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## Former Macau governor Melo Egídio passes away

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### Official holiday

Due to the official holiday – the “Feast of Immaculate Conception” – all our departments will be closed today and Macau Daily Times does not publish tomorrow. MDTimes will be out again on Monday, December 12.

## Xi Jinping tells US: stop ‘politicising’

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# Times

Administrator Kowie Geldenhuys • Director Rogério Beltrão Coelho • Number 1478

Thursday 08  
December 2011

343<sup>rd</sup> day of the year in the  
Gregorian calendar  
14<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> lunar month



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# More training needed to help reduce youth unemployment

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Where do **munchkins** never mutiny?

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# More training needed to help reduc

by Alexandra Lages

**M**acau's unemployment rate may have reached the lowest figure in more than 15 years in the August-October period but the number of jobless youths is still a challenge in Macau, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) warned.

Although the SAR was the Asia-Pacific region that registered the highest job creation rate this year, the youth unemployment rate increased by 1.5 percent in the third quarter of this year compared to 2010.

Educators, social workers, human resources experts and trade unions share different views and concerns on this issue in Macau but all urged the government to enhance technical education and vocational training.

According to ILO's Asia-Pacific Labour Market Update, young people require attention. The international body

year, the report shows.

But the jobless youth rate has remained stubbornly high at 2,500, 27.8 percent of the total unemployed population. Looking at figures from



'Joblessness among this segment of the labour force could be explained by frictional unemployment – people who are on the look out for their 'ideal' job, which may never come – and the lack of skills and relevant work experience among young people'

**Zenon Udani**

previous years the average has been around 2000 at least since 2009.

The youth unemployment rate was at 6.5 percent in the three months ended October, much higher than the 2.4 percent for the overall population.

## Education alerts

ILO says there is a "lack of decent and productive jobs for young people" in Asia, which may drag on the region's economic potential.

and relevant work experience among young people," human resources and management expert from the University of Macau (UM) Zenon Udani told Macau Daily Times.

a non-resident," he added.

It's a "major problem associated with education" and lack of competitive skills, the director of the UM Educational Research Centre, Teresa Vong

causing a major problem," he said.

Nevertheless, So acknowledged these unemployed youths are associated with three groups. Some are low educated and have low technical skills. "They wait until they get high salaries but that won't be available," he said.

Secondly, there are some people that do not want to go to casinos to get a job, because of a "traditional stigma" against gaming.

The third group, So believes, is the biggest one: the so-called hidden population.

ting more and more in favour of girls instead of boys. People expect boys to behave like girls and the system and the curricula is not suitable for boys," she said.

A total of 937 students have dropped out of the free education system in the first five months of this year, according to the latest report of the Methodist Social Service association, who is in charge of the support services for school dropouts. Only around 30 percent of students choose to take up classes again.

MDTimes tried to get a com-

Vocational training should target those students 'who were unable to cope with the traditional education system and dropped out, by encouraging them to accept vocational courses, to master skills that could help enhance their employability'

**Ella Lei Cheng I**



'They [jobless youths] are looking for this kind of intensive-labour jobs and with the development of Macau and the tourism industry this type of employees are recruited from other places'

**Teresa Vong**

warned that youth unemployment is "disproportionally high" and a challenge for the future growth of Asian economies.

Job creation was "robust" in Macau in the July-August period with employment growing by 4.7 percent year-on-

But the situation in Macau is different.

"Joblessness among this segment of the labour force could be explained by frictional unemployment – people who are on the look out for their 'ideal' job, which may never come – and the lack of skills

entry-level requirements to recruit and hire the right employees.

"They'd still prefer to hire the best given their modest compensation schemes. Thus, they're willing to wait until they find the right local person or, if they're fortunate,

## 'Hidden population'

On the contrary social affairs expert Larry So Man Yum from the Macau Polytechnic Institute is not very concerned over this issue. "There is quite a number of youths that are in between jobs and more and more people are enrolling in universities. This is not really

"They hide themselves at home not going to look for a job or to college. This is becoming more common among secondary school graduates," he said.

Teresa Vong is also concerned over male youths and their relationship with school. "The education system is get-

ment from the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau but received no reply.

## Different schools needed

Last week, during the debate of the 2012 Policy Address for the area of Social Affairs and

## Wages soar in China

China posted an average wage growth of 12.5 percent since the beginning of the 21st century, the International Labour Organisation's report on Asia-Pacific labour market shows.

While other countries are called to ensure fair wages in order to increase productivity, China is applauded for having posted "remarkable productivity growth of 10.6 percent which was even outpaced by real wage growth and expand domestic demand through increasing workers' wages and other measures".

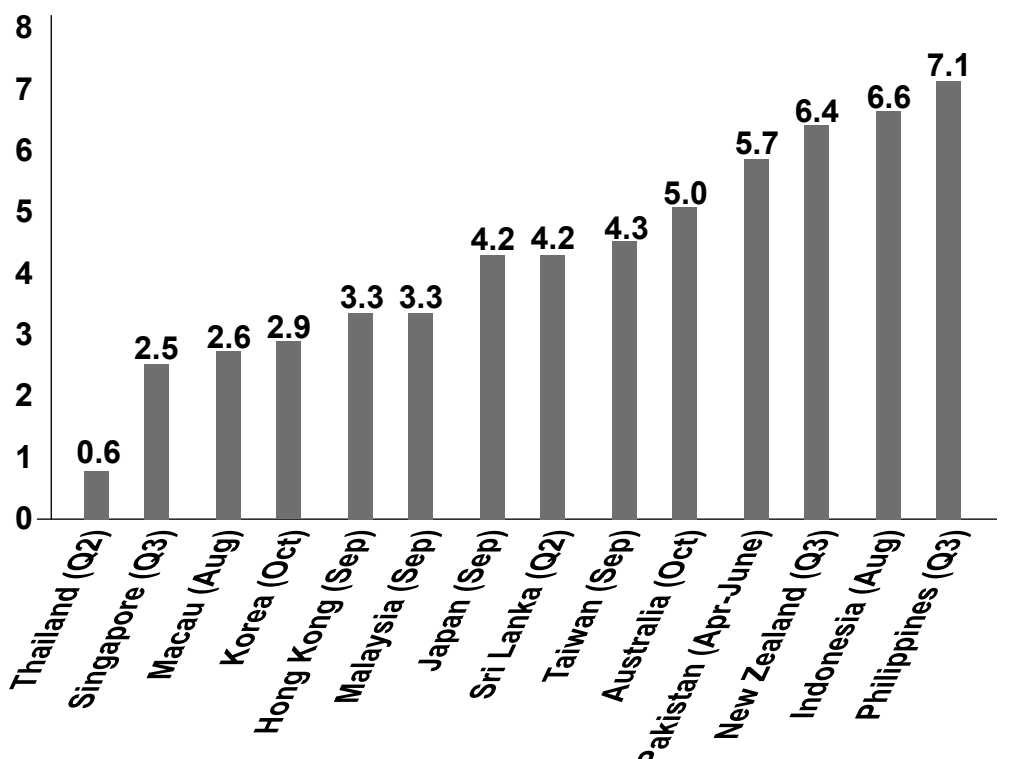
On the contrary other countries find themselves in a "critical situation".

"Annual average real wage growth lagged behind productivity growth in a majority [of Asian developing countries] during the past decade," the report stresses.

In addition China is doing better in the population's perception of climate change as a serious threat. Nonetheless it remains among the Asian countries with a lowest awareness of this issue.

In 2010 nearly all Japanese, Korean and Thai adults and two-thirds or more of Chinese, Filipino and Vietnamese said that they knew about global warming and the deteriorating natural environment, according to a Gallup survey.

## Unemployment rate in 2011





# the youth unemployment

Education, several lawmakers called on the government to encourage schools to offer

ary school in Macau.

Teresa Vong agrees with those lawmakers. She believes

“to see what kind of technical education we will need in 10-years time”.

ment to strengthen plans for vocational training even though the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has some programmes available for youths.

This kind of education should target those students “who were unable to cope with the traditional education system and dropped out, by encouraging them to accept vocational courses, to master skills that could help them gain more work skills and enhance their employability”.

Lei also called on the government to introduce stricter rules for the approval of quota for non-resident workers “to ensure that local people’s employment and labour rights are not harmed”.

In addition to putting more resources into vocational training, Larry So said social workers should pay attention to the ‘hidden population’, try to get in contact with them and help them.

Zenon Udani added that the government could also encourage and persuade big companies to offer more internships to university students and out-of-school youth. In return these companies can be offered some tax benefits.

MDTimes contacted DSAL in search of comment on the situation of unemployed youths but received no reply.

‘There is quite a number of youths that are in between jobs and more and more people are enrolling in universities. This is not really causing a major problem in Macau’

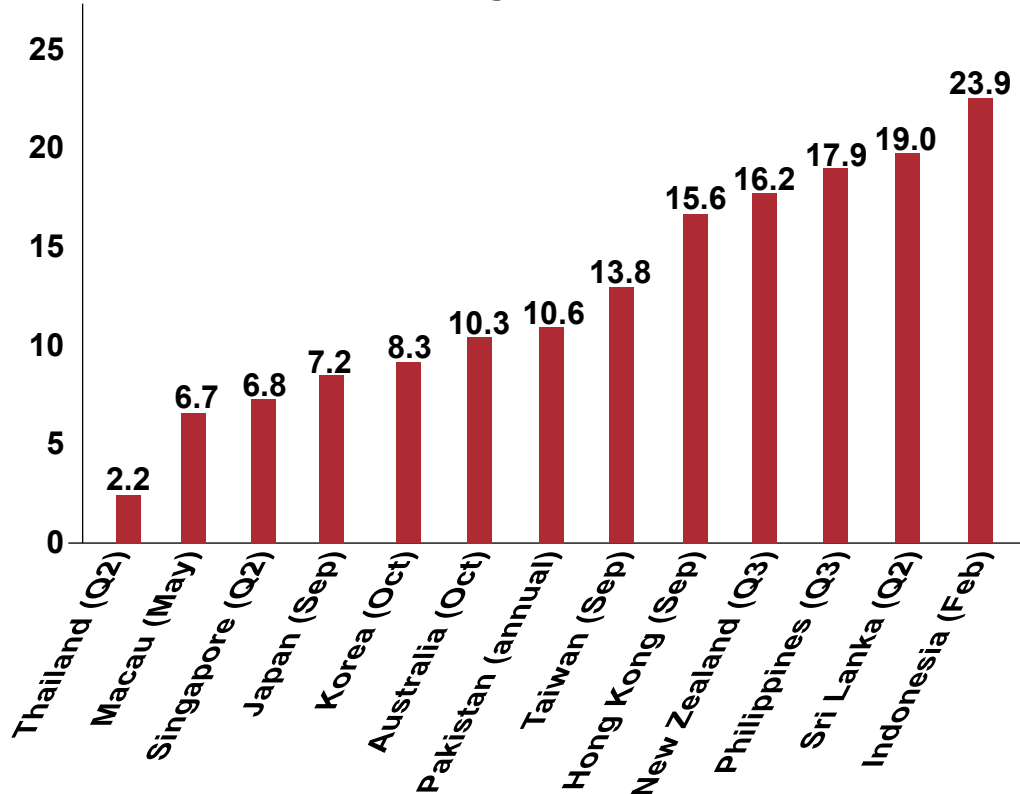
Larry So

technical education. Currently there is only one public and one private technical second-

that the government needs to look at the job market reality and take a proactive analysis

Ella Lei Cheng I from the Macau Federation of Trade Unions urged the govern-

## Youth unemployment rate in 2011



## Asia not immune to global crisis: ILO

Asia’s economic performance remains positive, but there are signs of slowing growth, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said in its latest Asia-Pacific Labour Market Update. The organisation urges Asian governments to base their strategies on job creation, social inclusion and better regional integration.

“The global outlook is increasingly uncertain. Asia will not be immune from turbulence and weak demand. While the region’s economic performance remains positive – in some countries impressively so – there are signs of slowing growth, with economic and social vulnerabilities appearing in both industrialised and developing Asia,” the report released last month says.

ILO called on the region to not lose the economic and social gains it has made lately and to pay a special attention to youth. “Policy makers must base their strategies to reinvigorate economic growth on job creation, social inclusion and better regional integration.”

“Young people require particular attention; youth unemployment is disproportionately high, yet renewed economic growth will depend on their skills, drive and talent for innovation,” the international body stressed.

ILO Regional Director for Asia Pacific, Sachiko Yamamoto, said recently that in spite of being the world’s most dynamic region economically, Asia-Pacific people are not getting enough jobs

and decent work out of this growth.

“Most developing economies in the region have working-age populations that are growing fast but often we only see 1-2 percent employment growth for 6-7 percent of output growth. So if output growth drops below 6 percent the region will not be producing enough jobs to meet the needs of those looking for work, particularly young people,” she said.

“Even before the current turmoil this growth was unevenly shared and inequalities were increasing. This inequality threatens economic and social progress if it is not addressed,” the expert added.

Green jobs and industries are one area of opportunity, according to ILO. It called on enterprises to speed up the shift towards a low-carbon, sustainable development path.

### Men’s market

The organisation calls on Asian nations to not waste the progress also made on tackling gender inequalities. The report shows that women continue to face barriers in the labour market, especially in Indonesia, Korea and Pakistan.

Indonesia, Korea and Pakistan face “wide gaps” in both economic participation and earnings. In Pakistan the difference in labour force participation is of 33.7 percentage points and 45 percent in wages, the highest for both indicators among the region.

On the contrary, in Thailand, Mongolia and Vietnam the male-female gaps in both earnings and economic activity are relatively lower. In Singapore, New Zealand and Australia gender disparities were also comparatively lower when looking at economic activity rates but considerably more pronounced in terms of wage differentials.

ILO also warned that the region’s informal economy remains massive and suggests that governments look at extending affordable social protection in order to address the future needs of an ageing population.

“Asia is ageing rapidly, particularly in the more industrialised economies,” the report says.

By 2030 the old-age dependency ratio – percentage of elderly in comparison with working-age – is projected to spike to 52.9 percent in Japan and more than 30 percent in Singapore, Korea, New Zealand and Australia. The middle-income countries of Thailand, China and Sri Lanka will also face tremendous demographic pressures.

ILO says that “tripartite action is essential to support the necessary economic structural changes related to a ‘greying’ population”. This includes appropriate skills policies, nurturing life-long learning and creating effective incentives that will increase labour force participation among women and the elderly, through delayed retirement.



General Melo Egídio (File photo: ca. 1995)

## Former Macau governor Melo Egídio passes away

Nuno Viriato Tavares de Melo Egídio, who was governor of Macau from 1979 to 1981, passed away yesterday morning in Portugal. According to Portuguese news agency Lusa, the 89-year-old was hospitalised in a healthcare facility in the capital, Lisboa.

The general became Macau governor in 1979, replacing Garcia Leandro. He was also the first governor to visit mainland China in 1980, about a year after Portugal and Beijing had resumed diplomatic relations.

Back in Portugal Melo Egídio became the head of the country’s Armed Forces in 1981, replacing general António Ramalho Eanes, who at the time was also the Portuguese president.

Melo Egídio took up this position until 1984. He was the first head of the Portuguese Armed Forces to stay away from the political activities since 1974, when a military coup put an end to an authoritarian regime and led to democracy.

## New bus plan for Horta e Costa

After two-way traffic at Avenida Horta e Costa resumes on Saturday the bus routes in the district will also be rearranged from December 18, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced yesterday.

The sewer upgrade works that lasted for almost a year are now complete and DSAT will resume normal traffic circulation at 10 am.

“Speaking with residents and shopkeepers it was clear that they wanted the works to be done by now, in order to allow people to enjoy a more comfortable Christmas and Chinese New Year festivities,” the head of the DSAT transport management department Dick Lo Seng Chi said.

Also on Saturday the two temporary bus stops in the middle of the avenue will be removed but the new scheme will only come into effect a week later. The bus stop in front of the Chi Fu warehouse will be moved 30 metres closer to the Red Market.

But the buses coming from the Guia Hill side will no longer use at all three stops at Horta e Costa. The routes going to the Border Gate (5, 9, 9A, 25 and 25X) will not stop near the Red Market and the remaining routes (6, 23, 32, N2) will not use the stop near Rua Manuel Arriaga.

During the construction works DSAT moved several bus routes to two streets parallel to Horta e Costa. This decision “has had a positive impact on the service and on overall traffic,” Lo said. “The number of passengers increased nine percent and both bus frequency and speed improved 10 percent.”

Authorities have decided to maintain most of the routes now going through either Avenida do Coronel Mesquita or Avenida do Ouvidor Arriaga. Only buses number 6, 9, 9A, 28C, 32 and N2 will move back to Horta e Costa, towards Guia Hill.

Meanwhile the three sets of traffic lights installed at the avenue will remain in place. “According to the opinions we have heard they will help reduce the likelihood of occurring traffic accidents,” DSAR traffic planning official Sio Iat Pang said.

In addition more street parking spots will be available in the area at night. In some streets parking will be allowed after 7 pm but in others residents will have to wait until 11 pm, he added

V.Q.

## Caritas hosts conference on poverty alleviation

Local charity association Caritas Macau will hold the international conference 'Joining Hands to Identify New Roads for Poverty Alleviation' today and tomorrow, at the Macau Cultural Centre, from 9 am to 5:30 pm.

The event marks the 60th anniversary of the association and invites speakers from Macau, Hong Kong, China, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand and Taiwan.

Social affairs experts will speak about: social security systems; psychological problems such as pathological gambling; the development of helping the poor disabled people in China; life quality of the rural elderly in China; work programmes for the marginalised groups in Thailand; and poverty alleviation in several sectors.

The two-day conference will welcome the secretary for Education and Literary of the government of Pakistan, Allah Bakhsh Malik, representatives of Caritas in several Asian countries and Macau and scholars and associations' representatives from Asian countries

# Cameras for public safety only: Government

by Alexandra Lages

**T**he video surveillance cameras to be installed in public areas will be exclusively used to prevent crimes and help criminal investigations, the secretary for Security promised yesterday.

Cheong Kuoc Vá met yesterday with the third standing committee of the Legislative Assembly to discuss the draft law on video surveillance.

"Lawmakers' major concern is whether the scope of the law can be extended or not in the future," committee president Cheang Chi Keong told reporters after the meeting.

However, he added: "The government assured that it has no intention of extending the scope of the law for other means."

The draft law allows for video surveillance in public areas but "exclusively to ensure public safety and order, in particular to prevent crimes and help criminal investigations".

Cheang said that the meeting went "very well" and legal advisors from both sides have reached a consensus on some minor changes.

"We will move forward with the discussion of the proposal in order to complete our works as soon as possible," the head of the committee said.

The government's legal advisors will now draft a new bill that is expected to "erase grey areas".

"The [current] text may cause some doubts

and the government said it is open to eliminating some parts in order to improve reading and prevent concerns," Cheang stressed.

### Border surveillance

For instance the concept of public space will be changed to fall in line with the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau's General Regulation of Public Places. In addition the provision on audio recordings will be revised in order to make it clear that the government can record audio if necessary.

Video surveillance cameras will be set up in three phases. In the first stage the government plans to install over 200 cameras at border facilities and then in old districts with high crime rates and for traffic control.

The Chief Executive will be the one to approve the locations of the new cameras.

The bill details that "images and sounds captured by cameras could be used as evidence in criminal or misdemeanour processes."

Data will be kept for 60 days only but if considered as evidence in a legal case it will be saved until all proceedings are concluded.

Recording of private conversations is strictly banned, with some exceptions if there is a crime involved. It is also prohibited to capture images and sounds inside private houses. Those who are in charge of handling the recordings are subject to the secrecy duty.



Video surveillance cameras will be set up in three phases



## OBITUARY

### SEVENTH-DAY MASS ANA MARIA BRAVO CUNHA

Rui José da Cunha sadly informs the demise of his beloved wife Ana Maria Bravo Cunha, in Portugal, on December 2.

Next Friday, December 9,  
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Rui José da Cunha, her children

Rui Pedro Bravo Cunha and

Isabel Alexandra Bravo Cunha, her son-in-law Jerome Pin and her grandchildren, Matilde, Mónica and Hugo will have a Seventh-Day Mass celebrated for her soul. Although absent our heartfelt thanks for all attending the memorial service.

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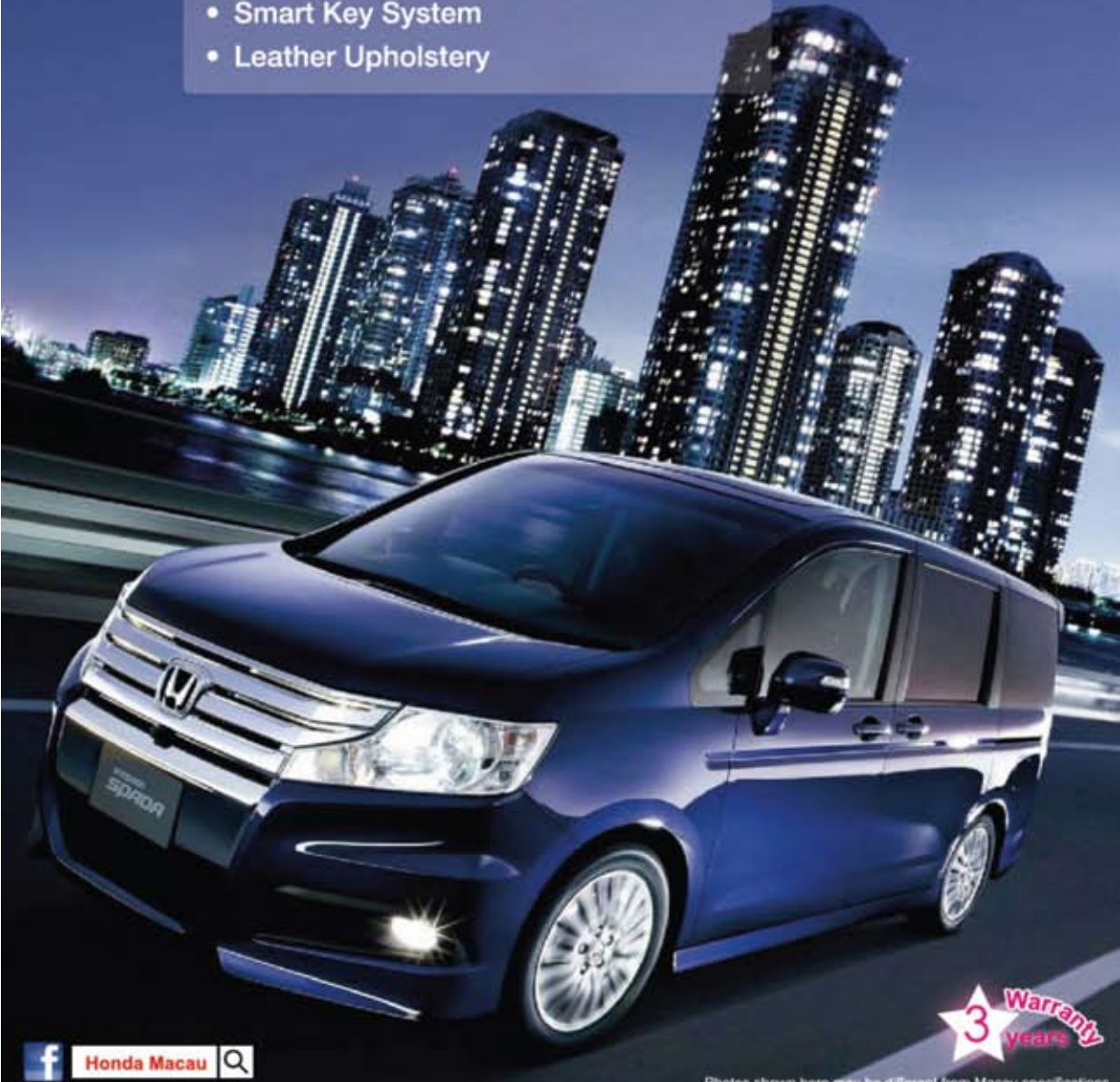
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Saturday	17-Dec	2:10 PM	Satellite to Christmas Bounty	\$860
		4:10 PM	Satellite to Christmas Bounty	\$860
		6:00 PM	Christmas Bounty \$150,000 Guarantee (\$500 for each elimination)	\$3,000
Sunday	18-Dec	2:10 PM	Phase 1 - Red Dragon Satellite*	\$270
		6:00 PM	\$200 Rebuy	\$200
		8:30 PM	Phase 2 - Red Dragon Satellite*	\$1,200

\* Red Dragon Main Event takes place from 23-26 February 2012  
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**Tema I: Estudo do regime jurídico sobre o espaço subterrâneo de Macau**  
 Orador: Sr. Ai Lam Chi  
 Instrutor sénior da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Macau

**Tema II: Estado actual e tendência do desenvolvimento do espaço subterrâneo das cidades do Interior da China**  
 Orador: Sra. Gu Xin  
 Urbanista sénior registada da China

**Tema III: Plano das instalações do sistema pedonal – Estudo de caso: paragens de metro de Montreal e de Tóquio**  
 Orador: Professor John Zacharias  
 Departamento do Ambiente Geográfico e Planeamento da Universidade de Concordia, Montreal, Québec, Canadá

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# Staff boost for TUI, MP

by Vitor Quintã

The Court of Final Appeal (TUI) and the Public Prosecutors Office (MP) will soon have more hands to work with, as the Executive Council has finished assessing changes to the organic laws of the two bodies that will make room for the hiring of a further 71 workers.

The biggest boost will be felt in the office of prosecutor general Ho Chio Meng, which will see its staff grow from 222 to 288, “gradually within a three to five year period,” the Executive Council spokesperson said yesterday.

Legal experts have bemoaned the lack of human resources in this sector but Leong Heng Teng said authorities are “confident” that it will be possible to hire more workers. A big part of the new staff (28) will be court clerks and training programs for this group has already begun, he revealed.

Ho Chio Meng will get a deputy head of office and several new departments, including one for judicial cooperation with other jurisdictions. The goal is to respond to the growing number of criminal cases, Leong said.

The TUI president, Sam Hou Fai, will also be allowed to hire a deputy head of office and three advisors. In addition the division in charge of the 50 in-house translators will become a department.

A new department for general services will be created to “improve and ensure the management of court facilities,” Leong said. This move is already taking into account the opening of a tem-



Signs in Chinese, Portuguese and English language will be posted on all locations where the indoor smoking ban will be enacted, starting January 1

porary building for TUI late next year, he confirmed.

But the spokesperson had no news on the construction of a building to house all local courts and the MP at the new reclaimed land.

## Smoke signs

With the indoor smoking ban coming into effect on January 1 the Executive Council has also backed the official signs that must be posted on all locations where the ban will be enacted.

The signs are in Chinese, Portuguese and English languages but they don't in-

clude the maximum fine for people who break the smoking ban. Leong acknowledged that information is also mandatory according to the new tobacco control law but said it should be covered in other regulation still to be published.

The signs will be displayed in most indoor public spaces of Macau, with the exception of casinos. The gaming industry was given a one-year period to create specific smoking areas taking up to 50 percent of the total area.

Authorities will also review the bylaw on ID cards

for diplomatic staff, which will soon become issued in an electronic form, Leong stressed. There is currently 600 people in Macau with a diplomatic ID card requested by 53 consulates but this number is bound to increase, he added.

The revision will allow for the issuance of ID cards for people “who benefit from a similar status,” such as the members of the European Union delegation, the United Nations University International Institute for Software Technology and the Typhoon Committee secretariat.

# World crisis to hit local economy

The local economy has been booming in the last two years but if the world falls into another recession Macau will still feel the impact, Asian Development Bank (ADB) senior expert Lei Lei Song warned on Tuesday.

The MSAR “is also exposed to the global shocks. If there is another global crisis, then Macau’s economy will be affected, no doubt about it,” he told Portuguese news agency Lusa.

When the 2008 global financial tsunami hit Macau the territory experienced a whole year of economic contraction until mid 2009, including a 10 percent drop in the second quarter of 2009.

And experts have been talking up the odds of the world’s advanced economies plunging back in to an ever worse recession as the European Union (EU) grapples with a sovereign debt crisis.

But Lei believes the impact of the EU crisis in China will be “very limited”. The mainland economy has “very strong macroeconomic fundamentals,” including a sound financial sector and a prudent fiscal policy, he said.

Beijing would have “a very big monetary and fiscal room to respond if the impact coming from Europe would grow,” the ADB expert said.

The MSAR “is substantially linked to the mainland China economy and Macau has a lot of money from tourism and gambling. I guess your economy is relying on mainland China domestic demand,” he recalled. “So if the Chinese economy is ok, then you should also be ok.”

## Volatile risks

But there are other risks, Lei said. “Because this is a very small economy it tends to be very volatile. If you have a big project then your GDP [Gross Domestic Product, total wealth created] will grow by a couple of percentage points but if they finish the construction then the economic growth will start to moderate,” he explained.

Macau’s economy “relies on gambling and any policy changes in China could affect it,” the ADB expert said. “I think this is the biggest risk Macau is facing in the next few decades.”

“Gambling is still prohibited in mainland China and if the Chinese Government says ‘we don’t want our people to go to Macau to gamble’, then Macau’s economy will be seriously affected,” he emphasised.

The Administration has focused on diversification and Lei agrees with this policy. “Building up other sources of economic growth, not only gambling but also other tourism activities. Then it [the local economy] would become more resilient,” he said.

The expert was speaking on the sidelines of the ADB 2012 forecasts presentation, in Hong Kong. The institution downgraded its prediction for the HKSAR economic growth next year to four percent.

ADB also believes most Southeast Asian countries will experience a slight slowdown in 2012. But Lei stressed that there are few worries in the long-term, with Asia poised to be the engine to pull the world economy out of recession.

# Melco’s listing may fund Asia growth

Melco Crown Entertainment said its listing in Hong Kong yesterday would allow it to raise funds by selling new shares as the local gaming operator expands in Asia. “It’s better to be closer to home,” co-chairman Lawrence Ho Yau Lung said.

The company was listed yesterday at the Hong Kong stock exchange and rose as much as 4.1 percent compared with the US closing price to HKD 26.4. Melco was already listed in New York, where it has surged 54 percent this year in Nasdaq trading, outperforming U.S.-listed rivals such as Wynn Resorts, which is up 9.5 percent.

However, instead of issuing new shares Melco has instead chosen a listing of existing shares in view of “current market sentiment,” Ho conceded last week. This alternative, called listing by introduction, raised no additional funds for the operator.

The Hong Kong listing could involve as much as six percent of Melco shares, which were made available for trading by Ho’s Melco International Development, one of Melco’s main shareholders with a 33.2 percent stake.

But the joint venture between Ho and Australian billionaire James Packer is “open-minded” about selling new shares to raise money, Ho said in interviews with Bloomberg.

Melco has pledged to invest MOP 13.6 billion in Macau Studio City but believes it can fund the long-delayed Cotai project “with existing cash and cashflow,” the operator’s chief financial officer Geoffrey Davis said last week.

## Taiwan, Japan

Yet this goal could be hindered as Melco is still awaiting government

approval for a revised design of the Studio City development, which includes a casino, Lawrence Ho confirmed.

Also last week the secretary for Economy and Finance, Francis Tam Pak Yuen said Melco Crown had so far not applied to introduce gaming into the Cotai project but he didn’t rule out that possibility.

The casino company is also interested in expanding to other “major jurisdictions,” Lawrence Ho stressed. “The liberalization of potentially Japan and Taiwan are on the cards,” he said, adding that Melco will continue to keep an “eye out” on those markets.

And Ho also remains confident on the prospects for the Macau market, where casino revenue jumped 44 percent to MOP 244.3 billion in the first 11 months of this year, driven by rising wages in mainland China.



Lawrence Ho, co-chairman and chief executive officer of Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. (2R), strikes a gong as wife Sharen Ho (2L), and Ronald Arculli, chairman of Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd. (R), during the company's Hong Kong stock exchange listing ceremony in Hong Kong, yesterday

As the gaming hub gets more rooms and infrastructure “we can get even more people into Macau,” the son of gaming tycoon Stanley Ho Hung Sun said.

For instance, new casino resort Sands Cotai Central will have more

than 6,000 rooms when it is fully complete, by early 2013. In addition the government is building a Light Rapid Transit system and cooperating with the HKSAR and Guangdong province on the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

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# VP Xi Jinping tells US: stop 'politicising'

**C**hina's leader-in-waiting urged the United States to "curb its tendency of politicising economic issues", state media said yesterday, after a recent step-up in US criticism of Beijing's trade practices.

Ties between Beijing and Washington have been strained after US lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle, under pressure to spur jobs growth as they enter an election year, heap blame on Chinese policies for their economic woes.

"I hope the United States will... curb its tendency towards protectionism and of politicising economic issues," Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping told former US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson during a Tuesday meeting in Beijing.

Xi, who is widely touted to take over from President Hu Jintao in 2013, added it was "vital" for China and the United States to strengthen economic and trade ties in the face of a global downturn, the state Xinhua news agency said.

The United States has recently stepped up criticism



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (R) meets with Henry Paulson, former US Treasury secretary, in Beijing, on Tuesday

of what it says are unfair Chinese trade practices in the face of deep US voter anger over high unemployment and the state of the economy.

Some US lawmakers have blamed China's rise for job losses at home – criticism that Beijing has rejected.

Last month, the US Commerce Department announced it would probe complaints by a firm called US SolarWorld Industries America that China was selling solar cells and panels in the US market at below the

cost of production, a claim that angered Beijing.

On Sunday, Xinhua ran a commentary accusing US solar makers of "double standards" by "selectively ignoring the millions of dollars in tax breaks and public subsidies... they themselves received."

Chinese solar panel makers too have rejected the probe, warning it risks "seriously hindering the development of green energy."

There has also been increased criticism from US lawmakers of China's yuan

currency, which many say is grossly undervalued and costs US jobs – which Beijing also refutes.

In October, the US Senate passed legislation that could punish China for its alleged currency manipulation, raising hackles in Beijing, where state media warned it could spark a trade war between the two countries.

US President Barack Obama – striving for re-election November next year – said last month Beijing had not done enough to allow the yuan to reach a fair market value and called on a now "grown up" China to act more responsibly.

And last week, a group of 59 lawmakers in the United States urged Obama to open an investigation into China's alleged unfair trade practices in the entire clean energy sector.

In his talks with Paulson, who arrived in Beijing on Monday, Xi also urged Washington to ease restrictions on high-tech exports to China and assist Chinese firms wanting to invest in the United States, Xinhua said.

## Emerging countries a target, as exports slip



China will seek to boost exports to emerging economies next year in the face of "severe challenges" caused by downturns in Europe and the United States, a senior official said yesterday.

To cushion the impact on exports – a major engine of growth – Beijing will target developing countries that are growing strongly, said Wang Shouwen, director of the commerce ministry's foreign trade department.

"Next year I think that we will face severe challenges in our exports and imports," Wang told reporters at the release of a white paper on foreign trade marking the 10th anniversary of China joining the World Trade Organization.

"However, some developing and emerging economies are enjoying sound economic performances so we will attach more importance to exports to these countries."

Wang did not name specific countries but said Latin America and the Asian region would grow next year and "have

demand" for Chinese exports.

Leading Chinese officials have painted a gloomy picture for the country's exports, warning that the eurozone debt crisis and sluggish recovery in the United States threatened the world's second largest economy.

Vice Premier Wang Qishan, China's top finance official, at the weekend urged companies to help guarantee a "stable increase" in exports amid slowing external demand.

China's exports rose 15.9 percent year on year to USD 157.49 billion in October, but the total was down from USD 169.7 billion in September, due to falling demand caused by the economic woes in Europe and the United States.

Imports expanded 28.7 percent to USD 140.46 billion in October, lower than the USD 155.2 billion recorded a month earlier.

Shipments to the European Union – China's biggest trade partner – fell to USD 28.74 billion in October from USD

31.61 billion in September.

Exports to the United States shrank to USD 28.60 billion in October from USD 30.11 billion in the previous month.

Shipments to developing economies such as India and Brazil fell by a lesser amount, though they accounted for a much smaller portion of the total exports.

The data, coupled with figures last week showing China's manufacturing activity contracted in November for the first time in 33 months, has caused concern that the Asian powerhouse is losing steam.

Wang told the news conference China would help companies in building brands, research and development and marketing to "allow them to be more competitive".

But he said that if the European financial crisis "does not run out of control" then China should still achieve "a considerable level of growth" in foreign trade.

In recent years China has been strengthening ties with developing economies in Asia and Latin America through trade and investment to reduce its exposure to developed markets.

Bilateral trade with South American countries has skyrocketed in the past five years by more than 160 percent, surging from USD 68 billion in 2006 to USD 178.9 billion in 2010.

Premier Wen Jiabao last month offered Southeast Asian countries USD 10 billion in infrastructure loans while foreign investment in China from the Asian region ballooned in the first 10 months of this year to USD 81.9 billion.

In stark contrast, US investment in China slumped 18.13 percent to USD 2.6 billion, while European Union investment increased just 1.05 percent to USD 5.5 billion.

## China, US hold military talks

Chinese and US defence officials opened military talks in Beijing yesterday after ties were strained by American arms sales to Taiwan and a planned US troop deployment in Australia.

The talks, led by US undersecretary of defence for policy Michele Flournoy and her Chinese counterpart Ma Xiaotian, come a day after China's President Hu Jintao urged the navy to prepare for military combat.

They are the first ministry-level talks between the two nations since September, when Washington announced a USD 5.85 billion upgrade to Taiwan's fleet of F-16 fighter jets, angering Beijing, which considers the island a breakaway province.

China's official Xinhua news agency said military relations between the two powers, the situations in the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea and the sale of US arms to Taiwan would be on the agenda.

Several Asian nations have competing claims over parts of the South China Sea, a strategically vital area believed to encompass huge oil and gas reserves, while China claims it all.

One-third of global seaborne trade passes through the maritime area and Vietnam and the Philippines have accused Chinese forces of increasing aggression there, ratcheting up tensions in the region.

On Tuesday, Hu said in a speech to China's Central Military Commission that the navy needed to "make extended preparations for military combat in order to make greater contributions to safeguard national security and world peace."

Opening the one-day annual meeting, Ma said the talks showed that "both countries are being sincere about maintaining military exchanges".

"Hopefully both sides will make the best of this opportunity to expand common ground, keep risks under control and avoid misjudgment," he added, according to Xinhua.

## Huge child trafficking bust: 600 arrests

Chinese police have busted two huge child trafficking rings that spanned 10 provinces, arresting more than 600 suspects and rescuing 178 children, the government said yesterday.

Child abductions and trafficking are rife in China, despite repeated police crackdowns – a problem that many experts blame on the nation's strict "one-child" policy and lax regulations on adoption.

The public security ministry said in a statement that police in the southwestern province of Sichuan had chanced on clues that a child trafficking gang was operating there when dealing with a traffic accident in May.

Then in August, police in the southeastern province of Fujian discovered the existence of another gang involved in widespread child trafficking.

After a long period of evidence-gathering, more than 5,000 police officers from 10 different provinces across China launched a joint offensive on November 30, arresting 608 suspects.

They rescued 178 children, who have now been placed in welfare agencies, in what the statement called "the biggest victory yet for anti-trafficking" operations.

It did not say how old the children were, or whether they had been reunited with their parents.

Lax adoption rules for childless couples in China have led to a thriving underground market for kidnapping, buying and selling children.

Many academics also blame the problem on the nation's strict "one-child" policy, which has put a premium on baby boys, as many families want a male heir.

As such, some parents who are unable to have a son or want a second child opt to buy one, and baby girls are also sometimes sold on to traffickers.

Authorities have repeatedly launched crackdowns on trafficking, but scandals keep emerging.

Police said in July they had freed 89 children in a crackdown on trafficking launched this year, arresting 369 people in the operation.

In November, police in the eastern province of Shandong also broke up a human trafficking gang that bought babies from poor families and sold them on for as much as USD 8,000.

And in 2007, in a scandal that shocked the nation, authorities found that thousands of people had been forced into slave labour in brickyards and mines across the nation.



## Cambodia opens controversial mega-dam

Energy-starved Cambodia yesterday opened the country's largest hydropower dam to date, a multi-million dollar Chinese-funded project that has attracted criticism from environmental groups.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said the start of operations of the 194-megawatt hydroelectric dam, which cost more than USD 280 million, in southern Kampot province was a "historic event" in the development of the nation.

He brushed aside the concerns of local and foreign activists, saying the environmental impact of the dam had been "well studied" and it would help bring down electricity prices in areas including the capital Phnom Penh.

"There is no development that will not impact on the environment," he said in a speech broadcast on national radio, urging "extreme environmentalists" to "look at the whole forest rather than each single tree".

US-based campaigners International Rivers said the Kamchay dam had destroyed hundreds of hectares of forest and farmland and warned it would have a negative impact on fisheries and on local people's livelihoods.

"Consideration of the dam's environmental impacts had no place in the project's decision-making," said Ame Trandem, the non-profit group's Southeast Asia programme director.

"As the first large dam in Cambodia, we hope this project does not set precedent for future energy planning and development in the country."

Around a quarter of households in the impoverished nation currently have access to electricity.

Spiralling utility prices, driven by the lack of supply, are a major obstacle for Cambodia to attract foreign investment, and the government has struggled to find a way to bring down the cost of power.

Nine more dams, including at least four funded by China, are set to open by 2019, and once they are all operational the government says they will generate 2,045 megawatts of power, serving all Cambodia's provinces.

The inauguration of the Kamchay dam came a day before Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam are set to announce whether Laos will push ahead with the development of the controversial Xayaburi megadam on the lower Mekong River.

Cambodia has called for more examination of the cross-border impacts of that project before a final decision is made by Laos on whether to go ahead.

## Pakistan president suffers minor heart attack

Pakistan's embattled President Asif Ali Zardari will remain in hospital in Dubai until further notice after suffering a minor heart attack and undergoing an operation, officials said yesterday.

The unpopular 56-year-old head of state flew to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday after falling ill in the midst of a major scandal over alleged attempts by a close aide to seek US help to limit the power of Pakistan's military.

His illness sparked media reports that he is contemplating resignation, but loyalists have ruled out any question that he may step down and the president has defied many critics in already holding onto power for three years.

"He had a minor heart attack on Tuesday. He flew to Dubai where he had an angioplasty. He's in good health now," Mustafa Khokhar, adviser to the prime minister on human rights who sits in the cabinet, told AFP.

"There's no question of any resignation," he added.

Khokhar said Zardari would return to Islamabad today, but the prime minister's office later said that although the president was "stable" he would remain under observation as doctors examine the cause of his illness.

The statement made no mention of heart attack, saying only that he went to Dubai following symptoms related to a "pre-existing heart condition".

Doctors have yet to determine whether he fell ill "due to adverse reaction" to medication or "a development related to his pre-existing cardiac condition," it said after Zardari's son, Bilawal, met Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

# Indian government backs on retail reform

India yesterday suspended plans to open its USD 470 billion retail sector to foreign supermarkets such as Wal-Mart, in a major U-turn forced by an outcry from small shopkeepers and opposition MPs.

The climbdown was a grave embarrassment for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government, which had announced the retail reform with great fanfare just two weeks ago.

The arrival of international chains such as Wal-Mart, Carrefour and Tesco in India was expected to herald a consumer revolution with shoppers moving from small, neighbourhood stores to large, out-of-town supermarkets.

But anger over the planned reforms united "mom and pop" store owners, trade unions, influential state leaders and opposition lawmakers who have paralysed parliament over the issue.

"The decision to permit 51 percent [foreign direct investment] in multi-brand retail will be suspended till a consensus is developed through consultations," Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee told parliament.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the country's leading business body, described the government's reversal as "deeply disappointing".

"It is a highly regressive move," it said in a statement. "For the economy as a whole it is imperative that the reforms like these should take place."



An Indian shopkeeper waits for customers at his retail store in New Delhi yesterday

Observers added that the capitulation would fuel criticism of indecision and policy drift within Singh's administration amid worsening economic data and a series of corruption scandals.

"This is a huge setback and will not go down well with foreign investors," said P. Phani Sekhar, fund manager with Mumbai's Angel Broking.

Sushma Swaraj, parliamentary leader of the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which had spearheaded opposition to the reform, mocked the government benches as she welcomed Mukherjee's announcement.

"Bowing down to the popular sentiment is not a defeat for the government," Swaraj said. "That the government bowed down before popular sentiment is a great victory for democracy."

The U-turn was confirmed earlier yesterday at an all-par-

ty meeting aimed at breaking the parliamentary logjam.

In his statement to parliament, Mukherjee said he hoped the house would now make the most of the 10 remaining days of the current session to pass a host of pending bills, including key legislation on corruption and food subsidies.

The suspended reform would have allowed foreign firms to hold a majority stake in "multi-brand" chains, posing the threat of sharp competition to traditional family-run shops.

Kishore Kharawala, general secretary of the National Association of Small Traders, which helped organise a strike against the reforms last week, welcomed the government's retreat.

"Any decision which goes towards protection of national interests is welcome," Kharawala told AFP in Mumbai. "We will continue to oppose the policy if the

government tries to introduce it again."

The legislation is unlikely to be revived before elections in 2014 with analyst Gautam Duggad of Mumbai-based Prabhudas Lilladher saying it was now "in cold storage".

Premier Singh and many industry leaders had argued that a modern retail system would benefit consumers, create new jobs and enable farmers to reduce wastage.

The sector is worth an estimated \$470 billion in annual sales, with high growth potential as India's 1.2 billion people move towards a more Western-style consumer economy.

An Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) survey, published at the weekend, had suggested that 90 percent of consumers believed the measure would lead to more choice and lower prices.

## Fugitive Thai 'Red Shirt' leader surrenders

A militant leader of Thailand's "Red Shirt" protest movement surrendered to authorities yesterday on terrorism charges over his role in opposition rallies last year, after almost 20 months on the run.

Arisman Pongruangrong, who narrowly avoided capture by police commandos in April 2010 by climbing out of the third-floor window of a Bangkok hotel, turned himself in to the justice ministry's department of special investigation (DSI).

"I acknowledged and denied all the charges and will give more testimony in a written statement," he told reporters.

Arisman is believed to have hidden in neighbouring Cambodia after fleeing the capital in the wake of the bungled attempt to arrest him in connection with mass anti-government protests that turned deadly.

Later, Bangkok court denied his re-



Thai 'Red Shirt' leader Arisman Pongruangrong turns himself in at the justice ministry's department of special investigation (DSI) in Bangkok yesterday

quest to be released on bail.

"The court said it was a serious case and he might escape," Arisman's legal advisor Singthong Buachum told AFP yesterday, adding that they planned to appeal.

On Tuesday the hardliner turned himself in to a court in Pattaya to face separate charges related to the Red Shirts' storming of an Asian summit in the Thai resort city in 2009, forcing its cancellation as leaders were evacuated.

He was granted bail in that case.

More than 90 people, mostly civilians, were killed and nearly 1,900 were wounded during the two months of rallies, which drew about 100,000 Red Shirts, many of whom support fugitive former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

The controversial ex-leader's sister Yingluck Shinawatra is now prime minister after a resounding election victory by his party earlier this year.



## Holy House of Mercy Showcasing sacred art in the heart of Macau

It is not everyday Macau is offered the gift of a new museum or in this case a new extended gallery in an existing museum nucleus.

Located in the city's centre at Senado's Square and inside one of Macau's best-known ex-libris: the UNESCO heritage-listed building of the Santa Casa da Misericórdia (Holy House of Mercy), there is now an added attraction for lovers of Sacred Art and Religious and Cultural tourism, besides the São Domingos church's and St. Paul's Ruins' nuclei in that area.

This new gallery, officially inaugurated on Tuesday, gathers around two hundred pieces of Sacred Art relics and Christ's imagery. Mostly heraldic pieces branded with the monogram of the Companhia de Jesus, a society that left inefaceable footprints not only in the local religious heritage but also in the areas of culture, education and social, among others. Traces of the Jesuits' presence and strong influence in the Middle Kingdom from the seventeenth-century onwards

are also felt in religious and everyday use objects, as well as in a map/chart that pinpoints regions of the Jesuits Catholic Missions in China.

The gallery, truly worthy of a visit, is also an extension of the Santa Casa da Misericórdia museum nucleus launched in 2001 by SCM's curator Antonio José de Freitas, with many pieces of religious art mostly from his own collection of nearly 30 years. Freitas once said he felt showing it to others instead of keeping it for himself would help enrich and preserve the over 400-year old history of Macau through the promotion of knowledge among interested visitors and locals.

With an average of 200 visitors per day, the SCM museum nucleus is already showcasing around 500 pieces of its vast collection in the first gallery now enlarged

with another space.

The number of simultaneous group visitors remains limited to avoid overcrowding in the heritage-listed building, for safety and security reasons.

Really good tidings for the culturally minded visitors.

C.J.

More info: <http://www.scm.mo>





TDM

Friday



Evelyn 23:30

Friday

13:00	TDM News (Repeted)
13:30	News at 24H (RTPi)
	Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Policy Adress 2012
	- Social Affairs and Culture (Live)
20:00	That 70's Show
20:30	Main News, Financial
	& Weather Report
21:00	Asia Global
21:30	Desperate Housewives
22:15	Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Evelyn
01:00	Main News, Financial
	& Weather Report (Repeted)
01:30	RTPi Live

Saturday

11:00	Oggy
11:30	Sandokan - The Two Tigers
12:00	Zig Zag
12:30	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News at 24H (RTPi)
	Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
17:50	Contest
18:40	Young Adult Program
20:00	Non-Daily Portuguese
	News (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial
	& Weather Report
21:00	Drama
22:00	Drama
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Talk-Show/Comedy
00:20	Contest
01:00	2011 Macau Internacional Kart
	Grand Prix - Highlights
01:30	Main News, Financial
	& Weather Report (Repeted)
02:00	RTPi Live

Sunday

11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News at 24H (RTPi) Delayed
	Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:10	Miscellaneous
17:00	Contest
17:45	Soap Opera
19:30	What the Pope Knew?
20:00	Modern Music
20:30	Main News, Financial
	& Weather Report
21:00	Portuguese Musica
22:15	Criminal Minds Sr.5
23:00	TDM News
23:30	The Secret War on Terror
00:30	TDM Talk-Show (Repeated)
01:00	2011 Macau Internacional Kart
	Grand Prix - Highlights
01:20	Main News, Financial
	& Weather Report (Repeted)
01:50	RTPi Live

Press Play

by MC LA

SOUNDTRACK

Air - Quartier Lointain (2011)

French electronica duo Air are reprising their roles as film composers. On the music for Sam Garbaski's "Quartier lointain," a French adaptation of Jiro Taniguchi's 1998 manga, "Haruka na Machi e." This is Air's second time working with a film score, following 2000's soundtrack to "The Virgin Suicides." That album still ranks as one of Air's best sellers to date, moving 159,000 copies. Fans will note that Air has drifted back into the more warmly layered and textural feelings that was the hallmark of their earlier work, yet infusing the more pop direction they've taken this decade. 2001's "10,000Hz Legend" saw a shift in the band's sound, where they riffed heavily on a man-versus-machine theme, but Dunckel says those theme don't reappear this time around. The pair, who was enthusiastic music fans from an early age, became friends in the playground of the Lycée Jules Ferry, where they were both at school in the early 80's. Jean-Benoît and Nicolas soon went on to develop a passion for electro music and before long the duo went on to form the group Orange, teaming up with a couple of other musicians who would make a major name for themselves on the 90's French music scene - Etienne de Crécy (of Motorbass fame) and Alex Gopher.



FOLK ROCK Cowboy Junkies

– Sing in My Meadow (101 DISTRIBUTION, 2011)

COWBOY JUNKIES



The Nomad Series Sing In My Meadow Volume 3

There's something extremely enigmatic about Sing In My Meadow. It is the third volume in Cowboy Junkie's Nomad Series and comes after the band has been together for 25 years. Surprisingly, the album doesn't feel like recycled material, but instead sounds as if it would fit right in with their platinum records from early in their career. This latest release features a group of songs that weave alternative country into an atmospheric grunge sound that results in a psychedelic blues feel and really makes the listener think about what exactly is happening on each track. No song is overly problematic; it's a pleasant mixture of sounds that perfectly compliment Margo Timmins' vocals. There is maybe a little too much free jazz noodling on "It's Heavy Down Here" but if you let this album get under your skin the chances are it will stay there for some time. Let's hope that Cowboy Junkies fans have tolerant, or deaf, neighbours. This is something to be played really late and really loud.

DELUXE EDITIONS

The Smashing Pumpkins

– Siamese & Gish (Virgin Records, 2011)



The Smashing Pumpkins' first two releases, Gish & Siamese Dream, are getting the fully remastered treatment, by EMI Music. Both albums, each with bonus content and special features that were curated from the band's archives by founding member Billy Corgan, have been painstakingly remastered for the first time from the original master tapes by Bob Ludwig. The creative and commercial arc of The Smashing Pumpkins in the '90s was so inextricably linked to the alternative rock movement that it's often easy to forget just how singularly remarkable they were at their creative peak. The brand new Gish (1991) and Siamese Dream (1993) boxed set deluxe edition reissues are an astonishing set of encapsulations of who the band were and what they were all about before their MTV-fueled skyrocket. The inch-thick, glossy packaging houses a feast of extras that might not astound the die-hards and bootleggers, but will put stars in the eyes of casual fans or first-time listeners—both sets include the original album, an extra CD's worth of out-takes, demos, live radio performances, and other semi-rarities... and a full concert on DVD, as well as exclusive postcards, revamped artwork, new liner notes by David Wild, and (of course) a frustratingly cryptic track-by-track commentary by Billy Corgan.

JUNGLE Lee 'Scratch' Perry

– Nu Sound and Version (On-U Sound, 2011)

Lee "Scratch" Perry is a living legend of music. He is responsible for the popularization of reggae and dub music outside of Jamaica. The later parts of his career, working with producer Adrian Sherwood and the On-u Sound label, would pave the road for the marriage of electronic and dub that happened with the dubstep movement. While the intentions of Nu Sound & Version are pure, the attempt to merge Perry with the artists he inspired doesn't always result in material as creative as would be hoped. It is a remix album, with 11 songs from Perry's time with On-u Sound handed over to some of the label's current artists. It's appropriate, not only because of the origins of dubstep but because of how Perry also incorporated new production methods into his work that would go on to become pillars of electronic music. The concept for Nu Sound & Version makes sense in theory, and it's pulled off by the more talented artists on the album. 'Nu Sound And Version' features some of the most radical treatment Perry's work has received, this challenges you with its off kilter sonic twists, wobbling bass, and its psychedelic dub but throughout Perry is conscious that its all about the riddim!!





39 STEPS

by Tomé Quadros

TWIN PEAKS

“TWILIGHT Portrait” had reached one of the year’s bold and challenging surprises on its international premiere at Venice 2011. Last October, the film was awarded the prize for best first feature at the Warsaw Film Festival. The film received also the Prize for Best Film at the Lisbon & Estoril Film Festival 2011, likewise the 52nd Thessaloniki International Film Festival award.

Sharing writing credits with leading lady and co-producer Olga Dihovichnaya, debut director Angelina Nikonova delivers a movie entitled “Twilight Portrait” which is naked of whatever ostentatious displays of sensitivity the audience might expect from its negligé premise approach. “We can’t look away and pretend we’re in a good state of social being,” says film’s director Angelina Nikonova. “Twilight Portrait” was shot with a Canon mark II. Even if a low budget film, for sure it is a good example of digital cinematography film. The camera floats around the characters outline story development.

“Twilight Portrait” is an undeniably fascinating counterpoint to Russian compatriot Alexander Sokurov’s hazily obtuse Faust. Marina (Dihovichnaya) is a gorgeous upper-crust Muscovite with an opulent wardrobe. She’s employed as a social worker, with a doting husband (good-looking to match) and an enviable downtown apartment. After the incident, when Marina is brutally assaulted, raped by three policemen, the audience never see her in the light of day again. The outline story is suddenly transformed into a bizarre twilight version of herself. Moreover, instead of finding contentment in her win-win situation, Marina carries on an affair with her best friend’s husband, and



also initiates a bizarre series of erotic encounters with a deadbeat cop who previously raped her. Nikonova says the original version was even bleaker: “When I got on board I lightened up a lot of things and put air in the story, because to me it’s very important that the viewers don’t suffocate.” The film is about “modern day Russia, sex, violence, relationships and a polluted collective psychology, mostly the film deals with many layers and in a word, it’s about LOVE”, adds Nikonova.

The film suggests that the main character is a truly dark variation on the European femme fatale. “Twilight Portrait” is undoubtedly a sharp criticism of Russian institutional apathy and social corruption. Nikonova’s challenging and frequently unsettling “Twilight Portrait” becomes both problematic and intriguing when considered from a feminist and psychological standpoint, depicting a woman’s unique reaction to being gang raped. “Russians have received it as quite tough; it irritates lots of people,” Nikonova says. “Why? Because film is a



very aggressive form of art.” Still, it’s an uncomfortable watch. This bureaucratic hangover from Soviet times is no new target for satire. It’s an interesting approach to a topic often handled with a very specific and logical morality, making memorable and challenging a film with an unsettling, realist sensibility. “I really think that masochism has very little to do with this; quite the opposite,” Nikonova explains. “Marina understands that Andrei is just another kid from a troubled family who has grown up into this beast. When she confronts him with her feelings, she’s basically taking charge.” Frank Capra once said, film is “Art as extension of the individual”. “Twilight Portrait” is all about one woman, one story through a very powerful Art machine.



A Lady Gaga dress, a self-drawn sketch of John Lennon with Yoko Ono and photos of a young Marilyn Monroe were among items sold at an LA auction that made over \$4 million, organizers said Monday.

The structured dress that Lady Gaga wore on the cover of Madame Figaro magazine in 2001 went for \$31,250, the first such sale at auction, while the prop gun she used in the video for “Born This Way” sold for \$7,680.

A collection of photos and negatives with copyright of Norma Jean, before she became Marilyn Monroe, sold for \$352,000 at the four-day sale at Julien’s Auctions in Beverly Hills, which ended Sunday.

An Irish Falcon Gretsch guitar from U2 frontman Bono’s personal collection, signed by the singer and with a scratch guard reading “The Goal is Soul,” sold for \$135,300.

Among Beatles memorabilia was a John Lennon & Paul McCartney worn jacket from the film “Help!,” which fetched \$43,750, while a caricature drawing by Lennon of him and Ono during their famous 1969 “Bed In” sold for \$90,000.

Pants worn on stage by Mick Jagger from an early 1980s European tour sold for \$7,040; an Elvis Presley leather jacket for \$16,640; a pair of Frank Sinatra stage boots \$5,120 and a Dean Martin tuxedo for \$20,000.

Michael Jackson-related items sold included a pair of Victory Tour sunglasses for \$7,680, and a collection of five stage costumes worn by the Jackson 5 at the 1976 American Music Awards, which went for \$10,240.

Later this month Julien’s Auctions is to sell furniture and personal effects from the Holmby Hills mansion that was the King of Pop’s last home, and where he

Marilyn photos, Gaga dress sold at LA auction

*Portrait of a young Marilyn Monroe – obtained courtesy of Julien Auctions – from a collection of photos and negatives with copyright of Norma Jean (before she became Marilyn Monroe) that sold for USD 352,000 at the four-day sale at Julien’s Auctions in Beverly Hills, ending on December 4*

died on June 25, 2009.

The sale will include a mirror on which the star had written “March, April” and then “May – Full on” – an apparent reference to the grueling rehearsals he was attending in early 2009 for a series of comeback concerts in London.

From the kitchen, there is the chalkboard note saying “I (heart) daddy,” and one saying “Hugs are for free,” while auctioneers recently found a candle that Jackson’s son Prince carved his name into.

But the auction, which comes weeks after Jackson’s doctor Conrad Murray was convicted of manslaughter in his death and jailed for four years, will not include the headboard from the bed in which he died, after his family raised objections.



CINEMA

**CINETEATRO Room 1**  
**Seediq Bale**  
**4:30/5:00/9:30pm**  
**Starring:** Quing-Tai, Da-Quin You  
**Director:** Te-Sheng Wei  
**Language:** Japanese (Chinese subtitles)  
**Duration:** 276 min

**CINETEATRO Room 1**  
**You are the Apple of My Eye**  
**7:30pm**  
**Starring:** Michelle Chen, Chen-Tung Ko  
**Director:** Giddens  
**Language:** Chinese  
(English and Chinese subtitles)  
**Duration:** 101 min

**CINETEATRO Room 2**  
**Nutcracker in 3D**  
**2:30/4:30/7:30/9:30pm**  
**Starring:** Charlie Rowe, John Turturro  
**Director:** Andrei Konchalovsk  
**Language:** English (Chinese subtitles)  
**Duration:** 110 min



**CINETEATRO Room 3**  
**Arthur Christmas 3D**  
**2:15/4:00/5:45/9:30pm**  
**Director:** Sarah Smith  
**Language:** Cantonese (Chinese subtitles)  
**Duration:** 97 min



**CINETEATRO Room 3**  
**Starry Starry Night**  
**9:30pm**  
**Starring:** Josie Xu, René Liu, Harlem Yu  
**Director:** Tom Lin Shu-Yu  
**Language:** Chinese  
(English and Chinese subtitles)  
**Duration:** 99 min

**Macau Tower**  
**8-Dec to 15-Dec**  
**Arthur Christmas 3D**  
**2:15/4:00/5:45/9:30pm**  
**Director:** Sarah Smith  
**Language:** Cantonese (Chinese subtitles)  
**Duration:** 97 min

**Immortals**  
**5:45pm**  
**Starring:** Huge Jackman  
**Director:** Shawn Levy  
**Language:** English (Chinese subtitles)  
**Duration:** 127 min







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# Mouse Click

by António Espadinha Soares



## BLOG OF THE WEEK WHAT SIRI IS SAYING

<http://www.whatsirissaying.co.uk/>

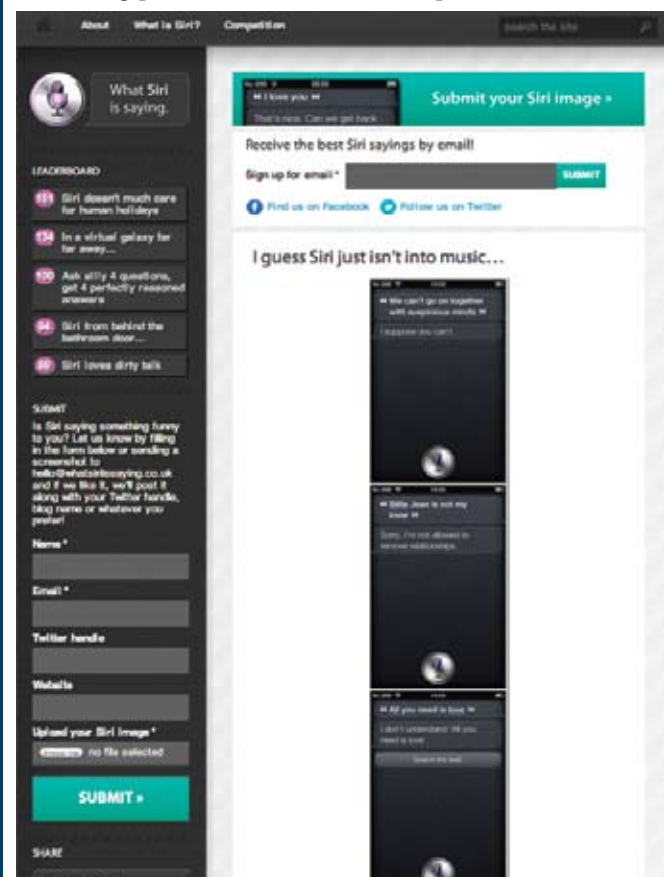
## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVENTURERS OF THE YEAR

<http://adventure.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/adventurers-of-the-year/2012/>


National Geographic is now taking in votes for this year's top adventurers. If you're a fan of the magazine and the TV channel, no doubt you've seen one of the many extraordinary individuals who go beyond the limits of normal human endurance in various forms of adventure sports, and conservation and exploration activities. There are 12 explorers up for vote (four of which are coupled together) and you can read all about them and their exploits. You can vote once a day until January 18 of next year. Winners will be announced in February 2012.

## Medify <https://www.medify.com>

Sometimes there are those who are unfortunate enough to either have someone close to them suffer from a serious illness, or even be diagnosed with one personally. Although medical science has come a long way it's common for those affected by a diagnosis of a serious illness to feel overwhelmed and not feel capable of making an informed decision. Medify was created to help anyone in this situation by providing information on real patients that are going through what you or your loved ones are going through so that you can compare your case with others, benefit from their experience and even their help and support. According to the site, all information on it is vetted by real medical experts, so that you're not misled by potential false cases.



## Video of the Week Making of the Photo Book "Macau: Work in Progress"

<http://forbesconrad.com/blog/video-making-of-macau-work-in-progress-book>

This week I have the joy of recommending the work of two friends, people who I've worked with in the past. They are Forbes Conrad, the author of the video, and David Hartung, the subject. As David's photo book on Macau's expansion in these last few years comes to fruition, Forbes made this short making-of video which not only shows the process of the book being printed and put together, but it also features an interview with David who reflects on the process of making this particular book and the technological contrast between how his book is now being printed and published, and how that compares with how publishing used to work when he first started his professional career.



## APP OF THE WEEK EA ORIGIN

<http://www.origin.com/>


Much like music and books, video games are now also being successfully distributed through online shops. I had previously recommended Valve Software's excellent Steam client, and now I'm recommending Origin, the software for purchasing and managing gaming titles from Electronic Arts, one of the world's largest gaming companies with

some of the best known gaming franchises under its wing. After installing it and signing up for an account with an e-mail address I had previously used to register two expansion packs for a game which I had bought years ago, I was surprised to find these same expansion packs as part of my games collection and available for download.



# WORLD OF BACCHUS

by Annabel Jackson

## The moon the moon, movia



This visionary wine is bottled undisgorged, which means there is a plug of yeast in the neck of the bottle which must be removed before it can be served. This involves opening the bottle upside down, in cold water, which pushes the yeast plug out but keeps the wine in. This is achieved with an implement designed by Ales called a "purista." As important to this unique product is the fact that the bubbles – the finest bead, fast and furious – are created in a second fermentation not through the traditional addition of yeast with sugar, but of pure grape juice.

### Movia Puro 2003

**Area:** Brda, Slovenia  
**Grape:** Pinot noir  
**Colour/style:** Sparkling, 12/5%  
**Available at:** Pacific Wine Mart, Rua de Madrid No 31, Wan Yu Villas, R/C (D), Macau  
**Tel:** 2875 0622  
**Price:** MOP350



### Movia Lunar 2007

**Area:** Brda, Slovenia  
**Grape:** Ribolla  
**Colour/style:** Dry white, 13%  
**Available at:** Pacific Wine Mart, Rua de Madrid No 31, Wan Yu Villas, R/C (D), Macau  
**Tel:** 2875 0622  
**Price:** MOP360

It is impossible to describe a wine like this in the "normal" way. There's a range of citrusy aromas and flavours, and the wine is incredibly pure, but what's more compelling is the non-interventionist way in which it is made, all according to the stages of the moon. Ales created custom-made barriques in order to replicate the natural process. These barrels make it possible to leave the wine to ferment, age, and stabilize completely on its own without even pressing the grapes. Only the free-flowing wine from the unpressed grapes is bottled (without filtration) and allowed to refine for three years before release.

Ales Kristancic of Movia has huge hands, farmer's hands. He dresses hugely stylishly, in gorgeous fabrics and designer belts, and is a former professional ballroom dancer. With his shaven head and intense gaze, he has the presence of a brooding actor, and is surely one of the most singular personalities in the wine world. His wines are similarly singular: a challenge to taste because they tend to be so outside the boundaries of what we normally experience. His vineyards are worked according to biodynamic principles, but he takes the practices in a personalized direction, too. "First understand what the wind, and the birds, are telling you," he says. "Understand what nature can offer you." How many wine estates could most people name in Slovenia? If they could name one, it would have to be Movia. As it happens, half of the estate's vineyards are in Italy (in the region of Friuli), but the winery is in Slovenia (in the region of Brda) so Ales names that country on the labels. It might not apparently do much for marketing (he finds himself in the "Eastern European" category in wine competitions while to be "Italian" would surely bring more glory), but Ales would not change the country of origin of his labels because of the extraordinary family legacy of Movia. It was purchased eight generations ago in 1820, and the country has passed through many hands since then, and the passion of his grandfather and his father, Mirko, continue to inspire him. As a young man he loftily worked at Petrus and Domaine de Romanee Conti, but still cites his father as his greatest influence. There's a range of Bordeaux-influenced red wines in his portfolio, but some of his most personalized wines are white – a Pinot Grigio of extraordinary richness, and the two unique wines profiled here.

Annabel Jackson is a wine and food writer, consultant and educator. She is a part-time lecturer at IFT.

## Restaurants

### CANTONESE

**Grand Imperial Court**  
 11.00 - 04.00 - Tue - Sun  
 Closed every Monday  
 T: 88022539  
 Level 2, MGM MACAU



**Imperial Court**  
 Mon - Friday  
 11:00 - 15:00  
 18:00 - 23:00  
 Sat, Sun & Public Holidays  
 10:00 - 15:00  
 18:00 - 23:00  
 T: 8802 2361  
 VIP Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU

### SHANGHAI

**Catalpa Garden**  
 Mon - Sunday  
 11:00 - 15:00  
 17:30 - 23:00  
 Hotel Royal, 2-4 Estrada da Vitoria  
 T: 28552222

### FRENCH

**Aux Beaux Arts**  
 14:00 - 24:00 Tue - Fri  
 11:00 - 24:00 Sat & Sun  
 Closed every Monday

### 寶雅座

**AUX BEAUX ARTS**  
 T: 8802 2319  
 Grande Praça, MGM MACAU

### GLOBAL



**Café Bela Vista**  
 Grand Lapa, Macau  
 956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F  
 T: 87933871  
 Monday to Thursday  
 6:30am - 3:00pm/6:00pm-10:00pm  
 Friday to Sunday  
 6:30am-10:00pm



**Vida Rica (Restaurant)**  
 2/F, Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen, NAPE  
 T: 8805 8918  
 Mon - Sunday  
 6:30am - 12:00am



**Morton's of Chicago**  
 The Venetian(r) Macao-Resort-Hotel  
 Taipa, Macau

T:853 8117 5000  
 mortons.com

• Bar  
 Open daily at 3pm  
 • Dining Room  
 Monday - Saturday:  
 5:30pm - 11pm  
 Sunday: 5pm - 10pm

**ABA Bar**  
 17.00 - 02.00  
 Closed every Monday  
 Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



**MGM Patisserie**  
 Monday- Sunday  
 09:00-21:00  
 T: 8802 2324  
 Main Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU



**Rossio**  
 07:00 - 23:00 Mon - Sun  
 T: 8802 2372  
 Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



**Square 8**  
 T: 8802 2389  
 24 hours  
 Level 1, MGM MACAU

### ITALIAN

**La Gondola**  
 Mon - Sunday  
 Praia de Cheoc Van, Coloane, next to swimming pool  
 T: 2888 0156  
 11:00am - 11:00pm



**Il Teatro**  
 Tuesday - Sunday  
 19:30-23:30  
 Wynn Macau, Rua Cidade de Sintra, NAPE  
 T: 8986 3663

### JAPANESE

**Kira**  
 Mon - Sunday  
 Altira Macau, Avenida de Kwong Tung 10/F - Taipa  
 T: 2886 8868  
 6:00pm - 12:00pm

### Tenmasa

Mon - Sunday  
 12:00 - 14:30  
 18:00 - 22:30  
 Altira Macau, Av. Kwong Tung 11/F - Taipa

### ASIAN PACIFIC

**Mix Asian Nepal**  
 47 Rua de Bragança, Mei Keng Gardens, Taipa  
 T: 2884 2724  
 Mon - Sunday  
 12:00pm - 3:00pm  
 6:00pm - 11:00pm

**Namaste India**  
 8G Rua Central  
 T: 2837 2750  
 Mon - Sat: 11:00am - 3:00pm / 5:00pm - 10:30pm, Sun: 5:00pm - 10:30pm

### MACANESE

**Litoral**  
 Mon - Sunday  
 261A Rua do Almirante Sergio, Taipa village  
 T: 2896 7878  
 12:00pm - 3:00pm / 5:30pm - 11:00pm

### PORTUGUESE

**Clube Militar**  
 975 Avenida da Praia Grande  
 T: 2871 4000  
 12:30pm - 3:00pm / 7:00pm - 11:00pm

### Fernando's

9 Praia de Hac Sa, Coloane  
 T: 2888 2264  
 12:00pm - 9:30pm



**O Santos**  
 20 Rua da Cunha, Taipa Village  
 T: 2882 5594  
 Wednesday - Monday  
 12:00pm - 3:00pm / 6:30- 10:00pm

**Espaço Lisboa**  
 8 Rua das Gaivotas, Coloane Village  
 T: 2888 2226  
 Mon - Sunday  
 12:00pm - 3:00pm  
 6:30pm - 10:00pm

### THAI



**Naam**  
 Grand Lapa, Macau  
 956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, The Resort  
 T: 8793 4818  
 12pm - 2:30pm / 6:30pm - 10:30pm  
 (Close on Mondays)

## Bars & Pubs

### 38 Lounge

Altira Macau, Avenida de Kwong Tung, 38/F Taipa  
 Sun-Thu 10:00am- 2:00am  
 Fri, Sat and Eve of public holiday:  
 10:00am - 3:00am  
 T: 2886 8868

### The Roadhouse

45 Rua de Madrid, Wan Yu Villas, Wong Chiu, Macau  
 T: 2875 2945

### D2

2/F, AIA Tower, No. 251A - 301 Avenida Comercial de Macau, Macau

### Lion's Bar

Tuesday to Sunday  
 7pm - 5am  
 (Closed every Monday)  
 Tel: 8802 2375 / 8802 2376

### Vida Rica (Bar)

2/F, Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen, NAPE  
 T: 8805 8928  
 Monday - Friday:  
 5:00pm - 2:00am  
 Saturday & Sunday:  
 2:00pm - 2:00am

### Vasco

Grand Lapa, Macau  
 956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F  
 T: 8793 3831  
 Monday to Thursday: 6:30 pm - 12:00 midnight  
 Friday to Saturday: 6:00 pm - 02:00 am  
 Sunday: 6:00 pm - 12:00 midnight



## ORCHITECTURES

by Tiago Quadros

\* Visiting Professor at the University of Saint Joseph

**T**HIS project built in 2009 by Steven Holl, an intervention of considerable size (around 220,000 sqm), comprising 750 apartments and a complex series of services, aims to counter the current privatized urban developments in China by creating a new twenty-first century porous urban space, inviting and open to the public from every side. Filmic urban public space; around, over and through multifaceted spatial layers, as well as the many passages through the project, make the Linked Hybrid an “open city within a city”. The project promotes interactive relations and encourages encounters in the public spaces that vary from commercial, residential, and educational to recreational. The entire complex is a three-dimensional urban space in which buildings on the ground, under the ground and over the ground are fused together.

Linked Hybrid is emblematic of the Chinese context, in which a number of foreign architects have been given an opportunity to carry out projects on a grand scale that are not mere replicas of Western architectural icons, but up-to-date experiments on the themes of modern architecture. The mega-

## LINKED HYBRID



of open green spaces, bodies of water and gardens on the roofs of the lower blocks. In a similar way to the linked services on the ground floor, the towers are united between the 12th and 18th floor by a system of aerial

a bar, a gallery, an auditorium, a restaurant. The lower surfaces of the skybridges and the intradoses of the windows are colored with tints used in ancient temples according to a random principle derived from the I Ching, bringing Western forms and the Chinese tradition together.

The building experiments with cutting-edge systems of earthquake resistance and energy efficiency, including 660 geothermic wells at 100-meter-deep and the recycling of water through pools and phytodepuration. The apartments have an average size of 190 sq metres and are equipped with a series of movable panels that allow their configurations to be modified.

Steven Holl was born in 1947 in Bremer-ton, Washington. He graduated from the University of Washington and pursued architecture studies in Rome in 1970. In 1976 he joined the Architectural Association in London and established Steven Holl Architects in New York City. Steven Holl has been recognized with architecture’s most prestigious awards and prizes. In 2003 he was named Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA). In 2002 the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, part of the Smithsonian Institute, awarded him their

prestigious National Design Award in Architecture. In 2001 France bestowed the Grande Médaille d’Or upon him, for Best Architect of the Academy of Architecture. Steven Holl is a tenured Professor at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture and Planning. He has lectured and exhibited widely and has published numerous texts including *Anchoring* (1989) and *Parallax* (2000).

Ideas are, and always have been very important to Steven Holl. It is not theories of architecture that have shaped his point of view, but concepts emerging from philosophy and science. Ideas addressing the world at large have served as both inspirations for his projects and as standards of thought against which to measure his own. He sees architecture not as an isolated specialty – however exalted – answerable only to its own formal rules, but as an art serving wide and diverse human interests. Most architects shy away from such aspirations, for fear that their work will suffer from comparison with broader, more comprehensive ideas, but in this regard Steven Holl is fearless. He engages the headiest concepts straightforwardly and without apology, as though doing so were simply a responsibility of practice.



building, situated not far from the center of Beijing, reproduces in part the city that contains it, just as it can also be said to derive from the imagery of *Metropolis* (1927), in which small figures move amidst high towers, illuminated windows and suspension bridges. In his film, Fritz Lang envisioned a city that was a utopia for the privileged and powerful. At the start of the film, our hero, Freder, who is the pampered son of the leader of *Metropolis*, spends his day frolicking in a sunbathed artificial pleasure garden built in the dome of the city’s tallest skyscraper, replete with flowers, fountains and fluttering peacocks. This artificial, technologically created nature is made possible however, only through the labor of the working class, who slave away in a subterranean dystopia. The technocratic structure of *Metropolis* keeps the two worlds carefully separated. If the privileged get to enjoy a technologically rendered version of nature, in *Metropolis*, the working class is relegated to a technological landscape devoid of nature. Their quarters are filled with cogs, gears and belching smoke.

The complex by Steven Holl is made up of eight residential towers and a series of minor blocks. The intervention envisages a mix of functions situated at ground level and in the loop of the suspension bridges between the towers. The ground level, in fact an enclave, allows residents and visitors access to stores, a hotel, a restaurant, a school, a kindergarten and a film library, inserted in a context

passages called skybridges and form a route with different functions, including a gymnasium with a swimming pool, a fitness room,







by Jean Alberti  
Photography by David Hartung

Jean Alberti, Macau.com's food and beverage columnist and Chef at Large.

**F**rédéric Château, Executive Pastry Chef at Galaxy Macau, has the power to make me feel like a kid again. This, I believe, qualifies as a *superpower*. It might not be as exciting as being able to fly, or as much fun as being invisible, but the ability to inspire childlike delight is a truly beautiful thing. I'm feeling delighted right now, as I contemplate one of Frédéric's chocolate raspberry holiday cakes. It's meant for a display but I feel a sense of giddy uncertainty as to whether or not I'll be able to stop myself from reaching out, as I might have done when I was six years old, to grab a piece and eat it. The uneven, undulating surface of the cake resembles drifts of red snow. Sitting comfortably right in the middle of it all is a miniature Santa Claus. He's wearing his traditional red uniform and pointed cap, his beard is white and his expression is contagiously jolly. Flanking Santa, mysteriously, are two ladybugs. All of it is edible *pastillage*, sculpted with sugar dough. "I like to work with my hands," says Frédéric, munching on a macaroon. Growing up in a family of *pâtissiers*, he acquired his passion for sugar work at a young

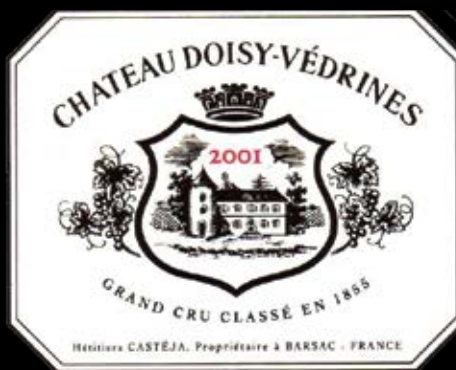
age. "I had to practice for years. Sugar work looks easy, but it is not. To reach perfection, you have to be passionate and motivated enough to do the same thing over and over again. That is my philosophy in life and at work." The Galaxy Macau cake shop that displays Frédéric's work could easily be mistaken for Santa's workshop: there is something to tempt everybody. Displayed on one table are a blonde Barbie, a sporty red and green buggy, and a stylish French handbag. "Women are crazy about handbags, not just the real ones, but also this cake," says Frédéric. "This is our bestseller." With savory foods, every good chef aspires (more or less) to celebrate the natural flavors of his or her ingredients. Visually, ingredients are expected to look beautifully like themselves. But when it comes to sweets, when it's time for dessert, the rules are a lot more flexible. Pastry chefs, like alchemists, are expected to transmute their ingredients, to transform them into something surprising and beautifully new. The only real limits on the inventiveness of a pastry chef are the laws of physics. Chef Frédéric handles the pressure to create with great good

humor, and he never lets it get in the way of his commitment to traditional, tried-and-true flavors and techniques. He doesn't play games, but he knows how to have fun. He knows how to deliver the happiness. "The theme today is candied chestnut," says Frédéric. "I'm doing dessert platters with chocolate tarts, chestnut cannoli, and macaroons with lemon parfait." On a white plate a single cannolo stands on end, whimsically connected to the chocolate tart via a slender helix of white chocolate. The macaroon, bright yellow, sits to one side, poised to roll away if neglected (not going to be a problem). A red line of spherified raspberry caviar, laid down across an empty section of the plate, completes the beautiful presentation. It looks so lovely, I wonder if people forget it's meant to be eaten. Not me! I pop the candied chestnut straight in, and then, with

Frédéric's work could easily be mistaken for Santa's workshop: there is something to tempt everybody. Displayed on one table are a blonde Barbie, a sporty red and green buggy, and a stylish French handbag.

that nutty sweetness still lingering on my tongue, follow with a forkful of Frédéric's decadently rich chocolate tart. With a satisfying crunch, the crisp outer layer of the cannolo gives way and the light cream within—flavored with chestnut puree—floods my mouth. The lovely yellow macaroon punctuates the end of this deliciously sweet interlude with a note of sharp tartness. I use a final chunk of macaroon to mop up the raspberry caviar. "That was superb," I say. "That was *fun*." "You've got to have some fun in life," says Frédéric, playfully picking up two stray macaroons to cover his eyes. Following him around at work has been like romping around a colorful playground made of sugar. Chef Frédéric makes pastries that inspire people to childlike delight. If that's not a superpower, I don't know what is.

*The tartness of fresh red currants provides a perfect counterpoint to sweet-flavored ingredients.*



## Wine Pairing

CHÂTEAU DOISY VÉDRINES, SAUTERNES, 2001

Paired with Chef Frédéric's chocolate tart and a marron glacé. Sometimes, you just want to go sweet—all the way sweet. You've started with a chocolate tart topped with a candied chestnut. Now is not the time to retreat. Instead, it's time for a glass of this velvety sweet 2001 Sauternes from the Chateau Doisy Védrines in the Bordeaux region of France. Sauternes is made from grapes that have been allowed to rot on the vine. After bacteria eat holes in the grape skins, much of the moisture inside evaporates, leaving an intense concentration of natural sugar. The resulting grapes look moldy, withered and pitiful, which means they're ready to be picked and converted into this beautiful wine. It looks like liquid gold and has a wonderful honey-apricot flavor that lingers on the palate—the perfect sweet-on-sweet complement to Chef Frédéric's delicious desserts.

## RECIPE

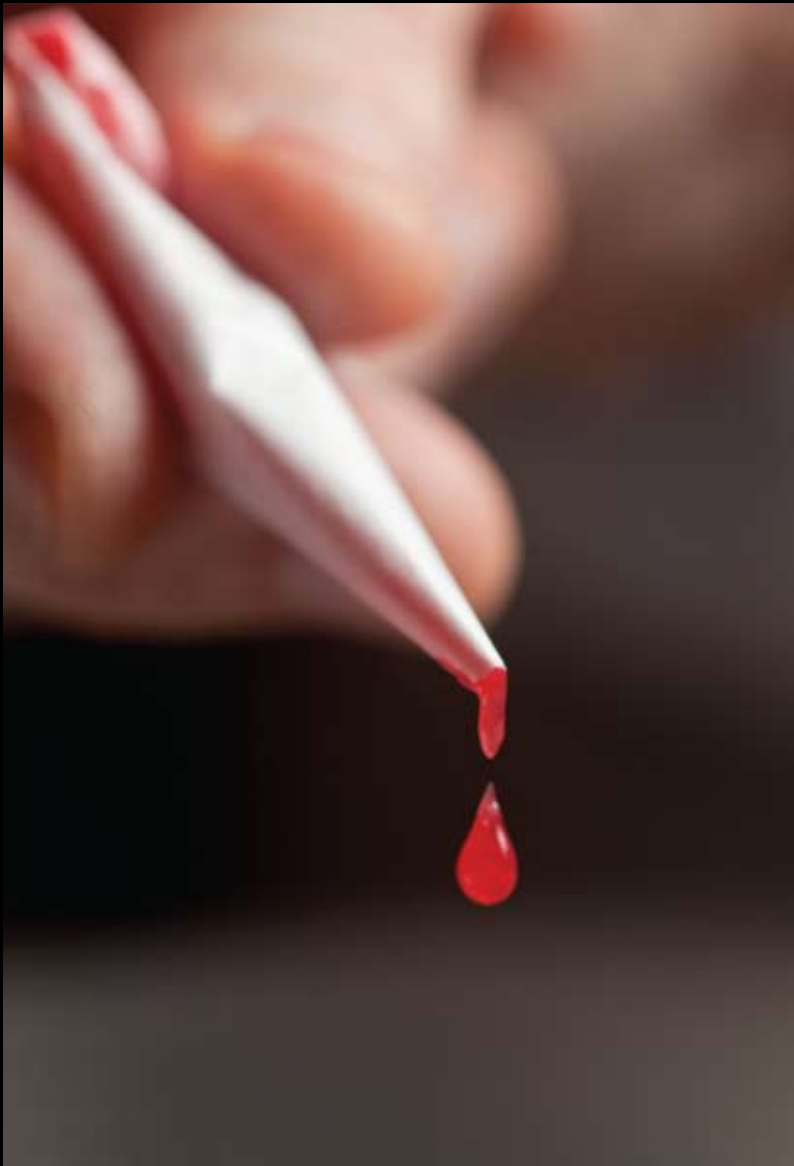
### Candied Chestnuts

Candied chestnuts, or marrons glacés, are extremely popular in France. So popular, in fact, that if you don't know how to make your own, you may not get to eat any! When the best sweet shops in Paris make a batch of candied chestnuts, they sell out almost immediately. Perfect for a holiday treat, enjoy them with family and friends along with a glass of hot apple cider or eggnog.

- 1 kg chestnuts, shelled with skins removed
- 1 kg granulated sugar
- 3 cups water
- 1 vanilla bean pod

Heat three cups of water in a pan. After the water boils, add one kilogram of granulated sugar. Stir constantly until the sugar has dissolved. Add the chestnuts to the sugar syrup. Stir frequently. Cut open the vanilla pod and scrap the seeds into the syrup. Mix the vanilla seeds with the chestnuts and cook for 20 minutes. Reduce the heat and pour the candied chestnuts into a container. Cover loosely and allow the chestnuts to soak in the syrup for 15 hours. After soaking, add the chestnuts and syrup to a new pan and repeat the cooking process for another 10 minutes. Stir frequently. Remove the chestnuts from the heat, place them into a fresh container and allow them to soak for another 15 hours. Repeat this process until all the syrup has been absorbed by the chestnuts. Finish by roasting the chestnuts in an oven for one hour at 250° F.

*Bon Appétit and Happy Holidays!*



*Chef Frédéric takes a fundamentally traditional approach to pastries, but he's also well-versed in modern techniques like spherification, which he uses to accent his dishes.*



# Playground

Chef Frédéric Château



*Enjoying a chat about childhood memories*

*Roasted, grilled or boiled—chestnuts are delicious however they're cooked. For a sublimely sweet incarnation of the nut, try Chef Frédéric's marrons glacés, or candied chestnuts.*



*Tonka Beans are famous for their heady aroma, which combines the scents of vanilla, almonds, cinnamon and cloves.*

*Chef Frédéric's sugar dough Santa, sitting atop a chocolate raspberry cake*



To see more photos and a video interview with Chef Frederic, go to [www.macao.com/en/dining](http://www.macao.com/en/dining)



# WHAT'S ON

## TODAY (DEC 8) Beauty & Entirety: Ceramics of the Song Dynasty from the Palace Museum



This exhibition showcases a total of 187 pieces (sets) of imperial and folk ceramic ware housed in the Palace Museum. Since ancient times, ceramic ware has been an integral part of the Chinese people's everyday life. Cultural relics excavated from the Jiangnan region reveal that the production of primitive celadon or cyan ceramic ware dates back to as early as the Shang Dynasty. Throughout the development of several dynasties, the Song Dynasty witnessed the zenith of ceramics in terms of technique and aesthetics. Song imperial ceramic ware thus represented the aesthetic benchmark for succeeding centuries and the highest paradigm of Chinese and global ceramic arts. This exhibition is not merely a valuable opportunity for a one-time reading of the highest level of ceramic art in the whole history of Chinese ceramics but enables exhibition-goers to experience the serene and graceful manner of Chinese ceramics that stands anew via the display of the imperial and folk porcelain ware of the Song Dynasty.

Opening hours: 10am-7pm (No admission after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)  
Until: March 11, 2012  
Venue: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE  
Admission: MOP5 (Free admission on Sundays and public holidays)  
Telephone Enquiries: (853) 8791 9814  
Organiser: Macau Museum of Art  
<http://www.artmuseum.gov.mo>

The China pop-punk group, Caffe In's Macau concert will feature rock groups, 'Plastic Doll' (Macau), 'Lander' (Hong Kong). Not to miss !!

**Time:** 9pm  
**Venue:** LMA (XL) Ave. Coronel Mesquita, Nos 48-48D, Edif. Ind. Man Kei, 10B  
**Admission:** MOP100  
**Telephone Enquiries:** (853) 2875 7511  
**Organiser:** Live Music Association  
<http://www.lmamacau.com>

## SUNDAY (DEC 11) Annual Concert by Macau Cultural Centre Children's Choir



Under the guidance of distinguished music educator, Vanessa Leão, the members of Macau Cultural Centre Children's Choir are eager to showcase to family and friends what they have learned.

In this presentation, several wonderful surprises were added including folk songs, musicals and festive tunes. Let's join this annual concert!

**Time:** 3pm  
**Venue:** Small Auditorium, Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai s/n, NAPE  
**Admission:** Free  
**Telephone Enquiries:** (853) 2870 0699  
**Organiser:** Macau Cultural Centre  
<http://www.ccm.gov.mo>

## TOMORROW (DEC 9) Czech Philharmonic Orchestra



Video artists from South Korea, Malaysia, the Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau are invited to exhibit their experimental video works. An experimental video forum will also be held, aiming to provide a platform for local and international video artists to exchange ideas and a better understanding of the avant-garde experimental video art.

**Time:** 8pm (December 9)  
3pm-8pm (December 10-11)  
**Venue:** Ox warehouse, Intersection of Av. do Coronel Mesquita and Av. Almirante Lacerda  
**Admission:** Free  
**Telephone Enquiries:** (853) 2853 0026  
**Organiser:** Ox warehouse  
<http://oxwarehouse.blogspot.com>

## SATURDAY (DEC 10) Macau Cheong Hong Music Club in Concert



Music teachers and students of the Macau Cheong Hong Music Club will perform various Chinese traditional ethnic music by playing a variety of traditional instruments including flute, erhu, dulcimer, lute, liuqin, zhongyuan, percussion and others.

**Time:** 8pm  
**Venue:** 10th floor, Edif. Industrial Hopewell, 163-165 Avenida do Almirante Lacerda  
**Admission:** Free  
**Telephone Enquiries:** (853) 2858 1150  
**Organiser:** Macau Cheong Hong Music Club

## World Standard & Latin Elite Dance Show 2011

To celebrate the 12th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region, three Hong Kong pop singers Adam Cheng, Julian Cheung and Stephanie Cheng will perform at the World Standard & Latin Elite Dance Show where some of the top

international Latin dance performers have been invited to showcase in Macau.



**Time:** 8pm  
**Venue:** Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion, Guia Street  
**Admission:** MOP100  
**Telephone Enquiries:** (853) 2852 5885  
**Organisers:** Macau Sport Development Board & Macau Dance Sport Federation  
<http://www.sport.gov.mo>

## Caffe In, Live in Macau



## MONDAY (DEC 12) 4th Christmas Shopping Festival



The Christmas Shopping Festival is one of the year's largest shopping events in Macau. To celebrate Christmas the festival promotes Christmas products, gifts and festival food to its visitors, as well as wedding and children's products.

**Time:** Noon-9pm  
**Date:** December 10-12, 2011  
**Venue:** Cotai Expo, Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel  
**Admission:** Free  
**Telephone Enquiries:** (853) 2870 3930  
**Organiser:** A Plus PR & Advertising Co.

## EXiM 2011 - Asian Experimental Video in Macau





**TUESDAY (DEC 13)**

**Lou Kau Mansion Arts and Crafts Demonstrations in December**



Lou Kau Mansion, located at No.7 Travessa da Sé, was completed in 1889 and was once a residence owned by Lou Kau, a wealthy merchant. This two-storey building was constructed in grey bricks in typical Cantonese architectural with characteristics of the late Qing Dynasty. At present, it is part of the 'Historic Centre of Macau' and is host to demonstrations of traditional crafts such as Zibo and Weifang, Shandong Province. Weifang cloth toys with rich local color and the astonishing inside-paintings art will certainly attract the attention of adults and children. Visitors are welcome to participate in the workshops (3pm-5pm/MOP20) at weekends, during the exhibition.

Lou Kau Mansion  
**Opening hours:** 9am-7pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)  
**Until:** December 25, 2011  
**Venue:** Lou Kau Mansion, No. 7, Travessa da Sé  
**Admission:** Free  
**Telephone Enquiries:** (853) 8399 6699  
**Organiser:** Cultural Affairs Bureau  
<http://www.icm.gov.mo>

**WEDNESDAY (DEC 14)**

**Macau Scenery: Art Exhibition for the 4th Anniversary of Art For All (AFA) Society**



A dozen well-known Macau artists will display 30 art works subject to this years' theme 'Macau scenery'. This is a perfect occasion for visitors to have a close look at Macau's contemporary art.

**Time:** Noon-7pm  
 (Closed on Sundays and Public holidays)  
**Until:** January 20, 2012  
**Venue:** Estrada da Areia Preta No. 52, Edifício da Fabrica de Baterias N.E. National, 10th Floor  
**Admission:** Free  
**Telephone Enquiries:** (853) 2836 6064  
**Organiser:** Art for All Society  
<http://www.afamacau.com>

\*All care is taken in compiling this form guide however Macau Daily Times accepts no responsibility for any errors in data.



# THE BIG BUZZ

A line-up of basketball's greatest stars bring their nimble skills to the CotaiArena™. Jacky Cheung, one of Hong Kong's greatest names, appears for four consecutive nights. Macau welcomes the return of the exceptional Joey Yung.

## US PRO-BALL LEGEND ASIA TOUR 2011 - MACAO

**18 DECEMBER (SUNDAY)**  
 6:00pm, CotaiArena

Some of basketball's all-time greats such as Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman, Penny Hardaway, Gary Payton, Clyde Drexler, Mitch Richmond and many others will be shooting for the hoops in Macau for the first time.

Tickets: MOP3,280 / 2,580 / 1,980 / 1,380 / 980 / 580

Sands Rewards Club members can enjoy up to 20% discount on show tickets purchased at box office locations within The Venetian® Macao or Sands® Macao.

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## JACKY CHEUNG ½ CENTURY TOUR

**29, 30 DECEMBER 2011, 8:00pm**  
**31 DECEMBER 2011, 8:45pm**  
**1 JANUARY 2012, 8:00pm**  
 CotaiArena



Known as the "God of Songs", Hong Kong's legendary Jacky Cheung brings a musical extravaganza combining stage films, musical, classical rock and jazz music all in one show. These four shows promise to be one of the highlights of the festive season.

Tickets: MOP1,680 / 980 / 680 / 480 / 280

## JOEY YUNG CONCERT NUMBER 6 - MACAO

**7 JANUARY 2012 (SATURDAY)**  
 8:00pm, CotaiArena

During her 12-year musical career, Joey Yung has won many awards and much acclaim. Her long-awaited return to Macau will see Joey putting all her energy into her performance. Fans can be sure that not only will her perfect vocals and amazing choreography be on show but also her quirky costumes and stage presence.

Tickets: MOP800 / 600 / 400 / 300

Sands Rewards Club members can enjoy up to 20% discount on show tickets purchased at box office locations within The Venetian Macao or Sands Macao.

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French yoga enthusiast Amandine Roche (2nd L) teaches yoga to girls at a school for street children in Kabul



## Yogi bends over backwards for Afghan peace

by Claire Truscott

**W**HEN 30 Afghan prison guards took a break from warden duties to try yoga, they lunged sideways in unison to meditate on pursuing a more peaceful existence in Afghanistan.

The unusual scene was orchestrated by French yoga enthusiast Amandine Roche, on a personal quest to promote the idea that for fighting to end and battle scars to fade in the warring nation, inner peace must out.

Taliban, Afghan and Western troops should practise yoga and meditation, she believes, to work towards more harmonious and brotherly social relations and help bring three decades of war in Afghanistan to a close.

It is a message she has been taking to powerbrokers on both sides of the conflict, albeit with limited success.

So far her project is self-funded and small in scale, but while yoga for the masses may seem naive in a country steeped in warrior culture, she has at least won some high-profile audiences.

"Real peace starts within, like the war starts within. We need to raise the level of consciousness, it's as simple as that," Roche told AFP at her home in the Afghan capital Kabul.

"I say: 'Guys, why don't you stop? It's pointless for 30 years, just sit, sit and cool down.'"

Downward dogs and sun salutations are not common manoeuvres among military commanders running the war in Afghanistan but at least one senior officer, in charge of US-led detention facilities, listened to her plan.

Roche spoke to Vice Admiral Robert Harward, a Navy SEAL then in charge of Task Force 435 that heads US-run detention facilities in Afghanistan. "He did think it might be a constructive programme," said Major TG Taylor, spokesman at US Central Command where Harward now works.

"He is open to evaluating non-traditional ideas and supports consideration of new and unique ideas," Taylor added.

Ultimately, however, his successor in Afghanistan did not pursue it.

"We took an exploratory look at this thing," said US Navy Captain Kevin Aandahl, current spokesman for Task Force 435. "But it just didn't go forward."

Undeterred, Roche now teaches yoga and meditation twice a week to NATO troops in Kabul, with up to 16 soldiers and non-combatants attending each session, said a NATO welfare officer.

She has also held one meditation session with a former Taliban commander, and has approached several government ministers in the hope of receiving state support -- so far none has been forthcoming.

In May her project, "Sola Yoga", was given a celebrity boost when she attended a peace conference in New Jersey and met Iranian-American Cameron Alborzian -- yoga devotee, fluent Dari speaker and one-time male supermodel.

"Yogi Cameron" -- star of Madonna's 1989 music video "Express Yourself" -- was now earning up to USD 30,000 per week as a restyled guru to the stars in Los Angeles and was an eager recruit to Roche's cause.

He travelled to Afghanistan for a fortnight in June, visiting officials to drum up support for the project and managing to obtain access to Kabul's Pul-e-charkh jail and the prison in Bamiyan, central Afghanistan, where they persuaded guards to try out some stretches.

The Afghan commander in Bamiyan, Ghulam Ali Batur, said his men tried yoga briefly but was doubtful it would catch on, though he admitted that "it tends to calm people, violent people".

"Trust me, it will be a too difficult job" to convert Afghans, deeply suspicious of any foreign influence, to yoga, he said,

citing its Buddhist and Hindu roots.

Roche, who used to work in peacekeeping for the United Nations, points out that Afghanistan has its own tradition of meditation in the mould of Abdul Ghafar Khan -- a Pashtun spiritual pacifist who died in 1988.

But yoga seems a long way from catching on in a country where resolving disputes through violence is deeply ingrained.

Mental health is also hardly discussed in Afghanistan but Roche's vision is that meditation and yoga can give Afghans a tool to help them discover inner calm away from the traumas that result from the violence surrounding them.

"They say that you are possessed by the genie, by the devil. They don't know what's mental health," said Roche.

"I can give them a tool to control their mind because they're all traumatised," she mused. "All Afghans have a horrible story to tell you, a book to write."

Roche's greatest success has been teaching yoga to street children in Kabul, working with charity Afghanistan Tomorrow to inspire a calmer generation.

Leading a group of young girls with candles burning in the room, she encouraged them to sit cross-legged, close their eyes and forget their troubles. Later the girls tried to pose like trees, standing on one leg.

"This tends to calm me and helps me to be better and faster in my studies," said 11-year-old Roquia.

AFP



## PROJECT POKER

PokerStars Macau 新葡京 GRAND LISBOA



by Raymond Wu

## Pre-flop Strategy

In pretty much all forms of poker, the most basic strategy is pre-flop play. Many may feel that the hands you choose to play pre-flop may not be of significance because flops can change so much in the hand. However, underestimating the importance of pre-flop hand selection could spell troubles down the road.

There isn't really a "correct" pre-flop strategy for each specific poker setting but there are some simple guidelines. You may have heard the old saying, "Tight is right." After having played over a million hands of poker, I'd have to agree with that statement. If you are familiar with my style, you will know that I'm not the type to stick with the books and play only solid hands. But after careful consideration, I would have to say being tight is the way to go and especially for beginners.

One of the biggest reasons for tight pre-flop play is that marginal hands tend to miss the flop majority of the time. For beginners, missing the flop is a huge nightmare and they often don't know how to continue in the hand. For this reason, I would recommend beginners to stick to playing hands that have value in them: pairs from AA to 77, big broadways like AK/AQ, and strong suited connectors like JQs/JTs.

The first step to become a successful poker player is to "not lose." By having a very tight pre-flop hand range, you will hit flops often and thus won't be put into difficult situations. By not putting yourself into difficult situations, you will have less chances of losing big in your first couple of poker sessions.

Now, it's pretty easy for us to sit here and say that playing tight is the way to go. I, myself, knew about this style at the very beginning of my poker career and it's a lot easier to be said than done. I remember playing in a local casino when I was studying back in Southern California. I drove forty-five minutes to get there and while I was driving I was telling myself how I was going to play tight and solid and not do anything funny. The plan went well and I had won some money playing for a couple hours. Then disaster struck. A player at the table was playing a lot of hands and he re-raised my raise from the button. I had AA and happily shipped it in and he snap called with K8o and won the hand with trips. I as furious and went on tilt for the rest of the night and lost all my profit plus more.

These kinds of stories are extremely common in the poker world and I'm guilty for these situations at least twenty times in my career. Poker is a skill game that requires a great deal of patience and discipline. The first step to testing your patience and discipline is to master your pre-flop game. Next time you head over to the Pokerstars Macau Poker room, don't make the same mistake many players and I have made in our career.

More than poker,  
Ray

Raymond Wu is a Team PokerStars Pro and was the captain for Team Chinese Taipei who won the World Cup of Poker at the 2010 PokerStars Caribbean Adventure. Wu is a Macau Poker Cup - Red Dragon champion and runner up for the 2010 Asia Player of the Year award.

Please send questions or comments about PokerStars Macau or this article to Email: [macau@pokerstars.com](mailto:macau@pokerstars.com)





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# Ask The Vet

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



Please send all your questions to [globalveterinary@gmail.com](mailto:globalveterinary@gmail.com) or mail to:  
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- Musculoskeletal
- Neoplasia
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- Nutrition
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- Skin
- Surgery
- Travel
- Urinary
- Vaccinations

Ask the Vet - is a service that allows you to ask questions about your pets' health and behavior. My goal is to help you, the pet owner, improve the knowledge of your pet's everyday needs and health care in Macau through a variety of pet services and veterinary resources that were never available to pet owners before.

# Beagle Cooper has a back pain

Dear Dr Ruan

*Copper, our 11-year-old beagle, suffers from back pain due to intervertebral disc (IVDD) disease. Her veterinarian prescribed prednisolone, but her pain is so bad that I have to give aspirin too.*

*Her vet is concerned that the two medications together might damage her stomach, but without the aspirin, she cries in pain. The vet suggested surgery, but we don't want that. What else can we do?*

Catherine

Hi Catherine,

Drug interactions are always a risk when multiple medications are given on the same day. Your veterinarian is understandably concerned that aspirin and a steroid like prednisolone can damage the stomach. Fortunately, other pain medications, such as tramadol, can be safely administered with prednisolone, as a muscle relaxant.

Once Copper completes her prednisolone regimen, your veterinarian can prescribe an aspirin-like anti-inflammatory pain reliever that is more effective and safer for use of dogs than aspirin.

Your veterinarian also may recommend a medication like Pepcid to protect Copper's stomach.

Non-drug therapy, such as acupuncture and physical rehabilitation, are effective in decreasing pain and increasing function in dogs with IVD disease. Ask for a referral to veterinarians who practice these therapies.

Hope this helps, write to me for more information.

Till Next week  
Dr Ruan



## Moon bears rescued in Vietnam

Fourteen Asiatic black bears have been rescued from a bear bile farm in Vietnam after their owner decided to renounce the illegal trade, an animal protection group said in Hanoi.

The animals, known as moon bears after the distinctive yellow crescent moon-shaped mark on their chests, were given to Animals Asia by bear farm owner Nguyen Ngoc Tien, the group said in a Tuesday statement.

"[Tien] had the opportunity to sell the bears to others but for reasons of conscience decided to give them to Animals Asia," said Tuan Bendixsen, Animals Asia's Vietnam director.

"We want to see an end to bear farming across Vietnam so no more bears have to suffer," he said, adding that it was the first time a Vietnamese bear farm had given up a significant number of animals without compensation.

Bear farming is banned in Vietnam but people are permitted to keep the animals in small cages as pets.

Using this legal loophole, bear bile factories still operate in Vietnam - there were 4,190 bears in farms in 2005 according to official figures, but Animals Asia says the captive population has dropped by some 700 since then.

In the farms - which feed a regional demand for bile used in traditional medicine - bears are often drugged, restrained and have their abdomens jabbed with unsterilised needles to harvest their bile.

The 14 bears that were rescued show significant health problems including missing and maimed limbs, indicating they may have been trapped in the wild.

They have been taken to a sanctuary in northern Tam Dao district for care and treatment, Animals Asia said.



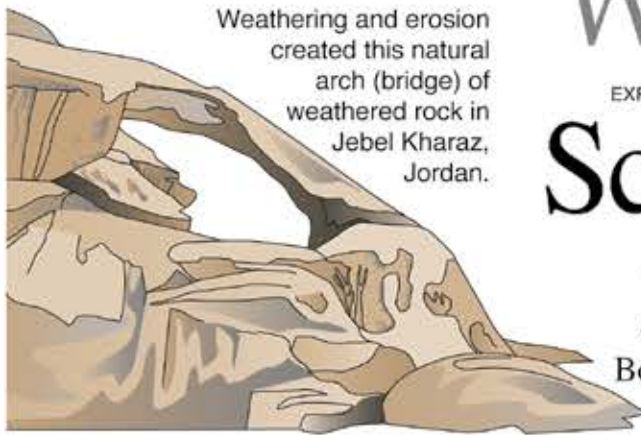
# World of Wonder

EXPLORING THE REALMS OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Sculpting the Land

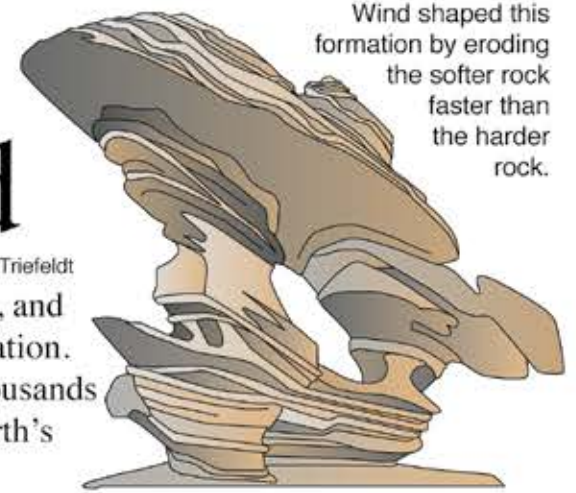
By Laurie Triefeldt

Weathering is the breakdown or decomposition of rock, and erosion is the movement of soil and rock to another location. Both tend to be slow, steady processes that occur over thousands or millions of years. These natural forces carve the Earth's surface into dramatic rock spires, canyons, cliffs, fertile plateaus, winding rivers and caves.



Weathering and erosion created this natural arch (bridge) of weathered rock in Jebel Kharaz, Jordan.

Eventually, weathering and erosion will wear away this geological formation.



Wind shaped this formation by eroding the softer rock faster than the harder rock.

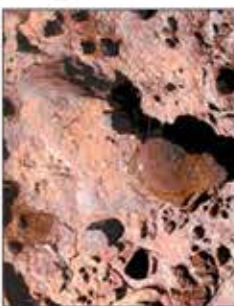
## Weathering: breaking up

### Disintegration

Often the first step in the erosion process, weathering happens when ice or another environmental factor breaks down and loosens rock and soil. It usually occurs at the surface, but sometimes it happens deep in the Earth's crust. Weathering often results when water leeches into cracks in rocks, where it freezes and expands, breaking apart the rock. Weathering can also be caused by chemicals, heat, living organisms or wind. Over time, weathering breaks down boulders into smaller fragments and layers of bedrock may form, eventually becoming soil or sand. The more **porous** the rock, the more quickly it will weather.

### Microscopic spaces

Many rocks have microscopic holes or spaces that allow water to flow into the rock. Sometimes the water also carries chemicals that help to further break down the rock. Some rocks are so riddled with these minuscule caves that they become weak and crumbly.



Volcanic lava rock is very porous. Bubbles of hot gas formed spaces in the rock. Water can get into this kind of rock easily.

### Joints

Most rocks have tiny, hairline cracks called joints. Joints do not break straight through the rock, but they are deep enough to let water run along them — deepening with time.



Rock joints are fractures in solid rock.

### Faults

Faults are cracks in the bedrock and are a major factor in weathering. Much larger than joints, faults can span hundreds of miles.

### Landslides

Landslides occur when a slope becomes unstable and dirt and rock slide downhill. Large landslides have destroyed entire sides of mountains.

### Chemical weathering

Chemical weathering causes rocks and soils to break up by altering their chemical makeup. Atmospheric chemicals carried in rainwater often weaken certain minerals in rock, making it more susceptible to weathering. The most common types of chemical weathering are oxidation, hydrolysis and carbonation.



Acid rain breaks down buildings, statues and other man-made objects.

### Mechanical weathering

Mechanical weathering (also known as physical weathering) is the disintegration of rock by a physical force without a chemical change. Constant freezing and thawing of water is the most common cause of mechanical weathering.

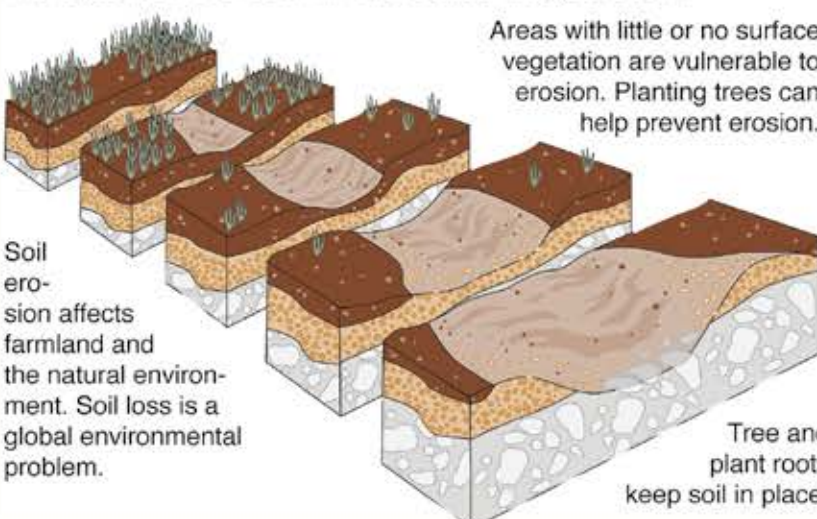
### Biotic weathering

The word "bio" means life. As the name suggests, biotic weathering is caused by living organisms. Plant roots and microscopic animals can break down rocks over time.



### Stages of soil erosion

Accelerated soil erosion is the result of human actions, such as mining, overgrazing, deforestation and poor farming techniques that leave the land unprotected. When the land is damaged by agricultural implements, wind and water erosion cause large amounts of rich topsoil to move downhill. This is called **tillage erosion**.



Areas with little or no surface vegetation are vulnerable to erosion. Planting trees can help prevent erosion.

Soil erosion affects farmland and the natural environment. Soil loss is a global environmental problem.

Tree and plant roots keep soil in place.

## Erosion: moving on

### On the move

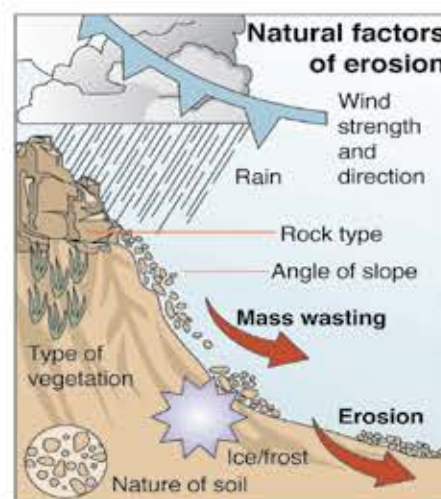
Erosion is what happens after rocks and soil have been loosened by weathering. Erosion is the actual movement of rock and dirt by wind, water or ice to new locations. The downhill movement (due to gravity) of broken rock is called **mass wasting**.

### Water erosion

Water is the most common cause of erosion. Rain runoff, streams and oceans can pick up and transport vast quantities of sand and soil. The fast-moving waters of the Colorado River can turn a 6-foot boulder into mud in four years.

### Ice erosion

When a glacier slowly moves across the Earth, it acts like a bulldozer, relocating and re-forming the landscape.



### Wind erosion

The erosive power of wind is most evident in deserts, where the wind forms sand dunes and erodes rock into fascinating shapes. Erosion by wind is also known as **aeolian erosion** (named after Aeolus, the Greek god of wind).

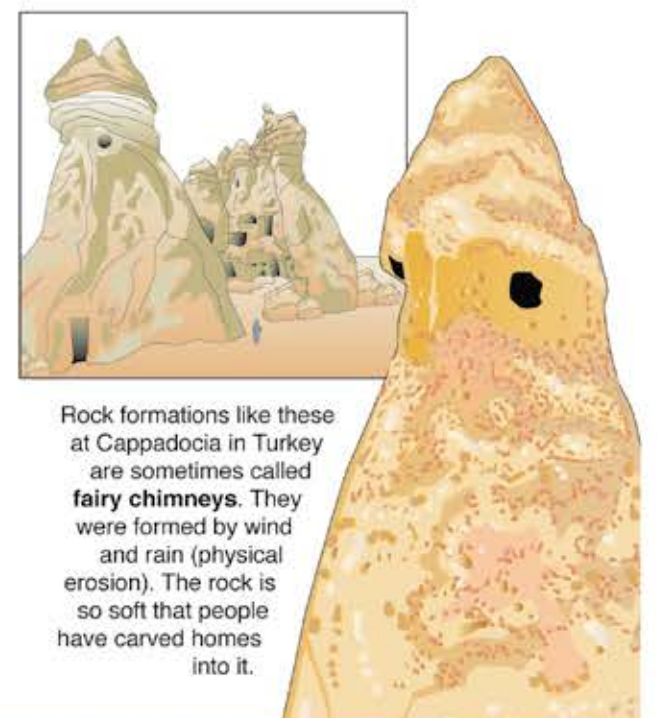


### Pros and cons

Ideally, erosion is natural and healthy for ecosystems. Erosion deposits rich, fertile soil on valley floors. It can create caves, lakes and new wetlands and build beaches and sandbars. It is also responsible for some amazingly beautiful geological formations. Erosion becomes a big problem when it carries away fertile topsoils — stripping useful farming land and allowing agricultural chemicals to reach lakes and rivers. Eroded soil and sediments can clog irrigation ditches, ponds and reservoirs. It is estimated that about 40 percent of the world's agricultural land has been severely affected by erosion.

### Factors

The rate of erosion depends on a variety of factors. Climate, such as extreme temperatures, high winds and abundant rain, can increase rates of erosion. The type of rock, the slope of the land and topographic features of a region may also contribute to erosion. Ground cover, or the lack of it, is another important factor that influences soil erosion.



Rock formations like these at Cappadocia in Turkey are sometimes called **fairy chimneys**. They were formed by wind and rain (physical erosion). The rock is so soft that people have carved homes into it.

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# UN climate talks eye carbon levy on shipping

A scheme to tax a global shipping industry that emits as much CO<sub>2</sub> as Germany to help poor countries cope with climate change impacts has gained a foothold at UN talks in Durban, negotiators and green groups said yesterday.

For the first time, the 194-nation UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has put a draft proposal on the negotiating table that identifies maritime transport as a potential source of revenue.

"A single ship can emit as much carbon dioxide in one year as several small island states," said Tim Gore, a policy analyst at the charity Oxfam, which has helped push the idea of a so-called "bunker fuel tax".

Oxfam calculates that the levy, based on a carbon price of 25 dollars a tonne, would – besides cutting greenhouse gases – generate some 25 billion dollars a year by 2020.

The cost of transport under this plan would go up by 0.2 percent.

2020 is the year that a new Green Climate Fund for developing nations conceived at the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit is supposed to have ramped up to 100 billion dollars annually.

Negotiators are still debating the new fund's architecture, but even if a consensus is reached in Durban it remains, for the time being, "an empty shell," in the words of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

A tax on international ship-



Thousands of South African youths forming a giant lion head on a beach in Durban, to call for urgent action on climate change, on the sidelines of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

ping – which accounts for about three percent of global emissions – could help fill those coffers, and thus far is the only potential source of new funding with any traction.

Other potential schemes include a tax on international financial transactions, and a similar levy on cross-border aviation traffic.

No one is predicting that a tax on sea transport will be adopted at this year's climate meet, but just getting the proposal on the table is an important step, campaigners say.

"The taxation of maritime sector emissions is the most promising source of funds at this point," said Gore.

"This is the one where we can make some real progress here in Durban."

Some 100,000 ocean-going cargo vessels crisscross the oceans, according to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

The shipping sector would rank seventh in the world in carbon emissions if it were a country, just ahead of Germany and behind Brazil.

A World Bank study released

in September estimated that a carbon levy on both the shipping and aviation sectors could raise up to 250 billion dollars annually in 2020, and result in an emissions reduction of five to 10 percent.

A major concern, however, in the developing world is that a shipping levy would – like a flat tax – unfairly penalise poorer nations.

One proposal would be to use money raised by the tax to compensate developing countries for marginally higher import costs, leaving some 10 billion per year available for the Green Climate Fund.

A bunker fuel can only be put in place by the IMO, but many nations – with the European Union in the lead – are seeking to give the initiative a boost at the Durban climate talks.

In a joint statement last week, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), WWF and Oxfam said carbon emissions from merchant ships could be subjected to "market-based measures" as an incentive to reduce greenhouse gases.

ICS secretary general Peter Hinchliffe said the rules should be crafted under the IMO "with the same rules for carbon reduction applying to all internationally trading ships, but in a manner which respects the principles of the UN climate convention."

"If governments decide that shipping should contribute to the UNFCCC 'Green Climate Fund,'" said Hinchliffe, "the industry can probably support this in principle."

## Egypt military boosts PM's authority

Egypt's military rulers yesterday gave caretaker premier Kamal al-Ganzuri presidential powers, but added he would have no control over the army or judiciary, a report in Cairo said.

"The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces delegated presidential powers to Kamal Ganzuri according to the law, but not the armed forces and the judiciary," the official MENA news agency reported.

Ganzuri, a 78-year-old former prime minister during the toppled regime of Hosni Mubarak, was appointed nearly two weeks ago following street protests that led the former caretaker cabinet to resign.

His new cabinet was expected to be sworn in yesterday.

Protesters took to the streets of Cairo again last month to pressure the interim army rulers in the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) to transfer their sweeping control to civilian leaders.

The military has said it would hand over power after presidential elections by the end of June next year.

When former autocrat Hosni Mubarak stepped down in February, the SCAF took control as the ultimate power in the country in a bid to ensure stability.

They have suspended the constitution, meaning the powers of the caretaker cabinet and a new parliament currently being elected, are unclear. Pro-democracy protesters have accused them of preparing to consolidate their influence and they have made clear they expect to retain supra-constitutional powers in future such as oversight over army related legislation.

## British private eye arrested in hacking probe

British police probing phone hacking at Rupert Murdoch's News of the World arrested a private investigator who was previously jailed for his role in the scandal, reports said.

Police said a 41-year-old man had been arrested on suspicion of phone hacking and perverting the course of justice, and the BBC and the partly Murdoch-owned Sky News identified him as Glenn Mulcaire.

The arrest is the 18th made by officers working on Operation Weeting, the investigation set up in January into the illegal hacking of mobile phone voicemails at the paper, which was closed down in July.

"On 7 December 2011 officers from Operation Weeting arrested a man in connection with phone hacking and perverting the course of justice," London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

The man was arrested at 0700 GMT at an address in London and was being held in custody at a south London police station, it said.

"It would be inappropriate to discuss any further details at this time," the statement added.

A Scotland Yard spokesman refused to confirm the reports that the man was Mulcaire when contacted by AFP.

Mulcaire's London-based lawyers also declined to comment.

Mulcaire, a former footballer turned private detective, and the News of the World's former royal editor Clive Goodman were jailed for six months in 2007 for hacking the voicemails of aides of Britain's royal family. He was re-arrested in July. Rebekah Brooks, a former top executive in Rupert Murdoch's newspaper empire, and Andy Coulson, a former News of the World editor and Prime Minister David Cameron's former media chief, are among those previously arrested.

Separately yesterday, Coulson launched a legal battle at the High Court in London against his former employer after it stopped paying his legal fees.

## Italian police arrest mafia boss in bunker



Italian policemen celebrate outside the Police's headquarters in Caserta following the arrest of the boss of the Casalesi clan

Italian police yesterday arrested the most senior boss of the Camorra mafia still at large, digging through a secret bunker near Naples to end his 16 years on the run, Italian media reported.

Michele Zagaria, 53, considered to be the leader of the powerful and bloody

Casalesi clan, has already been sentenced in absentia to multiple life terms in prison for a career of murder, extortion and drug trafficking.

Zagaria was hidden in a bunker with a thick ceiling of reinforced concrete under a home in the town

of Casapesenna, north of Naples.

"You won. The state has won," Zagaria reportedly told anti-mafia investigators as he was being arrested.

He has been the subject of an international arrest warrant since 2000.

Italian prosecutors on Tuesday carried out 47 arrests in a crackdown on the Casalesi clan and asked lawmakers to strip an MP from former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's party of his parliamentary immunity to arrest him too.

The Casalesi clan, involved in drug trafficking and construction, was at the centre of a book "Gomorra" by investigative journalist Roberto Saviano, who has been forced into hiding because of threats against his life.

The book was later turned into an award-winning film.

Italian police in November 2010 arrested Antonio "The Baby" Iovine, a leader of the Casalesi, after 14 years on the run. Iovine, who had escaped arrest many times before, was picked up as he tried to jump from a balcony.



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# Syria's Assad denies orders to killings

**S**yrrian President Bashar al-Assad denied ordering the killing of thousands of protesters and said "only a crazy person" would target his own people, in a rare US interview released yesterday.

Speaking to ABC News, Assad brushed off widening international sanctions and questioned the UN death toll of more than 4,000 since the eruption of the unrest in March, saying most victims were government supporters.

Assad – speaking to veteran journalist Barbara Walters in a rare interview to foreign media – said he was not responsible for the bloodshed and blamed any excesses on individuals rather than his regime.

"We don't kill our people," ABC News quoted Assad as saying. "No government in the world kills its people, unless it's led by a crazy person."

"There was no command to kill or be brutal," Assad said.

Witnesses and human rights groups say Syrian forces have used intense force, mass arrests and torture to try and crush the biggest threat to the Assad family's four-decade-long rule.

The United Nations estimates that more than 4,000 people have died since the uprising began in March, part of a wave of pro-democracy movements sweeping the Arab world that by now have toppled leaders in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.



*A performer hangs from hooks while holding his national flag in front of a giant picture of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as a show of endurance during a pro-regime rally in Damascus on December 2*

Assad dismissed the death toll, saying: "Who said that the United Nations is a credible institution?"

"Most of the people that have been killed are supporters of the government, not the vice versa," Assad said, giving a figure of 1,100 dead soldiers and police.

The conflict is said to have taken a heavy toll on children who either took part in protests or were targeted because of their parents' involvement. A UN-appointed investigator said that Syria killed 56 children in November alone.

Walters pressed Assad on the case of Hamza al-Khatib, a 13-year-old boy who rights

group say was killed in April after being shot, burned and castrated.

"To be frank with you, Barbara, I don't believe you," Assad said of alleged abuse of children.

"Every 'brute reaction' was by an individual, not by an institution, that's what you have to know," Assad said.

"There is a difference between having a policy to crack down and between having some mistakes committed by some officials. There is a big difference."

Assad's brother, Lieutenant Colonel Maher al-Assad, heads the army's Fourth Division, which oversees the capital

as well as the elite Republican Guard.

Assad said that his government was moving ahead with reforms but stated flatly: "We never said we are democratic country."

"It takes a long time," Assad said. "It takes a lot of maturity to be full-fledged democracy."

Syria has faced growing international condemnation, including Western sanctions and similar action by the Arab League and neighboring Turkey.

Assad told ABC News such threats did not worry him, saying: "We've been under sanctions for the last 30, 35 years. It's not something new."

## Damascus urges citizens to vote in municipal elections

The regime of President Bashar al-Assad yesterday urged Syrians to vote en masse in municipal elections to be held on Monday, while the crack-down on dissent showed no signs of abating.

"December 12 is an important moment. All citizens must take part in the municipal elections and vote for the candidates they consider best capable of defending the public interest," wrote Al-Baath, the newspaper of the ruling party, which has been in power since 1963.

Monday "is a crucial date and a very important step in the road to decentralisation and democracy," it added, stressing that these elections are a means for Syrians to "participate in decision-making and building the nation."

"We are in a working process, during which everyone must redouble their efforts... so that Syria remains a fortress of resistance and national unity," the newspaper continued.

A special indelible ink will be used for the first time in the local elections "to prevent any fraud," said the Syrian local administration minister, Omar Ghalawanji.

On the ground, clashes between the regular army and a group of deserters shook the town of Saraqeb in Idlib province near the border with Turkey, a rights group said.

"A vehicle carrying army troops was destroyed," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a watchdog based in Britain.

Also in Idlib, "military forces raided houses and arrested three militants," in the vicinity of Saraqeb, while "some 50 armoured vehicles, including tanks and troop carriers, came under attack in the village of al-Rami," it added.

Activists say more than 100 people have been killed in Syria since Saturday and the UN estimates that at least 4,000 have died since March when anti-regime protests erupted.

## Turkey no springboard for attack on Syria

Turkey said yesterday it would not let its territory be used to launch attacks against other countries after Syria said it had foiled a bid by "terrorists" to infiltrate from the Turkish border.

"Turkey is not allowing any armed groups [to launch attacks] against other countries," a Turkish diplomat who declined to be named told AFP, when asked about the Syrian news reports.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported Tuesday that Syrian border guards had the previous night thwarted an attempt by "armed terrorist groups from Turkey" to cross into the country.

The guards had wounded an unspecified number of the 35 gunmen they had intercepted without suffering any casualties on their side, SANA reported.

"Cars were heard taking the wounded gunmen away on the Turkish side," the report added.

"No military activity has been observed on the Syrian side of the border," the Turkish diplomat said.

Turkey is home to around 7,500 refugees who have fled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's deadly crackdown.

It also hosts Colonel Riyadh al-Asaad in one of the camps on the Turkish-Syrian border, who claims to head a group of army defectors called Free Syrian Army.

Asaad, in a recent telephone interview with AFP, called for foreign air strikes on "strategic targets" in Syria to speed up the fall of the regime.

While he did not back foreign troops on the ground there, he called for on the international community to provide the opposition with logistical support, a no-fly zone and a buffer zone.

Turkey has been critical of the Syrian leadership's crackdown. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has even urged his one-time ally Assad to step down.

## Afghan bombings kill 78 people in 24 hours



*Afghan men bury victims of a bomb attack against Shiite Muslims at the Kart-E Sakhi cemetery in Kabul yesterday*

A bombing in Afghanistan yesterday took the toll from just over 24 hours of bloodshed to 78 dead as officials blamed Pakistanis for the worst attack, accusing them of trying to whip up Iraq-style sectarian violence.

Nineteen civilians, including seven women and five children, were killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan's troubled Helmand province yesterday, underscoring enduring instability after 10 years of war.

That came as funerals took place for 59 people killed in unprecedented bombings against Shiite Muslims in Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif a day earlier, which Afghan officials blamed on Pakistani militants.

They accused the militants of trying to fur-

ther destabilise Afghanistan with sectarian violence in a country already wracked by a decade of conflict between foreign and government troops and Taliban-led insurgents.

Giving details of the Helmand bombing, provincial security force commander Mohammad Ismail said 19 people, including seven women and five children were killed. The women were all from the same family.

The blasts, for which there was no immediate claim of responsibility, came as the civilians travelled from provincial capital Lashkar Gah to Sangin district, historically one of the most troubled in Afghanistan.

Parts of Helmand remain highly unstable although Lashkar Gah was brought under

the overall control of Afghan forces in July and three other districts are due to shift from NATO to Afghan security control within weeks.

Investigators are now trying to find out who was behind Tuesday's attack in Kabul, which killed 55, and another almost simultaneous one in Mazar-i-Sharif that killed four as Shiites marked the Day of Ashura.

The Taliban have denied responsibility.

An Afghan official said the bomber who attacked the Kabul shrine was a Pakistani affiliated to Pakistan's extremist Lashkar-i-Jhangvi group, which has been blamed for killing thousands of Pakistani Shiites.

The faction linked to Al-Qaeda has not previously claimed responsibility for any attacks in Pakistan's neighbour Afghanistan.

Officials and experts suggested that if any Pakistani militants did orchestrate the attacks, then elements in the Afghan Taliban may have helped facilitate them.

The Kabul attack on the holiest day in the Shiite calendar marked the first on a key religious day in Afghanistan.

In Kabul, many of those killed in the shrine bombing were buried amid emotional scenes yesterday.

Several hundred people marched through the west of the city chanting "God is great" with two of the bodies, an AFP photographer said.

Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said that while they had been prepared for violence, the funerals had passed off peacefully so far.

The US embassy confirmed that an American citizen was among those killed in the Kabul attack but gave no further details.



# White truffle charity auction raises MOP 4.48 million

**S**ociedade de Jogos de Macau, S.A. (SJM) successfully hosted the Italian White Truffle Charity Auction and Dinner at Grand Lisboa last Thursday for the fifth consecutive year. Six lots of Italian white truffles were offered for charity auction. The total amount raised at the auction was MOP 4.48 million, fully donated to local charities.

All funds raised from the auction were donated to nine local charities, namely Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society, Kiang Wu Hospi-

tal Charitable Association, Obra das Mães, Special Olympics Macau, Macau Holy House of Mercy, Charity Fund of Readers of Macao Daily News (2011 Walk for Millions), Caritas de Macau (2012 Caritas Macau Charity Bazaar), Yat On Pathological Gambler's Counselling Centre and Macau Social Services Centre.

The largest white truffle of the event, found in Tuscany of Italy, weighed 980 grams. It was auctioned together with another white truffle, weighing 515 grams, found in Alba

of Italy. SJM, represented by its directors Dr. Ambrose So, Ms. Angela Leong and Mr. Louis Ng, was the successful bidder for this largest lot of truffles for MOP 4 million.

SJM had invited chefs from Grand Lisboa's Chinese restaurant "The Eight" and the Italian restaurant "Don Alfonso 1890" to jointly prepare an evening of award-winning "East-meets-West" cuisine for the guests, who included VIPs from Macau and Hong Kong, members of the Consular Corps and representatives of the charities.



# World-renowned golfers raise funds for Orbis

MGM Macau hosted its first Charity Golf Invitational Championship at Macau Golf & Country Club on Monday. World-renowned professional golfers Zhang Lianwei and Li Wei flaunted their skill as they were joined by special celebrity guest, Michael Wong, while Malaysian professional golfer Danny Chia and Singaporean golf player Lan Chih Bing were invited to show their flair as well.

It was the first championship to partner with the global charity organisation Orbis, and the 50 tournament winners raised total cash sum of nearly HKD 300,000 for the charity.

MGM Macau Charity Golf Invitational Championship hosted 70 contestants

from all over the globe.

After the five-hour-long competition, the golf tournament winners have come out. There were 50 winners in total in the tournament, of which 12 winners in the category "Beat the Pro", 34 winners in "5mm Putt", 1 winner in both "Nearest the Pin" and "10mm Putt", and 2 winners in "Longest Drive",

All were treated to a gala dinner later in the evening at Aux Beaux Arts, the 30's-style French brasserie of MGM Macau, where the awarding ceremony for the championship took place as well. But 59 awards were given, as the lowest total score golf winner and eight best players were also announced by MGM Macau.



(L-R) Golf professionals Li Wei, Zhang Lianwei, actor Michael Wong and Senior Vice President of Casino Marketing, Brian Fiddis



# Venetian spreads Christmas cheer with community groups

Sands China Ltd hosted local community organisations at a Christmas party at The Venetian on Sunday. Santa Claus made an appearance, as did singing gondoliers, ballroom dancers, jugglers and performers.

About 400 children, youngsters and their families from Fuhong Society of Macau, Macau Special Olympics, The Association of the Parents of the Mentally Handicapped of Macau and the Macau Associations for the Mentally Handicapped joined the festive event along with members of the Sands China Care Ambassador Program.

"Christmas is all about being with our loved ones and sharing with others in

a spirit of giving," said Edward Tracy, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sands China Ltd. "That's why it makes us very happy to be able to share the spirit of Christmas with these deserving groups today," he added.

The Sands China Care Ambassador Program was officially launched in August 2009. Since November 2011, more than 300 volunteers from The Venetian Macao, Sands Macao and the Plaza Macao have participated in various community activities and have already performed nearly 2,200 hours of community service for families, disadvantaged groups, and the elderly, as well as for the community at large.

# 320 Christmas boxes to children

The International Ladies Club of Macau's Community Services last Friday coordinated the delivery of 320 Christmas boxes for children who live in six of Macau's residential homes for children.

The ILCM support over 6 of Macau's residential children's homes and was able to assist the Box of Hope Programme in Hong Kong to provide presents for Macau children who are abandoned or at risk. Company World Freight Removal provided their expertise and transferred the boxes to Macau at cost, which were sent to Fountain of Hope Orphanage for

delivery. Six residents from ARTM along with their Social Worker generously donated their time and used their van to deliver the 12 big cartons of presents to the six homes.

Ms Sophie Lei, President of ILCM, emphasised "there was much to do in the way of coordination, however the true spirit of Christmas was demonstrated by several charitable organizations working together to ensure that 320 children receive a Christmas present. ILCM has distributed through this programme 900 boxes over the last three years."

# French spirit in focus for gala dinner

The FMBA (French Macau Business Association) Annual Gala Dinner 2011, will be held today, at the Grand Ballroom of MGM Grand Macau. It is FMBA's tradition to gather all its members, guests and potential interested parties for a cultural night with a 4-hour intensive program including cocktail reception, 5-course French dinner, entertainment and hospitality. This serves as a hub for Macau locals or Chinese participants to understand French culture in depth.

Franklin Willemyns, Chairman of

FMBA said: "Our passion to charity for the needy in the community enables us to get support from various traditional and electronic media's support and make this become a bi-city event for Macau and Hong Kong, with more than 300 attendees. This also explicits the FMBA spirit as being a platform for French and Chinese businessmen who are based in Macau SAR and Hong Kong SAR of the Mainland China."

For more information about FMBA, visit [www.fmba.francemacau.com](http://www.fmba.francemacau.com) or call 8798 9699.



# The Guinness World Record's Longest Anamorphic Painting



**C**elebrating its second anniversary and the joyous Christmas holiday, One Central Macau on Tuesday launched "One Fabulous Christmas @ One Central Macau" with a series of celebratory surprises. It started with a Guinness World Record's longest anamorphic art measuring around

120-metres in length. Qi Xinghua, a renowned Chinese pioneer in 3D painting, hosts Macau's first-ever 3D painting exhibition at One Central Macau, with the art piece titled Macau's One Impression. The record-breaking art piece incorporates Macau's rich culture and western architectures,

and captivates viewers with the amazing optical illusion created by a clever combination of different trompe l'oeil techniques. Another art piece Thrilling Christmas is also being exhibited to maximise the joyful spirit. Highlights also included a lucky draw, and festive music performance.

## Pros lead Badminton Clinic for Special Olympics Athletes

Lee Chong Wei and three other Badminton World Federation (BWF) players – Wang Zhengming, Zhang Zhibo and Wang Rong – led a badminton clinic at the Cotai Arena at The Venetian on Sunday, with 32 MSO athletes attending.

Demonstration of badminton skills by the world-ranked players followed chats and group photo-taking with the enthusiastic participants.

Doubles matches came next, with the pros serving as judges for the MSO players' games. And in a bout that is sure to remain etched in the memories of the participants, Lee and Wang Zhengming each paired with an MSO player for an exciting pro-am doubles match.

After the winners received their congratulatory souvenirs, all 32 MSO athletes were invited to stay and watch the semi-finals of the 2011 Kumpoo® Macau Open Badminton Grand Prix Gold tournament. The November 29 to December 4 BWF Level 3 event featured some of the world's top badminton players and awarded around MOP 1,600,000 in total prize money.



Organisers and participants in Sunday's badminton clinic pose with badminton pros Lee Chong Wei, Wang Zhengming, Zhang Zhibo and Wang Rong

### PROPERTY TALES

## Happy Mansion: Living in Historical Macau

For anyone who wants to take up residence in a piece of Macau real estate history, look no further than Dai Heng Dai Ha (Happy Mansion), understood to be the first residential building built by Stanley Ho in the Sai Van Praia Grande area almost 50 years ago.

**L**ocated in a U-shaped building with a central courtyard fronting the lake, this 1200 square foot, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment is set back off the road, benefiting from the quiet of a rocky hillside at the back and lake views at the front.

Previously in a very poor state from having been used as a staff dormitory, a major renovation was required. The small cramped kitchen at the back was brought to the front living space and combined with an open dining area to become a major focal point of the home. The pale sandy-colored marble of the kitchen and bar tops was selected to reflect the color palate of the hill-side outside.

Two bedrooms were combined into one huge master bedroom, with oversized windows to bring in the light. Both bathrooms are signature Ambiente designs – with Italian stone tiles, open plan showers, and stainless steel basins.

A hand painted concrete-latex

flooring was installed to give a modern "loft" look, and to ensure the apartment stays cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

A real sense of neighborhood and community has developed in the area. On the waterfront are several local restaurants and a small but active tennis club. Residents are often seen enjoying evening strolls or walking their dogs around the banyan tree-lined lake. This is a perfect example of how surprisingly modern and well appointed apartments can now be found behind the façade of older historical buildings.

This apartment is currently rented. However Ambiente has other apartments in the area for rent and for sale, and one in the same building that will become available for rent in early 2012. For more information please contact Suzanne Watkinson at +853 6622 8541 or on enquiries@ambiente.mo or visit [www.vproperty.mo/ambiente](http://www.vproperty.mo/ambiente)



The furnishings are a mix of Western and Asian, with sliding teak doors adding to the Oriental feel. Stark white walls with a red feature wall showcase original art by local artist Brian Tilbrook.



For more information on this and other properties, please visit [www.vproperty.mo/ambiente](http://www.vproperty.mo/ambiente)



## Japan using disaster budget for whaling aid

Japan yesterday confirmed it planned to use some of the public funds earmarked for quake and tsunami reconstruction to boost security for its controversial annual whaling hunt.

Greenpeace charged that Tokyo was siphoning money from disaster victims by spending an extra 2.28 billion yen (USD 30 million) on beefed up security amid looming battles between the whaling fleet and environmental groups.

Japan's whaling fleet left port Tuesday for this season's annual hunt in Antarctica, with the coast guard saying earlier that it would deploy an unspecified number of guards to protect it from anti-whaling activists.

Fisheries Agency official Tatsuya Nakaoku said the extra security was designed to ensure safer hunts, and ultimately help coastal towns that largely depend on whaling to recover from the March 11 disasters.

"The government will support the reconstruction effort of a whaling town and nearby areas," he told AFP yesterday.

"This programme can help it reconstruct food processing plants there... Many people in the area eat whale meat, too. They are waiting for Japan's commercial whaling to resume," he added.

In February, Japan cut short its hunt for the 2010-2011 season by one month after bagging only one fifth of its planned catch, blaming interference from the US-based environmental group Sea Shepherd.

Last month, Japan passed a 12.1 trillion-yen extra budget, the third this year, to finance post-quake reconstruction and revive the economy reeling from the impact of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

About 498.9 billion yen was earmarked for fisheries-related spending, including 2.28 billion yen for "stabilising whaling research".

"We will bolster measures against acts of sabotage by anti-whaling groups so as to stably carry out the Antarctic whaling research," the fisheries department said after the budget was passed.

Commercial whaling is banned under an international treaty but Japan has since 1987 used a loophole to carry out "lethal research" on the creatures in the name of science.

Japan says it is necessary to substantiate its view that there is a robust whale population in the world, but makes no secret of the fact that whale meat from this research ends up on dinner tables and in restaurants.

Anti-whaling nations and environmentalist groups routinely condemn the activity as a cover for commercial whaling.

## US backs euro ahead of crunch summit

US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner voiced confidence yesterday that the European Union would find a way out of its debt crisis when he met eurozone leaders ahead of a crucial EU summit in Brussels.

"I assessed how important it is for the US and countries around the world that Europe succeed," Geithner said after talks with French Finance Minister Francois Baroin in Paris. "I'm confident they will succeed."

Geithner, who is meeting leaders including French President Nicolas Sarkozy ahead of today's summit, said he wanted to "make sure there is a sufficient strong firewall in place" to stop the crisis spreading.

"We exchanged views on the need for the highest possible firewall to avoid contagion," Baroin said, after laying out French-German proposals aimed at bolstering eurozone discipline to be examined at the Brussels summit.

Baroin said ahead of his meeting with Geithner that the situation was "serious" and that the eurozone needed to create a "confidence shock" after months of what the markets perceive as leaders' torpor.

"The crisis we're going through is unprecedented, there's no doubt about that," Baroin told Canal Plus television.

"States must quickly consolidate their public finance, reduce their deficits, stabilise the zone, modify governance," he said.

Baroin said that in Brussels "neither Angela Merkel nor Nicolas Sarkozy will leave the table without a strong agreement being signed."

General firmness on financial markets yesterday reflected a sentiment of some optimism about the outcome.

# Asian markets rise on optimism over Europe summit

**M**arkets rose in Asia yesterday on hopes that a meeting of European leaders will finally lead to a plan that will bring an end to the crippling eurozone debt crisis.

Investors are holding their breath ahead of the two-day summit that starts today, with investors optimistic after France and Germany on Monday agreed a deal for further integration, which many see as the best solution.

Adding to the sense of optimism were reports that the leaders are looking at bolstering the region's firewall by running two huge rescue funds to protect weak economies.

Tokyo closed 1.71 percent, or 147.01 points, stronger at 8,722.17, Sydney rose 0.72 percent, adding 30.5 points to end at 4,292.5, and Seoul climbed 0.87 percent, or 16.60 points, to 1,919.42.

Hong Kong gained 1.58 percent, or 298.35 points, closing at 19,240.58 and Shanghai was 0.29 percent, or 6.82 points, higher at 2,332.73.

The advances come after Tuesday's downbeat performance following ratings agency Standard & Poor's decision to put the eurozone on negative credit watch, citing leaders' inability to agree a solution.

On Tuesday S&P also put the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) rescue fund on watch for a possible downgrade.

Traders are cautiously opti-



mistic that the plan thrashed out between German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, including strict new rules for fiscal discipline within Europe, will deliver.

EU leaders will discuss the proposals, which Merkel and Sarkozy want to be enshrined into a rewritten European Union treaty, at the summit.

"There is a large risk of disappointment building as expectations seem to grow by the day," said Jason Hughes, strategist at IG Markets in Singapore.

"This time, however, there seems to be the political will and momentum to deliver the sledgehammer blow to finally set us on [the] road to European recovery," he told Dow Jones Newswires.

US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, on a trip to Germany, said Tuesday "the eyes

of the world are very much on Europe".

The euro held up against major currencies, although analysts expect it to move in a tight range until news emerges from the Brussels summit.

The common unit fetched USD 1.3414 and 104.25 yen in early European trade, compared with USD 1.3397 and 104.14 yen in New York late Tuesday.

The dollar bought 77.71 yen, compared with 77.70 yen.

Sentiment was also given a lift by Greek lawmakers' approval of a 2012 budget pledging tough fiscal goals, as demanded by Athens' EU partners in return for fresh loans.

In Sydney shares received a boost from data showing the Australian economy grew a better-than-expected 1.0 percent in the September quarter from the

previous three months.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics said mining and construction underpinned the robust performance, which represented year-on-year growth of 2.5 percent.

Treasurer Wayne Swan described the figures as "exceptional" in light of the ongoing global economic turmoil.

The Australian dollar was at USD 1.0270, from USD 1.0243 immediately before the GDP data.

On oil markets New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in January, gained 46 cents to USD 101.74 a barrel in the afternoon.

Brent North Sea crude for January delivery rose 34 cents to USD 111.15.

Gold was trading at USD 1,728.60 an ounce at 0950 GMT, from USD 1,721.50 late Tuesday. (AFP)

## Eurozone's EFSF: short-term bills by year-end



The eurozone's rescue fund, the European Financial Stability Fund (EFSF), yesterday announced the launch of a short-term funding programme before year's end.

The programme will focus on 3, 6 and 12-month bills, it said in a statement. "The first auction is expected to take place before year end."

The announcement came a day after Standard & Poor's warned it could downgrade the EFSF's triple-A rating. The agency on Monday issued the same notice to almost all governments

in the monetary union.

"Depending on the outcome of our review of the ratings on EFSF member governments, we could lower the long-term rating on the EFSF by one or two notches, if any," S&P in its Tuesday statement.

The 440-billion-euro EFSF was created in May last year to protect vulnerable eurozone nations after Greece was bailed out by the European Union and the IMF. It has since been used to provide rescue loans to Ireland and Portugal.

With a triple-A rating, the EFSF is able to

raise funds in the bond market with much lower interest rates than bailed out nations would get on their own.

Klaus Regling, who heads the fund, said: "The launch of a short-term funding programme is in line with the enlarged scope of activity of EFSF to use its new instruments efficiently."

"The bill programme will not substitute the long-term bond programme, but it will add flexibility to it."

The agency move piled further pressure on European leaders ahead of a summit crucial to the future of the eurozone kicking off late today that aims to deliver a convincing response to the two-year-old debt crisis.

France and Germany want to change the EU treaty in order to enforce tough budget discipline across the 17-nation bloc.

A convincing commitment to fiscal rigour at the summit could prompt the European Central Bank to drop its objections to intervening massively to help nations in financial straits.

The eurozone wanted to boost the firepower of the EFSF to one trillion euros in case bigger economies such as Italy and Spain need bailouts, but officials have acknowledged that due to the worsening of the crisis they will fall well short of the target.



Weather

China	Min	Max	Condition
Beijing	-6	0	clear
Harbin	-20	-11	clear
Tianjin	-6	1	clear
Urumqi	-8	-5	clear
Xi'an	1	8	clear
Lhasa	-4	18	clear
Chengdu	5	10	overcast
Chongqing	8	10	drizzle
Kunming	10	17	cloudy
Nanjing	3	6	drizzle/cloudy
Shanghai	6	12	drizzle
Wuhan	3	8	drizzle/cloudy
Hangzhou	5	9	drizzle
Taipei	15	20	drizzle
Guangzhou	13	19	drizzle
Hong Kong	16	20	drizzle

Asia-Pacific	Min	Max	Condition
Seoul	-1	2	cloudy
Tokyo	9	13	cloudy
Manila	22	27	showers
Hanoi	16	19	overcast
Ho Chi Minh City	24	30	mist
Bangkok	23	33	cloudy
Kuala Lumpur	24	33	thunderstorms
Singapore	25	32	cloudy
New Delhi	14	30	fine
Mumbai	20	32	fine
Karachi	18	34	fine
Jakarta	24	34	rain
B.S. Begawan	25	32	showers
Sydney	17	21	showers
Melbourne	17	30	fine
Brisbane	18	24	showers

World	Min	Max	Condition
Moscow	-4	-1	cloudy/snow
Frankfurt	2	4	drizzle/overcast
Paris	5	9	overcast/cloudy
London	5	9	cloudy/drizzle
New York	3	10	moderate rain

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



Sudoku

Easy

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

Easy +

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

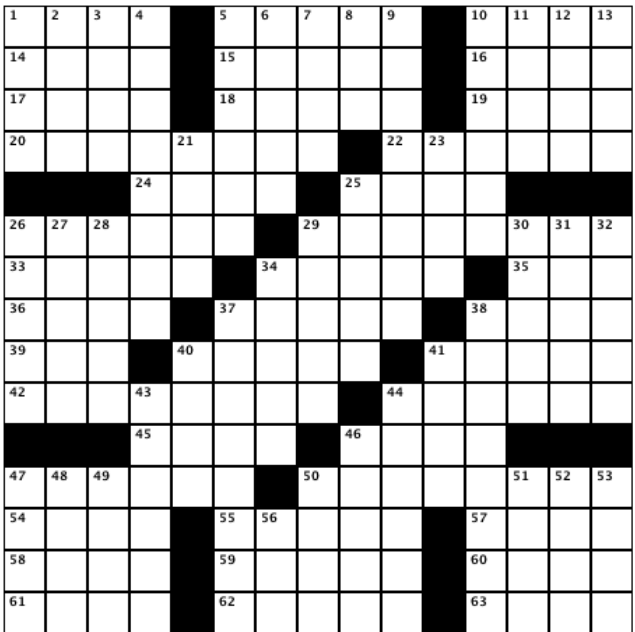
Medium

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

Hard

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

Crosswords



Across  
1- Actor Cobb; 5- Jack; 10- Office fill-in; 14- "Only Time" singer; 15- Consumed; 16- \_\_\_ Nui (Easter Island); 17- Opposite of sans; 18- Between, old-style; 19- "The Plague" setting; 20- High temperature thermostat; 22- Inveigh against; 24- Future tulip; 25- Writing table; 26- Plot; 29- Teacart; 33- Gogol's "\_\_\_ Bulba"; 34- Poker Flat chronicler; 35- That, in Tijuana; 36- "East of Eden" brother; 37- Cabdriver; 38- Lukas of "Witness"; 39- Some docs; 40- Rabbit-eared Bandicoot; 41- Big; 42- Sororal; 44- Drunk; 45- Pouches; 46- Guns; 47- Capital of Lesotho; 50- Quintuplex; 54- Loretta of "M\*A\*S\*H"; 55- Wingless insect; 57- Crowd noise; 58- Jokes; 59- Ire; 60- Basilica area; 61- Actress Daly; 62- Awaken; 63- Drew on;

Down  
1- Act of faith?; 2- A deadly sin; 3- Watchful one; 4- Pertaining to James I; 5- Pot; 6- Governor in Mogul India; 7- Arguing; 8- Annoy; 9- Plea; 10- Russian sleigh; 11- British nobleman; 12- Movie-rating org.; 13- Breathe hard; 21- Adds; 23- Even \_\_\_ speak...; 25- Bowler hat; 26- Male deer; 27- Wrist bones; 28- \_\_\_ Perot; 29- Domestic cat; 30- Toothed wheels; 31- Inedible orange; 32- Snooped; 34- Assembly rooms; 37- Round; 38- Housewife; 40- Endure; 41- Deep affection; 43- African fly; 44- Harsh; 46- Ascends; 47- High-ranking NCO; 48- Absent; 49- Indication; 50- Poisonous pufferfish; 51- "My fault!"; 52- Emit coherent light; 53- Historic Scott; 56- "Double Fantasy" artist;

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com



Aries

March 21-April 19

Your mental state is well suited to dealing with your financial situation — and you may find that your energy is perfect for climbing up out of debt or for making canny investments.



Leo

July 23-August 22

You need to spend some time thinking about your work and the path you've taken to get where you are today. It's a really good time for you to step up and push yourself forward a little farther.



Sagittarius

November 22-December 21

Your ability to reach hearts and minds is empowered right now, so see if you can speak up at that meeting or find a way to slip a note to the boss — you can make a real difference



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your energy is just right, and your emotional state is almost perfect — so have a good time and make sure that you're sharing the vibes with someone you like. If you're at a party, so much the better!



Virgo

August 23-September 22

You and a good friend are getting along better than ever today — so make the most of it. See if you can start something new together, as your energies are unstoppable when you start to weave them together.



Capricorn

December 22-January 19

Your creative powers are flowing back to you right now after a brief hiatus — and you should be able to make great progress on pursuing your artistic vision. That could be as simple as rearranging your desk.



Gemini

May 21-June 21

Expect opposition today — it's harder than usual for you to get things done, but you can still find a way to slog through the day. If anything, you may impress someone who's paying attention.



Libra

September 23-October 22

Your appearance isn't always on your mind — but on a day like today, it's sure to be on everyone else's! You look better than ever, so you should have no trouble improving your love life.



Aquarius

January 20-February 18

Your ancestors are trying to reach you today — maybe over the phone for more recent generations, and maybe through dreams or coincidences if it's those who are long gone. Pay attention!



Cancer

June 22-July 22

Your social energy needs a workout today, so go for it! You may want to try something a little different, but your options are wide open. It's a good day for you to meet new people for nearly any reason.



Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

You need to focus on your most important relationship. This could be romantic, professional, family or something entirely different, but your energy is best directed toward someone important.



Pisces

February 19-March 20

Communication is easier than ever for you right now, so make a point of trying to get yourself matched with the right people. You can reach out to almost anyone, but those who respond are treasures.



Useful telephone numbers

Emergency calls 999  
Fire department 28 572 222  
PJ (Open line) 993  
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775  
PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944  
S. Januário Hospital 28 313 731  
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333  
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333  
Tourism 28 882 184  
Airport 59 888 88  
Taxi (Yellow) 28 519 519  
Taxi (Black) 28 939 939

Utilities  
Water Supply – Report 1990 992  
Telephone – Report 1000  
Electricity – Report 28 339 922  
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

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Taipa  
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3 bedrom apartment  
5 star luxury residence  
Ref: 09115017

Ieng Kok  
Macau  
1 bedroom apartment  
Nice decorate  
\$6,000 / 640sq ft  
Ref: 11110237

Lily Court  
Coloane  
2530sq ft / \$ 7.88M  
5 bedroom apartment  
Include terrace  
Ref: 10115135

Manhattan  
Taipa  
3 bedroom apartment  
Convenient Location  
\$21,000 / 1,626sq ft  
Ref: 11110182

Man Fai  
Taipa  
750sq ft / \$2.75M  
2 bedroom apartment  
Convenient location  
Ref: 11055205

China Plaza  
Macau  
Office  
Located in Macau Center  
\$16,000 / 1600sq ft  
Ref:11080223







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 This event is co-sponsored by The Westin Resort, Macau

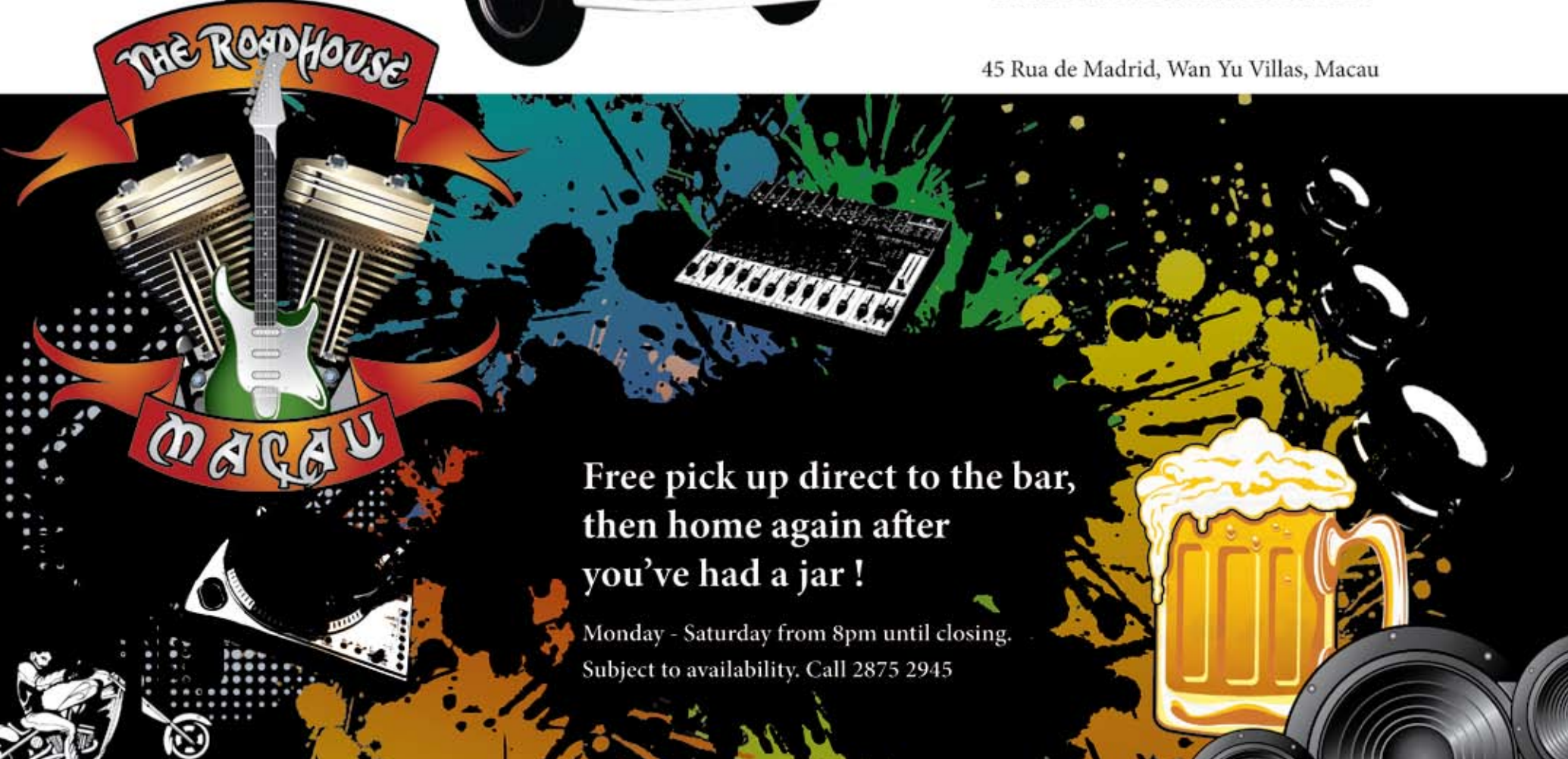


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# Sailing Shark not only scare for Wright

The world's top-ranked Finn sailor, Great Britain's Edward Wright, recovered emphatically from a potentially costly disqualification on the fifth day of the ISAF Sailing World Championships in Western Australia yesterday.

Having been unable to race on Tuesday due to a massive summer electrical storm that swept across Perth, the two Finn fleets resumed competition yesterday under the close watch of increased aerial patrols after a large white pointer shark was seen in the area the previous evening.

With berths at next year's London Olympics on the line, Wright was one of a group of high profile sailors that suffered black flag disqualifications in the first heats of the day.

With the top 36 sailors progressing to the next round, it dropped Wright down to 28th overall after three of the six races had been completed.

However, Wright bounced back to the win his next two heats and, with his worst race result automatically deducted, climbed back to fourth in the overall standings, just two points behind joint leader Rafael Trujillo, of Spain, and France's Jonathan Lobert.



Competitors approach the top mark in the Women's Laser Radial event at the ISAF World Sailing Championships off Fremantle near Perth yesterday

Wright was one of four major black flag casualties early in the day, along with Trujillo, Croatian world number four Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic and fifth-ranked American Zach Railey.

However, the automatic worst score deduction means their mistakes won't be costly provided they don't suffer the same fate in their final heats today.

There were no such problems for British duo Luke Patience and Stuart Bithell in the men's 470, the pair winning three successive heats in blue fleet yesterday to be joint leaders with Australians Matthew Belcher

and Malcolm Page, who also won all three heats in the yellow fleet.

Frenchwoman Claire Leroy, ranked second in the world, surged to the top of the women's match racing Group B, with seven wins from eight races, while Belgium's Evi van Acker leads the way in the women's Laser Radial.

Event director John Longley briefed the sailors yesterday morning with regards to the sighting of the shark estimated at 4-5m long, placing competitors and officials on high alert.

With three fatal shark attacks in WA's South-West

in recent months and several near misses, including two divers being chased by a white pointer off Perth earlier this week, organisers were already sensitive to the threat posed by sharks.

They changed the sailing rules for the regatta to allow officials to intervene if sailors became separated from their boats.

"The safety of athletes is paramount," Longley said.

"This is part of the reason why we changed the racing rules for the Perth 2011 ISAF Worlds not to penalise sailors who need assistance to get back into their boats after a capsized."

## Olympics IOC owes huge debt to Samaranch: Rogge

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge paid a handsome tribute to his late predecessor Juan Antonio Samaranch in Lausanne yesterday.

The Belgian was speaking at a ceremony to unveil a plaque, which will adorn the newly-named Juan Antonio Samaranch room which hosts meetings of IOC commissions at the body's headquarters in Lausanne.

Samaranch is credited with modernising and commercialising the Olympic Games – once he replaced Irishman Lord Killanin as president in 1980 – rather as Brazilian Joao Havelange and Italian Primo Nebiolo achieved with football and athletics respectively.

Rogge – who succeeded Samaranch in 2001 at an election in Moscow – said the Spaniard, who died last year aged 89, was also owed a huge debt thanks to the reforms introduced under his reign.

The 69-year-old highlighted the changes brought about after the Salt Lake City Games bribes for votes scandal which forbade IOC members apart from the members of the Evaluation Commission visiting bid cities.

"This is an emotional moment for me," said Rogge, who will step down from his post in 2013.



International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge (File photo)

"I had the privilege to start in the IOC in 1991 and I learnt everything from him [Samaranch].

"He had a great personality, he was not

outspoken but he was very generous.

"His achievements are enormous."

Samaranch, who had a controversial career prior to his IOC presidency serving under Spanish dictator General Francisco Franco most importantly as Government Secretary for Sports, should be credited Rogge said for making the IOC what it is today.

"He introduced women into the IOC and more into the Olympic Games itself as athletes," said Rogge.

"He separated the Winter and Summer Olympics, which had hitherto been held on the same year thereby placing enormous pressure on the National Olympic Committees.

"He achieved the financial independence of the IOC and effectively the reputation of the IOC today is thanks to his wisdom and foresight."

Samaranch's son Juan Antonio, who has been an IOC member since being elected also at the Moscow IOC Session in 2001, said that it was terrific his father was still held in such high regard a decade after he stepped down.

"He [Samaranch senior] would be extremely happy with the major growth of the IOC," said the 52-year-old banker.

"The power of the IOC brand and the high moral ground that we occupy is down to him."

### Boxing

## Thailand's Tepparith keeps WBA super fly title

Tepparith Kokietygym of Thailand outpointed Japanese challenger Daiki Kameda for a unanimous decision victory to keep the World Boxing Association super flyweight title yesterday.

There was no knock down in the scheduled 12 rounds, but three judges scored it 115-113, 116-112, 119-110 all in favour of the Thai champion.

After a cautious first round, the two boxers fought at close range for the rest of the bout, but neither could land a decisive punch as Tepparith unleashed a series of more accurate punches.

The 23-year-old Tepparith, who became the champion after title holder Tomonobu Shimizu suffered an injury, improved his record to 19 wins, including 12 KOs against two defeats.

The 22-year-old Daiki Kameda, ranked top in the WBA, has now 22 wins, including 14 KOs, against three defeats.

Kameda is the second of three boxing brothers, all of whom have bad-boy images in the media and among boxing fans.

He was suspended from boxing for a year after his failed title bid against then World Boxing Commission flyweight champion Daisuke Naito in October 2007, for using dirty tactics including wrestling the veteran champion to the canvas.

Older brother Koki Kameda, who defended the WBA bantamweight title beating Mario Macias of Mexico by a knockout earlier in the day, was reprimanded by the Japan Boxing Commission for urging his brother to fight dirty..

### Football

## DFB boss Zwanziger criticises Qatar 2022 decision

DFB president Theo Zwanziger, a member of FIFA's executive committee, yesterday criticised FIFA's decision to award the 2022 World Cup to Qatar.

"The basic requirements for a host country have been perverted," said Zwanziger, the president of the German Football Federation (DFB), who was voted onto the executive committee of FIFA, football's governing body, in June.

"I have never understood how such a small country can be awarded one of the most important sports events in the world, especially as Qatar were in last place on the grid before the decision was made.

"I am allowed to say, a World Cup needs to have other basic conditions and I have my doubts whether sporting factors were taken into consideration enough."

The tiny oil-rich state, with a population of less than two million, will be the first Middle Eastern country to host a major sporting event.

The tournament may have to be played during the Middle Eastern winter months of January or February, when the intense heat is at its weakest, which would mean the global football calendar would need to be altered.

FIFA's decision has been mired by allegations of corruption since it was announced in December 2010, when Russia was awarded the 2018 World Cup.

Qatar defeated bids from South Korea, Japan, Australia and the United States to secure the 2022 event.

## Skiers welcome snow to Swiss slopes

Swiss ski enthusiasts are breathing a sigh of relief after heavy snow finally hit the slopes, kicking off the winter season in earnest.

Forecasters MeteoSuisse said yesterday that runs above 800 metres were covered with at least a 20 centimetre-layer after long-awaited snowstorms this week.

The mountains could see up to 70cm by the weekend, they said.

It is good news for the countries ski resorts, many of whom have delayed opening their pistes due to the lack of snow.

Among them is Chateau d'Oex in the western canton of Vaud, which put back its official opening date from December 17 to 24 as a precaution.

Some, like Davos in the east, have been employing snow machines to keep skiers happy during the drought.

Until last weekend Switzerland had not received any significant rainfall for more than six weeks, with 2011 likely to be one of the driest years on record since 1864, according to MeteoSuisse.



## Iberia pilots to strike December 18, 29

Pilots at Spanish flagship airline Iberia will go on strike on December 18 and 29 to protest the company's launch of a new low-cost airline Iberia Express by April 2012, their union said yesterday. The two dates were chosen because they were among the least busy in terms of passenger traffic during the busy holiday season, said the president of Spanish pilots' union Sepila, Justo Peral.

"We picked them to cause the least possible damage to Spain's tourism industry," he told a press conference.

The new budget carrier to start with a fleet of four Airbus 320 will handle short- and medium-haul flights from Madrid, which have been facing heavy competition from other low-cost carriers and Spain's high-speed trains.

# Airlines facing heavy eurozone crisis impact

**G**lobal airlines could face losses of more than USD 8 billion (6 billion euros) next year if eurozone leaders fail to tackle the region's financial crisis, the industry's main trade group said yesterday.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents 240 airlines and 84 percent of global traffic, said in a statement it was downgrading its forecast for airline profits next year from USD 4.9 billion to USD 3.5 billion, with a net profit margin of 0.6 percent.

It also warned that the eurozone crisis was putting "severe downside risk on the 2012 outlook" amid fears it will evolve into a full-blown European recession.

"The biggest risk facing profitability over the next year is the economic turmoil that would result from a failure of governments to resolve the eurozone debt crisis. Such an outcome could lead to losses of over USD 8 billion – the largest since the 2008 financial crisis," IATA chief Tony Tyler said in the statement.

The Geneva-based group said its outlook for 2011 profitability "remains weak but unchanged" at USD 6.9 billion, with a net profit margin of 1.2 percent.

"The global forecast for 2011 is unchanged... But regional differences have widened, reflecting the very different economic environments facing airlines in different parts of the world," Tyler said.

"And the overall margin of 1.2 percent tells you just how difficult the battle for profitability in this business is," he added.

In 2010 airlines had enjoyed USD 15.8 billion in profits after losses of USD 4.6 billion amid the economic downturn in 2009.

"The aviation industry is a sector



IATA new Director General Tony Tyler speaks during IATA's media day, yesterday, in Geneva

that is sensitive to the economic environment, with a volatile business model... It creates no value," said Pierre Boucheny, an analyst with Kepler Capital Markets.

"European carriers are by far in the most challenging position," the IATA said. "Higher passenger taxes and weak home market economies have limited profitability in Europe."

It said Europe's carriers are forecast to generate collective profits of just USD 1 billion this year, down from a previous forecast of USD 1.4 billion.

For 2012, it said, "European carriers are expected to fall into losses of USD 600 million, hit by the weakness of their home market economies and further increases in passenger taxes."

In contrast, North American carriers are expected to generate profits of USD 1.7 billion next year, Asia-Pacific carriers of USD 2.1 billion and Middle East carriers of USD 300 million.

Passenger demand meanwhile is expected to grow by 4.0 percent next year, down from a previous forecast of 4.6 percent, while car-

go demand is expected to remain unchanged, it said.

In the worst-case scenario of a European economic meltdown, all global airlines could expect to suffer losses, the IATA said.

Europe would post the deepest losses at USD 4.4 billion, followed by North America at USD 1.8 billion and the Asia-Pacific region at USD 1.1 billion. The Middle East and Latin America would both be expected to post USD 400 million losses, while Africa would lose USD 200 million.

## Italy strikes planned as parliament debates austerity

Italian lawmakers yesterday began debating a tough austerity programme proposed by Prime Minister Mario Monti, as trade unions planned strikes against the proposed tax hikes and pension reforms.

Italy's three biggest unions – CGIL, Cisl and UIL – announced a three-hour strike of private sector workers on Monday. Public sector workers from the same unions also announced they would hold an eight-hour strike on December 19.

Meanwhile the budget committees of the lower and upper houses of parliament met in Rome to start discussions on the measures, a day after Monti said that lawmakers had to approve the measures quickly or risk leaving Italy bankrupt.

Parliamentary sources said the measures – contained in a draft law – could go for a vote in the lower house early next week. They would then have to be approved by the upper house and be signed off by President Giorgio Napolitano.

The adoption of the draft law by the cabinet on Sunday has pushed up stocks and lowered borrowing costs, which had reached alarming levels in recent months due to fears of Italy's 1.9-trillion-euro (USD 2.5-trillion) debt blowing up.

The three main unions have asked for negotiations with Monti to request the "necessary changes" to the austerity plan but the prime minister, a former EU commissioner, said earlier that there was "very little" room for any changes.

"It's not nice to say 'I'm saving Italy and I'm massacring the population'," said Susanna Camusso, the leader of Italy's biggest union, the CGIL.

Camusso said the proposals were "a very heavy blow" to pensioners.

## Explosive device defused in Bangkok

Thai authorities said yesterday that a makeshift explosive device had been found and defused in Bangkok, but played down the potential threat to the public.

Metropolitan police chief Lieutenant General Vinai Thongsong told reporters that the device, which was found on Tuesday in a bag near the government lottery office, did not appear to have been fully assembled.

"If it was completed, the blast radius could have been 10 metres (33 feet). Initially, we believe the people who made it wanted to create trouble, to not kill," he said. "Police are now investigating, checking CCTV."

Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yubumrung said the incident appeared to be politi-

cally related and the perpetrators wanted to "challenge the government."

The device was found in an area close to where celebrations had been held on Monday to mark the 84th birthday of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Thailand remains deeply divided more than a year after its worst civil violence in decades, which left about 90 people dead in street clashes between opposition protesters and the military in Bangkok in April and May 2010.

In the months following the end of the "Red Shirt" rallies, there was a series of largely unexplained minor bomb blasts in the capital, but the situation in the city has been generally calm this year.

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