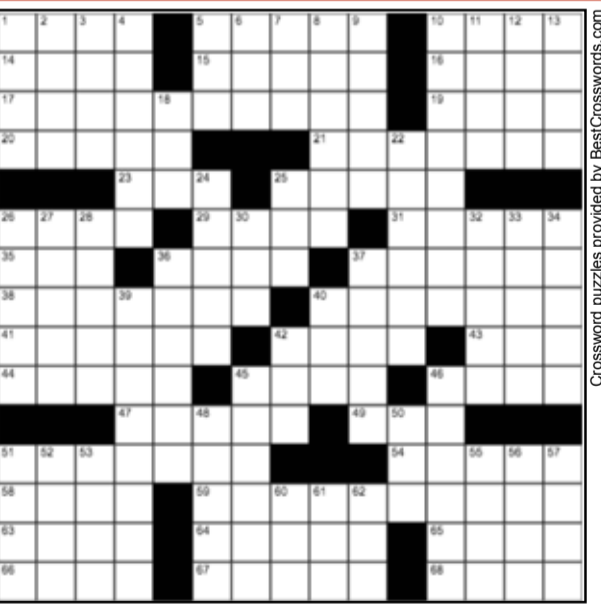
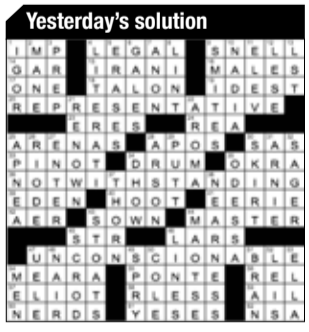
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	4	clear/cloudy
Harbin	-21	-12	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	-2	4	foggy/overcast
Urumqi	-13	-5	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	-1	9	cloudy
Lhasa	-5	11	clear
Chengdu	5	12	cloudy
Chongqing	7	10	overcast/drizzle
Kunming	1	19	cloudy/clear
Nanjing	7	12	overcast
Shanghai	9	13	drizzle/overcast
Wuhan	3	14	cloudy
Hangzhou	8	14	drizzle/cloudy
Taipei	18	22	drizzle
Guangzhou	15	24	cloudy
Hong Kong	17	21	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-2	5	flurry/drizzle
Frankfurt	-1	1	sleet
Paris	0	8	drizzle
London	-1	7	clear/drizzle
New York	-11	-6	clear/cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- And here it is!; 5- Chart anew; 10- Agricultural implement; 14- Work without ___; 15- October birthstones; 16- Top-drawer; 17- Pleasant to listen to; 19- Hammock holder; 20- Inventor Howe; 21- Heading of a subdivision; 23- IV units; 25- Foot-operated lever; 26- Short stocking; 29- Encourage in wrongdoing; 31- Sired; 35- Blond shade; 36- What there oughta be; 37- Spanish inn; 38- Cheese; 40- Bloom; 41- Raised; 42- British gun; 43- Afore; 44- "Them" author; 45- Juan's water; 46- Manipulates; 47- Tour of duty; 49- Loud noise; 51- Own; 54- Wash lightly; 58- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 59- Lottery; 63- Mend socks; 64- Weird; 65- And others: Abbr.; 66- Glitch; 67- Teheran native; 68- Grounded fleet;

DOWN: 1- Yarn; 2- Blue dye source; 3- He loved Lucy; 4- Set upon; 5- Wood of the Rolling Stones; 6- Ecol. watchdog; 7- Fairy queen; 8- Good to go; 9- Prefix meaning "false"; 10- Untrodden; 11- Traditional knowledge; 12- Ripe for drafting; 13- Undesirable plant; 18- Corner key; 22- Large terrestrial monkey; 24- Cobb, e.g.; 25- Sunday seat; 26- Prefix with iliac; 27- Milo of "Bareilly"; 28- Swindle; 30- Ingot; 32- Tenuous substances; 33- Revere; 34- Domesticates; 36- ___ Fideles; 37- Beg; 39- Salad sauce; 40- Heat meas.; 42- Cpl.'s superior; 45- Reply; 46- Combines; 48- Japanese immigrant; 50- Apr. addressee; 51- Seed containers; 52- ___ even keel; 53- Antitoxins; 55- Turner and others; 56- Old card game; 57- Congers; 60- History book chapter; 61- Ich bin ___ Berliner; 62- Architect I.M.;



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- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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	<p>Kinlight Taipa 1 Bedroom Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 15,000 / 800 sq ft Ref: 17120662</p>	<p>Carnation Court, Hellene Gardens, Unit A Coloane 3 Bedrooms Apartment Lovely Green Open View HKD 17,500 / 1,663 sq ft Ref: 17110661</p>	<p>Apartment C, Nam Long Taipa 1 Bedroom Apartment Stunning Sun Terrace HKD 8,800 / 420 sq ft Ref: 17110660</p>	<p>Apartment C, Vai Fat Taipa 1 Bedroom Apartment Modern Fitted Kitchen HKD 12,800 / 800 sq ft Ref: 17110659</p>

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American Airlines sorry for theft accusation

AMERICAN Airlines has apologized to two players on the Memphis Grizzlies' minor league affiliate who were kicked off a plane in Dallas after a flight attendant wrongfully accused them of stealing blankets, which an assistant coach suggested happened because they are black.

Airline spokesman Joshua Freed said Tuesday that Memphis Hustle guard Marquis Teague and forward Trahson Burrell boarded the Sunday flight from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The flight was operated by Envoy Air.

Two first-class passengers gave the players their blankets as they headed to their seats in coach. But a flight attendant, who is also black, accused them of theft and the players were asked to leave the plane following an argument.

An airline manager apologized to the players and they later flew first class to Sioux Falls, Freed said.

"We take pride in bringing people together, and we know that on this flight we let some of our customers down," Freed said. "Our team at American, along with Envoy Air, is reviewing what happened, and will be reaching out to them." **MDT/AP**



FOOTBALL

2018 World Cup chief Mutko quits

VITALY Mutko bowed to mounting pressure and stepped down as chairman of the 2018 World Cup organizing committee on Wednesday after being dogged by investigations that highlighted his role in a state-backed doping program.

Alexei Sorokin, the chief executive of the committee,

will also assume the chairmanship vacated by Mutko. Sorokin also took Mutko's spot on the FIFA Council this year after he was blocked from seeking re-election due to his promotion to Russian deputy prime minister.

The high-ranking government position ensures Mutko will still retain involvement in logistical planning for the

World Cup in June and July.

"Mutko will continue to oversee the preparations of the regions as well as coordinate the construction of the necessary infrastructure," the organizing committee said in a statement that expressed "great regret" over his departure.

Mutko's resignation comes two days after he said he wou-

ld temporarily step down as president of the Russian Football Union while fighting a lifetime ban from the Olympics.

Investigations by the World Anti-Doping Agency and the International Olympic Committee alleged Mutko was involved in a state-sponsored doping program during the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Mutko, who served as Russia's sports minister during the Winter Olympics, has strongly denied all doping allegations.

The IOC didn't accuse Mutko of being personally involved in doping, but banned him from the Olympics for life, saying he and his ministry bore overall responsibility for "failure to respect" anti-doping rules.

Mutko had been defiant at the World Cup draw in Moscow this month, dismissing calls for him to leave his role as front-man of the tournament.

FIFA, which has faced calls to open disciplinary proceedings against Mutko, did not mention the doping cases in a statement acknowledging the resignation.

Russia opens the World Cup against Saudi Arabia on June 14 in Moscow where the final will be staged on July 15.

"The change in the leadership [...] will not affect the preparation of the 2018 FIFA World Cup," local organizers said. **MDT/AP**

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TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

≥ 16 anos/years old

monitora/monitor:
Madalena Fonseca

horário/schedule:
Segundas
Mondays
18h30 - 21h30

patrocínio/sponsor: **Fundação Macau**

local/venue:
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aulas . classes

AERODANCE

monitor: Paulo Negreiros

turma . class 1		
Segundas	inicio.starts	propina/fee
Mondays	08/01/2018	MOP 400 *
19h00 - 20h00	fim.finishes	
10 horas/hours	19/03/2018	
turma . class 2		
Quintas	inicio.starts	propina/fee
Thursdays	11/01/2018	MOP 440 *
10h30 - 11h30	fim.finishes	
11 horas/hours	22/03/2018	

língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English **

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opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



WISHES FOR A REAL-WORLD HOLIDAY

Holiday time. Time to rest and relax? Time to explore? Time to experience something new – sights, sounds, smells and flavours?

Holiday time means different things to each of us but the exodus from Macau in the cold of December is typically to warm beaches: a mini-summer vacation. We are fortunate to have these opportunities upon our door-step.

A while back I was following the trend and went on holiday in Legazpi. In this resort, a plane hop from Manila, I was ready to put aside the minutia of the daily grind with its endless stream of large and small decisions. It was to be a holiday to relax, go down the beach, sit by the pool, or read, or day-dream; maybe a sunrise breakfast picnic overlooking Misi-bis Bay islands followed by quad-bike trail-ride with screeching pillion-passenger kids, or segway races on the beach.

Good food, good wine, calming beach environment, impeccable service, sun, salt-water and new experiences. What more could one ask for?

Wifi, apparently.

Of all memories of this trip, the one that sadly remains most vivid is that of a couple sitting in silence at the next table one evening: A mother and son, or so it must have been. It was like watching toddlers at parallel play. Attentive and personable waiting staff, magnificent food and champagne on a restaurant balcony with sea-horizon sunset, and there sat the two of them poring over at least 5 devices. Four thumbs were flying, only to be interrupted by a fork blindly prodding a morsel of food, or to pull out a keyboard for more heavy-duty screen play. From my shocked introduction to this behaviour, the individual screens at dining tables seems to have become commonplace.

What is hidden are those who do not come out, spending their holidays in hotel rooms glued to videos, social media and internet gaming. After all it is a holiday and that means to do what you want, right? You may as well stay at home ordering pizza delivery.

It is not so easy to disconnect, even harder for some. Recognising this fact, we find routines, protocols and strategies to maintain relationships. The Hong Kong Club had a system that forces you to you pay for a round of champagne for everyone in the lounge if you or your guest uses a mobile phone; and for a while it was a fad among some groups of Macau's teenagers to pile their phones in the middle of the lunch table, the first one to use it would pay the group's bill. Disruptive technologies, indeed.

When connectivity disrupts relationships, normal daily activity, studies or career, it becomes seriously problematic. Addiction to internet gaming is one such affliction. Internet gaming is arguably more addictive than gambling because there are elements that increase rewards to players, especially the young: Flow – the challenge continues to match the skill of the player; Fiero – the dopamine hit when goals are achieved; Fun failure – near misses; Social engagement; and no signals of a logical ending.

Internet Gaming Disorder was first included in the American Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders in 2013 but was not fully recognised. Until it is recognised it is not possible to formally diagnose anyone. The World Health Organisation, however, is now considering the addition of "gaming disorder" in their own publication: the 11th Version of the International Classification of Diseases. It is still early days in recognition, understanding and treatment of pathological uses of technology, as distinguished from simply spending a lot of time using it.

Intuitively we know abnormal behaviours when we see them. Sometimes science just takes a bit of time to catch up. In the meantime, I wish you all Happy Holidays in the real world with real people.

THE BUZZ EX-MISS AMERICAS ASKED TO HELP FIND NEW LEADERS

Trashed by emails sent by pageant officials, former Miss Americas may help choose the new leaders of the Miss America Organization.

The group told AP yesterday that it is seeking the help of former Miss Americas and state directors to recommend the next generation of leaders for the pageant.

In emails that were published last week by the Huffington Post, pageant officials ridiculed the appearance, intellect and sex lives of former Miss

Americas. The emails included one that used a vulgar term for female genitalia to refer to past Miss America winners, one that wished that a particular former Miss America had died and others that speculated about how many sex partners former Miss America Mallory Hagan has had.

The ensuing uproar led to the group's executive director, Sam Haskell; its president, Josh Randle; board chairwoman Lynn Weidner, and one other board member to resign.

Slovenia's puppet theater performs in Macau for the first time

Lynzy Valles

A musical puppet show called, "A Little Lamp, Pea and Feather" will be staged at the Macao Cultural Center from today.

Slovenia's Ljubljana Puppet Theatre will present the show in Macau for the first time. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's tale, "The Princess and the Pea", the show caters to children aged one to four years old.

The show will feature a bright, colorful setting, aiming to immerse its audience into a sensory experience of visual and audio effects.

The musical show will also feature the tolling of little bells, harp playing and the repetition of simple sounds, syllables and words, while the story narrates the tale of a young prince searching for his princess.

At a press conference yesterday, artistic director Ajda Rooss Remeta remarked, "the story is really abstract here. [...] For this show it's not so important to follow the story but more to get this impression of sound, colors and lullabies."

The show is intertwined with well-known lullabies and Slovenian cradlesongs played and hummed on stage by three performers dressed in bright costumes.

"It is not a language-based



Left to right: Zvezdana Novaković harpist, Miha Arh, Maja Kunšič and artistic director Ajda Rooss Remeta

show so it speaks to children from any nation," said Remeta.

The puppetry will also feature three different "worlds", each containing a distinct series of visual effects including geometry and nature.

The theatre combines traditional puppetry techniques with contemporary puppetry practices such as stop motion techniques and video mapping.

According to Remeta, audiences are still charmed by puppet performances despite the encroaching presence of technology.

"I think they are still charmed with puppet performances. For example, in this performance, we have video mapping, and the children are so fascinated," she said.

Meanwhile, one of the performers, Maja Kunšič, noted that the show conducts several improvisations to cater to its audience.

"Every performance is completely different. [...] You have to be really sensitive because the children come in with different energies and moods. Also, it depends from country to country," said the performer.

"A Little Lamp, Pea and Feather" will be staged from today until Monday, with nine shows which are all sold out, according to the organizers.

The Ljubljana Puppet Theatre was founded in 1948 and has since become Slovenia's premiere institution in the promotion of the country's long puppetry tradition.

The company has staged numerous renowned productions and also organizes festivals to attract puppet troupes from around the world.

The theatre has toured more than 80 cities and has received several awards at international festivals.

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	65-95 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	65-95 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

MYANMAR A court yesterday dropped additional charges against two foreign journalists and their local staff who were arrested in October for allegedly flying a drone over the parliament. More on p12



AP PHOTO

AFGHANISTAN Authorities say an attack on a Shiite Muslim cultural center in the Afghan capital Kabul has left at least 41 people dead and 84 wounded. Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said an unknown number of suicide attackers set off an explosion outside the center before carrying out an attack inside.

TURKEY President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says he wants to mend strained ties with several European nations, saying Turkey is forced to "decrease the number of enemies and increase friends." In comments published in Hurriyet newspaper yesterday, Erdogan describes the leaders of Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium as "old friends."

ZIMBABWE A former general who led the ouster of Zimbabwe's founding leader has been sworn in as vice president.



AP PHOTO

UKRAINE State authorities and Russian-backed separatist rebels have conducted the biggest exchange of prisoners since the start of an armed conflict in the country's east, marking a sign of progress in the implementation of a 2015 peace deal. More on p14



Sunset 2017. A surfer waits for a wave as the sun sets over the horizon, in Pacific Palisades, California. AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holidays. The Times will be back on the stands on Wednesday January 3, 2018. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times. Happy New Year!