



JAMES GALWAY PLAYS IN MACAU
 Nicknamed "The Man With the Golden Flute," legendary musician James Galway plays in town on Friday

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DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL RETURNS TODAY
 The Doclisboa film festival is again extending its program to Macau. The first doc to be screened is about Mio Pang Fei (pictured)

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TAIWAN STAGES MILITARY DRILLS OFF CHINA COAST

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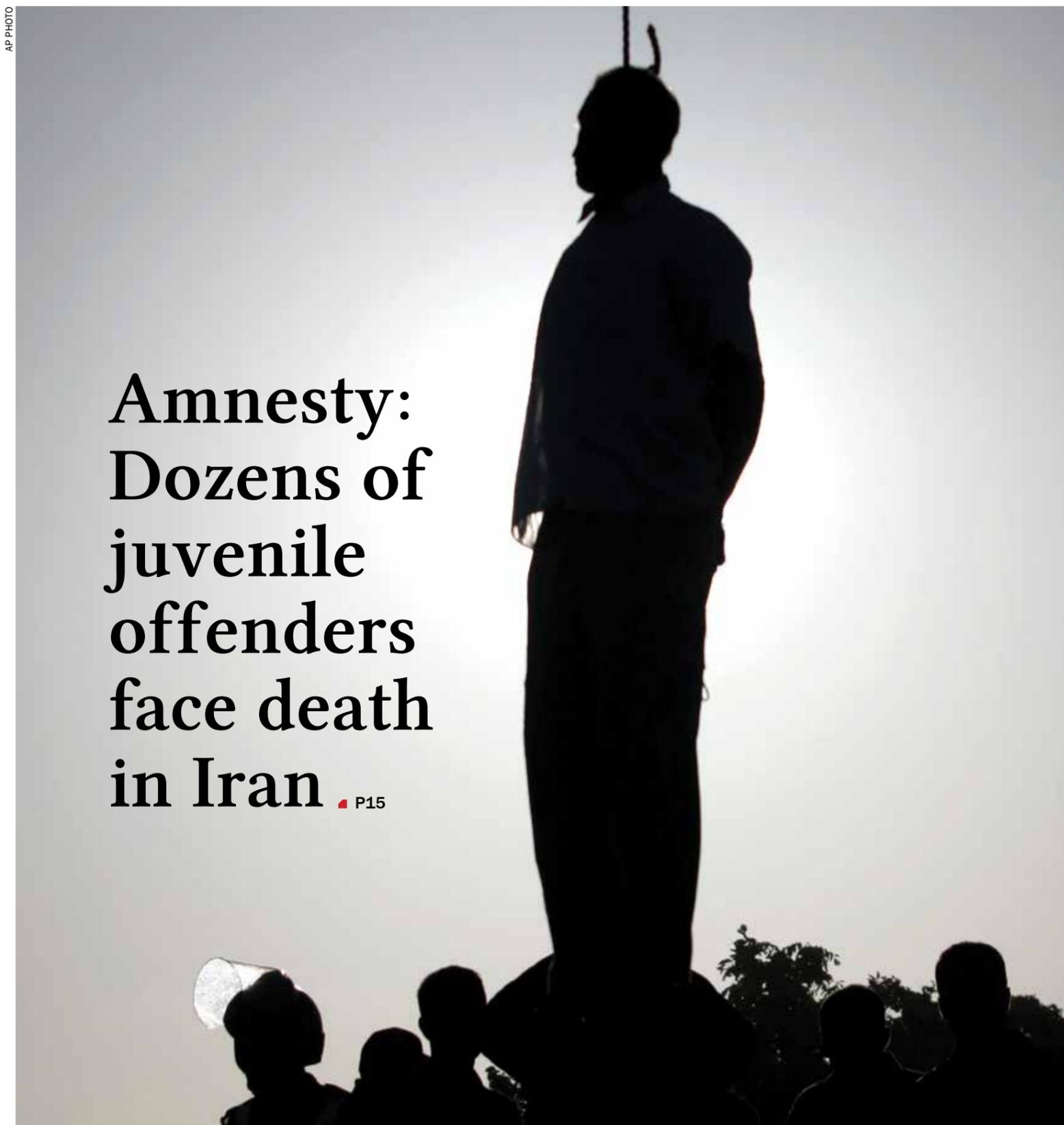
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Crime: gaming-related kidnappings up five-fold

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Amnesty: Dozens of juvenile offenders face death in Iran

▲ P15

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA The government has released and deported a Swedish man it accused of training and funding unlicensed lawyers in the country, after he made an extraordinary confession broadcast on state television. [More on p11](#)



VIETNAM's Communist Party chief easily won a seat on a key committee yesterday, the first step toward retaining his position as head of the collective leadership of the country. General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong secured more than 80 percent of the vote. [More on p13](#)

MALAYSIA The attorney general says nearly USD700 million channeled into Prime Minister Najib Razak's private accounts was a personal donation from Saudi Arabia's royal family, and cleared him of any criminal wrongdoing. The announcement capped months of uncertainty for Najib, who has been fighting intense pressure to resign over the financial scandal in his biggest political crisis since he took power in 2009.

[More on backpage](#)

MUSIC

'The Man With the Golden Flute' in Macau



James Galway (left) and Jeanne Galway (right)

IRISH virtuoso flutist Sir James Galway, nicknamed "The Man With the Golden Flute," is set to perform at the Macau Cultural Center on Friday. The legendary musician told local journalists yesterday that his much anticipated recital will include classical and modern music,

which has been extensively rehearsed.

Regarded as a passionate advocate for the making and teaching of music, Galway was asked about how he felt towards Chinese parents who push their children to learn instruments from an early age. He replied, "I think any

sort of learning anything is a good thing. I think the first approach of learning to play music is rather like reading a book."

The musician has toured the world extensively, having sold over 30 million albums. He often tours with his wife, the flutist Jeanne Galway, who will also play

on Friday. Asked to reveal some of the concert's highlights, she said that they will include the pieces Galway is famous for.

The musician-turned-educator also administers the Galways' online teaching classes, and he talked about his online music course, a platform that allows anybody to learn from famous musicians. "The online series that we created has been a big success with older people who are just starting with musical instruments. It is enhancing the traditional teaching. We have one lady who started at the age of 70 and she just picked up the flute and has been learning online. It's never too late," Jeanne Galway said.

Sir James Galway was honoured twice by Queen Elizabeth II, first in 1979 and again in 2001, for his services to music. **Staff reporter**

Sculpture exhibition with unusual 'music box' opens



THE Macau Museum of Art (MAM) is launching a series of contemporary sculpture exhibitions starting with "A Sculpture," which opened yesterday, at the Handover Gifts Museum of Macau.

"A Sculpture" presents a large-scale piece entitled "Music Box," by local sculptor Sou Pui Kun, and is co-organized by

MAM and the Macau Sculpture Association. The exhibition takes place twice a year, and invites local and foreign sculptors to exhibit their works in Macau.

Sou Pui Kun was born in Macau in 1959. He graduated with a BA from the Department of Fine Arts at Taiwan Normal University, an MA in Industrial Design and Ceramics from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, and a PhD in History from Jinan University. He currently serves as an associate professor at the Macau Polytechnic Institute's School of Arts.

Sou said that he hopes to turn his sculpture - which is made of discarded, noisy mechanical parts, or "antiques" - into a music box or megaphone that transforms their noises into beautiful melodies.

The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., except on Mondays. The exhibition will be open to the public from tomorrow until June 19. Admission is free.

Parades celebrate Year of the Monkey

EXTENSIVE outdoor parades for the Chinese New Year (CNY) are being planned for February 10 and 13, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has announced. The festivities will feature a float parade accompanied by over 1,000 performers, splendid fireworks and 3D light effects.

This year's parade, called "Parade for the Celebration of the Year of the Monkey," will revolve around the story of the charming Monkey King character from the classic novel entitled "Journey to the West." The parade aims to tell a fresh, unconventional narrative of the Monkey King choosing to spend a CNY vacation at the Celestial Court in Macau.

The parade will feature four major themes this year: "Fortune Stars to the World"; "Great Treasures on Their Way"; "Rhythm of Lucky Blessings"; and "Prosperity & Success

Fills the Year."

Additionally, the parade is to be accompanied by 14 floats, 28 local groups, as well as nine performance groups from mainland China, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Portugal, Spain and the US. A total of 1,338 performers, 475 staff workers and 699 volunteers will come together to support the event.

Following the same route as last year, the first parade will kick off from the Macau Science Center at 7:30 p.m. on February 10. The procession will wind its way through Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, before finally reaching Sai Van Lake Square in front of the Macau Tower.

MGTO's director, Helena de Sena Fernandes, remarked at a press conference that the CNY parades in Macau have developed into one of the MSAR's signature festive events.

To enable residents to easily access



the planned path of the parades, MGTO will operate free shuttle bus services around seven routes in Macau, Taipa and Coloane.

The parades will be shown live on TDM and Macau Cable TV. They will also be live broadcast on a large screen in Sai Van Lake Square, followed by a fireworks show at 9:45 p.m. **Staff reporter**

Documentary festival returns today

NOW entering its 14th edition, the Lisbon-based Doclisboa International Film Festival is for the third time extending part of its program to Macau. The festival celebrates the documentary genre and will open today at the auditorium of the Consulate-General of Portugal with a screening of a Macau-related film that won this year's prize for best script. Pedro Caldeira's film features the life and work of Mio Pang Fei, a Macau-based painter who is considered a key figure in the Chinese contemporary arts scene.

Until February 15, nine films made by Portuguese directors competing in the festival will be showcased in this event. The festival will also showcase movies that won the 2014 "Image and Sound Challenge" and "European Union Short-Film Challenge." All documentaries have English translations and entrance is free.

The festival's arrival in Macau is being promoted by the Portuguese Institute of the Orient (IPOR) in cooperation with several local and international organizations.

Among the many directors showcasing their films is João Pedro Plácido, this year's guest director, whose film "(Be)longing" received an award at Doclisboa, as well as four awards from other festivals in the international documentary circuit. **RM**

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Renato Marques

THE number of cases registered by the Judiciary Police (PJ) in 2015 grew to 11,305, which constitutes 568 more cases than in 2014, representing a year-on-year growth of 5.3 percent. These results were presented to the press yesterday during the annual police New Year meeting, held at PJ headquarters.

From the annual report, the PJ made clear that the crimes directly related to the gaming industry are growing. Those types of crimes show a year-on-year growth of 38 percent, with a total of 1,553 cases. Representing the biggest share of this kind of crimes are kidnappings related to loan sharking (illegal detention), which totaled 366 cases, almost five-and-a-half times more than in 2014 and about 10 times more than in 2013.

Meanwhile, crimes related to people's daily-life retreated, namely crimes of fraud (-13.8 percent), IT crimes (-9.3 percent), theft (-14.8 percent), and aggravated theft (-60 percent). Also falling in frequency are crimes considered to be serious such as extortion (-15.6 percent), while one case of homicide was recorded, the same number as in 2014.

"We are investing many resources in activities aimed at raising community awareness of some of those crimes. I think the fall in the number of fraud cases is also related to our work in this field," the PJ director, Chau Wai Kuong, said.

The number of crimes committed by youngsters is also

Gaming-related crimes rise exponentially in 2015



The PJ director, Chau Wai Kuong

falling, especially in regards to underage youth. On the rise are crimes committed by people between the ages of 16 and 18, mostly related to drug trafficking. To address these crimes, the PJ are committed to prevention campaigns together with schools and universities.

Regarding the results presented at the meeting, Chau said that "although there was a fall

in the majority of the crimes, we will not slow down our work."

The director stated that the crimes on the rise will be the main targets for the police force in 2016. "We need more information and faster communication in several areas, namely from the casinos," he said, adding that the PJ also seeks the help of casino security staff in alerting the force of illegal activities.

To address this problem, Chau

aims to increase the number of staff members, namely criminal investigators, in order to

DORE CASE IS A 'SPECIAL MATTER'

ASKED BY journalists regarding the recent case involving the junket "Dore Entertainment," the Judiciary Police head refused to comment as the case is still under investigation. Despite the secrecy involved in the case, Chau said it is being treated as a "special matter" and in a different category, which is why it was not counted in the statistics presented yesterday as a "crime-related to gaming."

be able to establish more teams working round-the-clock to "increase the speed of reaction to

“We need more information and faster communication in several areas, namely from the casinos.**”**

CHAU WAI KUONG

the crimes.”

Some of these new officers are already in training and will reinforce the Cotai branch of the PJ to "increase the proximity and efficiency in that area of the territory," Chau concluded.

Chau Wai Kuong calls for more staff and regulatory support

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has said that more investigators are needed to increase the efficiency of investigations. "Macau receives about 30 million visitors per year. We do not have enough staff to handle all these people," the PJ director, Chau Wai Kuong, said during the press conference held yesterday.

Currently, the PJ has a total of 635 investigators, with another 82 currently in training and 45 interns. The director said he aims to increase the number of investigators to 900, which he considers an "ideal" number to "address the current challenges."

The need for more officers is not a new topic, with the PJ having been



trying to recruit more staff since at least 2013.

Chau said that, in 2015,

there were 45 positions open and he expects to open a new recruitment

call for another 60 vacant positions for 2016.

Speaking about the

needs and challenges of the police force, the director said that he has already proposed revisions in the law regarding IT and high-tech crimes. His proposal aims to continue to fight this kind of crime, for which the "modus operandi" changes frequently and very quickly and "can manifest in many different forms."

One of the police's biggest concerns is the advertising of eight illegal "online casinos" that are operating in areas near the border. They are very difficult to locate because they sometimes start from disguised broadcast stations that are often not even situated in fixed locations, but in mobile stations carried in backpacks.

This legal amendment, also addressed by the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, in an interview published on Monday by the Times, aims to "help the PJ keep up with the fast pace of the criminals

using these technologies," Chau said.

Another possible legal revision being debated was the one relating to "sex crimes." Although the PJ director did not want to state his position regarding the need to revise this law, he said that "the fact that this is, by nature, a private crime makes the collection of evidence difficult. It has to start from a formal complaint from the victim." He concluded that a change in the legislation would hypothetically transform it into a semi-public crime, which "would certainly help the authorities to fight it." However, he said the right "belongs to the community to voice their will regarding this matter. If the community decides that it should be considered in this way [as a semi-public crime] and the law is changed accordingly, we can and will act by the law." **RM**

Second fatality due to hypothermia

A new case of death due to hypothermia was discovered yesterday when a 65-year-old woman who lived alone was found by relatives in a critical state. According to the Health Bureau (SSM), attempts to revive her were unsuccessful after she was admitted to the central hospital. It is the second fatality due to hypothermia recorded this week, following a similar case on Monday. SSM also said that between 4 p.m. on Monday and 4 p.m. yesterday, three other cases of hypothermia were reported.

Old City Walls section 'vandalized'



The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has revealed that during an inspection conducted on January 25, they discovered that a section of the Old City Walls has been vandalized with paint. According to the IC statement, the "paint job" applied to the ancient structure

destroyed original material that was layered in a solid compound named "chunambo," as well as damaging the appearance of the monument. The IC also stated that they have reported the case to the police for further investigation. The bureau urges citizens to attribute extreme importance to the preservation of Macau's cultural heritage, asking for anyone to immediately inform the IC if they witness anyone performing acts that are damaging to monuments.

Tiles fall again from Edifício do Lago

Tiles have fallen within six buildings at Edifício do Lago, a recurrence of a problem that was first witnessed in 2014, Macao Daily News reported. As reported by social media a few nights ago, tiles fell in the corridors of three of the six buildings. In one of the buildings, on the seventh floor, an entire wall was exposed after over 80 tiles became dislodged. The maintenance crew at the scene said that the brittle walls are not the same as the ones causing concern two years ago. A director from the Housing Bureau believes the separation of the tiles from the buildings' surfaces is related to the recent abrupt changes in temperature. When questioned why it was only Edifício de Lago facing such problems, he admitted that the size of the tiles, as well as the glue that was used, might be at the root of the problem. He then made assurances that construction techniques would be improved in the future.

Wine on Radio live at the Consulate



The 100th edition of Rádio Macau's program "Vinho na Rádio" (Wine on Radio) will be broadcast today. It will be broadcast not from the studio, but from the Portuguese Consul-General's official

residence between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., host Gilberto Lopes told the Times. The Rádio Macau controller added that the broadcast event will be attended by over 30 guests, among them wine traders, food and beverage professionals, and local enologists. These guests will also naturally include members of the radio talk-show, which usually airs daily at 7:45a.m., with a repeat of the show broadcast at 4 p.m. Gilberto Lopes will also interview journalist João Paulo Martins and master sommelier João Pires. "A Facebook page will be launched soon with the recordings of all the programs," he added. The event will feature wine and food tasting, and is open to "all Portuguese wine-lovers."

GAMING

Fischer says mass market will be able to grow

AARON Fischer, gaming analyst at Hong Kong-based brokerage and investment group CLSA argued that Macau is "still in good shape," despite the gaming slump. He also added that the new game in town will be a battle for market share among the MSAR's new properties.

The analyst told reporters yesterday at the Global Gaming Expo Asia (G2E) press conference that CLSA's outlook for the VIP market in the future was not optimistic. "Our outlook is still negative for VIP," he said. "We think that it peaked in 2013 and that it won't recover. So we generally remain cautious on VIP, but the mass market can grow [in the future]."

The opening of four new resorts in Macau focusing on the mass-market – the Wynn Palace, MGM Cotai, The Parisian and Studio City – represents a significant shift in the industry.

CLSA predicts that, while the first half of this year will demonstrate the market weakness typical of recent months, the second half of 2016 is likely to show positive growth as new entrant properties open to the public.

Generally, the analyst firm forecasts that the newer properties will increase their market share in the near future at the expense of the older properties.

"The new resorts are likely to gain in market share, which



Aaron Fischer presents at the G2E press preview at Studio City

the older properties are expected to lose market share in the near future," Fischer said.

"It's a fight for market share from now on," he added.

His comments come at a time when Macau is facing its worst existential crisis in its gaming history. International media reports have been particularly damning in this respect, implying that Macau's gaming fortunes are experiencing a perpetual downward spiral, exacerbated by structural issues from the mainland.

The worst of these structural problems is usually accredited to President Xi's anti-graft campaign, which

has frightened away cautious high rollers from Macau's gaming tables.

However, Fischer says that "it's important to remember that Macau is still in very good shape," even if the VIP market is not expected to recover to its previous heights. "Macau's gaming operators are still earning reasonable profits; nobody needs to feel sorry for them."

A good measure for this is Return On Invested Capital (ROIC), which Fischer says has historically been very impressive in Macau. The gaming operators saw ROIC peak in 2013 at 50 percent, according to the CLSA analyst, which meant that it took two years of operations to repay the initial investment.

Even though analysts predict that this will continue to fall, and eventually stabilize at around 20 percent, it will still compare favorably with other industries.

Aaron Fischer conducted the presentation at the press preview for the Global Gaming Expo Asia event, which will take place in Macau from May 17 to 19.

"G2E serves as a powerful showcase for a comprehensive range of solutions [relating to the gaming industry]," said Josephine Lee, vice president of Reed Exhibitions, Greater China – the company behind the organization of the exposition.

"Today, G2E Asia is three

times bigger than when it was launched in 2007. Furthermore, as we mark the show's ten-year anniversary, we are proud to confirm that the number of visitors to the show has skyrocketed by 230 percent since its launch," Lee revealed.

Organizers say that over 95 percent of Asian casino operators send representatives to G2E Asia in order to network with industry thought-leaders and to source potential suppliers.

This year, the show will host 180 exhibitors, 25 percent of which are new and 80 percent of which are from overseas. The hike in numbers continues on from last year's record-breaking statistics, where 9,867 visitors from 79 countries and regions attended, along with 161 exhibiting companies.

G2E Asia will also welcome the launch of several extension events tied to the annual exposition. A "Macau Pavilion" will feature as an international platform for local SMEs to develop more business opportunities.

It will work in conjunction with another event – the "Retail Forum" – which chairman Vincent Tung, of the Council Board of Macau International Brand Enterprise Commercial Association, says aims to transform Macau into an international shopping destination for tourists. **Staff reporter**

MGM China said to get approval to amend USD3b loan

Jacqueline Poh, Sandra Tsui and Daniela Wei

MGM China Holdings Ltd. received consent from banks to amend the terms on its HKD23.4 billion (USD3 billion) loan as the declining fortunes of Macau's gambling houses are making it difficult for companies to meet their lending requirements, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The Macau unit of MGM Resorts International, the largest casino company on the Las Vegas Strip, has received approval from two-thirds of its lenders to relax its financial conditions, including loosening covenants on its leverage ratio, according to people, who are asked not to be iden-

tified because they aren't authorized to speak publicly. The consent came before a Jan. 29 deadline.

MGM China was seeking to raise the maximum total leverage it's allowed to six times from the second quarter of 2016 until the same period in 2017, the people said. The original agreement was four times after the first anniversary of the opening of its new casino on the developing Cotai gambling district, they said. MGM Cotai is scheduled to open in the fourth quarter of this year.

The approval came two months after a Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. joint venture received consent from banks to amend the terms on its HKD10.85 billion loan for the Studio

City resort that started operations in October last year.

The approved covenants include changing the project's opening date condition from 400 to 250 tables, consequential adjustments to the financial covenants, and rescheduling the commencement of financial covenant testing, according to a filing to the Securities and Exchange Commission in November.

Macau saw gaming revenue dropping 34 percent in 2015 after China's economic slowdown and anti-corruption campaign deterred high rollers from betting at the city's casinos. Gambling takings have fallen for 19th straight month and are set to decline further before rebounding in 2017. **Bloomberg**



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Team No.	Team Name	Games Played	Games Won	Points
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Crackdown on Uber continues in both SARs

TWO Hong Kong Uber drivers who were among those arrested in a police raid in August were fined last week, after having pleaded guilty to charges of driving without proper licenses and third party insurance.

The two drivers, Lam Man Lok (37) and Kwan Pui Chi (65), both admitted to the charges with the latter saying he would bear responsibility



A sign is displayed at an Uber Technologies Inc. office during a driver recruitment event in Hong Kong

for his crime. They were fined HKD7,000 each, and had their driving licenses revoked for 12 months.

Both drivers were arrested as part of an undercover police operation in August that involved a raid of Uber's Hong Kong office in Cheung Sha Wan. This led to the subsequent arrest of seven drivers and several staff members, and the confiscation of computers and documents.

All seven drivers arrested in Hong Kong were charged with "driving a motor vehicle for the carriage of passenger for hire or reward" without a proper license, and for driving without appropriate insurance. The other five have not entered pleas yet, and have had their cases adjourned until February 24.

Harold Li, a public relations representative for Uber, North Asia, said in a statement that all Uber drivers are covered by insurance, but drivers also need their own additional third party coverage. "We understand that the majority of the drivers intend to contest the charges in the months to come, and Uber will continue to provide needed support," Li wrote.

Previously in Hong Kong, taxi drivers damaged their own taxis with hammers and drove slowly towards the government headquarters protesting the app-based service. They are calling on authorities to enforce the law and prevent unlicensed drivers from operating.

Taxi drivers in the neighboring region have made claims

that they have observed a 20 percent drop in business due to the rise of unlicensed alternatives, and have demanded that the government introduce new regulations to cover the fledgling alternative industry. Meanwhile, taxi associations are now adapting to the market entry requirements of app-based hailing services. They say that they are planning to introduce an official taxi-hailing app, similar to the Uber platform. **Staff reporter**

Chinese rival lines up bank to help drivers buy cars

DIDI Kuaidi, the ride-hailing service slugging it out in China with Uber Technologies Inc., is partnering with China Merchants Bank Co. to provide automobile financing and help its 14 million drivers with car payments.

Merchants Bank, which is making a strategic investment in Didi, will provide loans and payment plans to qualified drivers. The pair are also working together on bank cards and in-app credit card payments, Didi President Jean Liu told reporters at a press conference yesterday.

Didi, which has so far expanded into 400 cities in China and attracted 250 million users, plans to roll out credit and debit cards with the lender in

the second quarter that offer discounts and benefits to riders. Competition in the nascent ride-hailing arena is heating up with Uber announcing yesterday it will expand into 18 more cities across three provinces, taking its total coverage to 55 cities by the end of February.

Our drivers "at some time, they all need to replace their cars or buy a new one, so this plan will enable these drivers to get a car in a more economical way," Liu said. "From the CMB perspective, they love this business because they worry about risk control and they want very steady revenue income. The profile should be very safe for them and our drivers fit this criteria." **Bloomberg**

MACAU AUTHORITIES DEEM SERVICE ILLEGAL

FOLLOWING THE launch of the application last October, the local police issued fines to a large number of Uber cars. Authorities repeatedly said that the application is illegal in Macau, since a vehicle must be duly registered as a taxi before a driver can offer someone a ride in exchange for the payment of a fee.

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Communication and Media Design	傳播與媒體設計學
Education	教育
Fashion Design	時裝設計
Government Studies	政府研究
Philosophy	哲學
Portuguese - Chinese Studies (Language and Culture)	葡國牙與中國研究 (語言及文化)
Psychology	心理學
Social Work	社會工作學
Pre-University	預科
Portuguese Intensive Course	葡語密集課程
Foundation Year in Philosophy	哲學先修班

Admission Exam 入學考試
7 May 2016 (Saturday)
2016年5月7日 (星期六)

University of Saint Joseph 聖若瑟大學
Applications and Enquiries 報名或查詢
admissions@usj.edu.mo
www.usj.edu.mo
+853 8796 4455

AMLPM
Associação dos Médicos de Língua Portuguesa de Macau
“澳門葡語醫生協會”
Association of Macau Portuguese Speaking Physicians

**AMLPM GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ELECTIONS
CALL TO MEMBERS**

According to the regulations, and in compliance with Article 9th, no. 4 of the Statute of the Association, published in the Official Gazette of the MSAR no. 38 – 2nd Series, 22nd September 2010, members are called to exercise the right of vote in General Assembly of the Association of Portuguese-Speaking Physicians of Macau, which will take place at the Clube Militar de Macau on February 4th, 2016 at 7:00 pm, covering the following agenda:

1. Election of social governing bodies of AMLPM for the period 2016-2019;
2. The newly elected governing bodies take possession and the act of ownership is formalized in the this General Assembly;
3. Appointment of the location for the new AMLPM's headquarter under proposal of the elected governing bodies;
4. Appointment of Board Members who will be able to access the AMLPM bank account in compliance with Article 16.º no. 2 of the Statutes.

To the completion of the electoral act, the lists of candidacy for the general assembly, board of direction and supervisory board shall be submitted to the Chairwoman of the General Meeting or directed in her name to the amlpmacau@gmail.com email address. The deadline for acceptance of candidacies is Thursday 2016 January 28th at 23:59 (Macau: GMT+8).

The polling station will be opened in the Military Club facilities in the period between 19:00 and 21:00. To be eligible in General Meeting, members must regularize quota up on the date of January 30th, 2016.

All the members admitted, according to Article 4th, n0.2 and Article 9.º, n0.8 and n0.9 of the Statutes, have the right to vote. If, at the scheduled time of the meeting, a quorum is not achieved, the Assembly shall convene on second call, at 7:30pm on the same day, whatever the number of members present, in compliance with Article 9th, n0.7, of the Statute.

Macau, on January 18th, 2016

The President of General Assembly
Maria Paula de Matos Pimenta Simões

Endereço para correspondência: CP 1137, Macau, email: amlpmacau@gmail.com

Sede AMLPM: Rua de Seng Tou, Bloco 25, 15-D. Edf. Peónia, Nova Taipa Gardens, Taipa, RAEM

Chinese market dive leads global stocks lower

GLOBAL stock markets slipped yesterday, led by a plunge in China's Shanghai index, after a renewed slump in the price of oil kept investors on edge about the world economy.

KEEPING SCORE: France's CAC 40 fell 0.1 percent to 4,308.74 and Germany's DAX lost 0.3 percent to 9,708.48. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.4 percent to 5,851.19. U.S. shares were set to drift lower, with Dow futures slipping 0.2 percent and S&P 500 futures down 0.1 percent.

ASIA'S DAY: The Shanghai Composite dropped 6.4 percent to finish at 2,749.78, the lowest since December 2014, when the index was beginning a rally that peaked last June. Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 2.4 percent to 16,708.90. South Korea's Kospi slipped 1.2 percent to 1,871.69. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 2.6 percent at 18,831.87. Other regional markets were also mostly down.

OIL CONCERNS: Plunging oil prices have been hitting profits at energy companies and getting investors worried the fall in energy costs could add to deflationary pressures in major economies. Slower growth in China is one reason for oil prices to fall. The slide also reflects oversupply



including new sources of production such as shale oil in the U.S. Oversupply is set to be compounded by the lifting of sanctions on Iran, allowing it resume oil exports.

CHINA FACTOR: In China, investors were in near-panic in the absence of a shift in government policies and economic fundamentals, according to Chen Yong, market strategist for Lianxun Securities. The approach of the Lunar New Year didn't help, as players become reluctant to invest for fear

of any unexpected sharp falls in overseas markets.

THE QUOTE: "It's just another in a long series of slumps that we have seen in this market, and it's not the last we will see either because the market is still overpriced. And too many people want to get their money out. It's been a bubble since it began last summer," said Michael Every, who heads Financial Markets Research, Asia-Pacific, at Rabobank. He expects another 10 percent drop or more in Shanghai shares before

things settle down.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude was down 15 cents at USD30.19 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.85 on Monday. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, lost 13 cents to \$31.13 a barrel in London. It fell \$1.68 the previous day.

CURRENCIES: The dollar edged up to 118.30 yen from 118.23 yen in the previous trading session. The euro slipped to \$1.0841 from \$1.0850. **AP**

Ford recalls about 391K Ranger pickups due to air bag death

FORD is recalling nearly 391,000 Ranger pickups because the driver's air bag inflators can explode with too much force and cause injuries.

The recall covers trucks from the 2004 through 2006 model years in the U.S. and Canada.

It comes just days after the government announced that a South Carolina man was killed when an inflator exploded in December. Joel Knight, 52, of Kershaw died when he was struck in the neck by metal shrapnel after his 2006 Ranger hit a cow in the road and struck a fence.

The government says automakers will recall another 5 million vehicles equipped with faulty inflators made by Takata Corp. of Japan. Some of the recalls are because of the crash that killed Knight, with the rest due to air bags failing in lab tests.

Other automakers are expected to announce more recalls soon as the Takata inflator mess continues to grow. It now covers 14 auto and truck makers and totals about 24 million vehicles. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says the number of recalls is likely to expand further.

Takata uses the chemical ammonium nitrate to cause a small explosion that creates gas and inflates air bags in a crash. But the chemical can deteriorate over time when exposed to high heat and humidity and burn too fast, blowing apart a metal canister designed to contain the explosion.

Knight is the 10th known death worldwide due to the inflators, and more than 100 people have been hurt.

Ford says it will send letters to owners about the recall starting the week of Feb. 22. Although it has some replacement parts available, the company is working with air bag makers to make additional inflators as soon as possible, spokesman John Cangany said.

The Rangers also were recalled last year to replace the passenger air bag inflators. Ford says customers can find out if their trucks are included by going to Ford.com and clicking on "safety recalls." Then they can enter their vehicle identification number to check.

Knight hit the cow at about 6:20 p.m. on South Carolina Route 522 not far from Columbia. If not for the inflator rupture, the crash would have been moderate and wouldn't have killed him, said Amanda Dotter, spokeswoman for the Elrod Pope Law Firm, which is representing his family. **AP**

corporate bits

STUDIO CITY TO PRESENT MADONNA'S "REBEL HEART TOUR"



In the run-up to Madonna's 'Rebel Heart Tour' Macau leg, set to arrive at Studio City Event Center (SCEC) in a month's time, actress Carina Lau "splurged a staggering half million dollars for a private VIP Suite at the Event Center to treat her friends to a resplendent private

music party," according to a Melco Crown press release.

The SCEC offers a 5,000-seat multi-purpose entertainment complex with infrastructure design to host live concert, theatrical and top sports events. The venue has VIP suites for private parties.

MGM HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR LOCAL INTERNS

MGM hosted a graduation ceremony for its most recent intern class. The gaming operator has been running the Internship Program since 2007. Through January 2016, nearly 250 interns have gained valuable experiences via the intern program to facilitate entry into various positions upon graduation.

The latest Interns Graduation Ceremony was held in January, where mentors and depart-

ment heads had the chance to applaud the hard-work demonstrated by 17 graduates, as well as to meet and greet with 18 newcomers.

"As a Macau-based integrated resort operator, we see it as our responsibility to help cultivate local young generations, and equip them with the tools necessary to explore and develop their career path," MGM's CEO and executive director, Grant Bowie, stated.



CEM HOLDS LUNCHEON TO CELEBRATE CNY



As the Chinese New Year fast approaches, CEM held its luncheon with elders who joined the "CAT members 1+1 Elderly Program" at Federal Restaurant last week. According to its press release yesterday, to actively give back to the community, CEM and Peng On Tung Tele-assistance Service jointly launched the program in May 2015, pairing

one CEM Ambassador with one elderly resident. CEM made use of its resources to regularly visit the elderly with food, household power safety inspections, LED bulbs changing services as well as arranging visits and gatherings. Printed photos and CNY cakes were offered to the elderly as souvenirs from the ambassadors.

Macau has a role to play in the 'Year of the Renminbi in Africa'



AFRICAN countries such as Angola and Mozambique are seeking alternatives to scarce U.S. dollars, leading some analysts to declare 2016 the "Year of the renminbi in Africa," in which Macau can play an important role.

In an article recently published on the website of the Council on Foreign Relations, the financial consultant and specialist in sub-Saharan Africa John Casey argues that "dominance of the dollar is no longer certain" in the region and that this year will "establish the renminbi's role in Africa."

Despite the current volatility, the timing is "auspicious for the Chinese currency to challenge the dollar hegemony" in Africa where the oil-producing countries are fighting against the "decimation" of foreign reserves in dollars, linked to the drop in oil prices, said Casey.

As noted in the case of Angola and Mozambique, which have unsuccessfully tried to halt the sharp depreciation of their currencies, lower foreign reserves decrease the performance capacity of central banks to support the exchange rate of their currencies and hamper the repatriation of profits by foreign companies.

Another reason Casey gives to back up his claim about the Chinese currency is the creation of the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank and the New Development Bank (formerly the BRICS Bank), rival institutions based on U.S. dollars (the IMF and the World Bank), which "conceivably may soon be based on the renminbi."

As well as this, the consultant said, China's relations with African countries are

more diverse and "mutually beneficial" than those of U.S. institutions.

In August 2015 China and Angola signed an official agreement allowing reciprocity in the use of the currencies of both countries, which was interpreted by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) as a result of Angola's "hope" that greater use of the renminbi will decrease the need for dollars.

According to Portuguese bank BPI, this agreement makes it possible to "make up for the lack of dollars," needed to pay for imports, but the effect in currency terms will likely be none.

Yao Jian, sub-director of the Central Government Liaison Office in Macau, said last week that the Special Administrative Region would play a role in implementing the renminbi in Africa, with the support of the Chinese central government support for it to become a clearing house for China's currency, between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Speaking at a seminar on the promotion of services in renminbi to the Portuguese-speaking markets, Yao Jian said China wanted Macau to be not only a platform for economic and trade contacts with the Portuguese-speaking world and a world centre for tourism but also a financial platform for the promotion of services in the Chinese currency.

At the seminar, the sub-director of the Bank of China (BOC), Wang Jun said that the BOC already had services in renminbi with 35 banks in six Portuguese-speaking countries representing 7.6 billion renminbi in 2015, or 15 percent more than in 2014. **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL



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Rotary Club of Guia

Since its chartered on April 6th, 1993, Rotary Club of Guia has been following Rotary's philosophy by encouraging fellow Rotarians to think and act according to the Rotary Guiding Principles of the "Four Way Test" — integrity, fairness, building better friendship, and being beneficial to all concerned. Two years later, the Club chartered Rotaract Club of Guia followed by more recently chartered Rotary Community Service Club in 2014.



Our Club adheres to the Spirit of Rotary. Members of our Club dedicate to serve, not only by financial support, but more important, we take action and hands on by applying our professional knowledge and our network to serve society and its needs. In the past years, we have conducted numerous of community service projects and to name a few:

From 1997 to 2010, we organized 11 Mid- Autumn Service Projects for Elderly: "Rotary Love for Elders". For each "Rotary Love for Elders", 700 to 800 elderly were invited to attend. They enjoyed Cantonese Opera performed by our club members and local Cantonese Opera artists, whilst enjoying their sumptuous dinner. Through this event we showed to our elderly that there are still people in the society who love and care for them.

In 2010, our Club began a new service project - "Rotary Love through Implant," providing free dental implant service for fifteen underprivileged people. The project provided repair for their false teeth and thus, improving their life quality.



In 2014 and 2015, the Club organizes a new service project - "Teens' Buddies of Rotary Club of Guia". Partnering with YMCA, 40 students at their teens from 10 different schools were invited to participate. This project aims was to cultivate these teens good values among the students, to increase their confidence, to be a team player and improve their problem-solving skills through a series of training workshops and self-organized community visits. This project also provided an opportunity for the teens' family to interact and learn more positive aspect about their children, helping them to build mutual harmonious and respectful family relationship.

This year, in continuation from "Teens' Buddies", we have organized "Rotary Teens' Smile" where two local schools already participated. As prevention is better than cure, our members whose profession are dentist, shared with the students the fundamental and essential knowledge on dental hygiene including the correct way to clean one's teeth. After the dental sharing, the students shared their knowledge with their peer by demonstrating and shared their knowledge from what they learned. This project improved students' dental and oral health knowledge, their public speaking and organizing skills, and enhance their considerations to the society and people around them.



To further understand who we are and what we do:

松山扶輪社 Rotary Club of Guia «國際扶輪3450地區»
www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofguia



Johnson Lai, Kinmen

TAIWAN held small-scale military drills on an island it controls just off the Chinese coast yesterday, in a renewed signal of its determination to defend itself from Chinese threats.

The head of Kinmen's defense command said the beach landing exercise and simulated attack by the navy's elite "frogman" commandos were to show the ability of the armed forces to provide security in the Taiwan Strait ahead of next month's Lunar New Year holiday.

The drills follow live-fire exercises held by China in the area just days after Taiwanese voters elected independence-leaning Tsai Ing-wen as president on Jan. 16. The unit involved in those exercises, the 31st Group Army, is charged with responding to contingencies involving Taiwan and is based in the city of Xiamen, directly across a narrow waterway from Kinmen.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and threatens to use force to bring the island under its control.

The Kinmen commander, Hau Yi-he, said no unusual Chinese military movements had been detected since the election and Taiwan's forces would continue with routine drills.

"We have been monitoring their [China's] military movements. So far, it has remained normal," Hau told The Associated Press during a visit to the island organized by Taiwan's Defense Ministry.

Taiwan retained Kinmen and the Matsu island group to the north as frontline defense outposts for Nationalist forces that retreated to Taiwan following the Communists' 1949 sweep to power in China's civil war.

Reporters were later flown

AP PHOTO



Taiwan's "frogman" Marines perform covert landing drills just a few kilometers from mainland China on the outlying island of Kinmen

Taiwan stages military drills on island off Chinese coast

■ The Kinmen commander said no unusual Chinese military movements had been detected since the election

to an air base in the southern county of Chiayi that is home to some of the air force's F-16A/B fighter jets, along with an air rescue group. Taiwan has sought to purchase the more advanced F-16C/D version of the plane from the U.S., a bid that, if successful, would be sure to elicit a furious response from Beijing.

While China in recent years has promoted the concept of peaceful unification rather

than outright invasion, it has refused to drop its military threat and passed a law in 2005 laying out the conditions under which it would attack. While not setting a timetable, President Xi Jinping has told visitors he doesn't wish the issue of independence to be put off for future generations.

Writing Monday in the Communist Party newspaper Global Times, commentator and retired general Luo Yuan said

China would never bend in its determination to realize unification, regardless of developments on Taiwan.

"As long as 'peace' has not died, we will give 100 percent," wrote Luo, whose views reflect a popular strain of thinking among nationalist Chinese. "But if the 'Taiwan independence' elements force us into a corner, then we have no other choice but 'unification by force.'" AP

ECONOMY

China outflows could reach USD500 billion in 2016, JPMorgan says

Ian Sayson

CHINA could see capital outflows of USD500 billion this year, posing a challenge to policy makers trying to defend the yuan in the midst of an economic slowdown and a plunge in equities, according to JPMorgan & Chase Co.'s chief Asia strategist.

While the People's Bank of China would like to control the yuan's decline, those holding assets denominated in the cur-



rency could sell to avoid losses, Adrian Mowat said in an interview in Manila yesterday. The nation is estimated to have

seen withdrawals of \$650 billion last year, he said.

"You are going to have this tension around the renminbi and it will con-

tinue to drive volatility," said Mowat, referring to the yuan by its official name. "Another area where you have tension is that the markets aren't allowed to find their levels in the A-share market."

China's stockpile of foreign-currency reserves plunged \$513 billion last year to \$3.33 trillion, the first annual drop since 1992, as the nation propped up the yuan. The Shanghai Composite is the worst

performer in January among 93 primary equity gauges tracked by Bloomberg, while the economy grew last year at the slowest pace in a quarter century.

Mowat's forecast for last year's capital outflows from China compares with a figure of \$1 trillion estimated by Bloomberg Intelligence. While outflows surged in December after the central bank unnerved markets by saying it would refocus the yuan's

moves against a wider basket of currencies, rather than the dollar alone, exporters are holding funds in dollars instead of the yuan, according to Tom Orlik, Bloomberg's chief Asia economist in Beijing.

The MSCI China Index, a gauge of mainland companies listed in Hong Kong and other overseas markets, would still be able to erase losses recorded so far this month and end 2016 with a gain, Mowat said. The gauge, whose members include U.S.-listed Internet services companies Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Baidu Inc., is expected to report earnings growth of 15 percent this year, he said. **Bloomberg**

Beijing releases, deports Swede detained over rights group



In this file image made from an undated video released by CCTV, Peter Dahlin, a Swedish co-founder of a human rights group, speaks on camera in an unknown location

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA'S government has released and deported a Swedish man it accused of training and funding unlicensed lawyers in the country, after he made an extraordinary confession broadcast on state television.

Swedish Embassy spokesman Sebastian Magnusson confirmed yesterday that Peter Dahlin had left China, but was unable to provide further details.

Dahlin, co-founder of China Urgent Action Working Group, was featured in a 10-minute segment on state broadcaster CCTV last week in which he confessed to helping unlicensed lawyers take on cases against the government "in clear violation of the law."

He was arrested Jan. 3 on his way to Beijing's international airport, becoming the first foreigner to become entangled in a wide-ranging crackdown on the country's increasingly as-

sertive legal rights movement.

Another co-founder of the group, Michael Caster, who lives in the United States, tweeted that Dahlin's girlfriend Pan Jinling had also been released from detention but remained in China.

China often releases people without trial on condition that they not speak publicly about their case. That often comes with the explicit or implied threat of being returned to detention or having trouble visited on family members or acquaintances.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Dahlin had been expelled on Monday after being suspected of financing criminal activity that jeopardized national security.

"After questioning, [Dahlin] confessed to his suspected criminal activity," Hua told reporters at a daily briefing yesterday.

The Swedish Embassy issued a statement Friday in which it expressed "deep concern" over

the cases against Dahlin and another detained Swedish national, Gui Minhai.

"Many unanswered questions remain in both cases and we continue to request clarification of what our citizens are being accused of and the formal status of their arrests," the statement said.

In its broadcast, CCTV said Dahlin had established an activist organization in Hong Kong with the help of employees of the human rights-focused Fengrui Law Firm in Beijing, whose lawyers have been charged with subverting state power.

Dahlin's group called the confession "apparently forced" and rejected accusations that the group manufactured or escalated conflicts inside China.

The group says it has been working since 2009 to help advance the rule of law by organizing training programs by lawyers for rights defenders focusing on land rights and administrative law. It also releases practical guides on the Chinese legal system.

Under President and Communist Party leader Xi Jinping, China's authoritarian government has aggressively pursued those attempting to use the legal system to assert basic rights, framing their advocacy as a challenge to state security. That campaign appears to have intensified over the past year.

Hundreds of lawyers have been rounded up and accused of stirring up hostility toward the government and manufacturing cases to enrich themselves.

Dahlin's group was not legally permitted to operate in mainland China. CCTV said it accepted foreign funding and paid lawyers and petitioners within China, who provided negative information in order to tarnish the country's image.

In the CCTV program, Dahlin said the people his group supported had "gone on to do acts in clear violation of the law." He

apologized for hurting "the Chinese government and Chinese people."

The official Xinhua News Agency cited witnesses as saying Dahlin had been planted by "Western anti-China forces" to gather negative information about China and fan opposition to the ruling party.

Gui, the other detained Swede, is a Hong Kong-based publisher of sensitive books banned on the mainland who disappeared in October from his apartment in Pattaya, a Thai beach resort.

He also reappeared last week on CCTV, saying he returned to

By knowingly peddling lies and statements presumably obtained under duress, CCTV, Xinhua become mass propaganda weapons

BENJAMIN ISMAIL
REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS'

China to turn himself in for an old crime. His friends insist Gui was forcibly taken away.

Chinese authorities have since 2013 frequently used televised confessions of dissidents and activists on state TV to sway public opinion against them ahead of their trials. At least 18 such confessions have been made by high-profile activists, bloggers and journalists.

The confessions have brought calls from journalists' and human rights organizations for sanctions against CCTV, which has been pushing hard to build its brand internationally to compete with CNN and the BBC.

"By knowingly peddling lies and statements [that] were presumably obtained under duress, CCTV and Xinhua [News Agency] become mass propaganda weapons and cease de facto to be news media," Benjamin Ismail, the head of Paris-based Reporters Without Borders' Asia-Pacific desk said in a statement last week. **AP**

Anti-graft body investigates statistics bureau chief

CHINA'S anti-graft Agency announced yesterday that the head of the country's National Bureau of Statistics is being investigated for

severe disciplinary violations, a phrase which usually refers to corruption.

The announcement posted on the website of the

Central Commission for Discipline Inspection came hours after Wang Baoan had briefed reporters at a news conference in Beijing about China's

economy in 2015.

Various prominent political figures have been ensnared in President Xi Jinping's three-year-old anti-corruption crack-

down. More than 100 senior officials and military officers have been charged with crimes or placed under criminal investigation, with no sign of the

campaign abating.

Wang, 52, was appointed chief of the statistics bureau in April last year. He previously served as vice minister of finance.

Asians haul out sweaters to cope with sudden cold snap

Grant Peck, Bangkok

AFTER sweating through unseasonably high temperatures last week, residents of semi-tropical Thailand have had to scavenge through their closets for sweaters and scarves to keep the chill off their bones.

Temperatures in Bangkok, the capital, hit an unseasonably high of 34.6 degrees C (93 F) on Saturday only to plunge to a low of 16.1 degrees C (61 F) on Monday. The weather was still cool yesterday, and Bangkok residents could be seen wearing jackets and wool caps.

Much of the rest of Asia was also shivering.

In Hong Kong, the mercury dipped to its lowest in six decades. The rest of southern China also recorded unusually cold weather, with record-breaking low temperatures in many places.

In Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, the temperature dropped to 5.4 degrees C (42 F), the lowest since 1977. Meteorologists said mountaintop snowfalls across a dozen northern provinces were unprecedented.

Bangkok's temperatures were cold enough to have schools advise parents to bundle up their little ones with extra warm clothing, but not record-worthy — the mercury touched 11.7 C (53 F) in 1999 and 10 C (50 F) in 1975.

In provincial areas farther north, cold winter weather is not so unusual. Students in the city of Chiang Mai who buzz about the city on motorbikes added fashionable jackets and



A family enjoys the artificial snow made of foam at a carnival in Hong Kong

sweaters to their ensembles, while country folk warmed themselves around bonfires at night.

Officials issue warnings against the deadly misunderstanding that alcohol is a way to fight the chill — while bringing a warming sensation, it actually lowers the core body temperature, increasing the risk of death by exposure to the cold.

Inevitably, some of the old and infirm succumb to the chill. The cold has been blamed for contributing to the deaths of at least five people in Thailand this year.

Bangkokians, less accustomed to cold temperatures, have mixed feelings about it.

"I don't like this kind of weather, because my body can't resist the cold," said Pornthip Manadomphon, 74, taking her morning walk in the city's Lum-

pini Park. "Look, I have put on many layers, I still feel cold."

Sampao Jampimai, 43, said the cold makes would-be customers rush past her shoe store without stopping, but even though it was so cold that her fingers stiffened in the morning, it was exciting to have the rare opportunity to don her winter clothes.

Visiting tourists were a bit surprised.

"This kind of weather is like the summer of Germany," said Benedikt Jum, 26. "I'm wearing shorts and a T-shirt, so I was slightly surprised to see people wearing winter clothes here. For me, I prefer this temperature in Bangkok, like my summer. I don't need 35 to 38 degree C weather."

Among the city's residents most susceptible to the cold are the reptiles at Dusit Zoo.

Natthaya Tuaprakone, a scientist at the zoo, said veterinarians seek to provide the animals with a stable, warm environment, especially cold-blooded reptiles such as snakes and turtles.

"For animals which might have less resistance to the cold weather, the staff will provide food and supplementary vitamin C," she said. "We will try to keep their surroundings warm by arranging more natural light and electric lights at night," as well providing mattresses for insulation against cold concrete floors.

The city's stray dogs get ad hoc care.

At piers along the banks of the Chao Phraya River, where packs of dogs cozy up to friendly tourists and vendors grilling food, some of the canines have been dressed up in old shirts and discarded blankets, the work of a kind volunteer caretaker. Some dozed in the sunshine, away from the shade and winds whipping up waves on the river.

Other parts of Asia more accustomed to cool winter temperatures were nonetheless also caught by surprise.

In Japan, the unusual cold brought sleet as far south as Okinawa, a subtropical island known for its mild winters. Another southern island, Amami-Oshima, recorded its first snow in more than a century.

Record snowfalls hit Nagasaki and other cities in Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands. Some communities in Kyushu were without water service yesterday, state

broadcaster NHK reported, after the rare deep freeze burst water pipes, draining supplies.

Temperatures dipped below freezing at higher elevations in Hong Kong, prompting throngs of the curious unaccustomed to such chilly temperatures to head to the city's highest mountain this past weekend to try to catch a glimpse of frost.

Many were also hoping to see snow after rumors started circulating on social media that it was on the way, but the government dismissed the reports.

Some 129 people had to be rescued on Sunday and Monday, including 67 runners in an ultramarathon that had to be canceled halfway through, the government and news reports said. More than 300 firefighters, 39 ambulances and rescue helicopters were deployed for the operation.

In northern Vietnam, many kindergartens and primary schools were closed when temperatures dropped below 10 degrees C (50 F). Heavy snow blanketed the popular northern resort city of Sapa, where dozens of cows and buffaloes reportedly died of the cold.

Guangzhou, the capital of China's industrial powerhouse, Guangdong province, saw its first snowfall in half a century, while other southern and central areas, including coastal Fujian and mountainous Chongqing in the west, also experienced rare sprinklings of snow and ice.

Flights were disrupted between Saturday and Monday and power to about 80,000 households in the tourist heartland of Yunnan province was knocked out.

At least one death was blamed on the weather, that of a woman in Chongqing who fell through the bars on the balcony of her 24th-floor apartment while watching the snow fall. **AP**

WWII

S. Korean ex-sex slaves demand direct apology from Japan PM

TWO elderly South Korean women abused by Japan's wartime military-run brothel system are in Japan to reject a recent settlement agreement between the two governments and demand that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe give them a face-to-face apology and formal compensation.

Lee Ok-sun, 88, and Kang Il-chul, 87, told reporters yesterday that the agreement neglected the victims' feelings and was "wrong."

They are among tens of

thousands of Asian women sexually abused in Japan's military-run brothel system during World War II. Lee and Kang were forcibly sent to China when they were teenagers in the early 1940s and could not return to their homes until decades later.

Lee and Kang said neither government had asked their opinion ahead of the agreement, which they said was a clear sign they were disregarded. They noted that Abe had not directly apologized to

them in his own words, and that Japan stated that its pledge in the agreement to set up a fund was not compensation but for humanitarian purposes.

Lee and Kang now live at a private shelter, the House of Sharing, with eight other victims. Of the 238 South Korean women who were formally recognized as victims of Japan's wartime sex abuse, only 46 are still alive — most of them in their late 80s and 90s.

The director of the shelter, Ahn Shin-kwon, who

accompanied the two on their trip, said the group requested a meeting with Abe and other government officials, but that it is unlikely to take place.

"Not only has Abe not apologized but he hasn't even tried to meet us," Kang said angrily, sitting next to Lee. Both were in wheelchairs. "Why doesn't he come out and apologize? We want him to meet us face to face," she said.

Kenko Sone, a spokesman at the Prime Minister's Office, said there is no immediate plan for



Kang Il-chul, a South Korean woman abused by Japan's wartime military-run brothel system, speaks during a press conference in Tokyo

Abe to meet with the two women during their visit, or other so-called wartime "comfort women" in the future.

The December agreement included an indirect apology from Abe and a Japanese pledge to provide 1 billion yen (USD8 million) to a fund for the

South Korean victims.

Japan in 1993 acknowledged forcing women into military brothels, often by deception and sometimes by physical force. The government set up a private fund in 1995, but that was not seen as sincere by some, especially in South Korea. **AP**

Yves Dam Van, Hanoi

VIETNAM

Communist Party chief easily wins seat on key panel

VIETNAM'S Communist Party chief easily won a seat on a key committee yesterday, the first step toward retaining his position as head of the collective leadership of the country.

General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong secured more than 80 percent of the votes from delegates at a party congress to win election to the Central Committee, one of the two pillars of the ruling establishment, several delegates said.

He is now expected to be elected to the new Politburo, considered a formality in the orchestrated transition of power that happens once every five years. The Communist Party is entitled by the constitution to govern and Vietnam's 93 million people have no direct role in the election of the party leaders.

Trong's election was not without hiccups. He faced a brief challenge from Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, his No. 2 who had ambitions for the top post. But Dung effectively withdrew from the contest, clearing the way for Trong.

Dung is seen as a pro-business leader who investors believe would have continued with economic reforms he set in motion 10 years ago. He is also seen as



Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang (front row left), Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (front row third left), and Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong (front row third right), pose for a group photo with the Army generals after the election for the new Central Committee in Hanoi

being capable of standing his ground in case of a confrontation with China, which has been aggressively making territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Trong is seen as pro-China and an economic conservative. Analysts say Trong's election

might slow down the pace of reforms, but not stall them. He's also unlikely to be subservient to China as some fear.

Trong was among 180 who were elected to the Central Committee. The others included Deputy Prime Minister

Nguyen Xuan Phuc, who is poised to become the next prime minister, and Public Security Minister Tran Dai Quang, who will likely secure the presidency.

Today, Central Committee members will elect the all-powerful Politburo, which handles the day-to-day governance of Vietnam. Its membership is expected to increase to 18 from the current 16.

Of the Politburo members, one will be chosen general secretary. Three others will be chosen prime minister, president and chairman of the National Assembly, in order of seniority.

Trong had been trying unsuccessfully for years to sideline Dung, and while contests for the top post are not unheard of, they are usually settled well ahead of the party congress.

Regardless of who is in power, the government's policies will not change radically,

analysts say.

Dung, who rose through the ranks of the party and held senior positions, is a two-term prime minister. His economic reforms have helped Vietnam attract a flood of foreign investment and helped triple the per capita GDP to USD2,100 over the past 10 years.

Trong's camp accuses Dung of economic mismanagement, including the spectacular collapse of state-owned shipping company Vinashin; failing to control massive public debt; allowing corruption; and not dealing adequately with the non-performing loans of state-owned banks.

Vietnam is one of the last remaining Communist nations in the world, with a party membership of 4.5 million. But like its ideological ally China, the government believes in a quasi-free market economy alongside strictly controlled politics and society. AP

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Romania offers Moldova USD65 million loan to spur reforms

Alison Mutler, Bucharest

ROMANIA'S prime minister offered Moldova a loan of 60 million euros (USD65 million) yesterday to prevent economic collapse in the impoverished ex-Soviet republic — if certain conditions are met.

To get the money, Prime Minister Dacian Cioloș said Moldova will have to reform its justice system, fight corruption, sign a draft agreement for a loan from the International Monetary Fund and appoint a new central bank governor.

The offer comes as Moldova, Europe's poorest nation, is on the verge of economic collapse following the disappearance of more than \$1 billion from three Moldovan banks, one eighth of the entire GDP of the nation.

Cioloș made the announcement during a visit to Romania by Pavel Filip, the sixth prime minister to hold office in Moldova in a year of political turmoil and deep social unrest sparked by the bank fraud.



A child walks by a poster that reads "We want our country back" placed outside the government building, where protesters have been camping outside for more than one year, in Chisinau

Filip, considered a symbol by many Moldovans of the nation's entrenched corruption because of his ties to an influential bu-

sinessman, promised to use the money well. Earlier this month, protesters in Moldova's capital, Chisinau, stormed the Parlia-

ment to protest his taking office. "If we don't carry on with reforms that are felt in Chisinau and beyond, this political class has

no chance," Filip said at a joint news conference with Cioloș.

Cioloș also offered emergency aid for food and heating, which would not have to be repaid.

IMF officials visited Moldova for negotiations on a loan that the said it needed for salaries and pensions. But the IMF team left after the central bank governor resigned due to protests over the missing money. The governor is still in place, however.

Moldova lies between European Union member Romania and Ukraine, and Moldovans are deeply torn between whether they want deeper integration with the West or Russia.

Pro-European parties won an election in 2014 but squandered their chance to improve the lives of the nation's 3.5 million people as the country grappled with the fallout from the bank scandal and other examples of corruption. A former prime minister, Vlad Filat, was arrested last year on suspicion that he took part in the fraud. He is awaiting trial.

The state stepped in to replace the funds that were stolen, leaving it tragically short of funds. Experts say that without outside help, the state could soon find itself unable to make payments including state salaries and pensions. AP

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Adam Schreck, Dubai

IRAN

Amnesty says dozens of juvenile offenders face death penalty

DOZENS of people who were arrested in Iran for crimes committed before they turned 18 remain at risk of the death penalty despite recent reforms, with many having already spent years on death row, according to a report by Amnesty International released yesterday.

The London-based group also found that Iran has executed at least 73 juvenile offenders between 2005 and 2015, including at least four last year.

Amnesty's 110-page report intensifies pressure on Iran at a time when Tehran is working to rebuild relations with the West following last year's landmark nuclear deal. The agreement came into force this month after Iran took steps to curb its nuclear program, leading to the lifting of crippling international sanctions.

Earlier this week, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani arrived in Rome at the start of the first European trip by an Iranian president in almost two decades. The visit, which will also include stops at the Vatican and France, is expected to lead to a raft of business and trade deals.

Iran is one of the world's largest users of the death penalty,



ranking second behind China in 2014, according to the most recent figures from Amnesty. Most executions overall in Iran are carried out for drug smuggling. The country straddles a major narcotics trafficking route linking opium-producing fields in Afghanistan to Europe.

Amnesty's researchers were able to identify the names and locations of 49 juvenile offenders who face the death penalty, though the group notes that actual numbers could be higher. A 2014 U.N. report put the number of juvenile offenders at risk of execution at more than 160.

The majority of the 73 juvenile offenders Amnesty identified who were put to death over the past decade were convicted of murder. Others were executed for crimes such as rape, drug-related crimes and national security offenses such as "enmity against God."

The group noted that reforms introduced in 2013 give judges more discretion to take into account juvenile offenders' mental maturity and potentially impose less harsh punishments, and that the Supreme Court has since said juvenile offenders facing execution could have their cases retried. Additional reforms introduced last year require that cases involving juveniles must be heard in special juvenile courts.

Still, Amnesty urged Iran to do more.

"Despite some juvenile justice reforms, Iran continues to lag behind the rest of the world,

maintaining laws that permit girls as young as nine and boys as young as 15 to be sentenced to death," Amnesty said.

Iranian officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

In late October, the United Nations' special investigator on the human rights situation in Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, warned that executions in Iran have risen at an "exponential rate" since 2005 and could top 1,000 in 2015. He said Iran puts more people to death per capita than any other country, adding that the majority of executions do not conform to international laws banning the death penalty for juveniles and non-violent offenders.

The head of Iran's Human Rights Council, Mohammad Javad Larijani, subsequently dismissed the U.N. report as "a collection of baseless accusations." AP

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TIME: 10:30 am to 6:30 pm

(Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: January 31, 2016

VENUE: Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro ,10, Macau

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– PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUDELOT

TIME: 10am-7pm

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UNTIL: June 19, 2016

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Offbeat

THREE CHARGED AFTER LIONESS
PROWLED DUBAI NEIGHBORHOOD

Three people have been charged with public endangerment over an incident that saw a lioness escape from a home in a Dubai neighborhood and prowl the streets for several hours.

Abu Dhabi's state-run The National newspaper reported yesterday that police say the owner of the lioness, the buyer and a middleman have been charged after the lioness escaped Thursday in Dubai's al-Barsha neighborhood. She was safely caught and taken to the zoo.

It's largely illegal to keep endangered or threatened wildlife as pets in the United Arab Emirates. However, The National, quoting unnamed officials, says that "exceptions are made for members of the ruling family or anyone who has official authorization and a permit."

Keeping wild animals as pets is seen as a status symbol in the Gulf Arab states.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:30	Castle - S. 5
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Entrevue (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Os Resistentes - Retratos de Macau
21:05	Montra do Lila
21:40	Documentary Serie
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	The Resistents - Macau Portraits
23:35	Documentary series

cinema

CINETEATRO

21 JAN - 27 JAN

THE 5H WAVE_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J Blakeson

Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson,

Maika Monroe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min

STEVE JOBS_

ROOM 2

2.30, 7.15 pm

Director: Danny Boyle

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet,

Seth Rogene

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min



THE BIG SHORT_

ROOM 2

4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Adam McKay

Starring: Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 130min

THE BIG BEE_

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Yukihiro Tsutsumi

Starring: Yosoke Eguchi, Masahiro Motoki,

Yukie Nakama

Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 139min

IP MAN 3_

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun

Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang

Language: Cantonese (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 110min

MACAU TOWER

14 JAN - 10 FEB

THE 5H WAVE_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J Blakeson

Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson,

Maika Monroe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min

this day in history



LSE Director Walter Adams

1969 REBEL STUDENTS TAKE
OVER LSE

Students protesting against the closure of the London School of Economics have seized control of another university building.

The rebels have taken over the University of London Union building, in Malet Street in central London, saying they want to establish an LSE in exile until their own college is reopened.

Three days ago, students went on the rampage at the LSE, in the Aldwych, with pickaxes, crowbars and sledgehammers, smashing several sets of steel gates which had only just been installed.

LSE Director Walter Adams, who ordered the gates to improve security, closed the school and has announced it will remain shut until he is satisfied order can be maintained.

The students, who claimed the gates made the college feel like a concentration camp, say they now need a new base from which to continue their studies.

They have barred the entrances to the union building and stuck posters on the doors and walls, with slogans like "Occupied for Student Action" and "LSE in exile".

One student, who refused to be identified by the cameras, said: "It is very difficult to say how long we are going to be here. We need a base from which to work and this is why this base was taken in the first place."

He said so far only sociology lectures had been held in the ULU.

Another rebel student blamed Dr Adams and the governors for closing the school: "They hold the power, not the revolutionary students of LSE. They closed LSE, we would like to open it."

He accused Dr Adams of trying to restrict their academic freedom by putting up the security gates.

However, it is clear the LSE rebels do not command total support among the student community.

Another group of students tried to get into the union building but found their entrance barred.

Their spokesman said: "We feel something should be done to tell people they do not represent us. We do not want our grants stopped. The vast majority of us want to pass our exams."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The LSE in exile was brought to an end one day later. Scores of medical students and others who opposed the occupation helped the union authorities remove the militants.

LSE director, Dr Walter Adams, confirmed re-erecting the gates was not a precondition to reopening the school - but he would not set a date.

In fact, the LSE remained closed for more than three weeks. It brought legal action against 13 people, including three staff, said to be ringleaders in the initial riot.

Two of the three staff were subsequently sacked. A number of the students faced further disciplinary action for disrupting lectures.

Student unrest in the late 1960s was widespread not just in Britain, but also in the United States and some European countries.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Cell phones, emails - they're old hat by now. But that doesn't mean you should forget to think before you speak. Things could change in the time it takes you to say what you wish you could take back.

Taurus April 20-May 20 The temptation of a single purchase has your thoughts racing. Is it really as exciting as all that? Best to put off any decisions around finances, at least until you have a chance to catch up with yourself.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Cross discussion is always risky. You're either flirting with disaster, or tempting the next big idea. Here's a simple rule of thumb: don't be the one to initiate it, but do jump right in once it starts.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're not the only one caught up in internal chatter. If everyone misses the point, who's going to be the voice of authority, let alone reason? Pay attention, even when others aren't.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Just like in college, life is one lecture after another. Or is it one party after another? It's a bit of both, today. Those all-or-nothing days are long gone, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the office fraternity.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The sun will be shining, the birds singing - or clouds will be forming and lightening cracking. It's a toss up. Even doing your best doesn't guarantee the outcome, but do it anyway.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Talking with coworkers is part of office life, but the last thing you should be doing is sharing your innermost self. When you get the urge, stop yourself, unless you've mastered putting the toothpaste back in the tube.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 When you assume you make a you-know-what-of-you-and-well,you. You know just where the unusual minor detail is always hidden - in the fine print. Read it, today, even if it means using a magnifying glass.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You've been working in overdrive for a while, now. If you're all talk and no action, it may be because you're exhausted! Wouldn't it be so much easier to simply sleep at night, instead of working all the time?

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to clarify your thoughts. Make a list of the major issues and go from there. Be as Zen as possible about it, today, and block out all the extra, mindless chatter.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Loving your work is all well and good, but you're going overboard. If you feel like you're carrying on a sizzling affair every day simply because of a certain project, it's time to enjoy it, a little.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Only act from a position of strength. If you're feeling overwhelmed, it's the wrong time to make your move. Be vague, prevaricate, do whatever it takes to put off any further action.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Transmits; 6- Bobbin; 11- Exec's degree; 14- "Fear of Flying" author Jong; 15- Torment; 16- The whole shebang; 17- Survey; 19- Rocker's show; 20- Happening every two years; 21- Yellowish brown pigment; 23- China's Sun ___-sen; 24- On the line; 25- Grassy plains of Argentina; 29- Michelangelo masterpiece; 30- Spring sign; 31- Truck stop sight; 32- JFK watchdog; 35- In spite of; 39- Vane dir; 40- Buck follower; 41- Sniggler; 42- Great grade; 44- Matador's red cloth; 45- Unlawful liquor; 48- Mediterranean isl.; 49- Like llamas; 50- Conspicuous; 55- HBO alternative; 56- Type of anomaly or dead heat; 58- Ballad ending; 59- Purple Heart, e.g.; 60- Goodnight girl of song; 61- Gown renters. Abbr.; 62- Worship; 63- Suppress;

DOWN: 1- Balkan native; 2- ... saw Elba; 3- Pleasing; 4- Pest control brand; 5- Mendicant Hindu ascetic; 6- Weaned pig; 7- Bucket; 8- Leftover; 9- Aeschylus trilogy; 10- Ancient musician; 11- ___ Carta; 12- Open and close the eye; 13- Pond scum; 18- Long and Peeples; 22- JFK posting; 24- We ___ please; 25- Window piece; 26- Elvis's middle name; 27- Microscopic arachnid; 28- Church seat; 29- Mexican money; 31- Gesture of indifference; 32- Abrading tool; 33- Work without ___; 34- Taj Mahal city; 36- Having ability; 37- Inflammation of a nerve; 38- "Runaway" singer Shannon; 42- Munched on; 43- Blood fluid; 44- Milky Way maker; 45- Diamond corners; 46- ___ Majesty's Secret Service; 47- Smells; 48- Subway turner; 50- Asterisk; 51- Soprano Te Kanawa; 52- Rapper born Tracy Marrow; 53- Second start?; 54- Secluded spot; 57- "Much ___ About Nothing", play by Shakespeare

Yesterday's solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in words.

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

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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Dennis Passa, Melbourne

TENNIS

What to watch today, Day 10 at the Australian Open

THE remaining semi-finalists will be determined today at the Australian Open, with Andy Murray hoping to extend his quest for redemption at Melbourne Park and Milos Raonic aiming to continue his strong form which has included wins over No. 3 Roger Federer and No. 4 Stan Wawrinka in the past three weeks.

Murray, whose wife is due to have their first child next month, plays David Ferrer. While Murray has won majors at the U.S. Open and Wimbledon, he has lost all four finals he's contested here.

Raonic, who beat Federer in the Brisbane International final and Wawrinka in the fourth round over the weekend, takes on Gael Monfils in his quarter-final.

On the women's side, two-time former champion Victoria Azarenka is bidding to continue her strong form — she hasn't dropped a set in four matches and has lost only 11 games — when she plays Angelique Kerber. Azarenka won the Brisbane title.

The other quarterfinal features two players who have never made it this far in a Grand Slam — Johanne Konta, a Sydney-born

AP PHOTO
Andy Murray of Britain

British player, and qualifier Zhang Shuai, who had lost her first 14 Grand Slam main draw singles matches and seriously considered retiring last year.

MURRAY VS. FERRER. The Scotsman has won 12 of 18 matches against Ferrer, inclu-

ding the last five. He also beat Ferrer on his favorite surface, clay, in four sets at last year's French Open. "It will be a tough match, he's obviously played some great ones here," Murray said. Ferrer is 34 and Murray says that kind of longevity gi-

ves other players optimism for how long they can play on tour. "The more players that do that, I think, the more other players look at it and go, 'I can do that as well'. You don't have to retire when you're 31 or when you're 32. As long as you still have the passion and dedication to work hard, and obviously if you can stay injury-free, it's possible."

AZARENKA VS. KERBER. This is a rematch of the Brisbane International final on Jan. 9 which Azarenka won in straight sets. Azarenka also beat the German player in three sets in the third round of the U.S. Open last year and holds a 6-0 record against her. "Overall, she's just consistent," Azarenka says. "You have to really go out there and take it from her, because she's not going to give you anything. I'm preparing myself for a very tough match because she's very solid, very consistent, and an amazing fighter."

RAONIC VS. MONFILS. Raonic, who has not dropped a set this tournament, hasn't beaten Monfils in two previous matches, although that was in 2011 and 2013.

Monfils dropped his first set this year in a very acrobatic four-set win over Alexei Kuznetsov in the fourth round. Monfils entertained the Margaret Court Arena crowd with his manic all-over-the-court antics, including a bounding full-stretch dive that resulted in him needing an injury timeout for treatment on his right hand. "He can give you complete ends of the spectrum within one game," Raonic said. Asked to comment on what the craziest thing he'd ever seen Monfils do on court, Raonic said, smiling: "Probably the thing he does next."

KONTA VS. ZHANG. Konta is the first British woman to get this far at the Australian Open since Jo Durie in 1983, while it took Zhang eight years to win her first singles match at a major.

Zhang needed to win three matches in qualifying, so she's on a seven-match winning streak in Melbourne. Konta, who beat Venus Williams in the first round, is Zhang's occasional practice partner. Another player Zhang practiced with before the tournament began — former U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur — was in the crowd to watch her win her fourth-round match against American Madison Keys. Zhang said that since Stosur, who played a lefthander in the first round, needed a practice player, she and her coach hit with the Australian. Stosur lost in the first round. **AP**

Williams, Federer advance to semifinals

NOVAK Djokovic and Roger Federer are 22-all in career head-to-heads, have nine Australian Open titles between them, and warmed up for a semifinal meeting with clinical quarterfinal wins.

Six-time champion Serena Williams advanced to the semifinals yet again, extending her dominance in a 12-year rivalry with an 18th straight win over Maria Sharapova.

The three most decorated players in Melbourne in the Open era all won in straight sets yesterday, with Williams starting the roll with a 6-4, 6-1 win in a rematch of last year's final. Up next for her is fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska, who beat No. 10 Carla Suarez Navarro 6-1, 6-3 to reach her fifth Grand Slam semifinal.

Williams has won every semifinal she's contested at the Australian Open, and gone on to win the title each time.

Djokovic's mark is almost as good — he's 5-0 in semifinals, and in finals, in the season's first major. He advanced 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 over No. 7 Kei Nishikori in the night match on Rod Laver.

Four-time champion Federer capped the afternoon session with a 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-4 win over No. 6 Tomas Berdych, reaching his 12th Australian Open semifinal and his 39th in a Grand Slam. He hasn't gone past the semifinals here since winning the title in 2010.

Williams' win over Sharapova was the marquee match of the day, improving her record to 19-2 in a rivalry that goes back to

2004.

"It was super intense," Williams said. "She's an incredibly intense, focused player who was No. 1 and has won so many Grand Slams for a reason. You have to come out with a lot of fire and intensity."

She did just that, attacking the serve of Sharapova, the 2008 champion and four-time finalist in Australia.

Sharapova had a career-high 21 aces in her previous win against No. 12 Belinda Bencic. Against Williams, she had three, and seven double-faults. Williams had 13 aces, hit 31 winners to 11, and broke Sharapova's serve four times.

"She played quite explosive," Sharapova said. "She was really explosive off the return. Yeah." **AP**

GOLF

Jordan Spieth's international tour continues in Singapore

JORDAN Spieth's worldwide golf adventure continues this week at the Singapore Open, where he says the weather reminds him a bit of his home state of Texas.

Spieth arrived in Singapore this week after an eight-hour flight from Abu Dhabi, where he finished tied for fifth, five

strokes behind winner Rickie Fowler in the Abu Dhabi Championship, and said he was exhausted.

Spieth arrived in the Middle East after an eight-shot victory in Hawaii, which followed his 2015 season when he won two majors and the FedEx Cup title, and reached No. 1 in the world.

Over the past two mon-

ths, he's also played in South Korea at the Presidents Cup, China, in Sydney where he unsuccessfully defended his Australian Open title, and in the Bahamas.

"This was just a unique off-season," Spieth said at a media conference yesterday. "I'm extremely excited to be here. I was very tired on Sunday

from a long week there. By the time we start tomorrow, I'll be ready to go with four full days of my best stuff."

"I don't mind the heat and humidity, I'm used to it from Texas. It's a bit of a hit at this time of year."

After the Singapore Open, which will be played at the Sentosa

AP PHOTO
Jordan Spieth of the United States

Golf Club, he'll return to the U.S. to play at Pebble Beach pro-am and the Northern Trust Open in Los Angeles in February. "I was unlucky in the

spacing of the tournaments," Spieth said. "And that's what kind of led to this crazy four-month adventure that we've had." **AP**

**THE CZECH AIRLINE TO BUY
 BUZZ 16 BOEING 737 MAX JETS**

Czech airline Travel Service says it has signed deals to buy 16 new Boeing 737 MAX jets.

An airline spokesperson said the contracts were signed earlier in January and the jets will be delivered in 2018-2021. Financial

details were not given.

Including recently signed deals, Travel Service, which operates both regular flights under the name SmartWings and also provides charter flights, will acquire a total of 25 new Boeings.

opinion

Made in Macau

Jenny Lao-Phillips



**THE DISAPPEARANCE
 OF 'MIN NAAP'**

The "extreme" cold weather these last few days in Macao has got me thinking about the good old days – days when we used to have a normal-length cold-ish winter. The first thing that came to mind was people of all ages wearing gold and red and pink "min naaps" 棉衲, cotton-padded jackets, around the time of the Chinese New Year. When I was a kid, almost everyone had at least a navy blue "min naap" for school and a red or gold one for the winter break.

"Min naaps" have always been a must-wear during Chinese New Year in accordance with the tradition. Not only was the cotton-padded jacket able to protect us from the very cold weather some 20 years back, it was also festive to dress in traditional Chinese style and in red during the Spring Festival. Silky red "min naaps" were the choice of many young ladies. However, this traditional Chinese New Year must-wear seems to have vanished in recent years, especially among the younger generation. So, what has caused the disappearance of this traditional costume?

At first I thought the reason must be the warmer weather during the Spring Festival every year leading to fewer people wearing "min naaps." The layers of silk and cotton in "min naaps" are designed to keep us warm against very cold weather, which has become rare in Macau and Hong Kong in the last few years. So I'm not surprised that I haven't seen many people wearing "min naaps" on the winter streets recently. In fact, it was only in these last few days when I overheard people talking about shopping for, or cracking out, winter coats that I started noticing that there was no sign of this traditional costume being worn or bought.

Out of curiosity, I googled the tradition of the "min naap" and found a column article from a few years ago, which revealed that young people in Hong Kong considered "min naaps" as 老餅 [Lo Ban = Old cake], a term used to refer to someone or something as old and boring. The tradition of wearing "min naaps" in winter, especially during Chinese New Year, has been around for hundreds of years, so of course it is old, as are all traditions and customs. It then occurred to me that the culprit was not so much the temperature but the fashion. Sometime between my teenage years and my thirties, "min naaps" have been voted out of the fashion trend. So, why does the younger generation nowadays consider "min naaps" to be outdated?

According to a few young people I surveyed, they think "min napps" are only worn by old people, and the designs are all similar, so they are boring and out of style. Moreover, they somehow believed the misconception that only down coats are warm enough for winter, and most of them prefer trench coats for parties and formal occasions. So, the "min naap" has totally lost its value, both in functionality for keeping warm, and in style as a traditional costume.

However, during my research (on Google), I was surprised to notice a blog from mainland China in which ladies discussed how it was worth paying premium prices to buy a golden, silk "min naap". Their discussion centered on a few female characters in some TV programs in the mainland, about how elegant and graceful they looked in those "min naaps". Now that's the difference – no gorgeous young actresses or actors wore "min naaps" in modern Hong Kong's TV drama; it's usually middle-aged actors who wear them. So it turns out, even tradition needs product placement in TV programmes via celebrity endorsement to be kept alive.

**Japan emperor visits
 Philippines, a former
 WWII colony**



Philippine President Benigno Aquino III (second from right), greets Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko upon their arrival

Jim Gomez, Manila

JAPAN'S emperor said yesterday that his nation must remember the tremendous loss of life in the Philippines during World War II, as he and his wife began their first visit to the Southeast Asian country.

"Many Filipinos, Americans and Japanese lost their lives in the Philippines during the war," Emperor Akihito said in a statement he read before departing from Tokyo. "Especially in the battle in Manila, a tremendously large number of innocent Filipino civilians were victims. Upon making this visit, we need to bear this in mind at all times."

Japan occupied the Philippines during World War II. The 1945 battle for Manila between Japan and allied U.S. and Philippine forces

leveled the capital city and left more than 100,000 dead, according to Philippine historians.

Relations between the Asian nations have improved dramatically in the seven decades since the war. Japan has become a major trading partner and aid donor to the Philippines, and the countries are bolstering defense ties in the face of China's military rise.

Akihito and Empress Michiko were met at Manila's airport by President Benigno Aquino III and his top Cabinet members.

Aquino will formally welcome Akihito at the presidential palace today for talks. The president will hold a state banquet for Akihito and Michiko in the evening.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, among the Philippine officials who welco-

med Akihito at the airport, said the first visit by a Japanese emperor to the country following the last world war was a milestone.

The Filipino generation that saw the horrors of the Japanese occupation in the 1940s still remembers that period, but Gazmin said it is time to move on as the two nations, now strategic allies, face common security concerns in the region.

"It's really more painful for us because my father was a veteran soldier who was forced into the 'death march,'" Gazmin told The Associated Press, referring to the Bataan death march, when Japanese soldiers forced tens of thousands of Filipino and American troops to march 100 kilometers from the Bataan Peninsula to prison camps under intense heat and harsh treatment. Thousands died, but Gazmin's father survived.

"We should move forward and forget and work for a better relation," Gazmin said. "It's a necessity, we need allies for our current needs."

Akihito, 82, is to pay his respects at memorials for both Philippine and Japanese war dead.

He is the son of former Emperor Hirohito, under whose name Japan waged World War II. Akihito was 11 years old at the end of the war. **AP**

**THE
 DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Andrew Medichini, Pool



Entente. Pope Francis and Iranian President Rouhani share a laugh during their private audience at the Vatican, yesterday. Iran's president has paid a call on Pope Francis at the Vatican during a European visit aimed at positioning Tehran as a potential top player in efforts to resolve Middle East conflicts.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

MALAYSIA Malaysian police say 13 bodies, believed to be Indonesian illegal immigrants, were found washed ashore after their boat capsized in bad sea conditions.



USA-CAMBODIA US Secretary of State John Kerry welcomes Cambodia's booming economic growth but also expresses concerns about the Southeast Asian nation's human rights record. Kerry met top Cambodian officials, and discussed the possibility of a U.S.-Cambodia trade and investment treaty.

SOUTH KOREA's economic growth slowed in the final quarter of 2015 as a drop in construction investment outweighed an improvement in consumer spending, the country's central bank says. Meanwhile, Hyundai Motor Co. reports its lowest annual profit in five years after a failure to fully anticipate strong demand for sports utility vehicles in China led to a sales drop in the world's largest auto market.

NORTH KOREA UNICEF is seeking USD18 million in relief funds for tens of thousands of children in North Korea it believes have been hit by the impact of a drought last year that heightened malnutrition and diarrhea caused by a lack of access to clean water.

AFGHANISTAN A policeman turned his weapon on fellow officers as they were sleeping in their quarters near a checkpoint in the country's south, killing 10, a provincial spokesman says. The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the killings.

GREECE State hospital workers scuffled with police outside the finance ministry yesterday, as protests, and strikes across Greece escalated against sweeping pension reforms proposed by the government. PM Alexis Tsipras' year-old left-wing govt is facing fierce opposition to the reforms being demanded by bailout lenders that could see millions of workers pay higher income contributions.

ROMANIA's prime minister offered Moldova a loan of 60 million euros (USD65 million) on yesterday to prevent economic collapse in the impoverished ex-Soviet republic – if certain conditions are met. To get the money, PM Dacian Cioloș said Moldova will have to reform its justice system, fight corruption. **More on p14**