

DAIWA: GAMING REVENUE EXPECTED TO FALL 4 PERCENT
Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) for the month of February will fall by 4 percent on a monthly basis, Daiwa says

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CNY TOURIST NUMBERS UP



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CHINA REPORTS FIRST CASE OF ZIKA VIRUS

China's first case of the Zika virus has been found in a 34-year-old man who recently traveled to Venezuela and is now making a speedy recovery

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



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WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREA Kim Jong Un had his military chief executed for corruption and other charges, a South Korean official said. If true, the execution of Ri Yong Gil, chief of the North Korean military's general staff (pictured, right), would be the latest in a series of killings, purges and dismissals since Kim took power in late 2011. Meanwhile, Senate Democrats and Republicans unite behind tougher sanctions on North Korea for violating international law.

More on p12



INDIA Authorities have detained dozens of Kashmiri activists and placed separatist leaders under house arrest to prevent them from holding anti-India protests to mark the anniversary of a top separatist leader's hanging more than three decades ago. Shops and businesses remained shut yesterday and a curfew was in effect in some areas of Srinagar, after a strike was called by separatists.

AUSTRALIA's deputy prime minister announced his retirement yesterday, with the prime minister likely to announce a cabinet reshuffle before elections due this year. Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss, who is also minister for regional development and infrastructure, told Parliament he will retire at the next election.

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Activists face rioting charges after HK clash

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Damage from A-Ma Temple blaze not irreversible

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Daiwa: GGR expected to fall 4 percent on monthly basis

ANALYSTS at investment bank and brokerage firm Daiwa Securities Group have projected that Macau's Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) for the month of February will fall by 4 percent on a monthly basis.

Taking into account table reclassification, VIP rolling run-rate is expected to increase by around one percent month-on-month to MOP7.3 billion, though it will still be a 35 percent decrease year-on-year.

Statistics released by the Macau Government Tourism



Office (MGTO) indicate that visitor arrivals from mainland China on Sunday and Monday (February 7 and 8) were up by 6.8 percent compared with the same days of the Spring Festival last year.

Daiwa said that the figures represent a healthy start to the Chinese New Year (CNY) period, bolstered by on-site checks of advance hotel bookings that indicate nearly full occupancy rates among the major hotels in the MSAR.

This promising beginning to the new year may be aided by

the opening of the Taipa Ferry Terminal in mid-2016, which Daiwa says will likely shift the market share in favor of the newer, Cotai-centric operators.

According to AASocks, Daiwa has rated Macau's gaming sector as "Neutral" in China's macro environment. Their top pick is Galaxy Entertainment, with a rating of "Buy".

Macau's casino revenue fell 21.4 percent in January amid a lull before Chinese New Year, which is traditionally a popular period for Chinese gamblers to visit the region. Gross gaming revenue fell to MOP18.7 billion (USD2.3 billion). This marks a 20th consecutive month of decline, according to data released by Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. **Staff reporter**

Sands doubles down to kick judge off ex-Macau chief's case

Edvard Pettersson

LAS Vegas Sands Corp. renewed its effort to disqualify a Nevada judge from overseeing a case brought by the casino operator's former chief executive officer in Macau, saying she has shown "outright hostility" to the company.

Nevada District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez was assigned to the case when it was filed in 2010 by the ex-Macau executive, Steven Jacobs. He claims he was wrongfully fired after Sheldon Adelson, the company's chairman and controlling shareholder, pressured him to use illegal means to gain leverage over government officials in the gambling enclave. The dispute is heading toward a trial set for June.

Gonzalez made the news in December when the Las Vegas Review-Journal, acquired last year by Adelson's family, revealed that its reporters had been sent to her courtroom to monitor her as she handled non-newsworthy cases.

The company was re-



Sheldon Adelson

buffed last month when the court's chief justice, without conducting a hearing, denied a request by Sands to disqualify Gonzalez. According to the casino operator, the judge had "interjected" herself into the media coverage of Adelson's acquisition of the local newspaper by talking to a Review-Journal reporter and Time magazine about the unusual coverage of her courtroom.

Gonzalez defended herself in a Jan. 15 court filing. Her rulings "have been the result of critical legal and factual analysis based upon extensive evidentiary proceedings, motion practice, and the written and oral comments of counsel, and not the result of

personal bias in favor of any party," she said in a written declaration.

Chief District Court Judge David Barker said in his Jan. 29 decision that Sands was "unpersuasive" in arguing that Gonzalez's conduct raised reasonable doubts about her impartiality.

In its new request this week to have Gonzalez taken off the case, Sands accused her of a "complete absence of neutrality," a pattern of "disparate treatment of the parties," and "outright hostility." Sands also said a key hearing last year in the case amounted to a "show trial" because Gonzalez didn't allow the company to present evidence or witnesses. Sands is asking the chief judge to hold

a hearing this time so it can present evidence.

Jacobs's 2010 suit was tied up for five years during a fight over whether a Las Vegas court is the proper venue for his claims against Sands China Ltd.

Gonzalez finally ruled last year that the case could proceed in Nevada, following numerous conflicts over what evidence Sands had to provide to Jacobs, sanctions on the company for not providing the evidence, and repeat trips by Sands to the Nevada Supreme Court to challenge Gonzalez's rulings.

Adelson has denied he ordered Jacobs to investigate the business and financial affairs of Macau officials and has accused Jacobs of commissioning the investigations on his own. Sands has said Jacobs was fired for working on unauthorized deals and violating company policy.

The case is Jacobs v. Las Vegas Sands Corp., A-10-627691-B, Nevada District Court, Clark County (Las Vegas). **Bloomberg**

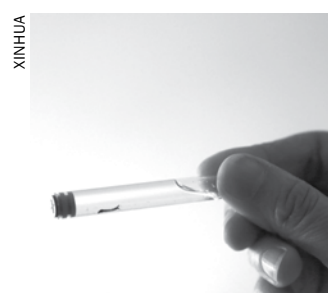
Gov't proposes inclusion of Zika on infectious diseases list

THE government has proposed the inclusion of the Zika virus in Macau's official list of infectious diseases, according to a statement published by the Government Information Bureau.

The announcement comes after the Health Bureau in Macau was notified on Tuesday by the National Health and Family Planning Commission of the first imported case of Zika on the mainland [more on page 11].

According to the statement, the government is undertaking efforts to closely monitor developments relating to the Zika virus. From March the government will launch a mosquito eradication campaign in a bid to combat the threat.

In addition the government plans to strengthen existing monitoring and detection measures for uncovering possible cases of the virus, and bolstering international cooperation with the World Health Organization and mainland and Hong Kong authorities.



A doctor holds a tube containing a larva of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the carrier of the Zika virus

Authorities have also suspended the acceptance of blood donations from persons who have visited the affected territories in Latin America, unless the persons in question have been back in Macau and symptom-free for more than 28 days. The suspension came into effect on February 5.

Travellers intending to visit the affected areas are recommended to wear light-colored and long-sleeved clothing, apply insect repellent and stay in air-conditioned places. If any symptoms are discovered, such as a fever or a rash, travellers should seek medical advice immediately.

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DATA from the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) indicates that 548,536 tourists arrived in Macau between February 7 and 10. This represents a 5.2 percent increase from the previous Chinese New Year.

Mainland residents continue to represent the majority of tourist arrivals, accounting for 71 percent of the total number of visitors. As in the previous year, measures to control the flow of pedestrians were introduced by local authorities.

Macau continues to draw regional visitors, with many mainland tourists citing more interest in Macau than Hong Kong.

"This is my second time coming to Macau,

Preliminary data indicates CNY tourist numbers up 5.2 percent

I have no plans to go to Hong Kong because I have other places to visit," Ms Wu, a mainland resident, told the Times. When asked, Wu declined to elaborate on her reasons for not visiting Hong Kong.

Others are still drawn to the neighboring SAR. Another mainlander, Mr Lu, stated: "I am going to Hong Kong regardless. The customer service and the political issues are not problems for me at all."

Mr Yao, a visitor traveling with his wife and daughter, agreed. "This

RENATO MARQUES



is the first time my daughter and I are visiting Macau. We won't go to Hong Kong this time, but we will surely go next time," he told the Times.

Hong Kong tourism associations had previously estimated a 70 percent drop in the number of tourists travelling in organized groups during the Chinese New Year, arguably the region's most important holiday.

Unexpected riots late on Monday night in Hong Kong, which left the city on alert, may have also discouraged visitors from spending time there. **Staff reporters**

MACAU, HK RESIDENTS VISIT GUANGZHOU

SEVERAL PACKAGE tour groups from Hong Kong and Macau were seen at Guangzhou's gardens and tourist attractions during Chinese New Year, Guangzhou Daily reported. The management of Guangzhou's Baiwan

Sunflower Garden said that visitors from Hong Kong and Macau accounted for 30 percent of total visitors, almost double that of last year. Guangzhou Daily also reported that tourists outnumbered local residents in some of the gardens.

Lower sales for retail industry

THE majority of retailers interviewed by local media saw a drastic drop in business from mainland visitors during the Chinese New Year. Mr Kuok, a fireworks trader, said that his

overall volume of business was half what it had been last year. Clothing and cosmetics' retailers were not spared from this decline. One cosmetics' company representative noted a 10 percent year-

on-year drop, despite the rise in visitors. Snack stores appeared to be the sole exception, with the vice manager of a shop near the Ruins of St. Paul's claiming that business was on par with last year.



ONE SHOT NEWS



A 238-meter-long dragon dance performance was held in Senado Square to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year



'Art Fair
@5 Outubro
Street' returns



This year's second "Art Fair @5 Outubro Street" will be held tomorrow and Sunday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Hong Kung Temple Square. The event is jointly organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau. Thirty six booths will be set up during the two-day fair, with original handicrafts, creative food and beverages, and on-site creative works. The fair takes place at Hong Kung Temple Square on the second weekend of every month, excluding May and November.

CRIME

Four men assaulted police officer on CNY eve

Renato Marques

FOUR local men assaulted a police officer on the night of February 8 in the parking lot of the Jardim das Artes.

According to a statement by the Public Security Police Force (PSP), an officer witnessed a car speeding along Avenida da Amizade in reverse. The car was headed to the parking lot entrance, where the officer intercepted the driver and demanded his personal identification and driving license. The driver fled into the car park, where the officer followed him on foot.

While searching the car park for the suspect, the officer was intercepted by two other men, and was assaulted while calling for assistance.

A fourth man named Chan appeared and joined the driver Kuan and the two other men named Tse and Hong at the scene.

Visibly under the effects of



alcohol, Kuan kicked the police officer and then the police patrol car which had arrived to offer backup. Chan and the other two men continued to insult and use offensive language toward the police officers.

The police officers managed to detain the four men, sending Chan and Kuan to the public hospital for blood alcohol tests.

While Chan's blood alcohol content was found to be under the limit, Kuan's reading reached 2.68 grams of alcohol per liter.

The four men were brought before the Macau Public Prosecutors Office where they were accused of several offenses including criminal intimidation, resisting arrest, aggravated assault causing bodily harm, violation of road traffic rules, drink driving and aggravated disobedience to authority.

This case was but one of several cases involving either violence or anger directed towards police officers to be reported by the PSP in the days before the Chinese New Year.

In a separate reported case, a 26-year-old man was detained and accused of "abuse of person unable to resist."

The complaint was filed by the parents of a 16-year-old girl after finding the man sleeping in the alleged victim's bed after a night of entertainment in a karaoke bar in the NAPE area.

According to the information provided by the PJ, the girl was drunk and the man (said to be a friend of the victim) offered to take her home, only to be found at 8 a.m. on February 1 in her bed, leading the parents to call the police.

The man was not taken into custody at the time but was subsequently arrested on January 10 while attempting to cross the border into the mainland.

Although the suspect denies the charges, the PJ stated that "there is sufficient evidence [to prosecute]." No further details about the case have been made available.

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corporate bits

SANDS CHINA WELCOMES YEAR OF THE MONKEY



Sands China Ltd welcomed the Year of the Monkey on Tuesday with traditional ceremonies and rituals at all of its properties, with Sands China and Starwood hotel executives from around the world participating in the annual tradition.

Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao and Sands Cotai Central held worship rituals and eye-dotting ceremonies, as well as traditional lion and dragon dances, to attract good fortune and blessings on the second day of the Lunar New Year.

A pair of lions paraded through team dining areas to bless and distribute lucky money to team members. According to a press release, company executives and team members will share in the festivities next week with special back-of-house events at the three properties, including lucky draws, games and festive treats.

MGM CELEBRATES CNY



MGM held the traditional "Lion Dance Blessing Ceremony" for Chinese New Year on Tuesday at the hotel's main entrance. The ceremony kicked off with an eye-dotting ritual performed by the management team, followed by a firecracker blessing. Two renowned local lion dance troupes were invited to perform a battle dance.

This year, eight vividly-costumed lions marched into the MGM hotel for the eye-dotting ritual as part of festive blessings. The "Lion Dance Blessing Ceremony" was officiated by Mr Grant Bowie, CEO and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, with MGM's management team.

MGM welcomes guests to experience the festivities at Grand Praça Chinese New Year Market. Chinese calligraphy, Lantern Riddles and a Festive Stamps station can be found in Grand Praça, with both Chinese treats and Western delights available at the stalls. The market will be open until February 21.

Floats and fireworks at yesterday's CNY parade

A parade to celebrate the Year of the Monkey was held yesterday. It comprised a display of 14 floats alongside musical performances and a fireworks show.

1,338 performers from 37 groups – 28 local and 9 international – were featured in the event. The visiting performers hailed from mainland China, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Portugal, Spain and the United States.

The floats and performers paraded through Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen until reaching their destination at Sai Van Lake Square in front of the Macau Tower.

Stage performances began at Sai Van Lake Square at 8.45 p.m., featuring local singers Vivian Chan, Sean Pang, Rico Long and Alan Tse. Part of the procession also joined



the stage performance upon arrival at Sai Van Lake Square. Hong Kong singers Alex Fong and Stephy Tang hosted the finale.

The 14 floats will be showcased at Sai Van Lake Square

until February 12, and at Tap Seac Square until February 13.

Another parade will be held on the sixth day of the Chinese New Year, starting with an opening ceremony at 8 p.m.

in Rua Norte do Patane. The procession will march through Avenida do Conselheiro Borja, Estrada do Arco, Rua Quatro do Bairro da Areia Preta and end at Iao Hon Market Garden.

David Chow breaks ground on gaming resort in Cape Verde

DAVID Chow, the president of Macau Legend Development, appeared this week at the groundbreaking ceremony of his new gaming resort at the islet of Santa Maria and Gamboa in the Cape Verde archipelago.

"The project will represent a new chapter in the Cape Verde tourism sector," Chow announced, adding that it would also "serve as an example of the abilities of the people of Macau in the business world."

Also attending the ceremony was Prime Minister José Maria Neves, who praised the resort for "the thou-



David Chow

sands of jobs that the project will create" and added that "the country is on the right track."

Chow expects that the MOP2.3 billion integrated casino-resort will be completed within three years. Its extensive facilities will include office buildings, a museum, a marina, and a convention center, among others. A bridge will connect the islet to the mainland.

With the ceremony held on the first day of Chinese New Year, Chow fulfills his earlier promise, as reported by the Times in July 2015, to start construction on the project – then under public consultation – in the beginning of 2016.

The project is founded upon Cape Verde's grant of a 25-year gaming concession to Macau Legend. RM

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Johnston tipped to become new consul-general to HK, Macau

Former defense minister David Johnston has been tipped to become Australia's new consul-general to Hong Kong and Macau. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported yesterday that Senator Johnston "is the latest in a growing line of Coalition ministers and members to leave Parliament ahead of the election, several of whom have government appointments to ease them into retirement." Johnston left the government when former Prime-Minister Tony Abbott reshuffled his Cabinet in December 2014.

Local artists place second at Sapporo Snow Festival



A local team of snow-carving artists won second prize at

the 43rd International Sapporo Snow Festival for their giant sculpture of the Ruins of St. Paul's. As the Times reported, this year marked the debut of MGTO in the Japanese event. The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, who attended the event in Japan, congratulated the Macau team on their successful debut.

IC: Damage from A-Ma Temple blaze not irreversible

XINHUA



Firemen douse flames at the A-Ma Temple



The damaged main hall of the temple

THE president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Ung Vai Meng, and the head of the Cultural Heritage Department, Leong Wai Man, met representatives of the A-Ma Temple yesterday to discuss fire safety measures and restoration efforts for the temple, which went up in flames on Wednesday morning.

Together with representatives of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau, the authorities conducted a preliminary inspection of the temple complex, eventually concluding that the damage to the temple was not serious or irreversible.

The statue of the Goddess

A-Ma – the item with the most historical value in the pavilion – remains "in a state of integrity." An altar and some wall-mounted plaques were damaged, as well as other wooden furnishings.

The IC estimates that restoration works will be completed within two or three months, but that the wooden items may take longer to replace. It will be at least a year before the entire temple returns to its former glory.

The IC will support the A-Ma Temple Charity Association for inventory inspections, as well as the removal and storage of damaged items.

The interior of the temple's main hall was severely damaged in a fire that broke out in the early hours of Wednesday morning. The fire is believed to have been caused by malfunctioning electrical equipment in one of the temple's pavilions. The pavilion in question has been closed until further notice. No individuals were harmed in the fire.

"The fire damaged one of the temples inside the A-Ma complex. Some plaques, altars, and furniture were burned," Cheong Chi Van of the Fire Services Bureau told TDM.

"The fire was discovered by an attendee of the temple and he

tried to extinguish it himself. Only after failing to do so did this person report the incident to the authorities, who reached the scene almost immediately," Cheong added.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said on Wednesday that the government would spare no effort in conserving and, if possible, restoring the damaged relics.

Tam also pledged that the government would strengthen and promote safety measures in the city's temples and heritage attractions, in order to prevent similar incidents in future.

This year's government-backed safety campaign started on January 28, as the city's temples usually receive an influx of visitors around the Chinese New Year period. According to a government statement, the Fire Services Bureau and the Cultural Affairs Bureau inspected a total of 20 temples.

The A-Ma Temple has been designated as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). According to local folklore, the temple was the source of inspiration for the naming of Macau when the first Portuguese sailors arrived in the 16th century. **Staff reporter**

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Kung Hei Fat Choi



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Rents have dropped. What happens when my contract expires? How do I approach my landlord?

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JULIET RISDON

Rents have certainly come down over the past months.

The lowering of rents started last year as One Oasis launched, and suddenly an over-supply of housing had an effect on the rental market.

Later in the year, as positions were cut and projects delayed, enough people started leaving Macau to tip the balance in the tenants favour once again.

A question we are asked frequently is 'what happens when my rental contract ends and I want to drop my rent?' Can a new contract be negotiated? Yes, of course.

In preparation, an important factor in the equation is mutual respect.

We want to avoid creating an atmosphere of conflict. We have seen many landlords 'close down' during negotiations simply because they have been put in a position where they may 'lose face', so it's important to start the process with respect.

The starting point for the negotiation is the current market

rate. This is not what people are paying... it is what properties on the market right now are asking. You can expect to find a range of prices from unfurnished / unrenovated to recently renovated / newly furnished.

Comparing 'apples with apples', you can find a property that closely resembles your current home and take note of the asking price. Bear in mind that the final rental price is likely to be 5 percent - 10 percent lower than the asking price.

Once you have established the market price range, you can inform the owner of the current prices and ask them what they would like to suggest for the new rental agreement.

If the landlord replies with a price, you can then start to evaluate accordingly, remembering that one element is price and another is 'terms'.

If the landlord asks for your offer, then you can offer the current market price.

As you come to the end of the negotiation, it does pay to re-

member that a two year term is normal but not mandatory. You can change the length of the lease if you believe that will drop further, or if they will rise.

If you think prices will rise, you can ask for a three year contract instead of two. Likewise, if you believe prices will drop further or you are unsure about your own future, you could ask for a one-year agreement this time around.

You may be in a position of uncertainty, as many people are, with your current job. Its worth noting that the current environment and extra flexibility of landlords has led to the inclusion of a 'professional clause' in some contracts.

Namely, this means that should you lose your job and have to leave Macau, you will be allowed to give one month's notice without penalty.

Good luck in your negotiation, and if you would like further information or advice, please feel free to contact us by e mail or via the website below.

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Hong Kong stocks fall in worst start to CNY since 1994

Richard Frost & Kana Nishizawa

HONG Kong stocks fell in their worst start to a lunar new year since 1994 as a global equity rout deepened amid concern over the strength of the world economy.

The Hang Seng Index slumped 3.9 percent at the close in Hong Kong as markets reopened following a three-day trading closure, during which the MSCI All-Country World Index dropped 2.1 percent. The last time the gauge fell so much on the first day of the lunar new year, investors were worried about the health of former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. Lenovo Group Ltd. led declines while energy companies dropped after crude slumped 11 percent during the holidays. Jeweler Chow Sang Sang Holdings International Ltd. slid after riots in the Mong Kok district.

Hong Kong's benchmark equity gauge tumbled 12 percent this year through Friday amid concern that capital outflows, a slumping property market and China's economic slowdown will hurt earnings. Tuesday's violence in the shopping district of Mong Kok threatens to deter mainland visitors and worsen a drop in retail sales, according to UOB Kay Hian (Hong Kong) Ltd.

"You can't avoid a drop because everywhere has come down so much during this time and the same concerns are still there – oil price, global recession," said Steven Leung, an executive director for institutional sales at UOB Kay Hian. "The image of Hong Kong as a metropolitan city has been hurt quite seriously" by the rioting, he said.

PetroChina Co. tumbled 5.1 percent, while Cnooc Ltd., China's largest offshore oil company, dropped 5.3 percent. HSBC Holdings Plc slid 5.4 percent to a six-year low. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index retreated 4.9 percent, its biggest loss since August. Mainland financial markets remain closed for holidays until Monday.

Plunges in crude and concerns over the perceived creditworthiness of European banks has fueled uncertainty over the strength of the world economy this week. Oil fell below USD27 a barrel in New York, compared with



Hong Kong's stocks had their biggest daily drop in six months

\$31.72 a barrel at the close on Feb. 4. Kyle Bass, the hedge fund manager who successfully bet against mortgages during the subprime crisis, said China's banking system may see losses of more than four times those suffered by U.S. banks during the last crisis.

"The general tone of other markets has been quite soft," said Tony Hann, who helps oversee about \$270 million as head of equities at Blackfriars Asset Management in London. "It's difficult to be optimistic" about Hong Kong, he said.

The Hang Seng Index's price-to-book ratio fell below one last month for the first time since the Asian financial crisis roiled regional markets and popped a domestic property bubble in 1998. All but one stock on the 50-member gauge are down this year.

Chow Sang Sang dropped 0.9 percent, while Luk Fook Holdings (International) Ltd., a jeweler that gets more than half its revenue in the city, declined 4.7 percent.

Police fired warning shots in Mong Kok, the city's most densely populated area, early Tuesday after an effort by officials to clear illegal food stalls morphed into a riot. The clashes were more violent than anything seen during the "Umbrella Movement" of 2014.

"This time the situation was quite different from Occupy Central: there was no peace and a lot of people were injured," UOB Kay Hian's Leung said. "Overall it shouldn't have [a] very big impact but, of course, it will weigh on related sectors like retail, tourism." (See p10)

Still, weaker global growth may reduce the likelihood of future interest-rate increases in the U.S., which raise borrowing costs in Hong Kong due to a currency peg, Leung said. **Bloomberg**

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A protestor throws a brick at police in Mong Kok district



Supporters try to prevent suspects from having their pictures taken as they leave court on bail in Hong Kong

SEVERAL dozen people appeared in a Hong Kong court yesterday to face rioting charges following a violent clash earlier this week between protesters and police sparked by a clampdown on holiday street food vendors.

Hong Kong police and local media reports said 37 people were attending court in Kowloon, each facing one count of taking part in a riot, a rarely used charge that carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Defendants were given bail and their cases adjourned until April, the reports said. A 15-year-old appeared separately at a juvenile court to face the same charge, local channel Cable TV reported.

Police arrested a total of 64 people after the street battle, which erupted late Monday in densely populated Mong Kok and lasted until dawn Tuesday.

Activists were angered by authorities' attempts to crack down on food hawkers selling fishballs and other local delicacies for the Lunar New Year holiday. The unlicensed vendors are a local holiday tradition but attempts this year by authorities to remove them stoked

HONG KONG

Activists face riot charges after holiday protest

concerns that Hong Kong's local culture is disappearing as Beijing tightens its hold on the semiautonomous Chinese city.

Protesters pelted police with bricks and glass bottles and set fires on the street. Officers responded with batons and pepper spray. One officer fired two warning shots into the air, a highly unusual act in Hong Kong, which otherwise has a reputation for being extremely safe. Nearly 90 officers and four reporters were injured.

It was the worst violence in Hong Kong since late 2014, when the city was rocked by pro-democracy protests that left a widening trust gap between the public and the city's Beijing-backed leader.

Police said 16 other people, including one as young as 14, were released on bail as they continue to investigate. They

said another 10 are being held for "for further enquiries."

The scuffles underscore how tensions remain unresolved more than a year after the end of pro-democracy protests that gripped the city. Mong Kok, a popular and densely populated shopping and entertainment district, was one of the neighborhoods where activists occupied streets for about 11 weeks in late 2014, capturing world headlines with their demands for greater electoral freedom.

On Tuesday, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, told reporters a mob had attacked police officers and journalists, and said the perpetrators would be prosecuted. More than 80 officers and four reporters were hurt, he said.

Police cars and public property were damaged, fires started

and bricks and other objects thrown at police officers, including those already injured and lying on the ground, Leung said.

"I believe the public can see for themselves from TV news reports the seriousness of the situation. The (Hong Kong) government strongly condemns such violent acts. The police will apprehend the mobs and bring them to justice," Leung said.

Officials said they were investigating whether the violence had been organized in advance.

At one point, a protester tried to tackle a traffic police officer from behind before both sides rushed in to the melee in the middle of a busy street, according to video shown by local news channel Cable TV. Moments later, another officer appeared to fire two warning shots into the air.

Hong Kong police said the protesters had ignored their warnings to get off the street and shoved officers, who responded with batons and pepper spray.

Police said late Tuesday that 61 people ranging in age from 15 to 70 were arrested on suspicion of unlawful assembly, assaulting police, resisting arrest, obstructing officers, possession of offensive weapons and disorderly conduct in a public place.

Some were also suspected of participating in a riot, a charge that Police Commissioner Lo Wai-Chung told reporters earlier in the day has not been employed since 1967 riots expressing support for China's radical Cultural Revolution and against British colonial rule.

Two warning shots were fired during the incident, Acting District Commander Yau Siu-kei said. AP

Hong Kong to send Chinese man back to US over teen deaths

A Chinese man agreed in a Hong Kong court yesterday to be sent back to the U.S., where he is wanted by authorities in connection with the slayings of his teenage nephews.

Shi Deyun signed a document in a ma-

gistrates' court giving consent for his extradition.

U.S. police last month found the boys, who were 15- and 16-years-old, in their Arcadia, California, home with head trauma.

Investigators believe

Shi killed them and then tried to flee to China. They said he assaulted his wife, who is the sister of the dead teens' father, the day before, after learning she wanted a divorce.

Hong Kong police arrested Shi, 44, on Jan.

24, after he arrived in the semiautonomous southern Chinese city on a flight from Los Angeles.

Shi, looking at the floor, nodded when asked by Magistrate Jason Wan if he had read and understood

the agreement to surrender him to the United States.

A date for Shi's return has not been set because it still needs signed authorization from Hong Kong's top leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying. AP



In this file photo, Chinese fugitive Shi Deyun (left) escorted by a police officer in a police van, arrives at a magistrate court in Hong Kong

ENERGY

China turns a glut of oil into a flood of diesel swamping Asia

PHOTO ARCHIVE



Heesu Lee, Debjit Chakraborty
& Winnie Zhu

FUEL producers from India to South Korea are finding that rising refined products from China are cutting the profit margins they've enjoyed from cheap oil to the lowest in more than a year. Worse may be coming.

China's total net exports of oil products – a measure that strips out imports – will rise 31 percent this year to 25 million metric tons, China National Petroleum Corp., the country's biggest energy company, said in its annual research report last month. That comes after diesel exports jumped almost 75 percent last year.

"If China dumps more fuel into the market, international prices will crash," said B.K. Namdeo, director of refineries at India's state-run Hindustan Petroleum Corp. "It will be similar to what

If China dumps more fuel into the market, international prices will crash.

B.K. NAMDEO
HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORP.

happened to crude prices due to the oversupply. If international prices of oil products come down, then it will hurt margins of all refiners."

A common measure of refining profitability in Asia – the margin from turning Middle East benchmark Dubai grade into fuels including diesel and gasoline in the regional trading hub of Singapore – slid this week to the lowest level since October 2014, adding to mounting evidence that China's exports are weighing on Asian processors.

Singapore Dubai cracking margins have averaged USD1.92 a barrel so far this year, down from \$3.96 during the last quarter of 2015, research firm Energy Aspects Ltd. said in a Feb. 8 report. Profits

are expected to average \$3 a barrel during the first quarter of this year, down 32 percent from the same period last year, it said in the note.

CNPC, as China's biggest energy company is known, predicts the country's refineries will increase output this year after the government started giving licenses to independent refiners – those known as teapots – to ship their products abroad. South Korea's biggest processor says the flood will probably weaken margins and Taiwan's Formosa Petrochemical Corp. sees it as a "risk factor."

"The pressure on the regional market is getting stronger and stronger," said Lin Keh-Yen, a spokesman for Formosa Petrochemical. "China is exporting

sizable volumes of oil products now."

China shipped a record amount of diesel, kerosene and gasoline abroad last year and for the first time exported more products than it imported amid the slowest economic expansion in 25 years. Its crude purchases increased to a record in 2015 as the world's second-biggest oil consumer sought to fill its strategic oil reserve and the government allowed those teapots to buy foreign supplies. Refineries will increase oil processing by 5.3 percent, while net crude imports rise 7.3 percent to 357 million tons, according to CNPC.

"As the Chinese economy is slowing down, there has been more diesel exports," Lee Yun Hi, head of the corporate planning office at South Korea's SK Innovation Corp., said on the company's earnings call on Feb. 3. "It's a situation we are closely monitoring."

The teapot refiners, clustered around the eastern Chinese province of Shandong, will account for the bulk of the increase in oil processing this year as the country's bigger state-owned processors decrease output, CNPC said in its report.

"China's fuel glut is in its worst shape," Dai Jiaquan, director of CNPC's oil market department, said last month. "This is mainly due to weak demand and fast growth of refining projects in recent years."

The country's commerce ministry has issued more than 1.8 million barrels a day of export quotas for the first quarter, more than double in the same period last year, analysts at Barclays Plc including Miswin Mahesh said in a report Feb. 5. The bulk of the increase is coming from diesel, which is up almost sixfold from the first three months of 2015, they said. With the local market set to remain weak, there's potential for exports increasing this year, according to the bank.

"Chinese domestic incentives to export refined fuel, if they run out of product inventory storage, could lead to discounted products and would be competitive with refined product exports from India and South Korea," Mahesh said Wednesday in an interview. **Bloomberg**

HEALTH

Beijing reports first case of imported Zika virus

CHINA'S first case of the Zika virus has been found in a 34-year-old man who recently traveled to Venezuela and is now making a speedy recovery, the government said this week.

The man from the southern city of Ganzhou had been treated

in Venezuela on Jan. 28 before returning home on Feb. 5 via Hong Kong and the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, the National Health and Family Planning Commission said in a statement.

The commission said he had been confirmed as

having the Zika virus on Tuesday and was being treated at the Ganxian People's Hospital. His temperature is now normal and a skin rash is receding, it said.

The commission said the chances of the virus spreading in China were "extremely low" due to

cold winter temperatures and a lack of mosquito activity, the primary avenue by which Zika is transmitted.

The Zika virus is spreading rapidly through Latin America. Most people who contract it have either mild or no symptoms, but it is suspected of causing a

birth defect in which babies are born with abnormally small heads.

Bernhard Schwartlander, the World Health Organization representative in Beijing, said imported cases of Zika in China are to be expected given the frequency of travel between the country and

South America.

"Chinese health authorities are well prepared to respond to this and any further imported cases," Schwartlander said in a statement issued by his office. "The current risk of a widespread outbreak of Zika virus in China is low." **AP**

North Korea orders military takeover of inter-Korean factory



South Korean cargo trucks head to the North Korean city of Kaesong as South Korean Army soldiers stand guard at the customs, immigration and quarantine office near the border village of Panmunjom in Paju

Ahn Young-Joon, Paju

NORTH Korea yesterday ordered a military takeover of a factory park that was the last major symbol of cooperation with South Korea, saying Seoul's suspension of operations at the jointly run facility was a "dangerous declaration of war."

Pyongyang said it was immediately deporting the hundreds of South Koreans who work at the complex just across the world's most heavily armed border in the city of Kaesong, pulling out the tens of thousands of North Korean employees and freezing all South Korean assets. The North also said it was shutting down two crucial cross-border communication hotlines.

An immediate worry in Seoul was whether all South Korean workers would be allowed to leave; some analysts speculated that Pyongyang would hold onto some to get all the wages owed to North Korean workers.

Some South Korean workers left Kaesong before the North's announcement, and a handful of others were seen leaving afterward, but South Korean officials didn't know what would happen to its nationals who had not departed by Pyongyang's 5:30 p.m. yesterday (Seoul time) expulsion deadline; they also didn't know how many remained at the factories. South Korea said it would

ban reporters from the border crossing today.

Well after the deadline passed, workers at Kaesong told The Associated Press by phone that they had been instructed to wait for further instructions from South Korean officials.

A manager at a South Korean apparel company at the complex, who declined to give his name, said he and one other South Korean at his company were waiting in an office for word about when they could leave. He said he did not see any North Korean officials and did not know whether other South Koreans were there.

"I was told not to bring anything but personal goods, so I've got nothing but my clothes to take back," the man said.

The South's Unification Ministry, which is responsible for ties with the North, said about 130 South Koreans had planned to enter Kaesong yesterday to begin shutdown work, and that nearly 70 South Koreans who had been staying there would be leaving.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency, citing an unidentified military official, reported that South Korea bolstered its military readiness and strength along the western portion of the border in the event of a North Korean provocation. The report didn't elaborate on what that meant, and Seoul's Defense Ministry said it couldn't

confirm the report.

The North's moves, announced by the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, significantly raised the stakes in a standoff that began with North Korea's nuclear test last month, followed by a long-range rocket launch on Sunday that outsiders see as a banned test of ballistic missile technology. South Korea's responded by beginning work to suspend operations at the factory park, one of its harshest possible punishment options.

North Korea called the South's shutdown a "dangerous declaration of war" and a "declaration of an end to the last life-line of the North-South relations." Such over-the-top rhetoric is typical of the North's propaganda, but the country appeared to be backing up its language with its strong response.

North Korea, in its statement, also issued crude insults against South Korea's President Park Geun-hye, saying she masterminded the shutdown and calling her a "confrontational wicked woman" who lives upon "the groin of her American boss." Such sexist language is also typical of North Korean propaganda.

Seoul said its decision on Kaesong was an effort to stop Pyongyang from using hard currency from the park to develop its nuclear and missile programs. **AP**

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USA ELECTIONS

Republican candidates hope for survival in South Carolina

REPUBLICAN businessman Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders forged ahead after decisive wins in the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire primary, and the Republican field dwindled by two with announcements that Carly Fiorina and Chris Christie would drop out of the race.

All signs point to a drawn-out battle in the state-by-state contests following Trump's resounding victory in New Hampshire. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, under immense pressure to prove himself after a devastating fifth-place finish, was looking for a fight that could last for months or even spill into the first contested Republican national convention since 1976.

"We very easily could be looking at May — or the convention," Rubio campaign manager Terry Sullivan told The Associated Press.

If Trump had Republicans on edge, Democrats were feeling no less queasy. Rejected in New Hampshire, Hillary Clinton sought redemption in Nevada, where a more diverse group of voters awaited her and Bernie Sanders.

Sanders, a Vermont senator and self-proclaimed democratic socialist, raised more than USD5 million in less than a day after his New Hampshire triumph. The contributions came mostly in small-dollar amounts, his campaign said, illustrating the resources he'll have to fight Clinton to a bitter end.

Both Clinton and Sanders — the first Jew to win a presidential primary — worked to undercut each other among



Sanders, a self-proclaimed democratic socialist, raised more than USD5 million in less than a day after his New Hampshire triumph

African-Americans and Hispanics with less than two weeks until the Democratic contests in Nevada and South Carolina. Clinton's campaign deployed South Carolina state Rep. Todd Rutherford to vouch for her support for minorities.

"Secretary Clinton has been involved in South Carolina for the last 40 years," Rutherford said. "Bernie Sanders has

talked about these issues for the last 40 days."

Sanders, meanwhile, met with the Rev. Al Sharpton, a civil rights activist, at a Harlem restaurant.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, the conservative firebrand and victor in the leadoff Iowa caucuses, returned to the center of the fracas after largely sitting out New Hampshire. He drew con-

trasts with Trump as he told a crowd of 500 in Myrtle Beach that Texans and South Carolinians are more alike than not.

"We love God, we're gun owners, military veterans and we're fed up with what's happening in Washington," Cruz said.

Far behind in New Hampshire voting, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Fiorina dropped out, and a spokeswoman for New Jersey Gov. Christie said his race was over, too. But a sizeable field remained.

Almost all the Republicans have spent months building complex campaigns and blanketing airwaves in South Carolina, which heralds the start of the Republican campaign's foray into the South. After that primary on Feb. 20, seven Southern states including Georgia and Virginia will anchor the Super Tuesday primaries on March 1, with a large number of delegates at stake.

Rubio's campaign has looked forward to South Carolina. Yet his path grew far trickier after a fifth-place New Hampshire let-down, which terminated talk of Republican leaders quickly uniting behind him as the strongest alternative to "outsiders" Trump and Cruz.

His campaign's suggestion that the race could veer a con-

tested convention seemed to signal to mainstream Republicans that the party would be ill-served by allowing the Trump phenomenon to last much longer. Republican officials have already had early discussions about such a July scenario, which could be triggered if no candidate secures a majority of delegates by convention time.

For Gov. John Kasich, whose second-place showing was New Hampshire's primary stunner, the task was to convert newfound interest into support in a state ideologically distant from his native Ohio. With a minimal South Carolina operation compared to his rivals, Kasich must work quickly.

Heading into the final two-week sprint, Trump was leading in South Carolina among all demographic groups, an NBC/Marist/Wall Street Journal poll showed, with Cruz and Rubio a distant second and third. Already, more than \$32 million has been spent on TV ads here, according to CMAG/Kantar Media data — much of it by Right to Rise, the PAC backing former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Though he placed fourth in New Hampshire, Bush was hoping that Rubio's slump would forestall his own ouster from the race. **AP**

CUBA

Church talks help make Havana 'perfect place for negotiations'

THE heads of the Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches will hold a historic meeting today in the threadbare international airport of an officially secular, communist-run tropical island.

Odd as the location seems, Pope Francis' and Patriarch Kirill's attempt to reconcile their churches after centuries of estrangement will set the tone for a year of peacemaking in Cuba, a nation trying to shed its historic role as international socialist provocateur.

In addition to the meeting of the church leaders, Cuban President Raul Castro is expected to welcome President Barack Obama to Havana as early as this

spring to celebrate the detente the two men declared at the end of 2014, ending a half-century of hostility. And four years of talks in Cuba between Colombia's government and its main rebel group appear set to produce an accord ending the Western Hemisphere's longest-running conflict, perhaps as early as mid-year.

If all goes as planned, 2016 could cement Castro's construction of a foreign policy legacy markedly different from that of his brother Fidel, who oversaw five decades of tension with the United States, dispatching Cuban troops and advisers to Africa, Asia and Central and South America, and offering safe haven to anti-

Western fighters from conflicts around the world.

"Cuba has been transformed from a revolutionary actor, isolated from other states in the Western Hemisphere with the exception of Mexico and Canada," said Arturo Lopez-Levy, a Cuban-trained professor at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. "The country has come to be seen as a country in transformation, part of the modern-day international system."

Kirill is traveling through Latin America, visiting national leaders and the region's small Russian Orthodox communities. Francis is stopping briefly in Cuba for the second time in less than a year on his way to a

tour of Mexico.

The meeting of the men in Havana's Jose Marti International Airport is expected to focus almost entirely on the issue of religious reconciliation. The two churches split during the Great Schism of 1054 and have remained estranged over a host of issues, including the primacy of the pope and Russian Orthodox accusations that the Catholic Church is poaching converts in former Soviet lands.

Today's meeting will be the first-ever meeting between the leaders of the churches. It will put Raul Castro in a positive international light at a critical point in his normalization of relations with the United States. With less than a



A bus drives through in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico with an ad showing Pope Francis and saying "Juarez is Love. We are Ready"

year left in Obama's presidency, advocates of detente are pushing hard for Cuba and the U.S. to make their reconciliation irreversible.

The Obama administration has cited Cuba's role in Colombia's peace talks as a reason for the U.S. to engage with the island rather than isolating it. Images of Raul Castro presiding over another historic attempt at reconciliation can't help but build his credentials as a man the U.S. should be doing business with.

"Fidel was widely perceived as volatile and parti-

san, Raul as steadier, more predictable and reliable, more reflective, hence a better negotiating partner or host," said Richard Feinberg, a former Clinton Administration official and a professor of international politics at the University of California, San Diego.

While Raul Castro is departing from his brother's foreign policy, Fidel Castro's international focus left his successor with some advantages, including a larger and better-trained diplomatic corps than those of many other countries its size. **AP**

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeat) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | RTPi Live |
| 17:30 | Castle S.5 |
| 18:10 | Trail of Lies (Repeated) |
| 19:00 | TDM Talk Show (Repeated) |
| 19:30 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:15 | Documentary Serie |
| 21:45 | Miscellaneous |
| 22:10 | Trail of Lies |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Portuguese Movie |
| 01:15 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |

SATURDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10:20 | Boonie Bears - Sr.2 |
| 11:20 | Young Adult |
| 12:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeat) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | Soap Opera |
| 18:25 | Contest |
| 19:20 | Miscellaneous |
| 19:50 | Documentary Serie |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | Drama |
| 22:00 | Intelligence S.1 |
| 22:45 | Documentary Series |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Brother's and Sisters S5 |
| 00:15 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |

SUNDAY

| | |
|-------|---|
| 10:30 | Young Children |
| 11:00 | Sunday Mass |
| 12:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeat) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | Nos League: Nacional - Sporting (Repeated) |
| 16:10 | Young Adult |
| 17:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 18:15 | Non-Daily Portuguese News |
| 18:45 | Documentary Serie |
| 19:40 | Comedy |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | Contraponto |
| 22:00 | Simon Reeve's Sacred Rivers - The Yangtze |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Non-Daily Portuguese News |
| 23:45 | UEFA Europa League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme |
| 00:20 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |

offbeat

FRIES WITH THAT? MAN ACCUSED OF TOSSING GATOR AT DRIVE-THRU

Alligators have been used as shoes, briefcases, university mascots, lunch and now, authorities say, a deadly weapon. Joshua James, 24, was arrested on Monday and charged with assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill after Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation officials say he threw a 3.5-foot alligator through a Palm Beach County Wendy's drive-thru window in October. He's also charged with illegally possessing an alligator and petty theft. Jail records show he was released on USD6,000 bail Tuesday. He was ordered to have no contact with animals.

Wildlife officer Nicholas Guerin said in his report that James drove his pickup truck to the window at about 1:20 a.m. Oct. 11. After an employee handed James his drink, he threw the alligator through the window and drove off. No one was hurt. Guerin captured the alligator and released it into the wild. Guerin said James was tracked down through video surveillance and a purchase at a neighboring convenience store.

Guerin wrote that James admitted throwing the alligator in a December interview. He said James told him he had found the alligator on the side of the road and put it in his truck.

cinema



CINETEATRO

12 FEB - 18 FEB

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: ROAD CHIP _
ROOM 1
2.00, 5.30, 7.30 pm
Director: Walt Becker
Starring: Jason Lee, Jesica Ahlberg, Josh Green
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 92min



MERMAID _
ROOM 1
2.00, 5.30, 7.30 pm
Director: Stephen Chau
Starring: Deng Chao, Show Lo, Zhang Yu Qi
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 92min



FROM VEGAS TO MACAU III _
ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Andrew Lau, Wong Jing
Starring: Chow Yun-fat, Andy Lau, Nick Cheung, Jacky Cheung
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 112min

THE GOOD DINOSAUR _
ROOM 3
2.30, 4.30, 7.15 pm
Director: Peter Sohn
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 93min



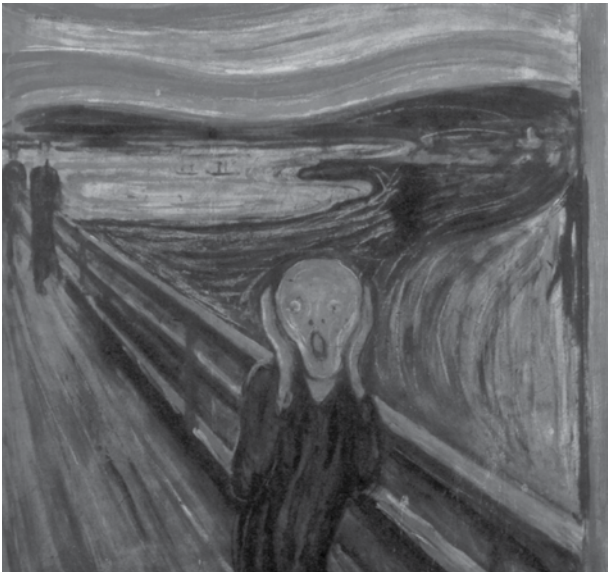
THE MONKEY KING 2 _
ROOM 3
9.15, 11.30 pm
Director: Pou-Soi Cheang
Starring: Aaron Kwok, Gong Li, Feng Shaofeng
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 120min

MACAU TOWER

04 FEB - 02 MAR

THE GOOD DINOSAUR _
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Peter Sohn
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 93min

this day in history



1994 ART THIEVES SNATCH SCREAM

Thieves have stolen one of the world's best-known paintings from a gallery in the Norwegian capital, Oslo.

Two men took just 50 seconds to climb a ladder, smash through a window of the National Art Museum in Oslo and cut The Scream, by Edvard Munch, from the wall with wire cutters.

The cutters were left behind along with a short ladder as the men fled with the painting. The entire incident was filmed by security cameras.

The director of the museum, Knut Berg, said, "It is impossible to estimate the value of the painting.

"But it is Norway's most valuable, Munch's most renowned, and it would be impossible to sell."

The museum's alarm went off at 0630 local time (0530 GMT) and a security guard immediately alerted police, who arrived within minutes.

Police officers are searching for a Mercedes car thought to have been used as a getaway vehicle.

The painting was in the gallery as the highlight of a Norwegian Culture Festival staged in connection with the Winter Olympics which start today in Lillehammer.

There is widespread speculation that the theft may have some connection with the Games, possibly as a publicity stunt by campaigners. Art experts believe the painting is so well-known that it is unsaleable.

The museum is facing strong criticism over its security after it was revealed that the masterpiece had been moved from the more secure first floor to the ground floor for the exhibition. It is believed to have been uninsured.

The stolen painting is regarded as the most important of the four versions Edvard Munch painted of The Scream, and was created in 1893 as part of his Frieze of Life series in which sickness, death, anxiety and love are central themes.

The haunting depiction of a skull-like face wide-mouthed in agony and despair before a blood-red sunset has become an icon of human anguish across the world.

Several other Munch paintings have recently been stolen: six years ago, another well-known masterpiece, The Vampire, was stolen from the Munch Museum in Oslo, but was later recovered, as was a lithograph, Madonna, which disappeared in 1990.

Another painting, Portrait Study, was taken from the National Art Museum last August and is still missing.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Initially, a radical Norwegian anti-abortion group claimed responsibility for the theft, but police remained sceptical.

Then in March 1994, the gallery received a £700,000 (\$1m) ransom demand for the painting. The gallery board refused to pay, unsure that the demand was genuine.

In May 1994, Norwegian and British police mounted an undercover sting which uncovered the painting, unharmed, in the seaside town outside Oslo where Edvard Munch painted many of his most famous paintings.

In January 1996, four men were convicted and sentenced in connection with the theft.

One of the two thieves who carried out the raid, Paal Enger, is now a legitimate art buyer, acquiring his first Munch - an unsigned lithograph - at auction in 2001.

In August 2004, another version of The Scream was stolen in Oslo along with Munch's The Madonna, this time from the Munch Museum. Three men were found guilty of charges relating to the theft of these two paintings by a court in Norway in May 2006.

In August 2006, Oslo police recovered both the Scream and The Madonna. They had minor marks and tears and were put back on show in September 2006 at the Munch Museum - this time protected in heavy glass boxes.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You're heading home in one way or another. You may be on your way to a reunion, or you may just be finding a place that is more comfortable and will work better for you in the long run.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Your transportation issues come to a head today — and while it may be frustrating, it's for the best. If your car breaks down, just remember that you do have other options. Make the most of them!

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
You are having a hard time coping with the pace of change today — but it's not as bad as you think! You just need to find one safe place and stick to it for the day, as things should settle down soon.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You are so sure that you've got what it takes that you may find it easier to convince others. You've got twice the energy of anyone else in the room, so make the most of it and shine!

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You really just want people to get along together — why does it have to be so hard? You can hardly believe the lengths people go to when they want to keep fighting, but you can calm them down.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You need to help out today — someone really needs you, and your energy is just better spent on outside activities. You may want to volunteer, ring up an elderly neighbor or just clean house.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
You need to deal with today's situation with a little more flexibility than you may realize. Try not to just fall back on your old standby routines, or you could find yourself extremely confused!

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You need to travel — but even if you're stuck at home for a while, you can still dream and make plans. Your great energy needs exposure to new things and new people, and you can make it happen.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You can't quite come to terms with that one person who's almost always on your side — sometimes it's just not a good match. That doesn't mean it's worth throwing out, though, so just move on for a bit.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your people are all freaking out over something that seems trivial to you, but you can tell that they are just enjoying a little drama — there's no reason for you to join them. Just watch and wait.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Your health is all-important, so make the most of today's willpower and start on a new health kick. It could just be a dedication to whole grains and fresh fruit, or a whole new way of living.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
You need to express yourself today in the best way you know how. That could mean freestyle poetry or something softer and more direct, but you should know when it works for you.



SUDOKU

Easy

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Easy+

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Medium

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| | 9 | 1 | | | | | | |
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Hard

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WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | -1 | 10 | foggy/drizzle |
| Harbin | -7 | 2 | sleet |
| Tianjin | 2 | 6 | cloudy/drizzle |
| Urumqi | -17 | -11 | clear |
| Xi'an | 3 | 7 | drizzle/moderate rain |
| Lhasa | -3 | 13 | clear |
| Chengdu | 8 | 18 | cloudy |
| Chongqing | 10 | 16 | overcast |
| Kunming | 6 | 20 | clear |
| Nanjing | 11 | 21 | cloudy/thundershower |
| Shanghai | 14 | 22 | overcast/cloudy |
| Wuhan | 12 | 19 | moderate rain |
| Hangzhou | 12 | 24 | cloudy |
| Taipei | 17 | 25 | drizzle |
| Guangzhou | 17 | 23 | overcast/drizzle |
| Hong Kong | 18 | 22 | cloudy |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | -1 | 1 | sleet |
| Frankfurt | 2 | 5 | drizzle |
| Paris | 3 | 6 | drizzle/moderate rain |
| London | 2 | 6 | drizzle |
| New York | -7 | 0 | flurry/cloudy |

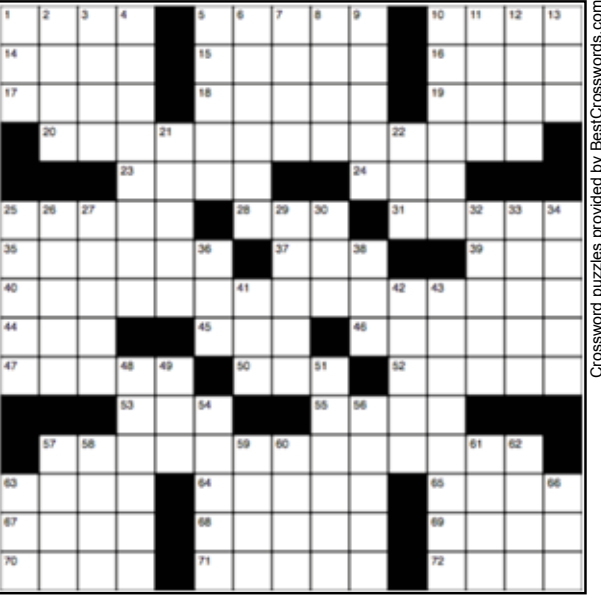
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Slang expert Partridge; 5- Comic DeGeneres; 10- Still; 14- Soup with sushi; 15- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 16- Nutmeg coat; 17- First king of Israel; 18- Fills to the gills; 19- Burt's ex; 20- List of particulars; 23- Unit of loudness; 24- One circuit; 25- Milan's La ___; 28- Nipper's co.; 31- Unit of heat; 35- Having a handle; 37- Prefix with center; 39- Cry ___ River; 40- In spite of; 44- Loss leader?; 45- Battery size; 46- Tidy up; 47- Eagle's nest; 50- Twisted; 52- Lost; 53- Actress Ruby; 55- Town near Padua; 57- Lead poisoning; 63- Burkina ___; 64- Smell, usually a pleasant one; 65- K-12, in the ed biz; 67- The wolf ___ the door; 68- Golden Horde member; 69- Stated; 70- Cookbook amts.; 71- Rock; 72- Dict. entries;

DOWN: 1- Dash lengths; 2- Narrow inlets; 3- The jig ___!; 4- Cabbage salad; 5- Red fluorescent dye; 6- Lazy person; 7- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 8- Util. bill; 9- Like Fran Drescher's voice; 10- Ruler of the Islamic world; 11- Suffix with buck; 12- Waterfall; 13- Year in Edward the Confessor's reign; 21- Raccoon relative; 22- Make lace; 25- Capital of Yemen; 26- Benjamin; 27- ___ Is Born; 29- Actor Romero; 30- Suitable; 32- Gives off; 33- Actress Taylor; 34- ___ Carta; 36- JFK listing; 38- 007 creator Fleming; 41- Hem's partner; 42- Swell!; 43- Undated; 48- Foolish persons; 49- Dusk, to Donne; 51- Toady; 54- Les ___ Unis; 56- Frighten; 57- Get an A, say; 58- Pronto; 59- Part of QED; 60- ___-Rooter; 61- Now ___ me down...; 62- Lower jaw; 63- In shape; 66- Fingers;

Monday's solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | C | T | S | | N | A | K | E | D | | N | A | B | S |
| S | E | A | U | | A | S | O | N | E | | E | C | O | L |
| K | I | D | N | A | P | P | I | N | G | | A | T | R | A |
| S | L | A | T | E | | E | A | R | N | I | N | G | | |
| | | | A | S | E | | H | A | S | O | N | | | |
| C | L | A | N | | L | O | U | D | E | S | T | E | S | L |
| A | I | D | | S | L | A | B | | E | A | S | T | E | R |
| C | R | O | S | I | E | N | | O | U | T | S | I | D | E |
| H | A | P | P | E | N | | T | I | R | E | | P | G | A |
| E | S | T | E | R | | P | A | L | O | | S | E | S | |
| S | H | I | K | A | R | I | | S | A | T | E | | | |
| H | A | D | I | | I | N | T | E | M | E | R | A | T | E |
| O | L | I | N | | S | T | O | N | E | | E | N | O | L |
| O | L | E | G | | H | Y | A | T | T | | S | A | N | A |



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|---|--|
| Emergency calls 999 | Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283 |
| 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 |
| Customs 28 559 944 | |
| S. J. Hospital 28 313 731 | |
| Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333 | |
| Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300 | |
| IACM 28 387 333 | |
| Tourism 28 333 000 | |
| Airport 59 888 88 | |



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HKD 4,500sq ft
Balcony with Church View
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0sq ft / HKD 1.99M
HKD 0sq ft
Car park for Sale
Ref: 15050514

Houston Court, Coloane Village Coloane
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Ref: 15090532

Manhattan F Unit, Taipa
3 Bedrooms Apartment Large Master Bedroom
HKD 21,500 / 1,720 sq ft
Ref: 15090534

THE GREENVILLE Taipa
3 Bedroom Apartment Convenient Location
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3 Bedrooms Apartment Fully Furnished
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Ref: 15080524

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* about the picture may be different from Macau specifications



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OLYMPICS

Aussie doctor says Rio water bigger worry than Zika

Dennis Passa, Brisbane

THE Australian team's medical director says water quality will be more of a threat to the health of athletes and officials at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro than the mosquito-borne Zika virus.

Dr. David Hughes said cases of pregnancy aside, the Zika virus usually results in a mild infection, and 80 percent of those infected often do not get serious symptoms.

Zika, however, is suspected of causing microcephaly, a birth defect marked by an abnormally small head, and pregnant women are urged to avoid travel to affected areas.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press yesterday, Hughes said the polluted waters of Guanabara Bay and aquatic venues for other Olympic events in August were another matter when it comes to the threat of illness.

"If someone gets a nasty gastro infection, vomiting and diarrhea, it's not ideal for competing in an Olympic environment," Hughes said.

Testing of Guanabara Bay conducted by the AP over the last year shows disease-causing viruses linked to human sewage at levels well above what would be considered alarming in the U.S. or Europe. The tests include the venue for sailing, but also Rio's Olympic venues for rowing, canoeing, open-water swimming and triathlon.

"Rio poses a multitude of medical challenges when it comes to keeping our athletes and officials safe," Hughes said. "We have had many teams go to Rio, we are aware of the water quality issues. We have protocols in place to minimize the risk, but you can't make the risk zero."

Hughes said he had been contacted by several Australian athletes and officials in the

past several days over the Zika virus, but none had indicated they would not travel to Brazil in August.

"A few people have asked advice, and they're generally happy just to receive up-to-date information," he said. "They're grateful that this all came up six months out and not two months out (from the Games). It gives them adequate time to think about it [and] make an informed decision."

Australia's 450 athletes and about 300 officials will be issued mosquito repellent - the best known defense against Zika virus-carrying mosquitoes. They will also be urged to keep their arms and legs covered where possible and not leave windows open in their sleeping accommodation.

Australian athletes and officials will be vaccinated against Yellow Fever, which, along with Dengue fever, is also prevalent in Brazil.

Hughes said he was unlikely to follow the United States Olympic Committee's lead in hiring two infectious disease specialists to advise potential Olympians worried about the Zika outbreak. USOC chief executive Scott Blackmun sent a letter Wednesday to all potential American Olympians, acknowledging the growing concern over the virus.

Hughes said he was receiving frequent updates from the Atlanta-based United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and British health officials on the state of the Zika virus.

"So at this stage (...) I feel we are getting enough current information," Hughes said. "It's really important to realize that pregnancy aside, Zika poses less risk to a person's health than mosquito-borne illnesses like Dengue fever or gastro from contaminated water. AP

RUGBY | SIX NATIONS

France makes six changes for team to face Ireland

AP PHOTO



France's rugby team head coach Guy Noves, watches player Maxime Medard during a training session at the National Rugby Center in Marcoussis

Jerome Pugmire, Paris

FRANCE made six changes from the side that pipped Italy 23-21 for the Six Nations match against defending champion Ireland tomorrow.

Four newcomers were in the starting lineup against Italy, and squeezed out a win thanks to flyhalf Jules Plisson's mammoth late kick from 54 meters.

Knowing that Ireland will pose a far greater threat in the scrum, France coach Guy Noves changed his props yesterday — drafting in the less mobile but sturdier Uini Atonio for Rabah Slimani and Jefferson Poirat for Eddy Ben Arous.

"Against Italy we did some things well. But in other areas, we were far away from the international level," Noves said. "We must improve in terms of our defensive play, especially with this Irish armada coming."

Yacouba Camara replaced No. 8 Louis Picamoles, and Alexandre Flanquart took the place of Paul Jedrasiak at lock. That meant Damien Chouly, a try-scorer against Italy, took the No. 8 jersey and Camara will play flanker.

In the backs, Teddy Thomas replaced Hugo Bonneval on the right wing, and Maxime Mermoz stepped in for Gael Fickou at outside center.

France will sorely miss the experience of Picamoles against Ireland. He is likely to miss the rest of the Six Nations after tearing his right hamstring shortly after left winger Virimi Vakatawa's early debut try against Italy.

"We will see if our back row can match up to Ireland," Noves said. "Yacouba is playing only his second test. Is he up to the challenge? We'll see."

Bonneval got France's other try against Italy, but Noves wants to take another look at Thomas — who grabbed a hat trick on debut against Fiji in November 2014, another try against Australia in the following test, but then drifted off the scene.

"Teddy has a certain talent, I've been watching him for the past few months," Noves said. "He has the chance to make an impression in this young squad. But this doesn't call into question Hugo's talent, not at all."

Fickou was absent for perso-

nal reasons, and was not on the bench for the match at Stade de France, giving Mermoz another chance to re-ignite his stop-start international career.

A deceptive runner with good hands, Mermoz played in the 2011 Rugby World Cup final loss to New Zealand, but was never an integral part of incoming coach Philippe Saint-Andre's plans following that tournament, and missed last year's World Cup.

The kicking duties could once again be shared between scrumhalf Sebastien Bezy and Plisson.

Noves refused to rule out Bezy, despite him missing all three of his kicks against Italy.

"It's not because he missed kicks that he's become bad; the week before he kicked seven out of seven for his club," Noves said. "If Jules wants to carry on where he left off, he will. If Seb feels up to it, then he will. It's up to them and we'll respect their decision." AP

FRANCE LINEUP

FRANCE: Maxime Medard, Teddy Thomas, Maxime Mermoz, Jonathan Danty, Virimi Vakatawa, Jules Plisson, Sebastien Bezy; Damien Chouly, Yacouba Camara, Wenceslas Lauret, Yoann Maestri, Alexandre Flanquart, Uini Atonio, Guilhem Guirado (captain), Jefferson Poirat. Reserves: Camille Chat, Rabah Slimani, Eddy Ben Arous, Paul Jedrasiak, Loann Goujon, Maxime Machenaud, Jean-Marc Doussain, Hugo Bonneval.

AP PHOTO



Workers hold a flag that reads in Portuguese "Out Zika" as part of a campaign to warn people about the spread of the Zika virus during carnival celebrations at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautedé



Now, a #FISHBALLREVOLUTION?

What just happened in Hong Kong should not leave us indifferent, and deserves better than short rehashes of the most police-friendly article of the South China Morning Post or anxiety-conjuring front-page pictures of rioters (no demonstrators there...) being "appropriately" contained by duty-blissed (and heavily-equipped) constables. First, because even though it happened in the early hours of the second day of the fiery fire monkey year, "squabble day" ("Chek Hau") actually falls on the third day, so, clearly, the whole episode marks more than the calendar! Second, because even pro-Beijing legislator Regina Ip – the one who, as secretary for security, failed to sell article 23 to Hong Kong people back in 2002-2003 – views it as somehow reflecting the inability of the Hong Kong government to tackle the deep-rooted issues affecting the SAR. And finally, because these events hold a universal message that not even our neon-glowing out-of-this-world gaming paradise should ignore.

Scenes of street-battle in Mong Kok at a time of supposedly festive and rejuvenation mood helped capture our imagination, and added to the sense of "disproportionate" incongruity between the trigger – the expulsion of illegal street hawkers by police-backed agents of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department around Langham Place – and images of intense clashes between policemen and demonstrators, possibly not seen since the 1960s. Soon characterized as "riots", as to delegitimize the whole affair (and probably frustrate some insurance claims!), what had started as a "quarrel" between the hawkers and officials grew into fierce opposition to state authority after a so-called "localist" group, Hong Kong Indigenous, encouraged people through social media to come and support the hawkers. Violence erupted: cobblestones were dislodged from the pavement and thrown at the police; chubby-orange colored rubbish bins set on fire; windows and surveillance cameras broken; police batons fell heavily on necks, backs and shoulders; warning shots were fired; blood was spilled and participants as well as policemen injured; journalists were threatened by both sides and arrests were made – dozens of them. Yet, at the height of the confrontation, no more than 300 people participated!

All that sound and fury for a "fish ball revolution" of 300? And if violence is to be utterly condemned and responsibilities have yet to be fully established what is this protest in aid of?

In an enlightened op-ed, Jason Y. Ng makes a direct connection between these events and the Jasmine Revolution – I immediately thought of the 228 in Taiwan back in 1947 – with the warning that one should "never underestimate what the little guy can do." For Ng, who equates the hawkers with Mohamed Bouazizi in Tunisia, such dramatic events can only happen because of short- as well as long-term dysfunctions of the Hong Kong government, with the little people – booksellers included! – feeling more and more like helpless victims, in a wider context of broken promises – social, economic and political. Beyond the almost exclusive blame put on C.Y. Leung "dismantling the city bit by bit", Ng's final comments provide a resounding warning: "Unless we find a way to cool the rising political temperature, it is perhaps a matter of time before we have our very own Mohamed Bouazizi and protesters set more than just garbage on fire."

A study released in mid-January by The University of Hong Kong actually showed that the Public Sentiment Index had hit a 20-year low – lower than in 2003 at the time of the combined SARS and Article 23 crises, or at the end of 2014 during the Umbrella Movement. This Index is meant to quantify Hong Kong people's sentiments "in order to explain and predict the likelihood of collective behaviour!"

What about Macao then? Is there a "localist" movement? Is civil society mature enough to escape the grip of traditional associations? Is the government perceived as doing the right job and is it fully trusted? One would be hard-pressed to find a hint of any scientifically grounded survey on these issues... let alone anticipate them!

THE TAIWAN EARTHQUAKE DEATH TOLL RISES TO 59; 76 STILL MISSING

The death toll from a weekend earthquake in Taiwan rose to 59 yesterday, with 76 people still missing and presumed trapped under the rubble of a collapsed residential building, the Ministry of Interior said.

The 16-story Weiguan Golden Dragon complex was the only building to collapse during Saturday's magnitude-6.4 earthquake, which otherwise caused limited damage in the southern city of Tainan.

Government prosecutors have detained three construction company executives on suspicion of professional negligence resulting in death amid accusations that the structure, built in 1989, was not properly reinforced.

A total of 327 people in the building survived. Rescuers say the chances of finding more survivors are now slim.

AP PHOTO



World War II veteran Norwood Thomas, 93, from the U.S. reunites with his wartime girlfriend Joyce Morris of Australia, in Adelaide

WWII VALENTINE'S

US vet reunites with wartime girlfriend in Australia

A 93-year-old World War II veteran from the United States embraced his wartime girlfriend in Australia in their reunion this week after more than 70 years apart.

Norwood Thomas and 88-year-old Joyce Morris laughed as they wrapped their arms around each other after Thomas flew from Virginia to the southern Australian city of Adelaide to reconnect with his long-lost love.

"This is about the most wonderful thing that could have happened to me," Thomas said, in a reunion broadcast on Channel 10's "The Project."

"Good," Morris replied with a laugh. "We're going to have a wonderful fortnight."

Morris was a 17-year-old British girl and Thomas was a 21-year-old paratrooper

■ Morris was a 17-year-old British girl and Thomas was a 21-year-old paratrooper when they first met in London shortly before D-Day

when they first met in London shortly before D-Day. After the war, he returned to the U.S. The pair wrote letters to each other, and Thomas asked Morris to come to the U.S. to marry him. But somehow Morris misunderstood and thought he'd found someone else, so she stopped writing.

The two eventually married other people. Thomas' wife died in 2001; Morris divorced her husband after 30 years.

Last year, Morris asked

one of her sons to look for Thomas online, and they found his name featured in an article about D-Day that ran in The Virginian-Pilot newspaper.

Thomas and Morris reconnected via Skype. After their story went public, hundreds of people made donations to help fund Thomas' trip to Australia from his hometown in Virginia Beach.

The two are planning to spend Valentine's Day together. AP

AP PHOTO



USA Republican businessman Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders (pictured) forge ahead after decisive wins in the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire primary, and the Republican field dwindled by two with announcements that Carly Fiorina and Chris Christie would drop out of the race. More on p15

USA For the 15th time, officials deny parole for Sirhan Sirhan, the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, after hearing from another person who was shot that night and called for the release of Sirhan.

AP PHOTO



RUSSIA Russia proposes a March 1 ceasefire in Syria, but the U.S. demands the fighting stop immediately, believing Moscow is giving itself and the Syrian government three weeks to try to crush moderate rebel groups.

ZIKA New details about the possible effects of Zika on the fetal brain emerge as U.S. health officials say mosquito eradication here and abroad is key to protect pregnant women until they can develop a vaccine.

NIGERIA Two female suicide bombers blow themselves up in a northeastern Nigerian refugee camp, killing at least 58 people, officials said yesterday.

CAMEROON Two suicide bombers have killed at least 10 people in an attack on a northern village. Authorities say the attackers are suspected to have come from Nigeria. 40 people, including children, were seriously wounded after two bombers attacked people gathering for a wake in Ngechewe village.

times square by rodrigo

