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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

**WORLD BRIEFS**

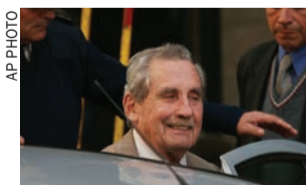
**CHINA** said it is willing to have constructive dialogue with the Vatican but stressed the importance of patriotism to Beijing and adapting Catholicism to Chinese society. [More on p10](#)



**US-JAPAN** In a historic pilgrimage, the leaders of Japan and the United States took to the hallowed waters of Pearl Harbor to prove that even the bitterest enemies can become allies. [More on p13](#)

**MYANMAR** Ethnic Kachin rebels long at war with Myanmar troops say the government has only escalated fighting since Aung San Suu Kyi became leader, crushing the hopes that had led many ethnic minorities to support her political party and leaving them with no confidence in the peace process that Suu Kyi has identified as a priority. [More on p12](#)

**INDIA** At least two people were killed and 38 others injured when 14 coaches of a train derailed in northern India, two of them falling into a dry canal bed.



**URUGUAY** Gen. Gregorio Alvarez, the last leader of Uruguay's brutal dictatorship of the 1970s and 80s died yesterday at age 91 while serving a sentence for human rights abuses. The Central Hospital of the Armed Forces in Uruguay's capital confirmed the death.

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# Macau hackers attack top New York law firms

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## Vietnam defies Asia slowdown as economic growth holds above 6pct

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## Judiciary Police detains arson suspect

The Judiciary Police (PJ) found and detained an arson suspect yesterday. He is accused of starting a blaze in the early hours of Monday that destroyed around 90 motorcycles and caused damage to several commercial establishments and other vehicles parked nearby in the Areia Preta neighborhood. According to a PJ spokesperson the police force also conducted a crime scene reconstruction last night on the site. Besides the damage to vehicles and shops, a nearby school was also affected by the fire and the firefighters had to rescue a man (65) from one of the venues. A shop owner told TDM that she expects her losses to amount to around MOP600,000.

## Local enterprises rarely violate Hengqin regulations

The deputy director-general of the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee, Yan Wu, said that Macau enterprises, which have invested in Hengqin, have rarely violated the region's regulations, according to a report by TDM. Recently, the Future Bright Group received a notification from Hengqin's land management authority informing it that no construction projects have been initiated on Hengqin's lands, as both parties had agreed more than one year ago, whereby the lands are simply left abandoned. Wu claimed that if the parties involved in the development projects communicate more when problems arise, then mistakes can be more effectively reviewed.

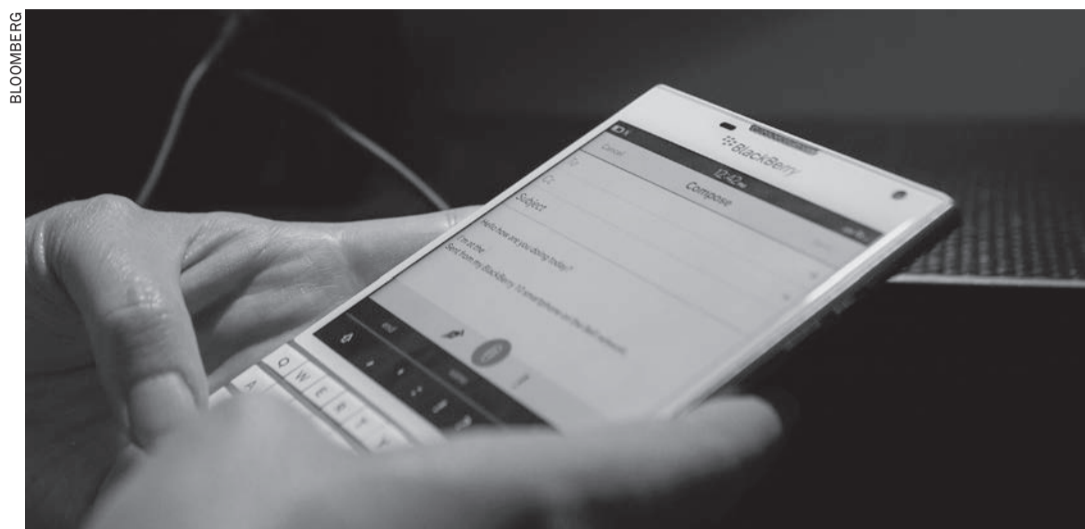
## Macau is a popular travel destination for mainland tourists

A report published by Lv mama, a mainland travelling website, reveals that Macau ranks fourth in mainland tourists' preferences when travelling with their families, especially parents with young children. Hong Kong, Japan, and Thailand occupy the podium, with Korea taking the fifth spot in the list. 70 percent of tourists expect to maintain their travelling budget below RMB20,000 for each trip. Another report from Ctrip, on Chinese tourists' preferences when traveling within China, indicates that Macau is in the eighth position, following Shanghai, Hong Kong, Beijing and other mainland cities.

## New infectious diseases laboratory established in Zhuhai

A new infectious diseases laboratory, which focuses on the latest infectious diseases that have showed up since 1970, has been recently established in Zhuhai. Under the administration of Zhuhai Entry-Exit Inspection and the Quarantine Bureau, the laboratory is recognized by China as a national-level laboratory. So far, it has inspected more than 6,400 samples collected at the border, and has found more than 1,500 passengers carrying infectious diseases. Following this new establishment, Zhuhai has now six Chinese national-level laboratories. All of them will supervise food, plants, animals, chemical products and dairy products.

# WiFi Go expands with 18 new spots



**T**he government-owned wireless broadband free access system (WiFi Go) that started around six years ago saw its coverage area expand yesterday with the introduction of 18 new Internet Access points, reaching to a total of 201, said

the Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation (DSRT) in a statement.

The service will now be accessible in a number of locations that includes several government departments as well as public and recreational facilities

and venues like Anim'Arte Nam Van, Taipa Maritime Terminal, the Central Post Office building, the Largo Pagode da Barra (in front A-Má Temple) and the Fai Chi Kei Bus Terminal, among many others.

Among the newly added

access spots, is the inclusion of several street locations like the crossroads between Avenida da Praia Grande and Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro (in the city center) and of the Largo do Presidente António Ramalho Eanes with Rua do Tassarã (in Coloane Village), among others locations with a high circulation of tourists.

The implementation of the system, especially on the street access points, will count on the support of the Macau Post since most of these access points will be located in the automatic stamp selling vending machines. DSRT also stated that between its entry into operation and October 2016, the WiFi Go system has registered over 36.9 million successful instances of Internet access over its network.

Following the expansion in the number of access points, the government also stated that during 2017 the system will undergo even more updates, primarily concerning connection speed. **RM**

## Two cases of Malaria reported by the Health Bureau



**T**he Macau Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a government body under the Health Bureau (SSM), reported the confirmation of two imported cases of Malaria on Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by the SSM, the two infected persons aged 30 and 63 years old, are father and son and have permanent residence in Angola.

The same statement read that they had arrived in Macau on December 22 for a holiday, coming from Angola before a stop in Dubai and before entering Hong Kong, from where they travelled to Macau.

After arriving in the territory they began to have symptoms of the infection, reporting high fevers (above 39 degrees Celsius), which led them to seek help at the emergency room of the public hospital. Tests conducted by the hospital as well as by Zhuhai Border Inspection and Quarantine Laboratory showed positive results on December 27.

The fact that the two patients had a history of travel in areas where the disease is active as well as the time when the first symptoms appeared led the services to classify the two as imported cases of the disease.

According to the SSM these were also the first cases of the disease reported in Macau in 2016.

The SSM intends to carry out a campaign for mosquito elimination in the area where the patients had been staying, appealing for the collaboration of residents while they adopted the anti-mosquito measures.

At the same time, the SSM urges residents to take precautions when traveling to infected areas. **RM**

### TRANSPORTATION

## Taxi hotline to halt service this month

**O**ne of the three taxi-calling service providers in the region is set to shut down its hotline at the end of this year due to continual losses and competition from ridesharing application services.

Operating for nearly 22 years, the operator, Commercial Vehicles' Owners Association, revealed that the suspension is a result of its continuous annual losses. They additionally cited competition from an unregulated car-hailing service in the territory.

Leng Sai Vai, president of the association, noted that approximately 80 percent of taxis in the region rely on its services for which drivers pay MOP200 to MOP300 per month.

"Sometimes taxi drivers are worried whether they will manage to see their customers in the designated locations. The times have changed," he told TDM.

"Manpower can be significantly saved with a car-hailing application. The traditional car-hailing platform will only survive for "special taxis" while the black taxis have almost become history," Leng added.

Although hotline number 28939939 is due to halt its service in a few days, some taxi drivers noted that it would not cause a significant impact on the industry, as it is not the way that most passengers acquire a taxi.

Meanwhile, one local resident told the media outlet that she rarely resorts to taxi-calling hotlines as it usually takes some time for a taxi to arrive, while another criticized that taxis only target passengers from mainland China.

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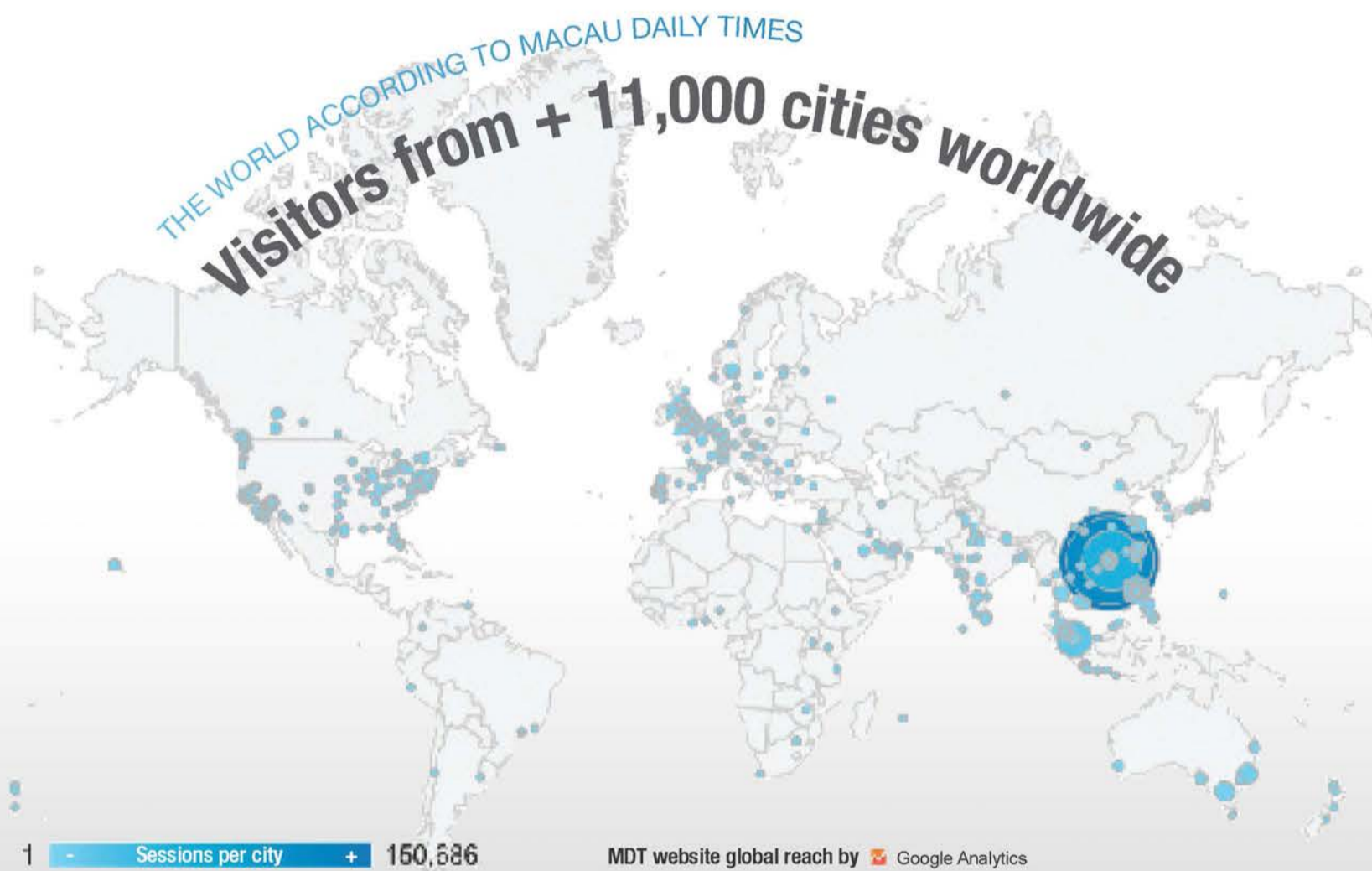
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

## Inflation grows by 2.56 percent

For the year ending November 2016, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) grew by 2.56 percent. According to information disclosed by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), among the categories of products and services that led to an increase in inflation during the past year are Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (+24.2 percent), Education (+8.5 percent) and Transport (+6.8 percent). For the products that accounted for the largest share of household expenditure (Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages) the year-on-year increase registered was 2.09 percent while the price index of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, Education and Transport rose 7.4, 7.3 and 6.7 percent respectively. The Composite CPI increased by 1.53 percent year-on-year to 108.67 in November 2016, an increase from the 1.33 percent growth in the previous period recorded in October.

## Weather to warm up later this week

Cold weather is predicted for today with temperatures ranging between 10 to 16 degrees Celsius, according to the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG). The day will be cloudy apart from a few sunny intervals, and there will be force four to five northerly winds with gusts. Yesterday, temperatures saw a steep drop compared to the previous day. SMG hoisted the yellow index of temperature, which indicates cold weather. The temperatures ranged between 10 to 16 degrees, and the day remained dry for the most part. SMG's seven-day forecast shows that starting from today, the temperatures in the territory will keep rising slightly over the next few days.

# DSEC reviews state of cultural industries



**T**HE Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) has released a review on the state of Macau's cultural industries for the year of 2015. Last year, there were 1,708 organizations operating within the cultural industries sector in Macau, with the number of persons engaged totaling 10,192. At the same time, compensation of

employees amounted to MOP1.56 billion

Gross Value Added, which measures the sectoral contribution to the economy, totaled MOP2.05 billion in 2015, accounting for 0.6 percent of all economic activities in the MSAR.

Dividing the cultural industries into four core domains, DSEC examined a wide range of activities.

compensation amounting to MOP0.24 billion.

Annual service receipts totaled MOP 1.35 billion, coming primarily from ticket sales (56.4 percent of total), with Gross Value Added reaching MOP0.23 billion.

The "art collection" domain covers the creation, sale and auction of arts, as well as photography services. There were 109 organizations operating in "art collection" in 2015, engaging 435 people. Compensation of employees amounted to less than MOP28 million, with annual service receipts valued at MOP 87.78 million.

Meanwhile, the "digital media" domain, including information, publishing, radio and television program production, had a total of 512 operating organizations with 4,592 people engaged, compensated a total of MOP0.88 billion. Annual service receipts and Gross Value Added of "digital media" totaled MOP3 billion and MOP1.17 billion respectively, constituting the largest shares (47.9 percent and 56.8 percent) of the respective total of cultural industries.

The "creative design" domain covers brand design, cultural and creative product design, exhibition design, fashion design, advertising design, industrial design and architectural design. In 2015, there were 919 organizations operating in this sub-sector, with 3,336 people engaged and compensation standing at MOP0.42 billion. Annual service receipts amounted to MOP1.82 billion, and Gross Value Added totaled MOP0.62 billion.

The "cultural exhibitions and performances" domain comprises production of performance arts, agency services of cultural exhibitions and performances and the operation of performing arts venues. There were 168 such organizations operating in "Cultural exhibitions and performances" in 2015, with 1,829 people engaged and their

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The mayor of Setúbal, Maria das Dores Meira, was in Macau to attend the ceremony



The agreement ceremony was held in July and attended by the CE, Chui Sai On, among other top officials

# Macau Legend's expansion plans in troubled waters

Renato Marques

**T**HE agreements signed between David Chow's Macau Legend Development Limited (MLD) and the Municipality of Setúbal at a ceremony held on July 7 aiming to establish a new integrated resort in the Portuguese coastal city seem to be in "troubled waters." A recent report from Portuguese news agency Lusa indicates that the agreements were not recognized by the Portuguese government and namely from the Portuguese Minister of the Sea, Ana Paula Vitorino.

The bombshell came in a reply to an enquiry from a Portuguese parliament legislator Nuno Magalhães to which the Ministry of Sea (MM) replied that no land transference has been conducted, or even prepared, and that the MM is not aware of any

agreement signage between the two parties, claiming also that the Ministry has received little information on the project.

"The Ministry of the Sea is not aware of the existence of an agreement signed between the municipality of Setúbal and the Macau company Macau Legend," the reply from MM stated, adding: "The MM was informed that a file [on the case], existing in the Port Administration and transferred from the previous board of directors, is summarized in an exploratory PowerPoint presentation. There is also, in possession of the Port Administration, a brochure published by the APSS (Port Authority of Setúbal and Sesimbra) and the Municipal Council of Setúbal."

Despite the apparent lack of information and absence of any developments on the projects, the Portuguese Ministry

of the Sea notes that it is open to cooperation as long as the project does not interfere with the development of Setúbal's Maritime Port. "The MM wants to ensure that the growth of the Setúbal's Port will not be jeopardized," stated Vitorino.

This is a port that is considered by the Portuguese Government to be "an anchor of the industrial development in the region."

The concerns expressed by the Ministry of the Sea are related to a previously raised issue that the marina projected for the development of Chow could clash with the northern navigation of a Sado River canal, on which the Portuguese government is planning a deepening project to allow the navigation of medium-draft vessels, as was also reported by local media.

Contacted by the Times on the current status of the project, a spokesperson from Macau Le-

**■ A Macau Legend spokesperson said that the company is waiting for updates from Portuguese authorities**

gend said that the agreements signed were subjected to pre-conditions to be fulfilled by the Setúbal Municipality, adding that they are waiting for updates from Portuguese authorities. "According to the 'Heads of Agreement' signed earlier in July, there are several pre-conditions that the Setúbal par-

ties have to deliver before the project can formally commence. We have not received any updates from Portugal yet, but we are supportive of the government authorities and our business partners in their efforts to improve tourism facilities in Setúbal," the statement from Macau Legend reads.

The project presented by Chow will occupy a total area of 181,000 square meters including a 94,300-square-meter marina that will serve as a pier and for other maritime purposes, as well as an integrated resort with several hotels, restaurants, retail shops, apartments and other facilities. According to Chow, this amounts to a total investment of "at least 150 million euros," (approximately MOP1.3 billion) although local media have reported that the sum could reach EUR250 million. That includes participation from the Macau company on the Amorim Group's Troia Casino which according to the Mayor of the Municipality could potentially generate the creation of 1,000 to 3,000 new job positions when all of the project's phases are completed.

# Tourist flow declines in November

**C**OMPARED to the previous month, visitor arrivals in November decreased by 3.4 percent.

Yet visitor arrivals last month were similar to that of the same month of 2015, at 2,588,645, including 109 visitors travelling under the "cross-border yacht sailing scheme" which became effective as of November 23.

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that overnight visitors rose by 10.4 percent year-on-year to 1,374,752, accounting

for 53.1 percent of the total, while same-day visitors dropped by 9.7 percent to 1,213,893.

The average length of stay of visitors increased by 0.1 days year-on-year to 1.2 days; the average stay of overnight visitors and same-day visitors was 2.1 days and 0.2 days respectively.

Visitors from mainland China decreased by 1.2 percent year-on-year to 1,705,721 in November, of which those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme increased by 2.1 percent to 791,007.

Mainland visitors came mainly from Guangdong Province, which accounted for 716,282 visitors; Hunan Province and Fujian Province.

Both Hong Kong and Taiwanese visitors dropped by 1.4 percent, of which visitors from Taiwan recorded the first decline after 16 consecutive months of year-on-year increases.

Visitors from the Republic of Korea and Japan surged by 34.6 percent and 25.4 percent respectively.

Long-haul visitors from the United States,

Canada and the United Kingdom increased year-on-year, while those from Australia decreased.

Analyzed by mode of transport, visitor arrivals by land decreased by 3.1 percent year-on-year to 1,427,238; those arriving through the Border Gate dropped by five percent while those through the Checkpoint of Cotai rose by 12.5 percent.

Visitor arrivals by sea increased by 2.3 percent year-on-year to 961,480; those disembarking at the Outer Harbor and the Provisional Ferry Terminal

in Taipa grew by 0.6 percent and 12 percent respectively. Visitor arrivals by air increased by 13.3 percent year-on-year to 199,927.

In the first 11 months of 2016, visitor arrivals surpassed 28 million, up slightly by 0.2 percent year-on-year; overnight visitors rose by 9.1 percent to 14,153,210 while same-day visitors dropped by 7.4 percent to 13,982,676.

The average length of stay of visitors increased by 0.1 days year-on-year to 1.2 days; the average stay of overnight visitors rose by 0.1 days to 2.2 days whereas that of same-day visitors remained stable at 0.2 days.

Visitors from Main-

land China and Hong Kong decreased by 0.5 percent and 2.2 percent respectively year-on-year, while those from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan increased by 18.5 percent and 8.5 percent. Moreover, DSEC stated that visitors from the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom registered year-on-year growth.

**28.1m**

Arrivals until end-Nov



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Christian Berthelsen

**T**HREE Chinese hackers made more than USD4 million in illicit profits after breaking into the servers of top corporate law firms in New York, the U.S. said in announcing charges and the arrest of one of the men.

The three targeted at least seven major international law firms that had been retained by companies to advise on deals and successfully got into the e-mail accounts of senior lawyers at two of the firms, according to the indictment unsealed yesterday.

They profited on deals and speculation involving the drug maker Intermune, chipmaker Intel Corp. and business services company Pitney Bowes Inc., the U.S. said. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission also sued and is seeking an asset freeze.

The case places law firms among the widening group of targets for cybercriminals seeking to profit from insider information. Last year, the U.S. broke up an international ring of hackers who allegedly infiltrated the computer servers of PRNewswire Association LLC, Marketwired and Business Wire and stole market-moving press releases before they were published. According to the SEC, the group, which included Ukrainians and a Georgian, made more than \$100 million from trading on the information.

"This case of cyber meets securities fraud should serve as a wake-up call for law firms around the world," Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in the statement.

The three men - Iat Hong and Chin Hung, 50, of Macau, and Bo Zheng, 30, of China - worked at a robotics company that was started by Zheng, according to the government. Hong, 26, was arrested in Hong Kong on Christmas Day and is awaiting extradition. The SEC is also seeking to freeze an account registered in Hong's mother's name.

In addition to the law firms,

# Macau hackers charged with trading on stolen law firm data



An aerial view of Manhattan, where top law firms were hacked

they also hacked other robotics companies, the U.S. said. They allegedly stole schematic designs of a robot vacuum cleaner made by a U.S. company.

The three generally used the same tactics to get the information, according to the U.S. They would get the log-in credentials of an employee and place malware on a server that allowed them to access the e-mails of key people at the firms and companies, according to the indictment. In a one-day period in 2014, they

took 10 gigabytes of confidential data from one law firm's server, the U.S. said.

They weren't always successful, the U.S. said. During one six-month period in 2015, the three men allegedly tried on more than 100,000 occasions to break into the networks of five law firms.

The law firms weren't identified in the complaints. The Wall Street Journal reported in March that Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP and Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP were

among the targeted law firms. Amy Fantini, a Weil, Gotshal & Manges spokeswoman, declined to comment on the charges. Cravath Swaine & Moore didn't respond to a request for comment.

The three men allegedly bought shares of Intermune based on the information gleaned from the hacked data. Though the deal didn't close, they still made money as shares rose on media reports that the company was seeking a tie-up, the U.S. said. Intermune was ul-

timately purchased by Roche AG. Cravath advised Intermune on the deal.

In another deal, the group allegedly bought shares in chipmaker Altera Corp. after Intel had retained one of the law firms to advise on an acquisition. They scored \$1.4 million in profits on the trade amid media reports of the pending deal, and sold their shares before it was publicly announced, according to the indictment. Weil Gotshal was one of the law firms advising

**This case of cyber meets securities fraud should serve as a wake-up call for law firms around the world.**

PREET BHARARA  
MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY

Intel on the deal.

Using information gleaned from a second law firm, the trio also bought shares of Borderfree, an online commerce site that was an acquisition target of Pitney Bowes, the U.S. said. They made a profit of \$841,000 on the trades after the deal was announced on May 18, 2015, according to the indictment.

Prior to the Borderfree takeover, Hong and Chin bought so much of the company's stock that on certain days the two accounted for 25 percent or more of the company's trading volume, according to the SEC complaint. **Bloomberg**

## ARTS

# Kwok Woon exhibition opens tomorrow

**A**RT exhibition "Sailing for Dream - Works by Kwok Woon," featuring over 40 works by artist Kwok Woon, will commence tomorrow, 6.30 p.m. at the Navy Yard No.1.

Artist Kwok Woon (1940-2003) was born in Guangdong, mainland China, and came

to Macau in the 1980s. After settling in the territory, he set up the "Macau Friends of Culture Circle."

According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the artist has dedicated himself to the promotion of the development of visual arts in the city.

In 1997, he established and headed the Macao International Visual Arts Centre. He made significant contributions to the exploration and exhibition of creative means of artistic expression and to cultural exchange with several regions, impacting the development of Macau's visual arts

culture.

The exhibition is organized by the IC and features Kwok Woon's most important works from the 1980s, 1990s and later years.

Through painting, mixed materials and art installations, among other media of expression, he revealed his ar-

tistic vision as well as his perception and reflections on different cultural crossroads.

"Sailing for Dream - Works by Kwok Woon" is the first exhibition to take place at the Navy Yard No.1. Located at Rua de S. Tiago da Barra, the Navy Yard No.1, formerly known as Carlos I

dock mechanical room, was the dock mechanical room of the government in the past, and was used for boat building and repair.

Kwok Woon's works are closely related to the region's daily life and culture. The IC hopes that this exhibition will bring the attention of artists, residents and tourists to an important local artist, and encourage the population to explore the possibilities for development of the arts in Macau.



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# Vietnam defies Asia slowdown as economic growth holds above 6pct

BLOOMBERG



Ho Chi Minh City

Nguyen Dieu Tu Uyen

**V**IETNAM'S economy expanded more than 6 percent for a second year, defying a regional slowdown to remain one of

the world's best performers as manufacturing surged.

#### KEY POINTS

Gross domestic product increased 6.68 percent in the fourth quarter from a year earlier,

up from 6.56 percent in the previous three months, the General Statistics Office said in Hanoi yesterday. The economy grew 6.21 percent in 2016, compared with the median estimate of 6.3 percent in a Bloomberg survey.

#### BIG PICTURE

Vietnam ranks among the world's fastest-growing economies as its exports remained resilient to a global trade slowdown that's hurting Singapore and China. Companies setting up plants in the country, such as Samsung Electronics Co., are transforming the nation into a manufacturing hub for electronics goods, including smartphones. The Asian Development Bank forecast Vietnam's economic growth at 6.3 percent in 2017.

#### ECONOMIST TAKEAWAY

"Vietnam is in a sweet spot right now," said Frederic Neumann, co-head of Asian economic research at HSBC Holdings Plc in Hong Kong. "Strong growth will persist in the next several years. It is continuing to gain market share in exports and even giving China a run for competitiveness. Foreign companies continue to invest in Vietnam to take advantage of its highly competitive labor and low cost. The outlook is bright and it is one of the standout economies in Asia."

#### MARKET REACTION

Benchmark five-year government bonds dropped for the first time in a week, losing four basis points to 5.64 percent. The benchmark VN Index fell

as much as 0.3 percent before closing 0.1 lower in Ho Chi Minh City trading.

#### OTHER DETAILS

Manufacturing gained 13.61 percent in the fourth quarter from a year earlier, fastest pace this year, Ha Quang Tuyen, head of GDP department at the GSO, said at a briefing on yesterday. Exports rose 8.6 percent in 2016, imports gained 4.6 percent, according to GSO. Vietnam posted a trade deficit of USD300 million in December. It had a trade surplus of \$2.68 billion for 2016. Retail sales rose 10.2 percent in 2016. Disbursed foreign direct investment climbed 9 percent to a record \$15.8 billion this year. Pledged FDI increased 7.1 percent. **Bloomberg**

## Airbus's A380 woes deepen as top buyer Emirates delays jets

Deena Kamel Yousef, Benjamin Katz

**A**IRBUS Group SE's struggles with its A380 superjumbo are deepening as the planemaker delays deliveries of a dozen aircraft over the next two years to Emirates, the double-decker's biggest customer.

The delay stems from an agreement between Emirates and engine supplier Rolls-Royce Holdings Plc, Airbus said late Tuesday, adding that it will accelerate cost cuts at the unit to make up for the financial drag. Handovers of six A380s apiece that were originally planned for 2017 and 2018

will be shifted to a year later following a subsequent accord with Emirates and Airbus, the planemaker said, adding it still plans to deliver about 12 A380s per year as of 2018.

Emirates and Rolls-Royce reached a settlement in early December over the airline's A380 engine performance and maintenance concerns, after the carrier revealed technical shortcomings a few weeks earlier. The delays compound Airbus's efforts to turn around the fortunes of the A380, the world's largest commercial jetliner, which lists for USD433 million before the discounts customary in the

industry.

Airbus shares fell 0.3 percent to 62.74 euros as of 12:03 p.m. in Paris. That pared the stock's gain this year to 1.2 percent, valuing the Toulouse, France-based manufacturer at 48.5 billion euros (\$50.6 billion). Rolls-Royce declined 0.3 percent in London to 679 pence, for a market value of 12.5 billion pounds (\$15.3 billion). State-owned Emirates isn't traded.

The delays cap a year of negative news for Airbus's flagship model. An order for A380s from Iran never materialized when that country announced purchases from Airbus in mid-December,

meaning the company hasn't received any advance contracts on the model this year. As a consequence of slack demand, Airbus cut its delivery target for the A380 in July. U.S. competitor Boeing Co. is also having trouble selling its competing 747-8.

Emirates is by far the biggest buyer and operator of the A380, with orders for more than 140 of the plane, configured for 489 to 615 seats. The carrier, also the world's biggest long-haul airline, took delivery of its first Rolls-Royce-powered version of the jetliner yesterday, almost four weeks later



than planned. A further two aircraft will be delivered this week, a spokeswoman for Emirates said by e-mail. The carrier will continue to take delivery of A380s as well as Boeing 777s in 2017 and 2018, she said, declining to provide a breakdown.

The Dubai-based carrier switched to Rolls-Royce engines for its latest batch of A380s after relying on General Electric Co.'s Engine Alliance joint venture with Pratt & Whitney for its first 90 orders, the last of which will be delivered early next year. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### THE WYNNERS TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN



Hong Kong's first ever "boy band," legendary rockers The Wynners will bring their

"Wynners Never Say Goodbye Live 2017" concert to the Cotai Arena at The Venetian Macao on January 21.

#### MELCO CROWN AWARDED WITH QUALITY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

#### MELCO CROWN AWARDED WITH QUALITY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

Melco Crown Entertainment Limited (MCE) announced that it "has become the first hotel operator in Macau to have been awarded the newest and the more rigorous version of the ISO 9001 Quality Management System standard."

According to a press release issued by the operator, MCE's Food and Beverage Service Quality team recently received the ISO 9001:2015 certification from the British Standards Institution (BSI).

The accreditation is the latest addition to MCE's list of accomplished ISO standards. Among them was the company's flagship property, City of Dreams, which was the first integrated resort in Macau to have achieved



the ISO 14064 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventories and Verification certification. MCE was also the first hotel-resort company in Macau to receive the ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Certification and Indoor Environmental Quality Certificate.

Further, MCE's food and beverage teams at City of Dreams and Altira Macau have both received the Gold Award at the 2016 Quality Food Traceability Scheme, and also the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) food safety certification.

Louise Watt, Beijing

CHINA'S head of religious affairs said that Beijing is willing to have constructive dialogue with the Vatican but stressed that Catholics should "hold up high the flag of patriotism" and adapt Catholicism to Chinese society.

Wang Zuo'an, the director of the State Administration for Religious Affairs, made the remarks yesterday at a meeting of China's official Catholic Church, which includes bishops, priests and lay Catholics, state media reported.

Beijing insists that the party-controlled Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association has the authority to appoint Chinese bishops, a right that the Holy See says belongs to the pope alone. This dispute over bishop nominations is the most vexing stumbling block preventing the re-establishment of diplomatic relations.

China severed relations with the Holy See in 1951 after the Communists took over, and the officially atheistic government closed churches and imprisoned priests, some for

# Beijing open to Vatican talks but Catholics must be patriots

## Beijing and the Vatican have resumed working groups on the naming of bishops issue

decades. Worship is officially allowed only in state-authorized churches outside the pope's authority, although many of China's estimated 12 million Catholics are thought to attend underground churches.

Wang said the Chinese government hoped that the Vatican can adopt a flexible and pragmatic attitude, and take concrete actions to create favora-



A man visits the Nantang Catholic Church in Beijing

ble conditions for improving relations, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. No details were given of what actions Beijing expects.

The ruling Communist Party has long feared that opposi-

tion to its rule could be spread by religious and other civic groups outside its control. In May last year, President Xi Jinping called for religions to adapt to Chinese society, which he termed the "sinicization

of religion."

Yesterday, Wang stressed the importance of patriotism within religion and "pushing ahead with the sinicization of Catholicism."

Pope Francis said earlier this year that Beijing and the Vatican have resumed working groups on the naming of bishops issue and that he is "optimistic" for an agreement, but that it will take time.

Just last week, the Vatican said it was saddened that the ordination of two new Chinese bishops was marred by the presence of a bishop ordained without the pope's consent.

It also said it was awaiting the outcome of this week's meeting of the Chinese Catholic Church and hoped it would give Catholics in China confidence in the Vatican-China dialogue. AP

## No happy New Year as currency, liquidity fears loom



Justina Lee

CHINA bulls could be facing a grim New Year's eve. The first day of 2017 is when an annual USD50,000 quota to convert the yuan into foreign exchange resets, stoking concern there will be a rush to sell the local currency. With tax payments and a regulatory assessment also tightening liquidity in the money market toward year-end, January may bring scant relief as lenders prepare for stronger cash demand before Lunar New Year holidays, which are only a month away.

China's markets are seeing renewed pressure this month as the Federal Reserve projects a faster pace of rate increases for 2017 and its Chinese coun-

terpart tightens monetary conditions to spur deleveraging and defend the exchange rate. The declines are capping off a tough year for investors during which bonds, shares and currency all slumped.

"You have Chinese New Year quite early, and because of that one-month window, most of the banks will try to lock the money in a three-month cycle," said Arthur Lau, Hong Kong-based head of Asia ex-Japan fixed income at PineBridge Investments. "The current situation in the bond market is partly because of year-end and because of Chinese New Year."

The week-long Lunar New Year holidays are traditionally a time when people give out cash gifts and companies pay employee

bonuses.

China's 10-year government bond yield has surged 21 basis points in December, poised for its biggest monthly increase since August 2013, and its first annual gain since that same year, Chinabond data show. The yuan's 6.6 percent decline in 2016 puts it on course for its worst year since 1994, while the Shanghai Composite Index is headed for its largest drop in five years.

The three-month interbank rate known as Shibor rose for a 50th day, its longest streak since 2010, to an 18-month high yesterday. The overnight repurchase rate on the Shanghai Stock Exchange jumped to as high as 33 percent the day before, the highest since Sept. 29. As banks become more reluctant to offer cash to other types of institutions, the latter have to turn to the exchange for money, said Xu Hanfei, an analyst at Guotai Junan Securities Co. in Shanghai.

Bond and money markets may stabilize after Lunar New Year holidays - which start Jan. 27 and end Feb. 2 - though they're unlikely to return to levels before the latest rout owing to yuan weakness and tighter monetary policy, said Lau. The

People Bank of China's yuan position - a gauge of capital flows - dropped the most in 10 months in November amid expectations for faster U.S. rate increases.

The onshore yuan's surging trading volume suggests outflows are quickening, according to Harrison Hu, chief greater China economist at Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc. The daily average value of transactions in Shanghai climbed to \$34 billion in December as yesterday, the highest since at least April 2014, according to data from China Foreign Exchange Trade System. The offshore exchange rate dropped 0.15 percent yesterday to trade near a record low, while the onshore rate was little changed.

"In the new year, the new foreign-exchange purchase quota starts, so we expect yuan positions in January to drop significantly," Liu Dongliang, an analyst at China Merchants Bank Co., wrote in a note this month. "Within the foreseeable future, the market will be pessimistic about funding conditions. It happens to be near year-end now, where money markets are tight, and after New Year's Day it's almost Chinese New Year." Bloomberg

## US raises no objection over aircraft carrier drill



Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning cruises for a test in the sea

Matthew Pennington, Washington

THE United States says China has the right to sail in international waters after a Chinese aircraft carrier cruised past Taiwan and into the contested South China Sea.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry reported Monday that the aircraft carrier and five warships sailed 90 nautical miles south of Taiwan, a self-governing island claimed by China. Beijing says it is a routine training exercise.

China has previously accused U.S. warships of making provocative passes through the South China Sea.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said yesterday the U.S. recognizes lawful uses of the sea, and the same rights apply to the U.S., China and other nations.

He said, "as we often make the case with our own naval vessels sailing [...] in those same waters, it's freedom of navigation."

Earlier this month, a Chinese navy vessel seized an U.S. Navy underwater glider that the U.S. said was conducting oceanic research in international waters off the Philippines.

The U.S. called the seizure illegal and made a diplomatic protest. China returned the glider five days later.

Beijing claims most of the South China Sea. Five other Asian governments also claim ownership of islands and reefs there. AP

Gerry Shih, Beijing

**T**HOUSANDS among China's middle class are signing online petitions to protest the dropping of an alleged police brutality case, representing a rare but concerted display of white-collar outrage with Beijing.

The signatories of at least two online petitions organized through university alumni networks are infuriated by the Beijing prosecutors' decision last Friday to drop charges against five police over the death of Lei Yang, a 29-year old graduate of prestigious Renmin University, in police custody in May. The five police were previously accused by investigators of using improper force and covering up Lei's death.

The response to the authorities' handling of Lei's death is the latest manifestation of simmering urban discontent in China, where Communist Party leaders are facing higher expectations — and increasing questions — from the expanding middle class over hot-button issues ranging from environmental pollution to unfairness in the judiciary.

"When something occurs in society that is so dark, so impossible to accept, then it's like an inner fire in our bones that's been sparked," said Yu Li, a signatory who works in the IT sector in Beijing.

The organizers of the petitions said they did not wish to take the protest to the street for fear of swift government retribution. For the same reason, they spoke on condition of anonymity. But the case has threatened to erode the legitimacy of the party among an influential social segment that's already impatient with years long social woes, including food safety scandals and widespread corruption.

The petitions, which sought a "correction" of the decision to not prosecute the officers, have gathered more than 2,400 signatories of former students of Renmin and some of China's other top universities. They range from graduates of 1980s chemistry departments to students who received graduate business degrees in the 2000s, as well as prominent academics and the current CEO of a foodstuffs company.

The list has expanded to include alumni of Tsinghua University, Peking University, and Zhejiang University and Fudan University in eastern China. Organizers of the movement said many of the signatories have gathered in more than two dozen WeChat messaging groups, where they were venting and sharing legal analyses, essays and even poetry about Lei's case.

As the online campaign spi-

# Chinese middle class in uproar over alleged police brutality



A woman rides a bicycle in front of a police van as they pass a Chinese government's propaganda billboard that reads "China Rule By Law," on a street in Beijing

raled this week, authorities scrambled to squelch discussion. Censors blocked all searches on China's popular microblog site, Weibo, for "Lei Yang case" while propaganda authorities distributed notices against carrying the story in news outlets, according to China Digital Times, an overseas website that publishes what are believed to be official censorship orders.

In a country seemingly inured to police brutality against migrant workers or farmers, commentators say the Lei case has attracted nationwide attention precisely because of his white-collar background as an environmentalist with a state-affiliated think tank.

Zhang Wen, a well-known liberal Chinese social commentator, said China has often had cases of social justice that involved farmers or migrant workers clashing with local authorities, "but because of their class status, their cases do not mobilize this mass opposition or create awareness."

"But Lei Yang's case has broken through geographic or even class barriers," he said. "If it could happen to him it could happen to any of us. Any of us could be Lei Yang."

Not lost on many in China's educated class is the fact that Renmin University — which means People's University — was founded by the Communist Party in its early guerrilla days. It's unusual for organized criticism to emerge from a school that boasts a long tradition of producing politi-

cal thinkers, economists, and historians who join the party establishment.

Yu, the signatory from Beijing, said he never characterized himself as politically active until news of the Lei case this year stunned him.

■ ■  
**When something occurs in society that is so dark, so impossible to accept, then it's like an inner fire in our bones that's been sparked.**

YU LI  
PETITION SIGNATORY

"We expected the case to be open, to be conducted according to law in due time," said Yu, who entered Renmin University's business school in 1996.

"Instead, what we saw was that they judge cases from a political perspective with stability as the first consideration," he said in an interview. "They value more the loyalty of the police force rather than the cries of the people."

The Lei case was likely to stretch on after Chen Youxi, a lawyer representing Lei's family, said in a statement Sunday that if higher-level judicial authorities uphold the Beijing procuratorate decision to not prosecute the officers, the Lei family will sue the five men directly.

The family was seeking an additional eight lawyers to help take the case forward, Chen wrote, while warning prospective volunteers that the task would come with "great pressure and great risk."

The statement was censored shortly after it was published Sunday, as were copies of it reposted elsewhere on the Chinese Internet.

Chen confirmed by telephone that he would lead a new lawsuit but declined further comment. The Beijing procuratorate press office did not immediately respond to a fax seeking comment.

Lei's case adds to an increasing number of incidents in recent years that threaten to undermine confidence in the government among the middle class, a segment of society that China's Communist Leaders have traditionally counted on placating by delivering steady economic growth. Notably, in August 2015, a chemical explosion in the eastern city of Tianjin killed scores of homeowners in an area with newly built condominiums. Months earlier, countless mom-and-pop investors and private equity bosses sustained devastating losses in a stock crash that was widely believed to be

mishandled by financial authorities in Beijing, prompting lawsuits against regulators.

Susan Finder, a Chinese law expert at Peking University's School of Transnational Law, said Lei's case sparked furor among China's legal establishment, including corporate lawyers who normally pay relatively little attention to social justice cases.

What struck many of the establishment professionals, Finder added, was the sense that debate over a legitimate legal issue was being muzzled — a feeling many were not accustomed to. Several prominent legal professionals this week declined interviews.

"You wouldn't think that the big firm lawyers would be so upset," Finder said. "People feel like there's no space for any other views."

It was difficult to ascertain what online commentary was permitted. Censors took down an essay by a judge from Lanzhou city and even briefly blocked a legal analysis posted by a former Beijing government prosecutor surnamed Li, defending the city's decision to drop charges.

Li, who refused to provide AP her full name though said she was now working in the private legal sector, said her post was unblocked after a day. In a follow-up post, she expressed incredulity at how she was censored in the first place.

"Did the relevant authorities hear the cries?" she wrote. "Freedom of speech is truly important." AP

# Kachin rebels see more Myanmar attacks, no hope for peace



A Kachin Independence Army (KIA) soldier patrols at the front line near Laiza, the headquarters of the KIA in Kachin State, Myanmar

Esther Htusan

**E**THNIC Kachin rebels long at war with Myanmar troops say the government has only escalated fighting since Aung San Suu Kyi took over as leader, crushing the hopes that had led many ethnic minorities to support her party and leaving them with no confidence in the peace process that Suu Kyi has identified as a priority.

Rebels and observers say government offensives including airstrikes have increased since Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party took control in March. Suu Kyi's government has said little about the attacks, and the Kachin Independence Organization accuses her of cooperating with the military.

"Suu Kyi tried so hard to gain this power for many years and she needs to make deals with the military in order to sustain her power," said La Nan, the chief spokesman of the KIO.

Rebels say they have been hit with airstrikes in areas of northern Shan and Kachin states including Mongo, a Shan town that was heavily bombed and suffered an unknown number of civilian casualties. Other fighting has occurred in Hpakant, center of Myanmar's lucrative jade-mining region, and Laiza, headquarters of the KIO.

Suu Kyi, who serves as sta-

te counselor and foreign minister but effectively rules Myanmar, faces high expectations from ethnic groups and the international community. As opposition leader, the Nobel Peace laureate was held under house arrest by the former junta for years, but her landslide election victory in

**This is just the bad inheritance from the bad dictatorship. The military doesn't want to change.**

KHIN MAUNG MYINT  
NLD MEMBER

November 2015 ended more than half a century of military control.

Though she has called the peace process her top priority, many local and international political analysts do not see significant achievements since the National League for Democracy (NLD) came to power, and say she has failed to cooperate enough with ethnic leaders.

"National reconciliation cannot be built only between the government and the military," said Yan Myo Thein, a

prominent Myanmar political analyst. "There must be negotiation between ethnic parties, armed groups, the military and the government."

Ethnic Burmese form a majority in Myanmar, also known as Burma, but ethnic minorities make up about 40 percent of the population. Some of those groups have fought for greater autonomy for decades.

Suu Kyi held a peace conference in late August attended by representatives of 17 of the 20 major ethnic groups, including the Kachin. The conference was intended to build on a ceasefire agreement that ethnic groups insist include a political solution to their long-standing demands. Ethnic leaders have asked for political dialogue, but the peace conference met few of their expectations, and some may drop out of the next round, expected in February. The conference was dominated by short speeches from a wide range of stakeholders, leaving little time for more significant discussion.

"There was really no substance at all," said David Mathieson, a senior researcher of Human Rights Watch who has been researching civil conflict in Myanmar for a more than a decade. "How can Suu Kyi expect to bring peace if she is not sitting down with Kachin and Shan leaders and when she is not taking the grievances of human rights abuses

week.

"We are only fighting in the ethnic region to protect our own country," he said. "We want to unite the country. I don't think we have lost trust." He said the army "always welcomes everyone for peace," but that "the fighting happens because it is necessary."

Concerns about the prospects for Myanmar's peace process were heightened further after the newly formed Northern Alliance, comprised of the KIO's Kachin Independence Army, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Arakan Army, began a joint offensive in response to military attacks in the ethnic regions of northern Myanmar.

These attacks are part of more widespread increase in fighting since the Thein Sein government launched the peace process in 2011. According to Bertil Lintner, a longtime Myanmar political analyst, fighting is now the heaviest that it has been in decades.

The heavy fighting, combined with a stalled peace process, has created fears among some that the prospects for Myanmar's peace process are dim.

"If Suu Kyi can't start a discussion with the ethnic leaders soon enough, the tension between the military and the ethnic armed groups will go higher and the possibility of ceasefire and peace process will be less," said Yan Myo Thein, the analyst.

Lintner said, "It should be evident to anyone that an entirely new approach is needed" that would "include a genuine political dialogue, not just meetings with dozens of ethnic representatives."

Rebel groups are not optimistic.

"We ethnic people are not very happy even though there is a so-called democratic government. The new government is trying to hold, gain and sustain power and to get that they make deals together with the military," said La Nan, the KIO spokesman. **AP**

seriously?"

Suu Kyi's peace negotiator, Dr. Tin Myo Win, did not return phone calls from The Associated Press.

Khin Maung Myint, an NLD upper house member of parliament from a constituency in Kachin state, blamed the military and army commander Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing.

"Min Aung Hlaing is doing whatever he wants. [...] They are just trying to make NLD look bad," he said. "They are bullying ethnic people as well. The main problem with the military is that they don't want a federal system. [...] This is just the bad inheritance from the bad dictatorship. The military doesn't want to change."

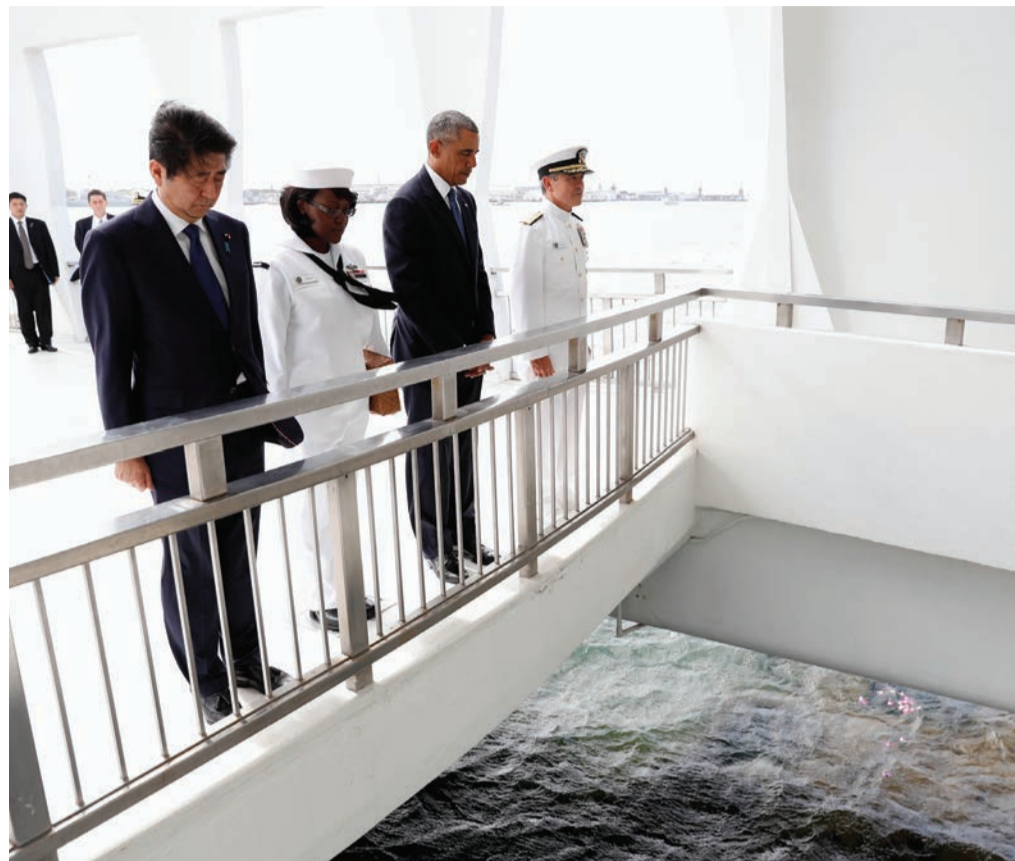
Col. Wunna Aung, second secretary of the Joint Monitoring Committee on Ceasefire, defended the army's actions at a committee meeting last



A soldier sits with his dog named "English" inside a hut along the bunker at the front line of on a mountain near Laiza



Shinzo Abe (second from right) with U.S. President Barack Obama (right) wave after speaking at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii



Barack Obama and Shinzo Abe pause after tossing flower petals into the Wishing Well at the USS Arizona Memorial

Josh Lederman, Caleb Jones

# At Pearl Harbor, US and Japan seek absolution from the war

**I**N a historic pilgrimage, the leaders of Japan and the United States took to the hallowed waters of Pearl Harbor yesterday to prove that even the bitterest enemies can become allies. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe did not apologize, but conceded Japan “must never repeat the horrors of war again.”

Seventy-five years after Japan’s surprise attack sent America marching into World War II, Abe and President Barack Obama peered down at the rusting wreckage of the USS Arizona, clearly visible in the tranquil, teal water. More than 1,000 U.S. war dead remain entombed in the submerged ship, and in a show of respect, Obama and Abe dropped purple petals into the water and stood in silence.

“As the prime minister of Japan, I offer my sincere and everlasting condolences to the souls of those who lost

their lives here, as well as to the spirits of all the brave men and women whose lives were taken by a war that commenced in this very place,” Abe said later at nearby Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

That was the closest Abe would get to an apology for the attack. And it was enough for Obama, who also declined to apologize seven months ago when he became America’s first sitting president to visit Hiroshima, where the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb in a bid to end the war.

It was enough, too, for Alfred Rodrigues, a U.S. Navy veteran who survived the attack. The 96-year-old said he had no hard feelings and added, “War is war.”

“They were doing what they were supposed to do, and we were doing what we were supposed to do,” Rodrigues said before the visit.

Abe, who became Japan’s first leader to visit Pearl Harbor with a U.S. president, said the visit “brought utter silence to me.” His remarks capped a day that was carefully choreographed by the U.S. and Japan to show a strong and growing alliance between former foes.

They started with a formal meeting at another nearby military base, in what the White House said was likely Obama’s last meeting with a foreign leader before leaving office in January. It was a bookend of sorts for the president, who nearly eight years ago invited Abe’s predecessor to be the first leader he hosted at the White House.

Japanese officials said that in their talks, Abe and Obama agreed yesterday to closely monitor the movements of China’s first and sole aircraft carrier, which has sailed into the western Pacific for the first time. Taiwan’s Defense Ministry reported Monday that the aircraft carrier and five warships sailed 90 nautical miles south of Taiwan, a self-governing island claimed by China. Beijing called it a routine training exercise.

In their last meeting before Obama leaves office next month, the two leaders affirmed that movements by

the Chinese carrier Liaoning “warrant close attention from mid-term and long-term perspectives,” the officials said. Late last week, the Liaoning advanced into the western Pacific after passing the so-called “first island chain,” a sea defense line China unilaterally draws running from southern Japan to Taiwan, the Philippines and the southern South China Sea.

White House officials who accompanied Obama to Hawaii did not comment on the announcement from the Japanese, and in an unusual move, they didn’t release a written description of the meeting.

But in Washington yesterday, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the U.S. recognizes lawful uses of the sea, and the same rights apply to the U.S., China and other nations.

He said, “as we often make the case with our own naval vessels sailing in those same waters, it’s freedom of navigation.”

Earlier this month, a Chinese navy vessel seized an U.S. Navy underwater glider that the U.S. said was conducting oceanic research in international waters off the Philippines. The U.S. called the seizure illegal and made a diplomatic protest. China returned the glider five days later.

Obama, speaking after he

and Abe laid green-and-peach wreaths at the memorial, called the harbor a sacred place and said that “even the deepest wounds of war can give way to friendship and lasting peace.” The two leaders greeted survivors in the crowd, shaking hands and hugging some of the men who fought in the Dec. 7, 1941, battle that President Franklin D. Roosevelt called a “date which will live in infamy.”

Japanese leaders have visited Pearl Harbor before, but Abe was the first to go to the memorial above the sunken USS Arizona, where a marbled wall lists the names of U.S. troops killed in the Japanese attack.

For Abe, it was an act of symbolic reciprocity, coming seven months after Obama and Abe visited Hiroshima together and renewed their calls for a nuclear-free future. Still, both governments maintain that the visits were separate and not contingent upon one another.

In the years after Pearl Harbor, the U.S. incarcerated roughly 120,000 Japanese-Americans in internment camps before dropping atomic bombs in 1945 that killed some 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki.

Since the war, the U.S. and Japan have built a powerful alliance that both sides say has grown during Obama’s tenure. **AP**



In this Dec. 7, 1941 file photo, provided by the U.S. Navy, a small boat rescues a USS West Virginia crew member from the water after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor

Maria Zamudio

**N**EWLY widowed, Kay McCowen quit her job, sold her house, applied for Social Security and retired to Mexico. It was a move she and her husband, Mel, had discussed before he passed away in 2012.

"I wanted to find a place where I could afford to live off my Social Security," she said. "The weather here is so perfect, and it's a beautiful place."

She is among a growing number of Americans who are retiring outside the United States. The number grew 17 percent between 2010 and 2015 and is expected to increase over the next 10 years as more baby boomers retire.

Just under 400,000 American retirees are now living abroad, according to the Social Security Administration. The countries they have chosen most often: Canada, Japan, Mexico, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Retirees most often cite the cost of living as the reason for moving elsewhere, said Olivia S. Mitchell, director of the Pension Research Council at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

"I think that many people retire when they are in good health and they are interested in stretching their dollars and seeing the world," Mitchell said.

McCowen's rent in Ajijic, a community outside Guadalajara near Mexico's Lake Chapala, is half of what she was paying in Texas. And since the weather is moderate, utility bills are inexpensive.

In some countries, Mitchell said, retirees also may find it less expensive to hire someone to do their laundry, clean, cook and even provide long-term care than in the United States.

McCowen has a community of

## Growing number of Americans are retiring outside the US

other American retirees nearby and has adjusted well.

But for others there are hurdles to overcome to adjust to life in a different country.

Viviana Rojas, an associate professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio, says the biggest obstacle is not speaking the language or knowing the culture.

"Many of the people we interviewed said they spoke Spanish, but they actually spoke very little Spanish," said Rojas, who is writing a book about retirees in Mexico. "They didn't have the capacity of speaking enough Spanish to meet their basic needs like going to the doctor or to the store."

Access to health care also can be a challenge. While retirees still can receive Social Security benefits, Medicare is not available to those living abroad, Mitchell said.

Joseph Roginski, 71, says that while the cost of living is higher in Japan, access to health care is not. "Things are very expensive here. It is impossible to live off Social Security alone," said Roginski, who was stationed in Japan in 1968. "But health insurance is a major factor in staying here."

The former military language and intelligence specialist said he pays \$350 annually to be part of Japan's national health insurance. His policy covers 70 percent of his costs. The rest is covered by a secondary insurance program for retired military personnel.

Japan experienced the biggest growth of American retirees — at 42 percent — and more than any other country between 2010 and 2014, according to data from the Social Security Administration. The large U.S. military presence in the country may be a factor.

There are more than 50,000 U.S. military servicemen and -women stationed in Japan. The presence is so large that in the island of Okinawa, the U.S. military occupies about 19 percent of the area, according to Ellis S. Krauss, professor emeritus of Japanese politics and policy-making at the University of California, San Diego.

### Just under 400,000 American retirees are now living abroad

Roginski, who volunteers for the Misawa Air Base Retiree Activities Office, said he helps connect more than 450 retirees and their families living in Northern Japan with resources. He said he would never move back to the United States.

"We have a real strong sense of security here," he said. "I can leave my door unlocked and no one will take anything. When I go to another country I feel nervous,



Joseph Roginski, right, holds a package in a storeroom of the Misawa City Hall in Japan, where donations of clothing and supplies were being kept for earthquake relief efforts

but when I come back I feel like I'm home."

Mexico has become home for retired firefighter, Dan Williams, 72, and his wife, Donna, 68. The couple has been living near the same retirement community in Lake Chapala for 14 years.

"The climate and the medical services are very good," Williams said.

Williams teaches painting to adults and children and puts together a monthly magazine for the local American Legion. He is also a member of the Lake Chapala

la Society, which offers daily activities for American retirees.

It was those same services that attracted McCowen to the region. "Before moving, I found out how many widowed and divorced women lived here," she said. "There is comfort in numbers."

She says she loves being in a lively community. "I see older people walking year round. I see them all over the place, even in their wheelchairs. If they were in the U.S., they would probably be in a nursing home," she said. "I don't think I could move back." AP

## Berlin attacker thought to have fled through Netherlands



In this frame grab made available by the Italian police, Anis Amri, the main suspect in Berlin's deadly Christmas market attack walks through the train station on Dec. 22

**G**ERMAN prosecutors said yesterday that they have detained a Tunisian man they think may have been involved in last week's truck attack on a Christmas market in Berlin.

The 40-year-old, who wasn't identified, was detained in Berlin during a search

of his home and business, federal prosecutors said.

The man's telephone number was saved in the cellphone of Anis Amri, a fellow Tunisian believed to have driven a truck into the market on Dec. 19. Amri, 24, was killed in a shootout with Italian police in a suburb of

Milan early Friday.

Of the new suspect, prosecutors said in a statement that "further investigations indicate that he may have been involved in the attack."

Twelve people died and dozens more were injured in the truck attack. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility.

Prosecutors have until Thursday evening to determine whether the case against the 40-year-old is strong enough for them to seek a formal arrest warrant. That would allow them to keep him in custody pending possible charges.

Investigators are trying to determine whether Amri had a support network in planning and carrying out the attack, and in fleeing

Berlin. They're also trying to piece together the route he took from Berlin to Milan.

Italian police have said Amri traveled through France, and French authorities said on Tuesday that he made a stop in the eastern French city of Lyon.

Yesterday, Dutch authorities said it appeared Amri first had fled through the Netherlands, Germany's western neighbor.

Jirko Patist, a spokesman for the Dutch national prosecutor's office, said "highly likely" that Amri had been in Nijmegen, in the eastern Netherlands, during his journey from Berlin to Milan.

Camera images recovered in Nijmegen "found someo-

ne we think, rather of whom we say it is highly likely," is the same person appearing in photos from Lyon in France, Patist told Netherlands public broadcaster NOS.

Patist added that there was no reason to think the suspect was accompanied by anyone person while in the Netherlands.

A SIM card found on the fugitive after he was shot led authorities to the Netherlands.

"We can see that the SIM cards like this have been distributed in several locations in the Netherlands," he said. Amri had no phone with him in Milan, only the loose SIM card.

According to Italian police, Amri also had a pocket knife and a few hundred euros in cash in a backpack that he was carrying when officers on a routine patrol stopped him to ask for identification in the Milan suburb of Sesto San Giovanni on Friday.

He also carried a .22 pistol

that he then used to shoot a police officer, hitting him in the shoulder.

The Italian investigator said the weapon appeared to be the same one used in Germany to kill the Polish driver of the truck that was commandeered for the Christmas market attack, but that final ballistic tests were still being carried out.

The body of the Polish driver, Lukasz Urban, was returned to Poland on Tuesday, said Aldoma Lema, a spokeswoman for prosecutors in the Polish city of Szczecin.

There has been speculation over whether Urban still was alive at the time of the attack and struggled with Amri. His body was found in the truck's cab.

German daily Bild reported Tuesday, without citing sources, that autopsy results showed Urban was shot in the head several hours before the attack and would have been dead or unconscious by that time. AP

## VENEZUELA

# Military trafficking food as country goes hungry



A youth uses his pillow as a bag to collect rice from the pavement that shook loose from a food cargo truck waiting to enter the port in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela

Hannah Dreier, Joshua Goodman

**W**HEN hunger drew tens of thousands of Venezuelans to the streets last summer in protest, President Nicolas Maduro turned to the military to manage the country's diminished food supply, putting generals in charge of everything from butter to rice.

But instead of fighting hunger, the military is making money from it, an Associated Press investigation shows. That's what grocer Jose Campos found when he ran out of pantry staples this year. In the middle of the night, he would travel to an illegal market run by the military to buy corn flour — at 100 times

the government-set price.

"The military would be watching over whole bags of money," Campos said. "They always had what I needed."

With much of the oil country on the verge of starvation and malnourished children dying in pediatric wards, food trafficking has become big business in Venezuela. And the military is at the heart of the graft, according to documents and interviews with more than 60 officials, company owners and workers, including five former generals.

As a result, food is not reaching those who most need it.

The U.S. government has taken notice. Prosecutors have opened investigations against senior Venezuelan officials for laundering riches from food contracts through

the U.S. financial system, according to several people with direct knowledge of the probes. No charges have been brought.

"Lately, food is a better business than drugs," said retired Gen. Cliver Alcala, who helped oversee border security.

The late President Hugo Chavez created a Food Ministry in 2004. His socialist government nationalized and then neglected farms and factories, and domestic production dried up. When the price of oil collapsed in 2014, the government no longer could afford to import all the country needed.

Hungry Venezuelans began rioting, and so Maduro handed the generals complete power over food. The government now imports nearly

all the country's food, and corruption drives prices sky-high, said Werner Gutierrez, agronomy professor at the University of Zulia.

"If Venezuela paid market prices, we'd be able to double our imports," Gutierrez said. "Instead, people are starving."

In large part due to concerns of graft, the three largest global food traders, all based in the U.S., have stopped selling directly to the Venezuelan government.

One South American businessman says he paid millions in kickbacks to Venezuelan officials as the hunger crisis worsened, including \$8 million to people who work for the food minister, Gen. Rodolfo Marco Torres. The businessman insisted on speaking anonymously because he did not want to acknowledge participating in corruption.

He explained that vendors like him can afford to pay off officials because they build large profit margins into what they bill the state. A single \$52 million contract of his to import yellow corn last year, seen by AP, included a potential overpayment of more than \$20 million, compared with market prices at the time.

Marco Torres did not respond to requests for comment by phone, email and hand-delivered letter. In the past, he has said he will not be lured into fights with an unpatriotic opposition.

Some contracts go to companies that have no experience dealing in food or seem to exist only on paper. Financial documents obtained by AP show that Marco Torres did business with Panama-registered Atlas Systems International, which has all the hallmarks of a shell company. Another government food supplier, J.A. Comercio de Generos Alimenticios, lists

on its website a nonexistent address in an industrial city near Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The two companies transferred more than \$5.5 million in 2012 and 2013 to a Geneva account controlled by the brothers-in-law of the then-food minister, Gen. Carlos Osorio, according to bank and internal company documents seen by AP.

Osorio, recently appointed to oversee transparency in the military, did not respond to requests for comment, but in the past dismissed charges of corruption as personal attacks from the opposition.

The socialist administration says it takes graft seriously.

"The state has an obligation to root out corruption in all levels of public administration," the defense minister, Gen. Vladimir Padrino Lopez, said this fall.

And yet dirty dealing persists from the port to the markets, according to dozens of people working in Puerto Cabello, which handles the majority of imported food. Officials sometimes keep ships waiting at sea until they are paid off, according to a stevedore who spoke anonymously because he feared losing his job.

After the cargo is unloaded, customs officials take their cut, refusing to even start the process of nationalizing goods without a payment, four customs workers said.

"It's an unbroken chain of bribery from when your ship comes in until the food is driven out in trucks," said Luis Pena, a director at the Caracas-based importer Premier Foods.

If importers try to get through the process without greasing the wheels, food sits and spoils, Pena said. Rotting food is a problem even as 90 percent of Venezuelans say they can't afford enough to eat. The demands for bribes delay shipments, and state officials sometimes neglect to distribute what they import.

The corruption doesn't stop once cargo leaves the port, according to truck drivers. The military has set up checkpoints along highways to catch food traffickers, and truck drivers say they have to pay bribes at about half of them. **AP**

**T**URKISH and Russian officials are discussing the contours of a cease-fire for Syria, Syrian opposition factions said, building on cooperation between the two countries following a deal they brokered for the evacuation of opposition fighters from the northern city of Aleppo earlier this month.

Several rebel groups

## Turkey, Russia discussing Syria cease-fire plan

said, however, that they are withholding their approval of any agreement until they receive details about its terms.

An official with one of the factions told The Associated Press that Russian and Turkish officials

were debating a cease-fire proposal that would encompass the whole of Syria. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks were ongoing. Rebels have spoken up in the past against proposals that would allow the

government to continue its offensives around the outskirts of the capital, Damascus.

Turkey's Anadolu Agency said yesterday that Ankara and Moscow had reached an agreement, but there was no confirmation

from state officials.

The Syrian opposition official said factions were holding vigorous discussions over the possibilities.

Another official with a different group said the proposal has not been formally presented to the

opposition.

"It is difficult to accept or refuse the matter before we look at the details, of course," said the official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity so as not to bias intra-opposition talks. **AP**

## what's ON



ILLUSTRATIONS OF DOUJIN FESTIVAL IN A WONDERFUL LAND EXHIBITION  
 TIME: 10:30 am-6:30 pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)  
 UNTIL: December 31, 2016  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 Venue: 10 Fantasia, Calcada da Igreja de S.Lazaro  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION  
 TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
 UNTIL: December 31, 2016  
 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
 ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

AD LIB- RECENT WORKS BY KONSTANTIN BESSMERTNY  
 TIME: 10am-7pm (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
 UNTIL: May 28, 2017  
 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
 ADMISSION: MOP5 (free on Sundays and public holidays)  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

KUNG FU PANDA ACADEMY  
 TIME: 11:30am-1pm & 2pm-15:30pm  
 UNTIL: February 5, 2017  
 VENUE: Level 4, Tian Shan Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Sands Cotai Centra  
 ADMISSION: MOP200 per child (complimentary entry for one adult and MOP100 for each additional adult)  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8113 0000

THE STAMP FESTIVAL  
 TIME: 9am-5:30pm (no admission after 5:00 pm), closed on public holidays  
 UNTIL: April 7, 2017  
 VENUE: Communication Museum of Macao / Estrada D. Maria II, No. 7  
 ADMISSION: MOP10  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

EXHIBITION "TRACES AND VISION - LONGZHOU 'SHEHUO' FOLK PERFORMANCES, PHOTOGRAPHY BY WU XIAOPENG"  
 TIME: 9am-9pm  
 UNTIL: January 8, 2017  
 VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau  
 ADMISSION: FREE  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

## Offbeat

## DENTSU CHIEF TO RESIGN OVER EMPLOYEE'S SUICIDE FROM OVERWORK

The president of top Japanese advertising company Dentsu Inc. will step down to take responsibility for the suicide of a worker who had clocked massive overtime.

President Tadashi Ishii said at a Tokyo news conference he will tender his resignation at a board meeting in January although he will stay through March as a courtesy to shareholders.

Earlier yesterday, government authorities filed papers demanding prosecutorial charges against the unidentified Dentsu employee suspected of driving Matsuri Takahashi to suicide from overwork.

Takahashi jumped from her company dorm balcony in December 2015, after clocking 100 hours of overtime a month and leaving a farewell email begging her mother to not blame herself.

The government in September ruled that overwork caused her death.

Tokyo-based Dentsu has repeatedly promised to curtail overtime. **AP**

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
17:40	Criminal Minds S10 (Repeated)
18:20	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Castle S6
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

29 DEC - 04 JAN



## ASSASSIN'S CREED

ROOM 1  
 4:00, 7:45, 9:45pm  
 Director: Justin Kurzel  
 Starring: Michael Fassbender, Marion Cotillard  
 Language: English  
 Duration: 140min

## YO-KAI WATCH THE MOVIE 2

Room 1  
 2:15, 6:00pm  
 Director: Takahashi Shigeharu  
 Language: Cantonese (English)  
 Duration: 94min

## FALLEN

ROOM 2  
 2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 7:45, 21:30pm  
 Director: Scott Hicks  
 Starring: Addison Timlin, Jeremy Irvine, Harrison Gilbertson  
 Language: English  
 Duration: 91min

## SING

ROOM 3  
 2:15pm, 5:45pm, 7:45pm  
 Director: Garth Jennings  
 Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane  
 Language: Cantonese (English)  
 Duration: 108min

## ASSASSIN'S CREED

(3D) ROOM 3  
 9:30pm  
 Director: Justin Kurzel  
 Starring: Michael Fassbender, Marion Cotillard  
 Language: English  
 Duration: 140min

## MACAU TOWER

29 DEC - 11 JAN



## THE GREAT WALL

(3D) 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm  
 Director: Yimou Zhang  
 Starring: Matt Damon, Pedro Pascal, Willem Dafoe  
 Language: English (Cantonese)  
 Duration: 104min

## this day in history



## 1963 CANADIAN AIR DISASTER KILLS 118

A Canadian jet has crashed within minutes of take-off, killing all 118 people on board.

The Trans-Canada Airlines DC8, bound for Toronto, crashed into a field, 20 miles from Montreal's international airport at 0632 local time (2332 GMT).

A spokesman for the airline said there was no immediate explanation why the aircraft crashed and burst into flames four minutes after take-off. He confirmed that all 111 passengers and seven crew died in the crash.

Eyewitnesses reported hearing an explosion as the plane hit the ground. Manager of the Hillsdale Golf Club, Monty Adams, said: "It sounded like an explosion or an earthquake."

"The night watchman at the course heard it too. But there was no indication of where it came from." Parts of the wreckage were reported to be strewn across a wide area less than 1km from a main highway.

The aircraft was believed to be still burning two hours after the crash. Rescue workers struggled to reach the jet because mud between the highway and the crash was at least 0.3m deep.

Quebec provincial police initially called for all ambulances to attend the scene but they were later cancelled after it was discovered that there were no survivors.

Police dogs were also sent to the scene to search for survivors but were then withdrawn when it became clear that there were none.

Canadian Transport Minister George McIlraith said investigators were on their way to the scene of the crash.

The accident comes just days after an identical TCA aircraft ran off the runway at London Airport.

An airline official said there was no connection between the two accidents.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Following the crash, investigators complained that looters stole wreckage from the plane and personal possessions from the dead passengers.

Rain was falling heavily at the time of the accident and this hindered the investigation when it turned to snow.

As a result the exact cause of the accident was never established.

Experts believe that the plane crash, which was one of Canada's worst ever air disasters, may have resulted from a technical fault.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
If there's any sign out there that's innately equipped to handle conflict, it's yours. You'd never admit it, of course, but deep down you actually enjoy it - the thrill and the rush of adrenaline that battle conjures up.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
You've been quite busy lately, and for all the right reasons. A certain someone has been keeping you occupied in a variety of departments. No one who knows you will expect to see you tomorrow.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
Ready to put your money where your mouth is? Good, because you'll get your opportunity today when someone who possesses a specialty comes along. Perhaps you're wondering what to do about a relationship issue?

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Change is coming whether you like it or not, so hold on. Ultimately, you won't mind much because it will arrive with some extremely benevolent planetary ambassadors in tow to ensure that all goes well.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
No, it's not like you want to stay in. But at the moment, there's nowhere you'd rather be and nothing you'd rather do than snuggle up with a dear one, either at your place or theirs, and make the world go away.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Should expect rather odd and coincidental occurrences over the course of the day, and it's a given that what you'll be saying will be a bit over the top, at least to dear ones who aren't used to seeing you in this condition.

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Today's financial news has you thinking about how to add a bit more cash to your wallet, and you have some ideas. One of them is quite good - it involves making money by turning your hobby into a part-time job.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Oh, this is going to be interesting, that's for sure. Winter is here, and you're certainly feeling it. The cold will urge you to make some serious changes in your life - and you know exactly where to start, don't you?

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Someone has been sniffing around lately and has caught your scent. This probably means that a secret you've been guarding may be revealed, much to your chagrin. Just be sure that your dear one isn't caught off guard.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Today's frenetic energy will urge you to make some changes with regard to your goals for the future, which certainly could mean that you'll feel the need to begin associating with a whole new peer group.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Today's momentum is making it seem all the more urgent to get the show on the road. Now this could mean that you're preparing to storm into your boss's office in the morning and make some demands.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Prepare yourself. The more you've been thinking about doing something 'different' lately - the more amazingly erratic your behavior has seemed to the people around you.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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**CHINA**

Beijing	-7	4	clear
Harbin	-24	-13	snow/ shower/clear
Tianjin	-5	3	cloudy/clear
Urumqi	-14	-9	clear/foggy
Xi'an	-5	5	clear/cloudy
Lhasa	-8	7	cloudy/clear
Chengdu	6	12	cloudy
Chongqing	7	14	cloudy
Kunming	4	15	cloudy
Nanjing	-2	6	clear
Shanghai	2	7	cloudy
Wuhan	-1	9	clear
Hangzhou	1	8	cloudy/clear
Taipei	13	17	drizzle
Guangzhou	8	17	clear
Hong Kong	12	16	cloudy

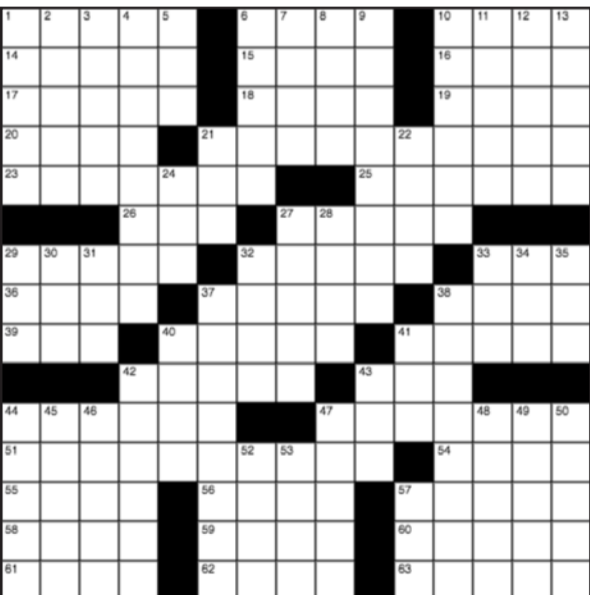
**WORLD**

Moscow	-8	--5	flurry
Frankfurt	-1	5	sleet/cloudy
Paris	-2	3	cloudy/drizzle
London	3	5	clear/drizzle
New York	0	8	clear/cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Room at the top; 6- Hourglass filler; 10- Graceful horse; 14- Painter Uccello; 15- 1997 Peter Fonda role; 16- Sphere; 17- Toothbrush brand; 18- Linguist Chomsky; 19- Prefix with dextrous; 20- Scarf; 21- Supplications; 23- Tidal river; 25- Pieces; 26- Deface; 27- Mexican moola; 29- Columbus's birthplace; 32- Unsoiled; 33- in Charlie; 36- Latin love; 37- Little; 38- Soaks (up); 39- Carry with effort; 40- Like a chimney sweep; 41- Great; 42- Pooh's creator; 43- Sprinted; 44- Alloy of copper and zinc; 47- Draws aimlessly; 51- Sweetheart; 54- Wife of a rajah; 55- You're making mistake; 56- Chits; 57- Joltin' Joe; 58- Bausch & Lomb brand; 59- Treater's words; 60- Opposite of o'er; 61- Sheltered, at sea; 62- Capone foe; 63- It can be used for collateral;

**DOWN:** 1- Strike \_\_\_; 2- Gogol's "\_\_\_ Bulba"; 3- Raise a glass to; 4- Surly mood; 5- Corn holder; 6- Nice days, usually; 7- Immensely; 8- Approach; 9- Bottom-dwelling; 10- Subsides; 11- "Caddyshack" director Harold; 12- "The Zoo Story" playwright; 13- Rapture; 21- Flub; 22- Long time; 24- Motorists' org.; 27- Shallow circular dish; 28- Slippery; 29- Guy's date; 30- Big bird; 31- Eggy drink; 32- Let's go!; 33- One with a beat; 34- Big brute; 35- Georgia, once; Abbr.; 37- Answer to a problem; 38- Miscellaneous items; 40- River sediment; 41- Paulo; 42- Storage place for dead bodies; 43- Hold up; 44- Butler's love; 45- Insurgent; 46- Lobster state; 47- Prescribed amounts; 48- Actor Lorenzo; 49- Maternally related; 50- Vision; 52- Sharpen; 53- Jamaican exports; 57- Kind of fingerprint;



**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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HKD 4,231 sq ft  
**Storage Space & Cargo Lifts**  
Ref: 16095501

**Happy Valley Taipa**  
**Studio Apartment**  
**Cozy Furnished**  
HKD 7,000 / 503 sq ft  
Ref: 16050580

**Nova Taipa Tower 29 Car Park, Taipa**  
0 sq ft / HKD 1.3M  
HKD 0sq ft  
**No M260. Close to Lift**  
Ref: 16105502

**Hellene Gardens, Lot 4, D Unit, Coloane**  
**3 Bedroom Apartment**  
**Car Park Included**  
HKD 13,500 / 1,663 sq ft  
Ref: 16100623

**Iau Lei Garden Taipa**  
1,015 sq ft / HKD 6.8M  
HKD 6,699sq ft  
**Views Across Taipa**  
Ref: 16105501

**One Central, Unit B, T2 Macau**  
**3 Bedrooms Apartment**  
**Views of Nam Van Lake**  
HKD 29,800 / 2,288 sq ft  
Ref: 16090616



EPL

# Liverpool's prolific attack delivers in 4-1 win over Stoke



Stoke City's Giannelli Imbula, left, scores an own goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Stoke City

LIVERPOOL'S prolific forward line delivered again in a 4-1 win over Stoke in the English Premier League on Tuesday, lifting the team back into second place and within six points of Chelsea.

Liverpool fought back from conceding in the 12th minute at Anfield, with Brazil forward Roberto Firmino among the scorers with his sixth league goal of the season — three days after

he was charged by police with drunk-driving in Liverpool city center.

Playmaker Adam Lallana equalized for the Reds in the 34th and Firmino added the second just before halftime.

Liverpool stretched the lead in the second half through an own-goal by Giannelli Imbula and Daniel Sturridge's first league goal of the season with his first touches after coming on a subs-

titute.

Liverpool reacted to wins for Chelsea, Manchester City, Arsenal and Manchester United on Monday with its own a day later, and it was the sixth time this season that Juergen Klopp's team has scored four goals or more in a league game. It is no surprise that the Reds are the top scorers in the division with 45 goals in 18 games.

"Confidence is not a problem

of the team at the moment," Klopp said. "We know about our quality, but obviously we don't show it all the time."

Liverpool's players only got going once they fell behind to a rare Stoke goal at Anfield.

Erik Pieters provided the cross from the left and Jon Walters glanced in a header at the near post that Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet got a hand to but couldn't keep out. It was only Stoke's third league goal away to Liverpool in 40 years.

Stoke was the architect of its own downfall at times, with Lallana finding the net after Glen Johnson — one of three former Liverpool players in Stoke's lineup — failing to clear a cross.

Firmino started despite his off-field issue and repaid Klopp's loyalty by slamming home an angled left-foot shot that hit one post, careered across the line to hit the other and rebound in.

Imbula turned in a 60th-minute cross from the left wing by Divock Origi, who was then replaced by Sturridge.

In his first action of the game, Sturridge was alert to intercept a back-pass by Ryan Shawcross, round goalkeeper Lee Grant and slot a finish into the empty net.

It was Liverpool's 100th goal since Klopp took charge in October last year, completing another big win ahead of the visit of Man City on Saturday. AP

# Coma-induced freestyle World Cup skier flown to Sweden



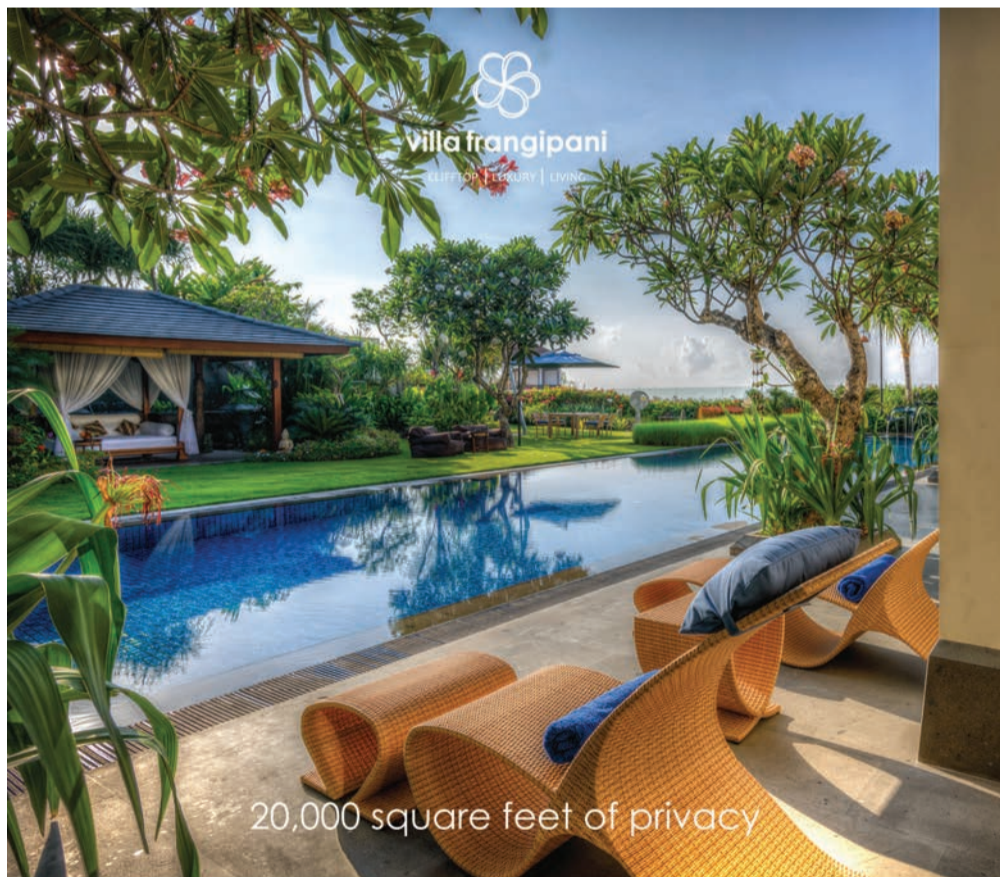
A Swedish freestyle World Cup skier in a medically induced coma after crashing on an Italian hill has been transferred to a hospital in Sweden.

Swedish ski cross federation doctor Jakob Swanberg says Anna Holmlund's condition was stable enough for her to be flown to Stockholm's Karolinska Institutet hospital.

Swanberg said late Tuesday that the 29-year-old Holmlund, a three-time ski cross World Cup champion, was in "an unchanged condition," adding that "Anna remains in a coma and still needs to be in intensive care."

Holmlund, who won bronze at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, lost consciousness after hitting her head during the crash on Dec. 19, and was flown by helicopter to Bolzano, where she underwent brain surgery. AP

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## CYCLING

# Former Tour de France champ Wiggins retires

ticosteroid days before three big races, including the 2012 Tour.

Wiggins' treatment was approved by cycling authorities and there has been no suggestion any rules have been broken over the TUEs. But the revelations cast a shadow over one of the strongest advocates of the

making a living in Belgium as a professional cyclist when Bradley was born in the country. A hard-drinking Australian, Gary left his English wife and son when Bradley was two years old, with Bradley moving to London where he lived on a working-class estate. Wiggins took to cycling at 12 and collected his first Olympic medal eight years later at the Sydney Games, winning bronze in the team pursuit. He added three more in Athens in 2004, with gold, silver and bronze in three different events, becoming the first British athlete in 40 years to win three medals at a single Olympics.

Wiggins had more success at the 2008 Beijing Games, winning gold in the team and individual pursuits.

After shedding some weight, Wiggins realized during the 2009 Tour that he was capable of competing for the overall win, achieving his best-ever finish with a fourth place. He crashed out of the Tour with a fractured collarbone in 2011 and fulfilled his dream of winning cycling's most grueling race a year later.

Like his father, who died in

2008 after struggling with alcohol and drug addiction, Wiggins had to overcome drinking problems after his early successes in the velodrome. He wrote in his autobiography that he suffered from depression after the Athens Olympics and indulged in binge drinking as he struggled to cope with his celebrity status.

"Apparently it's a well-known phenomenon, but Olympic gold medalists usually only lose the plot for a month or so," Wiggins wrote. "My bender (drinking) after winning three medals, including my first gold, in Athens in August 2004 lasted a good eight or nine months and I wasn't quite right for at least a year... For a while my life threatened to spiral out of control."

Wiggins pulled himself together after the birth of his son, Ben, in March 2005, and had a daughter a year later with his wife, Catherine.

"What will stick with me forever," Wiggins wrote in his retirement statement, "is the support and love from the public through thick and thin, all as a result of riding a pushbike for a living." AP

■ **Wiggins wrote in his autobiography that he suffered from depression after the Athens Olympics and indulged in binge drinking**

anti-doping fight.

Both Wiggins and Team Sky, his former team, have denied any wrongdoing over the rider's approved use of the treatment.

Wiggins' father, Gary, was

gold in a haul of eight medals across five games, capped this year when he led the British pursuit team to victory at the Rio de Janeiro Games.

The summer of 2012 was the pinnacle of Wiggins' career, when he completed a rare double by winning the time trial at the London Olympics soon after his Tour triumph amid a joyful atmosphere described as "Wiggomania" by the British press. A lanky athlete with a strong appetite for fine clothing and British rock music, Wiggins was subsequently honored with a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II.

In recent months, he has found himself under scrutiny for his use of therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs) earlier in his career, after hackers leaked that he got intramuscular injections of a strong cor-

Steve Douglas

**B**RADLEY Wiggins announced his retirement from cycling yesterday, ending an illustrious career in which he won a British-record eight Olympic medals and became his country's first winner of the Tour de France.

The 36-year-old Wiggins posted a statement on his Facebook and Instagram pages, alongside a picture of his collected race jerseys, medals and trophies.

"I have been lucky enough to live a dream and fulfil my childhood aspiration of making a living and a career out of the sport I fell in love with at the age of 12," Wiggins wrote.

"2016 is the end of the road for this chapter, onwards and upwards."

Wiggins is Britain's most decorated Olympian with five

## Infantino: 'Necessary actions and sanctions' on Russian doping

**R**USSIA will face any "necessary actions and sanctions" after investigators alleged that football players had suspicious drug-test samples covered up as part of a wider doping scandal in the 2018 World Cup host nation, FIFA President Gianni Infantino said yesterday.

Five suspicious samples in the Russian men's under-17 and under-21 national teams in 2013 and 2014 were exposed in emails released earlier this month by the World Anti-Doping Agency, accompanying investigator Richard McLaren's report into Russian doping.

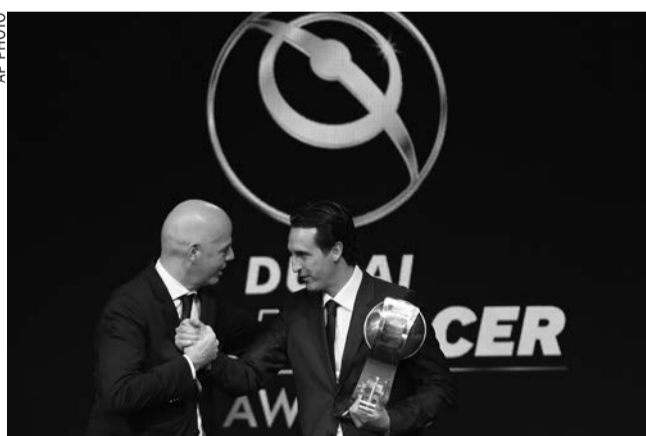
Then-sports minister Vitaly Mutko, who is also in charge of Russia's World Cup preparations, has been accused of covering up a doping case in the Russian league. FIFA's ethics com-

mittee has said it will examine McLaren's report and the role of Mutko, who sits on FIFA's ruling council.

Asked whether he still trusts Mutko, Infantino said: "He is a council member and of course we are working together."

"If anything has happened with regards to doping cases in football which were covered up and which now are unveiled, then both FIFA as well as UEFA, depending on what the competence is for these particular cases, will be dealing with them and we will take the necessary actions and sanctions," Infantino told a sports conference in Dubai.

"I don't think we should mix up a doping issue, even if it is a big doping issue, with the organization for the World Cup which is a completely different thing



Paris Saint Germain's head coach Unai Emery (right) shakes hands with FIFA President Gianni Infantino, after he received the Special Award trophy, during the Dubai Football Gala & Globe Football Awards Ceremony

where it comes to anti-doping in the World Cup. This is a FIFA matter. It will be dealt with by FIFA officials in world accredited laboratories [...] very probably in Switzerland."

Russia was accused by McLaren of subverting doping procedures at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympi-

cs, with intelligence officers involved in tampering with samples of Russian medal winners.

"We will guarantee that the World Cup in Russia will be completely safe when it comes to anti-doping matters or when it comes to doping cases," Infantino said.

Infantino said FIFA has "quite a few more sponsors who want to come on board" for the 2018 edition.

"We have to get more creative to find ways to accommodate everyone but I think this is also proof that the image of FIFA is changing," added Infantino, who replaced Sepp Blatter as head of world football's governing body in February following a sprawling scandal.

FIFA's attention will shift to the 2026 World Cup next month when Infantino's council is due to take a decision on whether to expand the World Cup from 32 teams. Infantino said he has "overwhelming" backing from federations for a 48-team World Cup, starting with 16 groups of three teams.

"Financially, the 48-team format is the most appealing or successful simply because the sporting element is prevailing and every match is important," Infantino said. "The decision should not be financially driven, neither in terms of revenue or costs

[...] but the driver should really be the development of football and boosting football all over the world."

North America is considered the most likely host of the 2026 World Cup, having not staged the showpiece since 1994 in the United States. CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani said a joint bid between his native Canada, the United States and Mexico remains a possible contender in the 2020 vote.

Montagliani does not believe Donald Trump's comments during the divisive U.S. presidential campaign about Mexicans will have any impact on the ability of the U.S. to work with Mexico on a bid.

"I think it's pretty obvious the president-elect is a supporter of sports, a supporter of the Olympic movement, he builds golf courses," Montagliani said. "As it relates to sport, on face value I don't see it [Trump] being a challenge. I think any administration [...] will be a supporter of the World Cup." AP

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



O CHRISTMAS GIFT

While the Christmas season is always a good time with long holidays and festive celebration everywhere, it also makes one appreciate the culture of giving red packets on Chinese New Year. I believe many people may too be faced with the frustration of choosing Christmas gifts, especially when one has to be the secret Santa of someone whom one barely knows.

Buying Christmas presents has become harder by the year, which makes me wonder if it is something like doing exercise that gets harder with age.

Perhaps we are expecting more when choosing gifts. Instead of merely buying something pretty as when we were younger, we want to choose something useful and that can make people happy. Or perhaps, we have received so many impractical gifts over the years that we don't want to buy gifts that may just be a waste of people's space. Whatever the reasons, gift giving has become a hassle come Christmas.

One difficulty in Christmas gift shopping is the time constraint. Even with the Handover and Winter Solstice holiday preceding the actual Christmas break, we are all too busy with work, studies, and social obligations that prevent us from shopping, or even thinking about gifts earlier. Quite a few people claimed they only bought gifts for relatives at the very last minute right before they visited.

Another common difficulty comes from choices. Not that we don't have enough choices in Macao, we have too many. In fact, our little town has become so globalized that nothing is special anymore. Once upon a time, shops like "Uniqlo" and "Marks and Spencer" in Hong Kong were my go to places for Christmas shopping. But since they opened in Macao, gifts from these shops have lost their specialness. The same goes for the thousands of international brands now available in town.

Moreover, buying gifts for ladies used to be a lot easier, with a great variety of perfumes, accessories, and cosmetics. Usually a visit to "Sasa" or "The Body Shop" would solve all gift-related problems for birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas. Unfortunately, we are now faced with the issue of not only being uncertain of which brands our friends may like, but more importantly, what they may be allergic to.

In my attempts to investigate Christmas gifts, I found that more and more people in Macao have allergies of some kind. So, it becomes dangerous to buy any skin products, even anything scented, for people we do not know well enough, or those who do not know themselves well enough.

How about presents for kids? With so many toy stores to choose from, it shouldn't be too difficult, right? Unfortunately, nowadays it seems easier to guess what toys children already have at home, than to find something they don't have. So I resorted to getting candies and chocolates. To my surprise, one kid told me he is allergic even to chocolate. Luckily, I got candies too.

Browsing through articles on gift-giving, most of the tips center around knowing the person you are buying gifts for, and observing their needs and interests, but that creates an even bigger problem. The more I observe, the more I find that there is nothing people in Macao need that they do not already have. For the things that people usually don't have, most of us cannot afford to give them as presents, like an apartment or a parking space.

So, after thinking of all the possible unique gifts, the best ones to get in the end, are consumables like wine and bath salts which at least would not take up precious space in people's apartments for long. Assuming the people receiving the gifts do drink, or have a bath tub, of course.

THE BUZZ PAKISTAN INAUGURATES NUCLEAR PLANT BUILT WITH CHINESE AID

Pakistan's prime minister has inaugurated a 340 MW nuclear power plant built with Chinese aid, the third of four such projects aimed at addressing longtime energy shortages.

In a televised speech yesterday, Nawaz Sharif vowed to eliminate power cuts by 2018, when his five-year term expires, and set the ambitious goal of generating 8,800 MW of power by

2030.

The government has not provided figures on the cost of the plants or the Chinese contribution, saying only that Beijing has provided technical support and that Chinese engineers have worked on the projects.

Both Pakistan and its archrival India have nuclear arms.

OBITUARY

'Star Wars' actress and author Carrie Fisher dies



CARRIE Fisher, a daughter of Hollywood royalty who gained pop-culture fame as Princess Leia in the original "Star Wars" and turned her struggles with addiction and mental illness into wickedly funny books, a hit film and a one-woman stage show, died Tuesday after falling ill aboard a flight last week. She was 60.

"Carrie was one of a kind [...] brilliant, original. Funny and emotionally fearless. She lived her life, bravely," "Star Wars" co-star Harrison Ford said in a statement.

Fisher, the daughter of actress Debbie Reynolds and singer Eddie Fisher, had been hospitalized since Friday, when paramedics responded to a report of a patient in distress at Los Angeles airport. Her family gave no details on the emergency, but media reports said she had suffered a heart attack.

"Thank you to everyone who has embraced the gifts and talents of my beloved and amazing daughter," Reynolds wrote on her Facebook page Tuesday. "I am grateful for your thoughts and prayers that are now guiding

her to her next stop. Love Carries Mother."

Fisher made her feature film debut opposite Warren Beatty in the 1975 hit "Shampoo." She also appeared in "Austin Powers," "The Blues Brothers," "Charlie's Angels," "Hannah and Her Sisters," "Scream 3" and "When Harry Met Sally ..."

But Fisher is best remembered as the headstrong Princess Leia in the original "Star Wars" in 1977, her hair styled in futuristic braided buns. She uttered the immortal phrase "Help me Obi-Wan Kenobi, you're my only hope."

She reprised the role in Episode VII of the series, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" in 2015, and her digitally rendered image appears in the newest installment, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story."

"She was extremely smart; a talented actress, writer and comedienne with a very colorful personality that everyone loved," "Star Wars" creator George Lucas said in a statement.

"In 'Star Wars' she was our great and powerful princess - feisty, wise and full of hope in a role that was more difficult than most people might think."

Fisher long battled drug addiction and mental illness. She said she smoked pot at 13, used LSD by 21 and was diagnosed as bipolar at 24. She was treated with elec-

troshock therapy and medication.

In 1987, her thinly veiled autobiography "Postcards From the Edge" became a best-seller. It was adapted into a 1990 movie starring Shirley MacLaine and Meryl Streep.

More books followed: "Delusions of Grandma," "Surrender the Pink," "The Best Awful," "Shockaholic" and this year's autobiography, "The Princess Diarist," in which she revealed that she and Ford had an affair on the "Star Wars" set.

Fisher's one-woman show, "Wishful Drinking," which she had performed across the country since 2006, was turned into a book, made its way to Broadway in 2009 and was filmed for HBO in 2010.

Little was off-limits in the show. She discussed the scandal that engulfed her superstar parents (Fisher ran off with Elizabeth Taylor); her brief marriage to singer Paul Simon; the time the father of her daughter left her for a man; and the day she woke up next to the dead body of a platonic friend who had overdosed in her bed.

"I'm a product of Hollywood inbreeding. When two celebrities mate, something like me is the result," she said in the show. At another point, she cracked: "I don't have a problem with drugs so much as I have a problem with sobriety." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



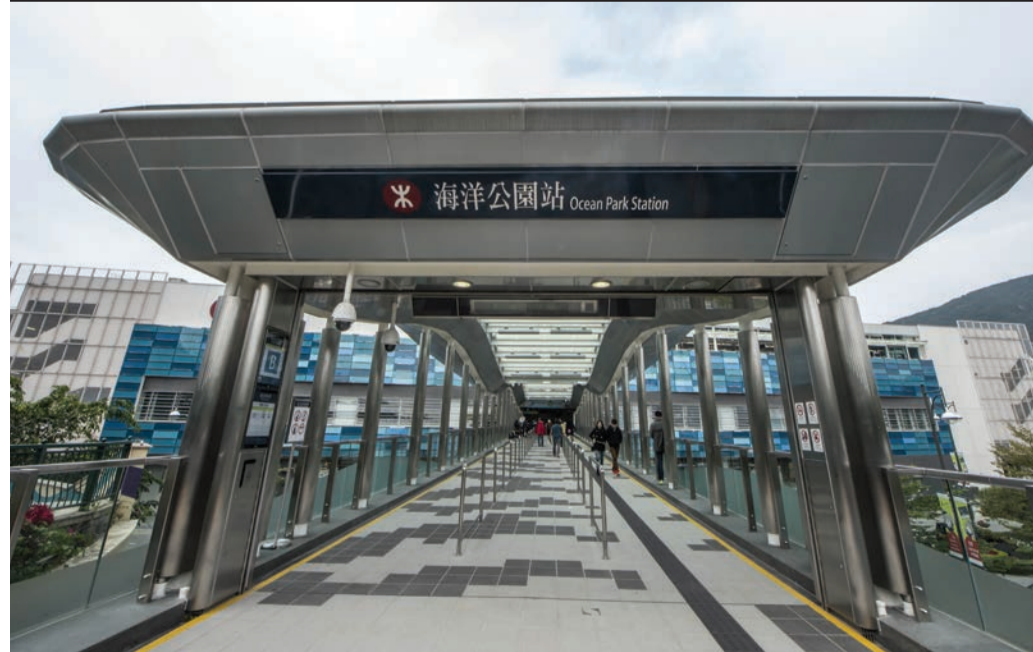
**US-ISRAEL** Stepping into a raging diplomatic argument, Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday staunchly defended the Obama administration's decision to allow the U.N. Security Council to declare Israeli settlements illegal and warned that Israel's very future as a democracy is at stake.

**GERMAN** prosecutors said yesterday that they have detained a Tunisian man they think may have been involved in last week's truck attack on a Christmas market in Berlin. The 40-year-old, who wasn't identified, was detained during a search of his home and business. More on p14

**SPAIN** Madrid's town hall hopes to sharply reduce pollution levels by limiting vehicle circulation for the first time, based on registration plate numbers. Deputy Mayor Marta Higuera said that barring some exceptions, vehicles with plates ending in even numbers would not be allowed to circulate between 6.30 a.m. and 9 p.m. today.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua//Lui Siu Wai



The Ocean Park Station of MTR South Island Line in Hong Kong. The MTR South Island Line started operation yesterday.



**FRENCH** President Francois Hollande has pardoned a woman who was convicted of shooting and killing her allegedly violent husband, in a case that has drawn public attention to the issue of domestic abuse. Hollande said in a statement yesterday that the 69-year-old Jacqueline Sauvage can be immediately released from a prison southeast of Paris after spending four years behind bars.