



### A TASTE OF RECOGNITION

Some of those who will be decorated by the government this week met with journalists yesterday

P2



### HO'S CASE TO BE EXPEDITED

The trial of the territory's former top prosecutor, Ho Chio Meng, resumed after a two-week recess period

P5



### CHINA CONSIDERING OPTIONS TO BACK YUAN

P10

THU.05  
Jan 2017

T. 18°/ 23° C  
H. 70/ 95%

facebook.com/mdtimes  
+ 11,000

N.º 2716  
MOP 7.50  
HKD 9.50



# Times

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** State media say an official in southwest China has shot and wounded two city leaders before killing himself. The shooting happened yesterday morning in Panzhihua city in Sichuan province. The gunman shot Communist Party chief Zhang Yan and mayor Li Jianqin while they were meeting at a conference and exhibition center. Xinhua says the gunman was the city's land and resources chief, Chen Zhongshu, who killed himself afterward. The report gave no possible motive.

**CHINA** Eleven children were injured by a man in a knife attack at a kindergarten in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The man slashed the children with a kitchen knife after entering the kindergarten. Police said the suspect claimed he was at the kindergarten to pick up his child. Three seriously injured children have been sent to a hospital in Nanning, the regional capital, for treatment. The suspect is in police custody.



**US-N. KOREA** Donald Trump says he is confident North Korea won't develop a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike the United States. But his options for stopping the reclusive communist country are slim. More on p13

More on backpage

## MIGRANTS

# 'Bunk bed workers' decry living conditions

P7 MDT REPORT



## AL Plenary: Sexual harassment to warrant heavier penalties

P5

Renato Marques

**S**OME of the 36 individuals and organizations who will be decorated by the government this week met with journalists yesterday to share their feelings on the recognition they are about to receive.

The decorations, medals and certificates of merit awarded for 2016 by the government are granted according to the recommendations from the Committee of Nomination of Medals and Honorary Titles that will be delivered by the Chief Executive (CE) in a ceremony to be held tomorrow at the Cultural Center.

On the section dedicated to the ones receiving the Medal for Distinguished Service – Medal for Dedication – we find three exemplary officials: Maria do Céu Dourado Amorim da Silva Hung, Vicente João Monteiro and Porfirio Zeferino de Souza.

Vicente João Monteiro is a former registrar of the Land Registry Office and copywriter of many of the Registry and Notary Codes in Macau.

With a long career in the Civic Services both in the region and in Portugal, Monteiro acknowledges that the receipt of such an award means the recognition of work that he has been developing for a long time.

Having all but reached the top of his field in Macau during his initial tenure between January 1994 and August 2000, Monteiro returned to the region in 2011 by invitation of the MSAR government to continue his work in the registry and notary fields.

The author of several legal works, Monteiro sees the opportunity to continue to publish works in this area as one of his main incentives to continue to work and live in the region.

“One of the incentives that makes me stay in Macau is exactly the opportunity that has been given to me of leaving some legacy in the registry and notary fields,” he said.

Remarking on his working field, Monteiro believes that the region will face a big challenge that relates to the rapid shifting from Portuguese to Chinese dominance on matters that require a notary due to the rise on the number of lawyers from a Chinese-speaking background who want to follow career as private notaries too. According to him, this situation will “involve a bigger effort from the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) for the profession of the Private Notary activities,” adding “obviously this involves the recruitment of bi-

# Civil servants share thoughts before being decorated



Maria da Silva Hung

lingual professionals and this is really the big challenge arising at this moment.”

Another of the challenges he pointed to is the “electronization of the procedures and services [from DSAJ] and especially in what concerns interdepartmental communication from the services to the users.” This is a topic in which he thinks Portugal can

**I receive the accolade in the name of all translators and interpreters. Our roles are becoming more visible and important in Macau.**

MARIA DA SILVA HUNG

serve as a good example for the MSAR government to follow.

At 65-years-old, Monteiro says, “Time will be the reason for my return [to Portugal]. I have no projects at this level [for the time being]. I will stay until it is necessary and as long as I consider my work useful to

Macau.”

Feeling a great pride and an honor for the award he received was Porfirio Zeferino de Souza, the Judiciary Police (PJ) Inspector and Chief of the Department of Crimes Against People. He said: “The award is a recognition of my work in this force; work I’ll continue to develop in the same way in order to serve the PJ and the population.”

Having worked within the police force for 33 years, the inspector highlighted the differences between the old and the current days, saying “I remember that when I entered the force we had only eight officers [within his department] divided in two teams of four. Now I have a total of 28 inspectors in three permanent teams of at least eight people.”

Another of the differences between the old and current days is that “crimes now are more complex and the criminals smarter demanding more from the inspectors and the force.”

As the most touching moment of his career so far, de Souza highlighted a case from approximately two years ago when his team managed to rescue two underage people. He also recalled a case when the whole team had to work for 15 days in a row in order to solve a homicide.

Leading the department that also deals with the cases of domestic violence, de Souza says that the most common cases that the department deals with



Vicente Monteiro

are related to simple offenses and threats.

Regarding domestic violence cases, he said: “In many cases, and after investigation, we conclude that in fact they aren’t crimes [of this kind]. Maybe the population is still not aware of what is included under the crimes of domestic violence.”

Working in the civic services since 1987, always in interpretation and translation, is Maria da Silva Hung, one of the most trusted translators and interpreters from the CE. She was very happy to have been chosen for this award.

“Once or twice I thought when would be my turn, or maybe this will never happen. This year it was finally my turn and I’m very

happy about it,” she said, adding that she receives this award at a personal level but also in the name of all translators and interpreters.

“I receive the accolade in the name of all translators and interpreters. Our roles are becoming more visible and important in Macau,” Hung said.

When questioned by the Times on the most difficult moment that she experienced in the performance of her duties, she recalled a job done on a boat when she felt very uncomfortable.

Humorously Hung said rather than what usually happens, tomorrow she will not be the master of ceremonies (MC) of the event but instead, one of the honoured guests.



Porfirio de Souza

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

+ 4 Million page views  
PER MONTH

Thank You!

+11,000 like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
**Times**

DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR\_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Eric Sauttedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

DESIGN EDITOR\_João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS  
Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong,  
Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard  
Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Sandra Norte (designer), Viviana Seguí | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS  
JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, Bloomberg,  
Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

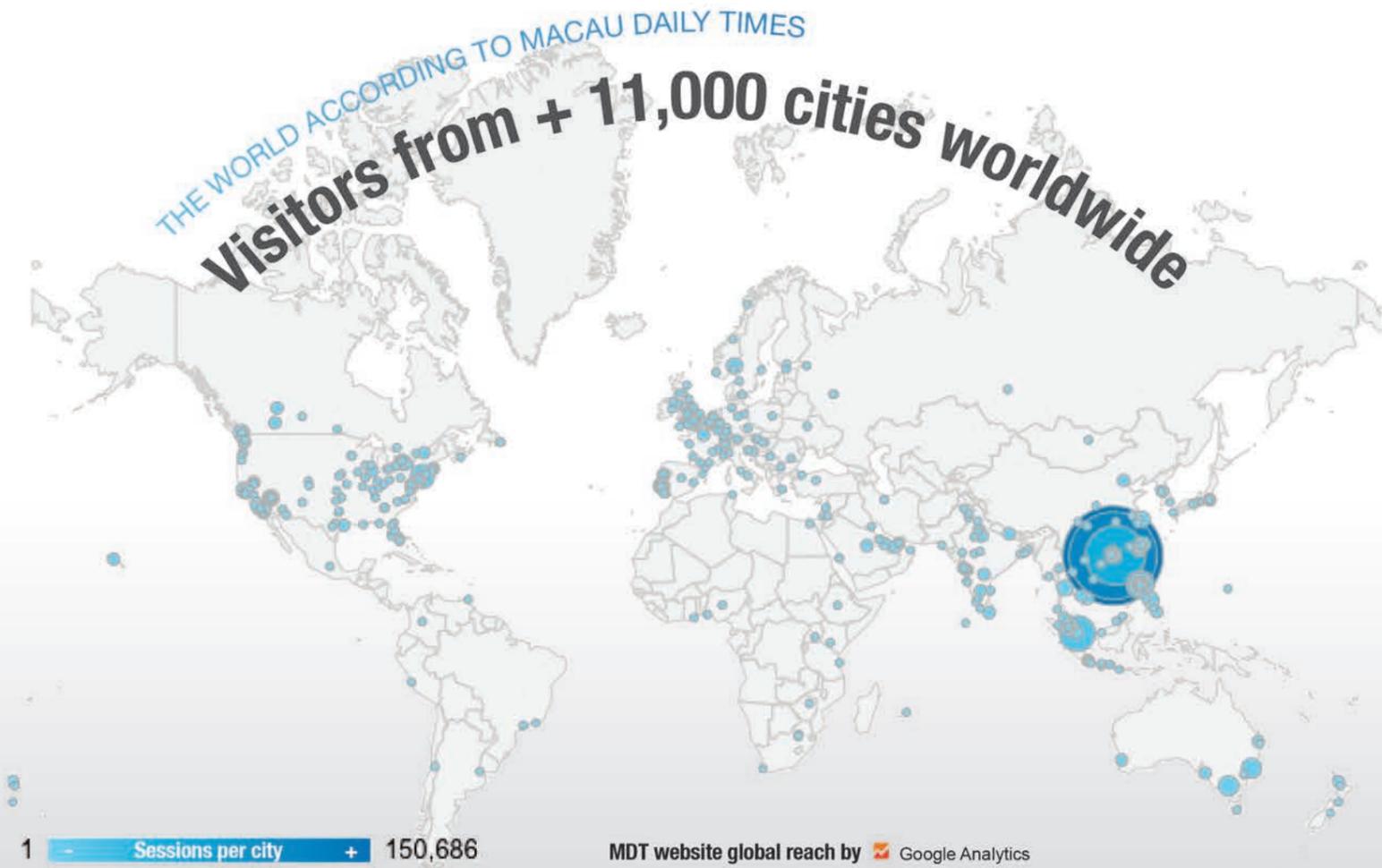
**WARNING!** Advertising with Macau Daily Times may be highly addictive.



**52,872,473 page views in 2016**

**160,000 in 24 hours**

**+ 11,000 likes**



[www.macaudailytimes.com.mo](http://www.macaudailytimes.com.mo)

[facebook.com/mdtimes](https://facebook.com/mdtimes)



The top countries of origin for visitors to the MDT website are Macau, greater China and the East Asia region. But the USA, Australia, Great Britain and other European countries are also in the top 10. The Times website has a true worldwide reach welcoming visits from more than 11,000 cities.

**MacauDaily** 澳門每日時報®  
**Times**

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

advertising@macaudailytimes.com

## Sulu Sou criticizes Liaison Office

Sulu Sou, president of the New Macau Association (ANM), criticized the deputy director of the Liaison Office, Yao Jian, following his comments on Macau hiring non-local occupational drivers. According to a report by All About Macau, Sou considers that the Liaison Office "talked too much this time." He also said that "the Liaison Office has set a bad example by moving things it has been doing from under the table to the top of the table." Sou stated that the Liaison Office is going against the one country two system policy if it continues to engage in this kind of behavior.

## HK man arrested for alleged money laundering scheme

Lee Yuk-Tim, one of the former leaders of the Hong Kong Muay-Thai Association, was arrested yesterday in Hong Kong. Lee is also the high official within Hong Kong's triad Sun Yee On. According to Hong Kong reports, Lee allegedly was involved in money laundering schemes between 2007 and 2014. The HKD260 million found in his and his wife's personal bank accounts is allegedly related to loan matters involving casinos from Macau. Lee's wife has also been arrested. In 1996, Lee was arrested in Macau and imprisoned in Hong Kong for eight months.

## EDUCATION

# UM scholar heads World Interpreter and Translator Training Association



Li Defeng

**PROFESSOR** Li Defeng, director of the University of Macau's (UM) Centre for Studies of Translation, Interpreting and Cognition, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, has been elected president of the World Interpreter and Translator Training Association (WITTA). The elec-

tion was made during the organization's First Congress and Inaugural General Assembly held in Guangzhou.

The newly founded WITTA is an international non-governmental and non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together industrial and acade-

mic institutes to promote the training of interpreters and translators worldwide. The association has 40 founding institutions from across the world, including University College London, University of Westminster, the City University of Hong Kong and the Beijing Language and Culture University.

Speaking at the congress, Li commented that since the beginning of the 21st century, the field of education for translation and interpreting has been developing rapidly and has achieved remarkable progress in the face of various challenges, such as the significant gap between demand and supply in the translation industry. WITTA was set up to address these challenges by promoting international exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration and the commercialization of research results. "As lea-

ders and active researchers in our institutions and our field of research, we came to Guangzhou to build and strengthen ties and partnerships, share experiences, and assess pertinent interpreter and translator training developments that have occurred in these years," said Li.

Over 100 experts and scholars of translation education from the United States, the United Kingdom (UK), Canada, Australia, Russia, Singapore, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, South Korea, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan attended the congress and assembly. Topics discussed during the congress included the current trends in translator training and the development and assessment of translation competence. The next WITTA Congress will be held at the University of Westminster, (UK) in 2018.

AD



**優悅牙科護理中心**  
**ICQ Oral Health Center**

*I Care for Quality*

ICQ dental team is a group of dental specialists with internationally recognized qualifications. We provide all range of dental services:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oral examination and radiology investigation</li> <li>- Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry</li> <li>- Children Dentistry</li> <li>- Orthodontic Treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oral and Dental implant Surgery</li> <li>- Endodontic Treatment</li> <li>- Periodontal Treatment</li> <li>- Emergency Treatment</li> </ul>
---	---

We are committed to deliver high quality dental services with personalized care. We ensure the highest level of infection control.

**Website: [www.icqoral.com](http://www.icqoral.com)**  
**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/icqoral](http://www.facebook.com/icqoral)**

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT:    OFFICE HOUR: 10:00AM-19:00PM  
CLOSE ON SUN, TUE AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY

RM1907, 19/F, AIA TOWER, NOS. 251A-301, AVENIDA COMMERCIAL DE MACAU, MACAU SAR  
TEL: (853)28373266    FAX: (853)28356483    EMAIL: [info@icqoral.com](mailto:info@icqoral.com)    [WWW.ICQORAL.COM](http://www.icqoral.com)

## New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.



**Residence Cleaning**  
**Glass Cleaning**  
**Carpet Cleaning**  
**Pest Control**

**Call : 2883 3008**

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry



**澳門理工學院**  
Instituto Politécnico de Macau  
Macao Polytechnic Institute

*Come to MPI, You will Shine*

## MPI Open Day 2017

Connecting with renowned international higher education units, nurturing multi-talented intelligence, and building a prosperous future for Macao, Macao Polytechnic Institute welcomes high-school graduates and interested parties to come and visit our campus, where we showcase our "student-oriented, quality-assured" education and campus life. Start your dream voyage with MPI!

**Date** : Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2017  
**Time** : 14:00~18:00  
**Venue** : Macao Polytechnic Institute, Rua de Luís Gonzaga Gomes, Macao  
**Content** : Exhibition and introduction of programmes and facilities, consultation on course selection, sharing by students and alumni, sports performances and participation, and music and street dance performances  
**Enquiry** : 8599 6172



Each visitor to MPI on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan has a chance receive an MPI souvenir by participating in the games. Souvenirs are available while stocks last (redemption counter at the main entrance).

國際認可 International Recognition:



澳門首家高等院校通過世界權威學術評審機構英國高等教育質量保證機構 (AQA) 院校評鑑  
Macao's first higher education institution having a successful Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency, UK

Julie Zhu

AL PLENARY

# Sexual harassment to have heavier penalties

**T**HE Legislative Assembly (AL) passed an amendment regarding the region's laws relating to sexual harassment and sexual activities with minors. The amendment, presented by the Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan, was met with unanimous support from lawmakers.

The amendment introduced three articles which will rule three types of activities as a crime.

The new amendment proposes a definition of sexual harassment that considers physical contact as a crime, further suggesting incarceration for a maximum period of one year.

The law states that engaging in sexual activities with minors will lead to a prison sentence of a maximum of three years, and that the punishment will be extended up to four years if said activity had consisted of sexual intercourse involving sexual organs.

The third amendment introduces the criminalization of activities involving seduction and coercing individuals under 18 years of age to participate in pornographic performances. Exhibition, production, and importing and exporting of pornographic products related to minors will also be punished.

Forcing others to perform oral sex is now also considered rape. Both males and females are now equally treated as perpetrators.

The amendment suggests that sexual activities involving penetration by force of the victims' anal or sexual organs with a part of the body or any object will be sentenced to three to 12 years in pri-



Sonia Chan (center-right)

son.

Another notable amendment rules that crimes will be considered aggravated if all the above mentioned situations are related to minors aged under 16-years-old, instead of 14 years-old as was the case under the previous law.

Gabriel Tong pointed out that under certain conditions, people might have a close relationship with someone which abruptly turns out to be a source of unhappiness between the couple.

He then questioned whether physical contact in that instance should be considered sexual harassment.

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun questioned the definitions of cases involving minors. Mak noted that in some cases, students, while playing their phones, could see windows popping up containing por-

nographic content.

In this situation, it was queried how the authority would make a distinction between what is crime and what is not. Mak also wanted to know how the authority judges who is a minor and who is not. Sonia Chan responded that if the situation is not consensual, then it will be considered sexual harassment.

Additional questions raised by Mak relate to what kind of sexual activities will be considered as "important," since this word had been raised before to address a specific category of sexual activities.

Melinda Chan also voiced her strong concern about the protection of minors.

Wong Kit Cheng expected to know what kind of help victims of verbal or other non-physical sexual harassment could seek.

Chan also explained concer-

ns regarding the city's Prosecution Office (MP) conducting prosecution procedures when it deems semi-public crimes need to be prosecuted as public crimes. This is especially present in situations when the MP considers that it can protect the victims.

Sonia Chan, in her answer to Mak's question regarding the definition of "important sexual activities," said that touching sexual organs will be regarded as such.

Chan also reminded that verbal sexual harassment is already defined in the city's laws as an insult.

After the secretary's answer, Melinda Chan voiced her strong support for the amendments in general. However, she noted that she hopes all the mentioned crimes will become listed as public crimes instead of semi-public crimes.

## ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

**LABOR RIGHTS** Tsui Wai Kwan said that local labor associations "are really overbearing" by organizing demonstrations which intend to put pressure on the government regarding its proposal to research driver employment regulations within the region. Tsui noted that the implementation of the government's plans are decided very carefully only after public hearings are held to determine the public's expectations and needs. The lawmaker considers it odd that certain groups appear to have forgotten this approach when their own interests are at stake. Tsui believes that the associations should protect the rights of laborers, especially the associations "which love the country and love Macau."

**RECLAIMED LAND** Ng Kuok Cheong urged the government to regulate property purchasing requirements with relation to property projects located in the city's reclaimed lands. Ng suggested the government to rule that any future residence projects on these lands should only be allowed to be purchased by permanent residents of Macau who own only one residence. He voiced the expectation that the government constructs affordable public houses and apartments for civil servants. He expressed the hope that the government can use such lands to improve local people's living environment.

**ILLEGAL PARKING PENALTIES** Melinda Chan questioned the government on its plans to handle illegally parked vehicles. She further questioned whether the government will have enough space to store vehicles impounded from the streets. Chan expressed the belief that there is no obvious relationship between increasing penalties and a control on the number of vehicles. She voiced her belief that charging heavier penalties only affects small to medium enterprises and residents who need to move their possessions. The lawmaker clarified that she does not agree with illegal parking but asked whether the government believed in increasing the number of parking spaces. Chan said that it is worthwhile to consider what the government could do to make the public accept new vehicle control actions.

HO CHIO MENG

# Latest request denied, case to be expedited

**T**HE trial of the territory's former top prosecutor, Ho Chio Meng, resumed yesterday after a two-week recess period, with the presiding judge refusing another request from Ho's defense and signaling that he intends to expedite the case.

Presiding judge Sam Hou Fai ruled that it was unnecessary for the prosecution to read out the more than 1,500 counts of crime that Ho is accused of committing.

Ho had previously argued that it was difficult for his defense to respond to the allegations without dealing with them on a one-by-one basis. However, Sam made it clear yesterday that this will not be necessary, adding that there will be opportunities for Sam to speak in the future, according to public broadcaster TDM.

Also according to the broadcaster, Sam's decision will now accelerate the case as it deprives

Ho's defense from forcing a lengthy reading of the charges by the prosecutor.

During yesterday's session, Ho repeated his argument that he was not involved in awarding government contracts to shell companies that he either owned or in which he controlled a stake. He said that it was his legal duty to approve some of the contracts, but he had had no influence over the tendering process.

Sam and Ho have come to disagreements on le-



The Court of Final Appeal, where the trial is taking place

gal proceedings at least once before. In early December, the opening session of the trial was postponed after Ho's defense requested that the same judge be excused from the process. The

request was made on the basis of Sam having been involved in the case during the enquiry phase and in the audience of the habeas corpus request that was shortly thereafter denied. **DB**



# FOLLOWING THE MAP ISN'T YOUR STYLE

## THE ALL-NEW Crossover-SUV X-TRAIL



### PERFORMANCE FOR EVERY ADVENTURE

X-TRAIL combines high efficiency with bold performance. Designed for effortless driving, the twin VTCdirect injection engine and XTRONIC CVT work seamlessly together for a thrilling ride. The advanced engine with both delivering responsive power and outstanding fuel economy. With X-TRAIL, you're all set for any adventure.

XIN KANG CHENG MOTORS LTD.

Advenida 1 de Maio, The Bayview Bloco 4, R/C, C-D, Macau Tel: 2871 9838



'BUNK BED WORKERS'

# Migrants living in crowded flats

Lynzy Valles

A significant number of migrant workers face difficulties living in the region due to the sudden surge in housing expenses.

While many migrant workers live in "normal" situations where a maximum of four people live in a two-bedroom apartment, some squeeze themselves in flats that house up to 18 fellow countrymen.

These individuals blame the minimum requirement of MOP500 for housing allowances that their employers give them in addition to the cost of living that mean they simply cannot afford to rent more spacious domains. Thus, they are forced to live in rooms that have two or three bunk beds.

With cramped spaces and nearly intolerable living conditions, these workers crowd themselves into apartments where rental costs fall within the minimum monthly housing allowance.

Evelita Justo, a Filipino migrant who has been working in Macau for 27 years as a domestic helper shared with the Times the struggles domestic employees face concerning living conditions and privacy.

Justo, who has been working for the same employer since she arrived in Macau in 1991, lamented that the increase of living costs in the city do not match with the basic salary and housing allowance employers provide.

Living with eight fellow migrant workers in an apartment that costs MOP7,000 per month, Justo shared that she only used to live with two fellow compatriots back in the 1990s and early 2000s when each room only cost MOP500.

"I can really say that all prices in Macau have tripled. What you can buy in markets for MOP2 back in the days, now costs more than MOP10," she noted. "So in terms of house rents, if you will not live with several people to share bills with, you can't find a place that would fit MOP500," she added.

The Times' interviewees noted that a minimum bed space would cost up to MOP800; while some set up beds in the living room to further reduce the amount per person for a month's rent.

"Even though you try to be thrifty and only spend on important things, the minimum salaries of domestic helpers are not really enough."

According to Justo, there are still cases where employers do



Evelita Justo

not provide a house allowance, despite it being stated on their contract.

Echoing those sentiments, a domestic employee who asked not to be identified, told the Times that she used to give back MOP500 to her boss after having MOP3,000 deposited into her account.

"MOP3,000 is the salary that is written on the contract but my boss only gives me MOP2,500, because I have to return the remaining to her," she said.

After working for her employer for three years, she said that she now receives the full amount deposited to her account, however this figure does not include housing allowance.

"It's really tough to live with a lot of people," the unnamed worker stressed. "But what can we do. If we'd move flats, it would be the same; and chances are, we would pay more," she added.

Maerell Wadason, another housekeeper, also shared that she does not receive any housing allowance as she was asked by her employer to reside in their apartment.

However, she refused to, because she has a family residing in the region, resulting in zero housing allowance granted to her. She now lives in an apartment with nine migrant workers.

"It doesn't matter anymore whether you feel convenient living with many people or not but what matters is being able to save some money," she commented. "You really have to go to an apartment where

you can still save some money for yourself or else your salary would only go to house expenses," she added.

Similarly to Justo, she noted that it is significantly better to live under good conditions with privacy as was the case in the past, yet due to excessive price of house rents, she has resorted to living with several flatmates.

These migrant workers face difficulties when handling the different outlooks and characteristics of the people they live with.

Since most of the migrant workers do not have relatives in the region, they are forced

to live with fellow nationals – but these people are still strangers.

Yet, their problems do not end there.

Some migrant workers act as a landlord where they rent an apartment, pay a three-month fee for deposit and agency fee.

Similar to Justo who acts as a landlady to her eight housemates, she stressed to the Times that it is problematic to communicate with real estate agencies.

"Based on my experience, some agencies really rush us to leave the apartment without even one-month's notice. They think that we have

that much money to pay another three-month rental fee," she complained.

According to the Times' sources, some real estate agencies rush these tenants to move out citing reasons such as the property being sold.

Justo noted that most agencies go so far as to offer an unrealistic price for a tiny flat, threatening the workers to "take it or leave it."

Meanwhile, another migrant worker, Starina Lelis, expressed her hope that the MSAR would help by increasing the minimum monthly living grant so as to prevent them from living with numerous others.

Lelis lives with 18 people in a five-room apartment that costs MOP8,000 per month.

According to her, she sleeps in a room with two bunk beds, along with three other roommates.

"It's a pity for my fellow compatriots who earn less than MOP3,500 because this salary is impossible especially if you are not a 'stay in' employee," she said.

Meanwhile, a Filipino Facebook group "Bahay Kubo sa Macau," which translates to "Nipa Hut in Macau," contains dozens of rooms that are up for rental purposes.

Some posts contain images of an "extension room," – a room that has been illegally transformed from a living room to a bedroom, for rental purposes.

The group serves as a platform for the community to share information and sell items online.

These dozens of "room for rent" posts show that not only do domestic helpers experience the strains of coping with the region's living standards but also of making less than Macau's average earnings.

## No contact with proprietors increases risk of high rents

THE Times is aware of situations where real-estate agencies prohibit tenants to be in contact with homeowners. This could imply that these tenants may be in danger of being ripped off, or vulnerable to an unnecessary increase in house rental rates.

While some tenants have direct deals with proprietors that require no agency fees, some simply transfer rent payments to banks which are claimed to be proprietors' accounts.

Justo, a tenant who doubts whether she pays monthly rents directly to the homeowner or an agency, hinted that she has no option but to pay to the instructed bank account number.

"I don't think the signee in the contract and the bank account that we deposit money into every month is the same," she said.

Although contracts may be written in English, some individuals only provide contracts written in Chinese characters.



Meanwhile, there are tenants who pay house rents along with electricity and water bills to the agency without the agent's proof of utility consumption receipts.

Some lodgers are also required to repaint the property and repair deteriorated domestic utilities without the owner reimbursing the cost.

# Tencent shares losing USD35b shows depth of China gloom

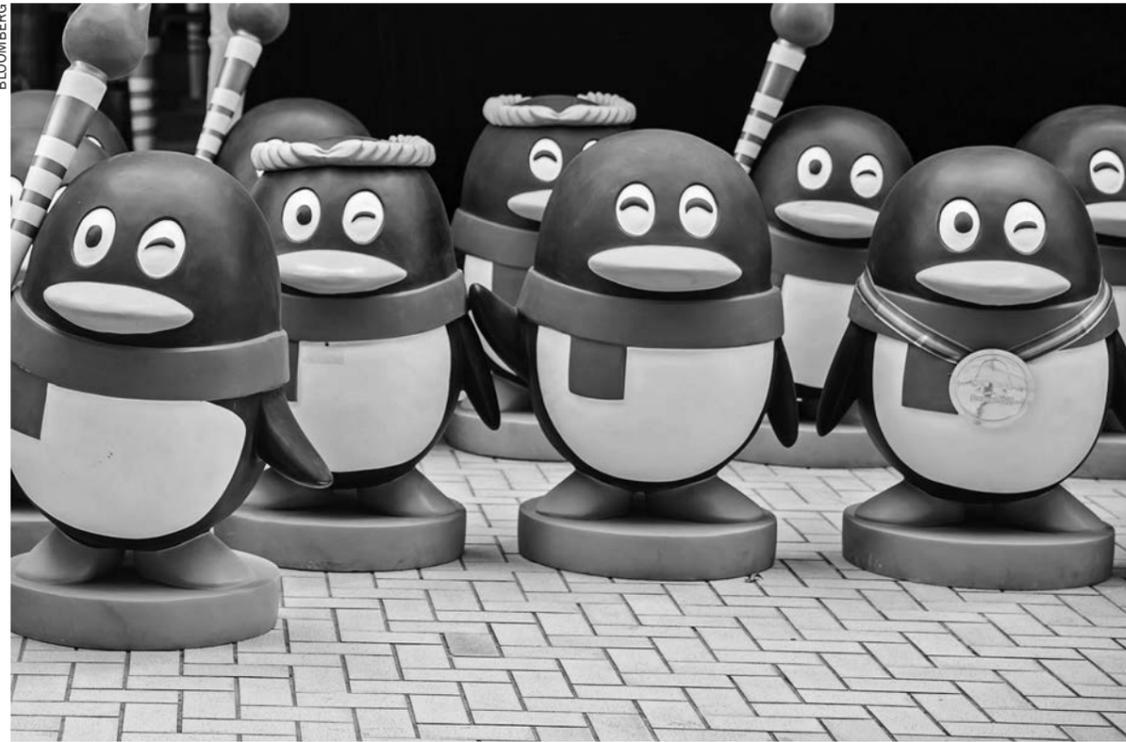
Kana Nishizawa

**F**OR a clue on how bearish foreign investors have become about Chinese stocks, take a look at Tencent Holdings Ltd.

The Shenzhen-based technology giant has tumbled 13 percent from its September record, wiping USD35 billion off the value of its shares, as overseas funds pulled money from Hong Kong and Chinese equities. The company's large weighting on the Hang Seng Index - at 10 percent - helped make Hong Kong's benchmark stock gauge one of the world's worst performers last quarter.

The company, which has more buy ratings than any other in Hong Kong, is a victim of fund redemption pressures, according to Asset Management One Singapore Pte. Investors pulled about \$409 million from exchange-traded funds that buy Chinese and Hong Kong stocks in the week through Dec. 21 as concern grew over a weakening yuan and tighter liquidity.

"If there are fund redemptions, it's hard to avoid selling



Tencent because its weighting is so big," said Toshihiko Takamoto, a Singapore-based portfolio manager at Asset Management One.

Tencent fell 0.2 percent at the close. The stock was the second-largest drag on the Hang Seng Index in the fourth quarter, after AIA Group

Ltd. The Hang Seng Index tumbled 5.6 percent in the period as China's currency plumbed lows not seen since 2008 against the dollar and concern about rising money market rates spurred a record meltdown in the nation's sovereign debt.

Such has been the exodus

that the top U.S. ETF focusing on China suffered the biggest outflows among emerging markets, sending total assets to the lowest level in a decade.

U.S. Federal Reserve officials last month increased their projections for interest-rate increases this year, tri-

ggering a surge in the dollar and Treasury yields. Higher U.S. bond yields will cause outflows from emerging markets and Hong Kong, Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. has warned.

The selloff hasn't shaken analysts' faith in the stock. Tencent has 43 buy ratings, 2 neutral recommendations and zero sells, according to analysts tracked by Bloomberg. The average 12-month target price implies a 26 percent advance over the next 12 months.

Analysts have their reasons to be optimistic. Tencent shares have rebounded after each selloff to make new highs during its 12-year listing, while the stock is the best performer on the Hang Seng Index in the past five years with a 500 percent gain.

The company reported a 43 percent jump in its third-quarter net income as its ability to attract Chinese gamers and social media helped fuel advertising growth. Profit is expected to continue growing for at least three more years, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

There are signs investors are turning less bearish. The stock gained 5.6 percent last week, its first weekly advance since late October, and rebounding from a five-month low.

"If you focus only on its fundamentals, the stock is still a buy," Takamoto said. **Bloomberg**

## British Airways faces strike Tuesday as crews spurn pay deal

Christopher Jasper

**B**RITISH Airways flight attendants will walk out next week after the carrier declined to extend their right to strike in return for renewed pay talks following the rejection of the latest offer, according to the Unite union.

So-called "mixed fleet" cabin crew, who work on both short- and long-haul flights from London's Heathrow airport, will take action for 48 hours from Tuesday, Jan. 10, the labor group said in a statement on its website.

Unite had scrapped calls for a walkout over the Christmas and Boxing Day holiday after British Airways proposed a new pay deal in talks at the U.K.'s Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Staff voted to reject the offer and the com-



pany subsequently declined to extend the strike mandate, the union said, adding that members must legally take action within 28 days of voting.

British Airways said it aims to ensure that all customers reach their destination during the planned disruption, with contingency measures to be detailed Friday. It added that Unite could have extended its strike righ-

ts via a fresh ballot, and that there has been no approach about talks since the ACAS negotiations ended.

About 2,500 of the 4,500 cabin crew who are on mixed-fleet contracts - out of about 16,000 flight attendants employed across BA - are Unite members and could potentially strike. A walkout would be the first since 22 days of action in 2010, af-

ter which crew accepted a deal including drastic pay cuts for new staff.

Salaries for mixed-fleet employees have been advertised as worth between 21,000 pounds and 25,000 pounds (USD26,000-\$31,000) a year, but in practice begin at 12,000 pounds plus 3 pounds for each hour flying, according to Unite.

British Airways, a unit of International Consolidated Airlines Group SA, says it has proposed "a fair and reasonable pay increase," in line with settlements at rival carriers. The company's first offer was worth an initial 2 percent and 7 percent over three years. Details of the subsequent proposal rejected by Unite members haven't been made public, though BA said that with new strike dates set that package has now been withdrawn. **Bloomberg**

FRANCE

## Le Pen lauds Ford decision as win for protectionism

**F**RENCH far right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen is cheering Ford Motor Co.'s decision to shift investment from Mexico to the U.S., calling it a victory for the protectionist policies she champions.

In a New Year's address to journalists yesterday, Le Pen said it's proof that "protectionism works, when it is led by determination, and when a country can exercise its economic independence. It is good for re-industrialization and good for jobs."

Le Pen, campaigning against immigration and the European Union, called Ford's move an example of "what Donald Trump obtained," apparently referring to his threats



Marine Le Pen

of tariffs on U.S. cars made in Mexico.

Ford is canceling plans to build a new USD1.6 billion factory in Mexico and will instead invest some of that money in a U.S. factory. **AP**

# KTRANZ

## TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

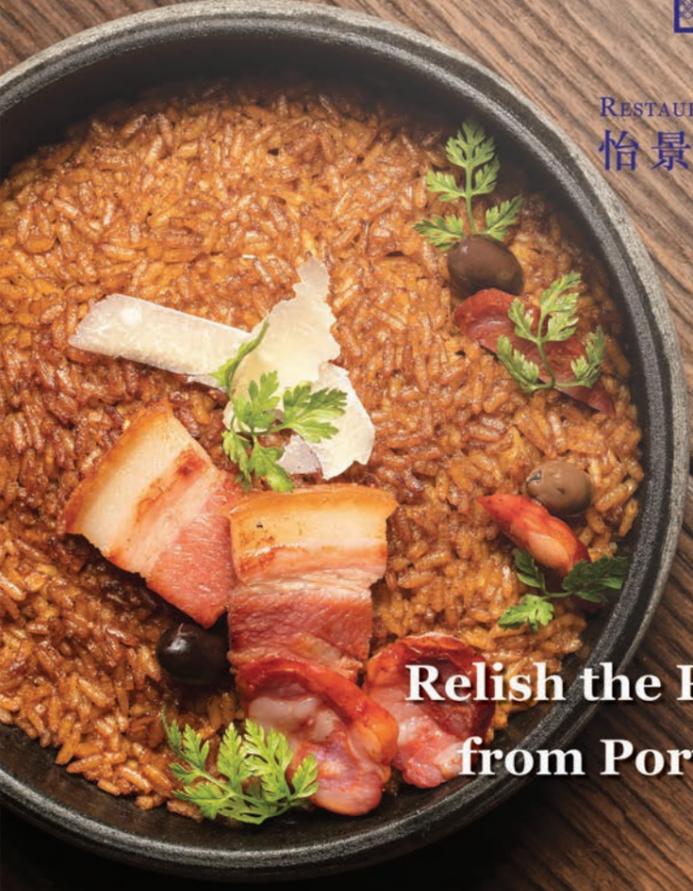
**ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS**

**Services**  
TRANSLATIONS,  
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,  
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

**Languages**  
ENGLISH, CHINESE,  
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,  
KOREAN, SPANISH,  
FRENCH, ARABIC,  
RUSSIAN

**We translate +10,000 words a day**

Contact: Ms Amy Yang  
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084  
Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR



**Vic's RESTAURANTE PORTUGUÊS 怡景葡國餐廳**

**Relish the Passion from Portugal**

**ROCKS HOTEL 萊斯酒店**  
G/F, Rocks Hotel, Macau Fisherman's Wharf  
Operation Hours: 07:00 - 23:00 Tel: (853) 8295 6583  
E-mail: info@rockshotel.com.mo www.rockshotel.com.mo



**Jointly present a Business Luncheon**  
**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Guest Speaker: Joe ZHOU**  
Regional Director, Head of Research -China  
Jones Lang LaSalle Limited  
**"The effects of Chinese investment on the Macau property market: What can we expect?"**

The Chinese economy has been going through a structural slowdown, as the government seeks to re-orient it from a dependence on investment towards domestic consumption as a more sustainable source of growth.

China had a turbulent start to 2016, then stabilised over the rest of the year. Short-term worries have subsided as stimulus measures gained traction.

Looking forward, will the economy continue to be guided downwards at a measured and non-disruptive pace? Or will the government choose to push forward more radical reform? What does this mean to Macau's property market?

**Venue: Ocean Room I, 1/F**  
**Mandarin Oriental, Macau**  
**12.30: Drinks**  
**1 pm: Lunch**  
**1.45 pm: Presentation by Joe Zhou**  
**2.30 pm: Close**

**Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event**  
**AmCham/BBAM/FMBA Members - MOP 400 - Non-Members - MOP 600**

**Co-sponsor** 

**Inquiries and RSVP to**  
bbam@britchammacao.org or phone +853 8798 9697  
info@amcham.org.mo or phone +853 2857 5059  
info@francemacao.com or phone 853 8798 9699



**CASA DE PORTUGAL EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會**

**Escola de Artes e Ofícios / School of Arts and Crafts**

**Montagem de Colares / Necklaces Assemblage**



monitora/monitor: Cristina Vinhas total: 9 horas/hours / 3 sessões/sessions  
propina/fee: início/starts: 07/01/2017 fim/finishes: 21/01/2017  
sócios/members MOP 360\* não sócios/non members MOP 560\*

horário/schedule: Sábados Saturdays 14h30 - 17h30  
língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English \*\*  
\*\*Aulas com tradução em Cantonense sempre que o número de alunos o justifique. Sessions with Cantonese translation when the number of students justifies it.

patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau  
número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants: 10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina). 10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

\* Contactar a sede da CPM para informações sobre modalidades de pagamento. Please contact CPM's headquarters for payment information.  
\*\* Aulas com tradução em Cantonense sempre que o número de alunos o justifique. Sessions with Cantonese translation when the number of students justifies it.

morada/address: Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva, nº 28, R.A.E. de Macau tel: (853) 28 726 828 fax: (853) 28 726 818  
www.casadeportugal.org portugal@macau.ctm.net

Joe McDonald, Beijing

**O**THER investors are wary of Brazil, but when Duke Energy wanted to sell 10 hydroelectric dams there, a Chinese utility shrugged off the country's economic turmoil and paid USD1.2 billion to add them to an energy empire that stretches from Malaysia to Germany to the Amazon.

State-owned China Three Gorges Group is spending heavily to buy or build hydro, wind and solar projects at a time when Western utility investors are pulling back and President-elect Donald Trump's pledge to revive coal use has raised doubt about U.S. support for renewables.

"They're happy to invest wherever they see value or they can gain a foothold," said Andrew Shepherd, who follows the global utility industry for BMI Research.

Flush with cash and willing to tolerate risks that put off older rivals, CTG and other state-owned utilities including State Grid Corp., the world's biggest power supplier, are expanding abroad in search of new revenue sources as economic growth and electricity demand at home cool.

A decade ago, they built dams and power plants in Asia and Africa. Now, they also are taking on a longer-term role as operators of power companies in Europe and Australia and are looking at the U.S. market. They are providing welcome investment in troubled markets such as Brazil and southern Europe.

Set up in 1993 to run the vast Three Gorges Dam in central China, CTG is unusual in its status as a national-level Chinese power company with global ambitions but a reliance on non-fossil-fuels sources.

The company still gets most of its 60 gigawatts of generating capacity from dams. Its namesake 46-gigawatt facility on the Yangtze River competes with Brazil's Itaipu Dam for the title of world's biggest hydropower facility.

Such projects face a backlash over environmental damage and forced relocation of local com-

# Renewable power giant builds global empire

munities.

In August, Brazil's environmental agency rejected a proposal by CTG and Portugal's national power company, Energias de Portugal, to build the 8-gigawatt Sao Luis do Tapajos Dam on the Amazon. The dam would have flooded land belonging to Mundurucu Indians.

CTG, which says it is active in 40 countries, starting investing in wind power in 2007 and solar in 2011 — projects that are easier and more politically attractive.

In June, it bought a wind farm in Germany from Blackstone Energy Partners. A CTG-built dam in Malaysia started commercial generation in May. CTG has a joint venture with Australian startup RayGen Resources to set up solar projects in China.

In the past five years, CTG has spent more than USD10 billion on hydro and wind assets in Brazil, Germany, Italy, Poland and Portugal, according to Dealogic, a financial data provider. It also has built a dam in neighboring Laos and a wind farm in Pakistan.

"Three Gorges Group takes building an international first-rate clean energy group as a strategic goal," the company said in a written response to questions. It said its European presence is a "development platform" for North America.

The ruling Communist Party is spending heavily on renewable energy to curb reliance on imported oil and gas and on coal, reduce eye-searing smog and create profitable technologies.

Not including large-scale hydroelectric dams, China invested \$103 billion last year in wind, solar and other renewable sources, according to the U.N. Environment Program. The U.S. spent \$44 billion.

Beijing's spending is nurturing Chinese export industries. The



This 2008 photo released by Duke Energy shows an aerial view of the Chavantes Hydroelectric Plant, at Paranapanema river, Sao Paulo state, Brazil

country's solar panel makers are global industry leaders and its wind turbine manufacturers are stepping up exports.

In the United States, CTG and other Chinese investors may face tougher scrutiny under Trump, who castigated Beijing during his campaign and has appointed advisers favoring a more antagonistic stance on trade.

And when it comes to acquiring U.S. assets, that market is crowded with experienced, deep-pocketed potential rivals such as Duke, Southern Company and Dominion Resources.

"Chinese power companies may be interested to look at opportunities in North America. However, so far there have been few," said Daniel Qiu, a managing director in Credit Suisse's Asia Pacific investment banking group.

As a springboard to new

markets, CTG paid \$3.5 billion in 2011 for 21 percent of Energias de Portugal, one of the biggest global investors in wind energy.

Their tie-up might help ease CTG's entry into the United States since EdP's Houston-based U.S. arm owns wind farms in New York, Iowa, Texas and other states.

"This is an interesting way for Three Gorges to essentially get access to U.S. renewable projects through the back door," said Shepherd.

The two companies are building two hydropower projects in Brazil in addition to the dams CTG is buying from Duke Energy.

CTG has ample resources, with 563.7 billion yuan (\$82.8 billion) in assets including 18.7 billion yuan (\$2.7 billion) in cash — more than double the

price of Duke Energy's Brazilian dams. The company earned 28.8 billion yuan (\$4.2 billion) in profit in 2015 on revenue of 63.5 billion yuan (\$9.3 billion).

Industrywide, China's state-owned utilities have spent more than \$30 billion to buy all or parts of power suppliers in Brazil, Germany, New Zealand and other countries over the past five years, according to Dealogic.

The bulk of that came from State Grid, which has spent \$22 billion in Brazil, Australia, Italy, Greece and Portugal. In 2013, it made China's biggest utility acquisition in a developed country, paying \$6.7 billion for 60 percent of Australia's SGSP (Australia) Assets Pty. Ltd., an operator of gas and electric distribution networks.

"They are much more aggressive and are more willing to take on risk," said Shepherd. **AP**

**C**HINA has studied possible scenarios for the yuan and capital outflows this year and is preparing contingency plans, according to people familiar with the matter.

The authorities have used stress tests, models and field research, said the people who asked not to be identified as the studies haven't been made public yet. Financial regulators have already encouraged some state-owned enterprises to sell foreign currency and may order them to

## PRC considering options to back yuan, curb outflows

temporarily convert some holdings into yuan under the current account if necessary, they added. The State Administration of Foreign Exchange didn't immediately reply to a fax seeking comment.

The reported plans come amid increasing pressure on the yuan from a resurgent dollar, rising capital outflows and concern that U.S. President-elect Donald Trump may

make good on his threats to take punitive measures on China's exports. Policy makers in Beijing have recently taken a slew of measures to tighten control of the currency market, including placing higher scrutiny on citizens' conversion quotas and stricter requirements for banks reporting cross-border transactions.

"China has been challenged by capital out-

flows and declining foreign-exchange reserves, and policy makers are taking measures to solve the problem," said Eddie Cheung, a Hong Kong-based foreign-exchange strategist at Standard Chartered Plc, the most accurate forecaster for Asian emerging-market currencies according to a Bloomberg ranking. "Funds will continue to exit in the first half due to

individuals' purchases of the dollar and on concerns of U.S. political uncertainty."

China may also further sell U.S. Treasuries in 2017 if needed to keep the yuan's exchange rate stable, the people said, adding that the size of the reduction will depend on capital outflows and market intervention. The nation's holdings of Treasuries declined to the

lowest in more than six years in October as the world's second-largest economy used its currency reserves to support the yuan.

China's currency stockpile has probably shrunk further after hitting a five-year low of USD3.05 trillion in November, according to the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey before data due as early as this week. **Bloomberg**

# First China-U.K. freight train departs as Xi seeks to lift trade



Containers are seen at Yiwu West Railway Station in Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang Province

**C**HINA initiated a rail-freight service to Britain as part of President Xi Jinping's efforts to strengthen trade ties with Europe.

The first train departed Yiwu in eastern Zhejiang province on Jan. 1 and will cover more than 12,000 kilometers in about 18 days before reaching London, China Railway Corp. said in a statement Monday. The service, carrying garments, bags and suitcases among other items, will pass through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany, Belgium and France.

London becomes the 15th European city with direct trains from China following

the unveiling of Xi's so-called Belt-and-Road initiative in 2013. The plan put transport links at the center of efforts to create a modern Silk Road and boost commercial ties to markets across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

While the train can carry about 200 containers, versus 20,000 on a large cargo vessel, the trip takes about half as long as a 30-day sailing between East Asia and northern Europe. That will make rail a competitive option when maritime shipments are held up or miss the booked departure, especially compared with airfreight, which costs twice as much, according to Michael White, operations

director at Brunel Shipping, the U.K. booking agent for the service.

Brunel is also involved in the operation of a China-Madrid freight train that's run for more than a year and ranks as the world's longest rail service, ahead even of the Moscow-Vladivostok trans-Siberian passenger route. The Spanish train carries olive oil back to China, and White said in an interview that the U.K. operation, which will unload in Barking, east London, needs to tap a similar export flow, possibly of British designer goods.

China has initially set aside about USD40 billion in a fund to finance roads and railways abroad under Pre-

sident Xi's strategy, while trade with countries along the corridor could reach \$2.5 trillion in about a decade, Yao Gang, the then vice chairman of China Securities Regulatory Commission, said in 2015.

Railways are one of the top priorities of Xi and only last month, the country announced that it plans to spend 3.5 trillion yuan (\$503 billion) to expand the national system by 2020.

A high-speed rail network will span more than 30,000 kilometers under the plan, according to a State Council Information Office briefing in Beijing last week. The distance, about 6.5 times the length of a road trip between New York and Los Angeles, will cover 80 percent of major cities in China.

China has also used railways as a diplomatic tool overseas. Chinese domestic train manufacturers have targeted emerging markets in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia for rail-related orders while also bidding for high-profile contracts in the developed world.

China's economy is on pace to meet the official growth target, posting 6.7 percent expansions in the first three quarters of 2016.

The Xinhua state news service reported the departure of the first China-London train earlier. **Bloomberg**

## Ugandans at Chinese company strike over alleged harassment

Risdel Kasasira

**A**T least 400 Ugandan workers at a Chinese-owned construction company went on strike Tuesday to protest alleged sexual harassment by managers and poor pay.

The angry employees staged a demonstration outside the offices of the state-owned China Railway Seventh Group in Uganda's capital, Kampala.

One of the workers, Agnes Namusisi, said managers pay employees who agree to their sexual advances.

"I have not been paid for the last three months because I refused sexual advances from my boss," Namusisi said.

The alleged mistreatment also includes long hours and supervisors beating workers who are delayed getting to their jobs, she said.

Kampala's Kawembe division's Town Clerk Geoffrey Rwakabale said the road construction work that China Railway Seventh Group was hired to do has been suspended for three days pending the outcome of discussions between city authorities and company managers.

"We have decided that workers temporarily stop working until Thursday as we engage the managers of the company," Turwakabale said.

Kampala Mayor Erias Lukwago said the city would consider "black-

listing" the Chinese company, if it doesn't address the workers' concerns.

Calls to the offices of the China Railway Seventh Group, based in the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou, rang unanswered yesterday while a man who answered the general line said he could not handle media requests and then hung up. Parent company China Railway Engineering Corp. would not take questions by phone and did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

The World Bank canceled a 225-kilometer road construction project in western Uganda worth USD265 million in December 2015 after a review found evidence of misconduct by a government contractor, including sexual harassment of female workers and road workers having sex with minors. **AP**

INTERNET

## Sogou targets USD5b IPO to chase rival Baidu



Baidu Inc. headquarters

**C**HINA'S third-biggest search engine expects to hold a U.S. initial public offering at a valuation of as much as USD5 billion as it raises cash to close the gap with leader Baidu Inc. in the mobile market.

Sogou, whose name means "search dog," plans to sell about 10 percent of its shares in an IPO that will probably be held this year, Chief Executive Officer Wang Xiaochuan said in an interview. The company, which is backed by social media giant Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Sohu.com Inc., hasn't formally hired banks to run the listing. Sohu shares rose the most in 10 months.

While Baidu remains the biggest provider across all platforms in China, it's under siege after a scandal over medical advertising as smaller rivals including Sogou and Qihoo 360 Technology Co. win mobile users. Wang plans to use part of the IPO proceeds to improve search results by backing companies developing artificial intelligence and machine-learning technologies.

"Over the past year, we've seen a trend where people are finding themselves not trusting Baidu as much and some are even seeking a replacement," he said at the company's Beijing headquarters. "So over the next year or two, as more people feel more comfortable with Sogou they'll realize it is able to replace Baidu."

Sohu said a Sogou IPO isn't on the agenda right now. Shares of Sohu rose 4.9 percent to \$35.54 in New York, the biggest gain since March 4. The stock has declined 34 percent in the past year. Tencent's shares rose about 0.4 percent as of 9:36 a.m. in Hong Kong.

Baidu accounted for 44.5 percent of mobile search queries in the third quarter, while Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.-backed Shenma had 20.8 percent and Sogou was third with 16.2 percent, according to research from iiMedia.

Other independent researchers including Analysys International reported that Sogou was China's second-largest provider to the country's mobile users while some surveys have the company as the nation's second-largest overall.

Wang said Sogou can match Baidu in mobile search within three years. Baidu declined to comment.

Marie Sun, an analyst at Morningstar Investment Service, said Wang's emphasis on artificial intelligence was the correct strategy as search engines around the world adopt the technology to improve results. Still, Baidu has a massive advantage in machine-learning given its history of dominance and access to data.

"The problem is I don't think they have that much data. Baidu has a lot more data," said Sun. "If you don't have the data, then you can't expect your machine to learn as fast."

Sogou, which merged with Tencent's Soso search business in 2013, is counting on partnerships with investors and smartphone makers to win market share.

Sogou is the only search engine formally allowed to trawl through public messages on Tencent's WeChat platform, which has more than 800 million users. It's also signing deals with device makers to ensure more smartphones are shipped with its software already installed, adopting a successful strategy used by microblog Weibo.

While Tencent owns a substantial stake in Sogou, the search company is run as a subsidiary of Sohu.com thanks to a dual-class share structure. Wang said the relationship between its main backers is strong but both sides were still discussing how the ownership structure would change once Sogou is listed. **Bloomberg**

# Suspected rebels storm Philippine jail, 158 inmates escape

The jail held 1,511 inmates, including Bangsamoro members facing murder charges for a series of bombings in the province, officials said. It was the third attack on the provincial jail facility since 2007.

■ The jail held 1,511 inmates, including Bangsamoro members facing murder charges for a series of bombings in the province



Filipino inmates remain in their cell at the North Cotabato District Jail



Policemen patrol outside the walls of the North Cotabato District Jail in Kidapawan

**M**ORE than 100 suspected Muslim rebels stormed a jail in the southern Philippines before dawn yesterday, allowing 158 inmates to escape in what officials said was the biggest jailbreak in the country.

Six of the inmates were killed in firefights with pursuing police and army troops, while eight others have been caught and were being returned to the facility, said Senior Inspector

Xavier Solda, spokesman for the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Solda said the heavily armed gunmen emerged from a forest and attacked the North Cotabato District Jail in Kidapawan city in Cotabato Province is about 930 kilometers southeast of the capital Manila.

"To my knowledge, this is the biggest jailbreak in the history"

of the bureau, Solda said in a telephone interview.

Acting Provincial Jail Warden Supt. Peter John Bongngat Jr. said one of the about 20 prison guards on duty was killed and an inmate was wounded in an initial gunbattle.

Bongngat and Kidapawan police chief Supt. Leo Ajero said gunfire continued for hours after the attack as army troops and police, some in armored

tanks, hunted through the surrounding forests for the escaped inmates and the gunmen who freed them.

Bongngat said the attackers were suspected to include members of the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and guerrillas who broke away from the main Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has signed a peace deal with the government.

Local village leader Alexander Austria told The Associated Press by telephone that he and his men captured one escaped man.

He said the gunfire woke his village, which was several kilometers from the prison, and he immediately posted guards because of worries the attackers and escaped inmates could enter the village.

"We heard the gunfire and we sprang into action to guard our village," Austria said. "We were afraid the escapees could try to enter our village to hide or take hostages." AP

Dake Kang,  
Kaweewit Kaewjinda

**T**HAILAND'S prime minister vowed yesterday to crack down on the country's private van transportation industry after a fiery crash that killed 25 people.

Thailand has one of the highest traffic fatality rates in the world, and vans — especially used for commuting, but also for inter-provincial travel — have been involved in a number of accidents involving multiple deaths.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said he will tighten regulations on van transport in response to revelations that the 64-year-old driver responsible for the crash may have skirted regulations and not gotten enough sleep, causing him to doze off while driving. Experts say private van drivers push themselves to the limit, often driving overtime and going over the speed limit in order to earn as much money as possible.

"Why have past governments allowed illegal vans to operate? Nobody's been following regulations from the start," Prayuth said at a news conference, address-

## Thai PM plans driving crackdown after deadly van crash



ing the general problem. "From now on, I will be strict. If anyone cannot drive, then don't drive."

He also said he will set up more checkpoints to enforce the law. As head of a military government, he can shortcut normal legal and legislative requirements.

The van with 15 people had been on its way to Bangkok from eastern Thailand on Monday when it swerved

over the median into oncoming traffic and collided head-on with a pickup truck carrying 12 people, causing both vehicles to catch fire. One person from each vehicle survived.

Officials said the crash occurred during the fifth time in 31 hours that the van driver was making the five-hour, 250-kilometer journey, suggesting exhaustion was a key factor in the crash,

along with the vehicle's high speed.

"The accident happened on a straight road and the van crossed the median without stopping or slowing down," said Wittaya Prayongpan, assistant national police chief. "It's clear the van was the reckless offender."

Jittichai Rudjanakanoknad, a professor of transportation studies at Chuka-

They try to speed as much as they can so that they can return and pick up more passengers.

JITTICHAJ  
RUDJANAKANOKNAD  
SCHOLAR

longkorn University, said private van operators are not controlled well by the government.

"They try to speed as much as they can so that they can return and pick up more passengers... their working hours aren't controlled, there's a lack of sleep among drivers, and the vehicles are

not inspected well by the government because they're registered as private vehicles," he said.

Driving passengers in vans between provinces for profit was illegal ten years ago, but public pressure mounted on the government to legalize the vans again. The vans are more popular than buses because they're significantly faster, pick up passengers at more convenient stops, and are just as cheap.

The Transport Ministry says it is discussing measures to improve traffic safety, including vehicle GPS tracking systems, tighter driving regulations and a shift from vans to buses for long-distance trips by 2019.

"There will be stricter speed limits," said Somsak Hommaung, the ministry's deputy permanent secretary, in a phone interview. "There should also be measures to deal with medians that are too narrow. Drivers' physical conditions will be looked at."

Thailand has one of the highest vehicle fatality rates in the world at 36.2 deaths per 100,000 people, according to a 2015 World Health Organization report. AP

Matthew Pennington, Washington

# Trump's slim N. Korea options: Diplomacy, sanctions, force

**D**ONALD Trump says he is confident North Korea won't develop a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike the United States. But his options for stopping the reclusive communist country are slim: diplomacy that would reward Pyongyang, sanctions which haven't worked, and military action that no one wants.

For more than two decades, Republican and Democratic administrations have tried carrots and sticks to steer North Korea away from nuclear weapons. Each has failed. And as Trump prepares to take office Jan. 20, the stakes are rising.

Pyongyang may already be able to arm short-range and mid-range missiles with atomic warheads, threatening U.S. allies South Korea and Japan, and American forces in each country. On Sunday, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said preparations for launching an intercontinental ballistic missile "reached the final stage."

Trump tweeted the following day: "It won't happen!" Some experts believe the North is likely to have the capability to strike the U.S. mainland before Trump's four-year term is up.

The president-elect has given conflicting signals about what he plans to do, while stressing that China, North Korea's traditional ally, must exert greater pressure on its unpredictable neighbor.

Some of his options:

## DIPLOMACY

In June, Trump called for dialogue with North Korea and suggested a talk with Kim over a hamburger.

If only talking with the secretive, hereditary rulers in Pyongyang were so simple. No sitting U.S. president has ever done so.

Diplomacy with the North is a delicate dance and agreements have proved temporary.

Three U.S. administrations, going back to President Bill Clinton, have persuaded the North to disarm in exchange for aid. Each effort eventually failed, and there is deep



South Koreans watch a TV news program showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's New Year's speech

skepticism in Congress about trying again.

A 1994 deal would have given North Korea nuclear power reactors and normalized ties with Washington. North Korea's plutonium production paused for several years. But after it emerged the North also was seeking to use uranium for weapons, the arrangement collapsed.

Six-nation nuclear negotiations hosted by China have been on ice since North Korea withdrew in 2009.

The Obama administration attempted to restart them in 2012, early in Kim's rule, by offering food aid for a nuclear and missile freeze. Within weeks, the North tried to lau-

unch a long-range rocket. The effort was abandoned.

Since then, the U.S. has resorted to "strategic patience" — demanding North Korea recommit to denuclearization before holding talks. Pyongyang has refused, demanding the U.S. end military exercises with South Korea and negotiate a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War.

American officials fear the North only would want talks to ease its isolation, and not to resolve the nuclear question.

## SANCTIONS

International sanctions have tightened since North Korea conducted its first of

five nuclear tests in 2006. But the country has adeptly circumvented restrictions on sensitive technology and money flows, and used its own capabilities to develop weapons.

Additional U.S. sanctions, beefed up last year, punish foreign companies and banks dealing with North Korea. They, too, haven't been effective because the North's international isolation makes it less susceptible to such pressure than a major economy like Iran, which curbed its nuclear program in 2015 after being battered by oil, trade and financial sanctions.

China's role is critical. It dominates trade with the Nor-

th and has resisted sanctions that could destabilize Pyongyang, fearing the possibility of a U.S.-allied, unified Korea emerging.

When the U.N. Security Council punished Pyongyang for another nuclear test in September, the primary goal was closing a loophole that enabled China to import North Korean coal at record levels.

The last several U.S. administrations entered office determined to break Beijing's partnership with Pyongyang. None succeeded.

## MILITARY

Using military force against North Korea is extremely risky. Even before it developed nuclear weapons, the North maintained the ability to strike Seoul, South Korea's capital, with a potentially devastating artillery barrage. Although doing so would invite a blistering U.S. response, it's hardly a scenario any American commander-in-chief wants to contemplate. The military option has been considered before.

Clinton considered a strike on the North's nuclear facilities after it announced it would reprocess fuel from a nuclear reactor, providing it plutonium for bombs. Diplomacy appeared to win out that time with the 1994 agreement.

A military strike would be harder to pull off now. North Korea has expanded its nuclear and missile programs significantly, meaning more targets would have to be hit. And regional support would be questionable.

In a recent paper, former U.S. negotiator Joel Wit said the escalation risk meant neither South Korea nor Japan would likely support a military strike. It could also draw into the conflict China, which fought on North Korea's side against U.S.-led forces six decades ago. **AP**

# Magnitude 7.2 quake hits near Fiji; tsunami alert issued

**A** powerful earthquake struck off the coast of Fiji yesterday, prompting a brief tsunami warning for the Pacific island nation. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The magnitude 7.2

quake, which hit at 9:52 a.m. local time, struck about 220 kilometers southwest of the tourist hub of Nadi, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The quake was a relatively shallow 15 kilometers deep. Shallower quakes generally cause

more damage than ones that strike deeper.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a tsunami warning for coastlines within 300 kilometers of the epicenter, then lifted the warning about an hour later. A tsunami of just

1 centimeter was observed in the capital of Suva, the center said.

Fiji's Principal Disaster Management Officer, Sunia Ratulevu, said there had been no reports of damage or injuries from the quake, and no unusual wave activity

had been reported. The quake struck far offshore and was not felt in Suva or Nadi, he said.

When the tsunami alert was issued, people in Suva fled their offices and headed inland, Ratulevu said. But by early afternoon, authorities

were telling people the threat had passed and it was safe to return to work.

Fiji is prone to earthquakes because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean. **AP**



A Turkish special security force member patrols near the scene of the Reina night club following the New Year's day attack



A man believed to be the gunman who killed dozens at an Istanbul nightclub, films himself as he wanders nearby to Istanbul's Taksim square

# Turkey identifies club gunman; Erdogan speaks to nation

Dusan Stojanovic, Istanbul

**T**URKEY has identified the gunman in the Istanbul nightclub massacre, the foreign minister said yesterday as the president vowed that the country won't surrender to terrorists or become divided.

The gunman, who killed 39 people during New Year's celebrations at the Reina club, is still at large. But Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said authorities had identified the man, without providing details.

"The identity of the person who carried out the attack on the Reina nightclub has been established," Cavusoglu told Anadolu in a live televised interview.

Turkish police, meanwhile, detained 20 suspected Islamic State group militants, including 11 women, believed to be linked to the attack, the state-run news agency reported. The operation was launched in the Aegean port city of Izmir.

Anadolu said the suspects were from the largely Muslim Russian republic of Dagestan, from China's Muslim Uighur minority and from Syria. It said they are thought to have lived with the nightclub attacker.

IS has claimed responsibility for the attack, which also wounded nearly 70 people. Of those killed 27 were foreigners, many from the Middle East. Islamic State said a "soldier of the caliphate" had

carried out the mass shooting to avenge Turkish military operations against IS in northern Syria.

The private Dogan news agency said that yesterday's police operation targeted three families who had arrived in Izmir about 20 days ago from Konya — a city in central Turkey where the gunman is thought to have been based before carrying out the nightclub attack. It said 27 people, including women and children, were taken into custody.

At least 16 people were previously detained in connection with the attack, including two foreigners stopped Tuesday at the international terminal of Istanbul's Ataturk Airport after police checked their cellphones and luggage, according to Anadolu.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that the attack aimed to set Turks against each other and deepen fault lines, but that the country would not fall "for this game."

Erdogan made the comments in a live speech from Ankara, the first time he has publicly addressed the nation since the attack.

Responding to accusations in the past that Turkey had given support to the Islamic State group, Erdogan said that "to present the country — which is leading the greatest struggle against Daesh — as one that is supporting terrorism is what the terror organization wants."

Erdogan said that "to

say Turkey has surrendered to terrorism is to take sides with the terrorists and terror organizations."

Erdogan also said that "in Turkey, no one's way of life is under any threat. Those who claim this have to prove it. It is my duty to protect everyone's rights."

It was in response to a campaign before the attack by some government supporters who warned against New Year's celebrations they depicted as a Western or Christian tradition, as well as some social media postings that seemed to support the attack. The campaign and social media postings caused uproar amid secular Turks who said their lifestyles were being threatened. The government has said authorities were taking measures on social media accounts that allegedly "support terrorism and foster divisiveness in society."

Police in Istanbul have set up checkpoints and are checking vehicles across the city as security levels remained high. Police were stopping cars and Istanbul's ubiquitous yellow taxis, with passengers and drivers holding up their identifications while officers inspected inside the vehicles. Istanbul has been on high alert since the attack, with the gunman still at large.

Hurriyet newspaper said the gunman had previously entered Turkey twice, in 2014 and in 2015. He is believed to have slipped into Syria illegally, where he received training

in the use of guns and bombs and fought.

Pro-government Sabah newspaper said the gunman had been in contact believed to be a chief IS operative in Istanbul as well as his aide — a Tajik man who reportedly was among those detained.

According to Sabah, the gunman was born in 1988 and is believed to be a Kyrgyz national. It said he speaks Russian, Uzbek, Arabic and Turkish.

## Some of the suspects are from China's Uighur region

Haber Turk newspaper reported meanwhile, that after the attack, the gunman walked some 400 meters and then took a taxi but was forced to get off because he didn't have any money on him. He later got on another taxi and woke up some Uighurs working at a restaurant in Istanbul's Zeytinburnu district to get some money and pay the driver. The newspaper said seven Uighurs either working or sheltering at the restaurant have since been taken into custody.

The newspaper interviewed the owner of the restaurant, Semsettin Dursun, a Uighur who said he didn't know the gunman. He also condemned the attack on Turkey which

"had opened its arms to those who escaped" China.

Turkey's European Union affairs Omer Celik minister said the attack was carried out in an "extremely professional way" and that the assailant appeared to have received training "in the Middle East."

He said the attacker was using methods "that avoid all modern intelligence techniques" of tracking, including acting alone, not contacting anyone and "not using technology."

Turkish media reports claimed Tuesday that the gunman's wife was in custody and had told police she didn't know her husband was linked to IS. An eerie selfie video emerged of the alleged gunman on Tuesday, showing him silently touring Istanbul's most famous square.

Funerals were held in Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Turkey for the dead and yesterday, a Turkish Airlines jet carrying the bodies of two Indian citizens killed in the shooting landed in Mumbai. The bodies were received by a governing party lawmaker, and the victims' relatives and friends.

Bollywood film producer-realtor Abis Rizvi's body was taken to his home in suburban Bandra for burial. The 49-year-old Rizvi wrote, produced and directed a Bollywood movie "Roar: The Tigers of Sunderbans," in 2014 aimed at spreading awareness about tigers.

The other Indian victim of the Istanbul attack was Khushi Shah, a 39-year-old fashion designer from Vadodara, a city in the western Indian state of Gujarat. Shah's body was flown to her hometown for cremation, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. **AP**

## SWEDEN

# Six-hour workday runs into trouble: It's too costly

Amanda Billner

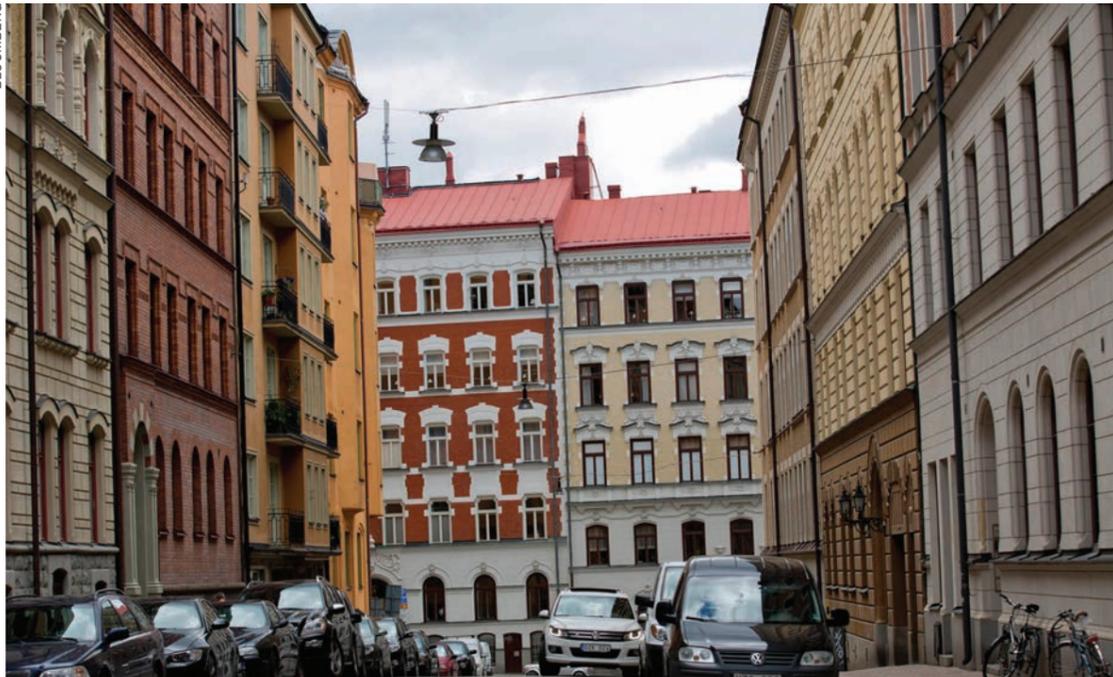
**S**WEDES looking forward to a six-hour workday just got some bad news: the costs outweigh the benefits.

That's according to the preliminary results of a two-year experiment carried out in the Swedish city of Gothenburg, the home of Volvo. Working hours were shortened to 6 for the 68 nurses at the Svartedalen old people's home, who got to keep the same salary level. To cover for the reduction, the city had to hire 17 extra staff at a cost of about 12 million kronor (USD1.3 million) for the duration of the project.

The study showed that employees at Svartedalen residential home felt healthier, which reduced sick-leave absence, and that patient care improved. But the city won't push ahead to make the plan permanent.

"It's associated with higher costs, absolutely," said Daniel Bernmar, a local left-wing politician responsible for running the municipality's elderly care. "It's far too expensive to carry out a general shortening of working hours within a reasonable

BLOMBERG



Residential apartment blocks stand in the Ostermalm district of Stockholm

time frame."

The Gothenburg experiment is just the latest in a series of shorter working day trials carried out in Sweden, a country that prides itself on its generous welfare state. The trial has been closely wat-

ched globally, with labor activists touting progressive Sweden as a role model in shortening working hours.

The debate over working hours is taking center stage in France, where Conservative presidential can-

didate Francois Fillon has vowed to scrap the 35-hour work week, which he says has "done a lot of damage."

While historical data shows that the length of average working days has fallen in Sweden over the

past century, there are currently no plans to establish six-hour working days at a national level.

Still, the added hiring by the municipality has helped the coffers of the national government by reducing unemployment costs by 4.7 million kronor during the first 18 months of the trial due to new jobs, according to the interim report.

■ The study showed that employees at Svartedalen residential home felt healthier, which reduced sick leave absence

Bernmar says he'd like to see more studies into whether an abbreviated working day could also result in long-term gains for society as a whole. One argument is that it could allow people employed in labor-intensive professions to extend their working life.

"I personally believe in shorter working hours as a long-term solution," he said. "The richer we become, the more we need to take advantage of that wealth in other ways than through a newer car or higher consumption." **Bloomberg**

Anne D'Innocenzio,  
Las Vegas

**W**HAT if your room on a cruise ship were to unlock automatically as you approach, or if the wait staff could bring your favorite cocktail before you even ask?

Carnival Corp., the operator of such cruise lines as Princess, Holland America and Carnival, wants to make that happen so it can get cozier with its guests and make cruises even more personalized.

Carnival is using the CES gadget show in Las Vegas yesterday to unveil new concierge technology designed to help crew members anticipate and respond to passengers' needs. It will rely on sensors and wearable trackers, and is scheduled to debut on the Regal Princess cruise ship in November.

The leisure-cruise industry is playing catch-up with travel peers like hotels and airlines, which now let you unlock rooms with a smartwatch or fly with a boarding pass on your phone.

Personalization is important as cruise ships get bigger and come across as impersonal, said Mike Driscoll, edi-

tor-in-chief of Cruise Week, an industry publication. Personalization can also help cruise companies attract more first-timers, including tech-savvy millennials.

"It's catching up to what life is like on the land," Driscoll said.

Whether anticipating guests' needs will feel useful or creepy remains to be seen. Those who might be spooked don't have to use the medallion or can limit how much they want to participate, Carnival CEO Arnold Donald said.

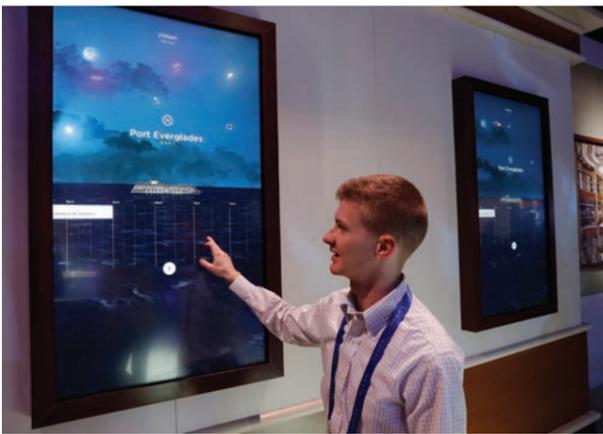
"In the end, the guests will tell us," Donald told The Associated Press. "If it doesn't [resonate], it's back to the drawing board."

The linchpin of the system is a tracking medallion the size of a quarter. Cruise passengers wear it as a pendant, throw it into a purse or place it in a pocket. The medallion uses wireless technologies to communicate with sensors placed around the ship, cruise terminals and even airports, where staff can provide personalized greetings as passengers fly in.

Crew members armed with tablets can respond to any needs nearby. For example, a guest could be having a

## TOURISM

## Cruise company Carnival gets personal with concierge tech



Miles Clark of Carnival Corp. demonstrates the Ocean Compass interface in Las Vegas

drink when a crew member comes by to remind him that a yoga class starts in five minutes. Or a waiter working poolside can ask whether a guest wants her usual gin and tonic.

In addition, interactive displays can offer personalized directions to guests' rooms. And the medallion ties into a payment system, so no one has to swipe or sign anything

when buying souvenirs or drinks.

Donald said he hopes the service will encourage customers to sign up for repeat cruises while spending more on incidentals.

Different passengers might react quite differently to the service. "With your 83-year-old aunt in Saskatchewan, it might be too much," Driscoll said. But for a passenger in

his 50s, such as Driscoll, it could make life on the ship "just easier."

Carnival plans to expand the setup to all other Princess ships in the next several years and eventually to other vessels. Carnival, the world's largest leisure travel company, owns more than 100 ships across 10 brands.

Personalization isn't new to the travel industry. Walt Disney World in Florida has a MagicBand wristband device that doubles as a room key and "FastPass" reservations to popular rides. The MagicBand is also linked to a credit card for speedier payments at restaurants and gift shops.

John Padgett, who was one of the chief architects of the MagicBand before joining Carnival in 2014, said the cruise ship's system goes further in eliminating the need to touch or tap a terminal. Sensors pick up signals automatically.

"There are no wires. There is no charging," Padgett said. "It doesn't require a guest or consumer to do anything specific."

Carnival officials say there will be safeguards against someone walking away with another guest's medallion. Each guest's profile is tied to a security picture, so a crew member can compare a passenger's photo on a portable device. Carnival also says the medallion doesn't contain sensitive information such as the stateroom number, much like a hotel room key. The company added that the system features additional authentication, although it declined to elaborate.

Donald said the technology could be adapted for other industries, too. Imagine a patient entering the hospital and being recognized immediately by a nurse without having to check in or fill out forms. **AP**

what's ON



WINTER FLOWER SHOW IN CELEBRATION OF MACAO'S HANDOVER TO CHINA - ENCHANTING BLOSSOMS IN WOODLAND

TIME: 7am-10pm

UNTIL: January 8, 2017

VENUE: The Taipa Houses, Av. da Praia, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 7676, 2888 0087

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

SAILING FOR DREAMS - WORKS BY KWOK WOON

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 23, 2017

VENUE: Navy Yard No.1, Rua de S. Tiago da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

EX-NIGERIAN LEADERS SING HYMN FOR PEACE IN TROUBLED NATION

Former Nigerian rulers have banded together in singing a hymn for peace and unity in their troubled nation, with their video getting both favorable and derogatory comments on social media.

The former leaders sing "Oh God Our Help In Ages Past." They include former military rulers Olusegun Obasanjo and Yakubu Gowon, former interim leader Ernest Shonekan and current Vice President Yemi Osinbajo.

One Twitter user calls it a "rogues' gallery," while others accuse the former leaders of being responsible for the woes of a resource-rich country impoverished by corruption.

Africa's largest economy, and the continent's second-biggest oil producer, is currently in a recession caused by low oil prices and a massive shortage of foreign currency.

Nigeria also is beset by deadly conflicts including Boko Haram's Islamic uprising. **AP**

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:50	Intelligence Sr.1
17:30	Criminal Minds S10 (Repeated)
18:10	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	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

05 JAN - 11 JAN



**ALLIED**  
ROOM 1  
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm  
Director: Robert Zemeckis  
Starring: Marion Cotillard, Brad Pitt  
Language: English  
Duration: 124min

**A STREET CAT NAMED BOB**  
ROOM 2  
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 21:30pm  
Director: Roger Spottiswoode  
Starring: Luke Treadaway, Joanne Froggatt, Ruta Gedmintas  
Language: English  
Duration: 103min



**SING**  
ROOM 3  
7:30pm  
Director: Garth Jennings  
Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane  
Language: Cantonese (English)  
Duration: 108min

**A MONSTER CALLS**  
ROOM 3  
2:30, 4:30, 21:30pm  
Director: J.A. Bayona  
Starring: Lewis MacDougall, Felicity Jones, Sigourney Weaver  
Language: English  
Duration: 108min

MACAU TOWER

05 JAN - 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



1952 CHURCHILL RENEWS 'SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP'

The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, has arrived in the United States for an official visit, his first since re-election last October.

He arrived in New York on board the liner Queen Mary earlier today and was welcomed by Mayor Impellitteri before being taken to Long Island for a flight to Washington.

Mr Churchill, who was returned to power last year following six years in opposition, is anxious to maintain what is called the "special relationship" between Britain and the US.

In a brief news conference before boarding his flight, he spoke of his hopes for peace and also of Britain's ties with the US.

He said: "It is of great importance when a new government comes in in our country that those who have the grave responsibility of guiding it, like Mr Eden and myself, should get in touch at an early stage with our American friends and colleagues.

"Our two governments must understand each other's points of view and do all we can to work together for the common cause, trusting we will be able to build up that common understanding and intimacy which enabled us to go through safely in the past and without which no full settlement of new problems can be reached."

Mr Churchill arrived in Washington where he was welcomed officially by President Harry S Truman.

Mr Truman also spoke of the close ties between Britain, the Commonwealth and the United States.

"Great Britain and the Commonwealth and the United States are the closest of friends and you and I want to keep it that way," he said.

Mr Churchill thanked the president. "It is always a great joy to me to come to the United States," he said, "where I have many and ancient connections and I look forward very much indeed to renewing the comradeship which grew up during the struggles of the war."

The two men then retired for lunch at Blair House. A number of other government officials were present for the meal including Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, US Secretary of State Dean Acheson, and Chief of Staff Admiral William Leahy.

After lunch the prime minister and the president went on board the presidential yacht Williamsburg for informal talks which lasted about two hours.

Reports prior to Mr Churchill's arrival suggested relations between the two leaders may be strained by some differences of opinion over policy in the Middle and Far East, as well as aspects of defence policy and the supply of American steel.

A spokesman said later the talks had "covered a wide range of topics" and "clarified the atmosphere" for the formal discussions which will begin on Monday.

Tomorrow (Sunday) Mr Churchill will have lunch at the Pentagon with the Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A communiqué issued at the end of their talks on Wednesday 9 January spoke of a "broad harmony of views" reached on policy towards the Far East and a "complete identity of aims" in the Middle East.

The statement talked of progress on the question of steel imports and Mr Churchill agreed to allow the US to use British bases for "common defence" of the two countries.

The Times correspondent noted: "The most important result of the trip so far has been the arrest of the decay in mutual confidence between the two Governments which had gone a long way."

Mr Churchill suffered a stroke in 1953 and resigned from office two years later. He was replaced by Anthony Eden.

The term "special relationship" was first coined to describe the strong ties forged between US President Franklin D Roosevelt and Winston Churchill during World War II

The special relationship between Britain and the US has been fostered by subsequent leaders. Most recently Prime Minister Tony Blair supported President George W Bush in the 2003 war against Iraq despite opposition from European allies France and Germany.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 When it comes to a sign as outgoing and personable as yours, it's easy to see how staying at home might not be your favorite activity...

Taurus April 20-May 20 There's nothing like the company of family, as you've always known and believed. You'll be reminded of that now, via an insatiable urge to connect with like-minded others who just so happen to share your bloodline.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 The universe has sent along exactly what you need to change your work situation, complete with a brand-new friend or acquaintance who'll inspire and guide you to get the job done.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You know that well-deserved reputation you've acquired for being considerate, cooperative and extremely easy to get along with? Let's just say it might temporarily be in danger.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 For some reason, individuals of a certain type seem to be gravitating toward you. You've just about had it with listening to sad stories, pleas for redemption and promises to do better next time.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 After yet another day of teasing you with lingering glances that last just a tad too long to go unnoticed or be written off as something else, a certain person will finally be ready to say exactly what's on their mind.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your sign has been amply endowed with charm, the ability to persuade and an absolutely illegal amount of allure. Not surprisingly, others find those qualities irresistibly attractive.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your feelings are as deep seated as they come, and you don't usually share them - not unless you have to, if someone you know needs to hear them to feel better, or you know that it's impossible to keep them hidden.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 When you reach the end of your rope and you're done trying to bring your usual brand of humor into a tricky situation, you tend to spout off a bit more candidly than usual. That may be what happens over the next day.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your financial situation feels a bit shaky at the moment - or are you just distracted by important professional matters? Regardless of how or why it's happened, return your attention to career, just for a bit.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You don't relish the thought of it happening, but every now and then, your verbally rebellious streak gets out of control and tough to handle - much less to explain to the rest of the world.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Sometime soon, you'll need to make a decision: whether or not to let a secret see the light of day. That's not an easy thing for you, because you can usually see both sides of the issue.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Plain writing; 6- Uttered; 10- Morays; 14- Artery that feeds the trunk; 15- Ancient Greek harp; 16- Hardware fastener; 17- Bothered; 18- Pub offerings; 19- Home of the Bruins; 20- Big name in vermouth; 21- Bank note; 23- Squid's squirt; 25- Syr. neighbor; 26- Concordes; 29- Actor Stoltz; 32- Having wings; 37- Clerk on 'The Simpsons'; 38- Swedish auto; 39- Misguided; 40- In spite of; 43- Clan emblems; 44- TV award; 45- Neckline shape; 46- Excuse; 47- Member of a great Peruvian people; 48- Permits; 49- Abner; 51- Opposite of NNW; 53- Portuguese navigator; 58- Utopias; 62- Strike out; 63- Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace; 64- Concur; 65- Jack of 'Rio Lobo'; 66- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 67- Makes a loan; 68- Hwy.s; 69- Costa; 70- Uneven, as if gnawed away;

DOWN: 1- Carson's predecessor; 2- Rooter; 3- Raw materials; 4- Equilibrium; 5- Kind of kitchen; 6- Thick slice; 7- 'The Clan of the Cave Bear' heroine; 8- Conciliatory; 9- Student tables; 10- Decorative case; 11- Business letter abbr.; 12- Break in the action; 13- RR stop; 22- Intellectual; 24- 'Endymion' poet; 26- Vixen's master; 27- Bobbin; 28- All, in music; 30- Encouraging word; 31- 'Peer Gynt' playwright; 33- Leary's drug; 34- Animated; 35- Doctrine; 36- Perimeters; 38- Figure of speech with 'like' or 'as'; 39- boy; 41- Spider's creation; 42- HBO alternative; 47- 'Fighting' Big Ten team; 48- Account book; 50- Less healthy; 52- Bobby of the Black Panthers; 53- Dissolve; 54- Wings; 55- Precious stones; 56- Baldwin of '30 Rock'; 57- Japan's first capital; 59- Inventor Rubik; 60- Sparks and Beatty; 61- Zaire's Mobutu Seko; 62- Rosenkavaller;

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

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including website and contact information.

Real estate advertisement for Manhattan E Unit Taipa, featuring details on luxury residence and office space.

Real estate advertisement for Taipa Warehouse, Pac On Taipa, highlighting storage space and studio apartment.

Real estate advertisement for Nova Taipa Tower 29 Car Park, Taipa, mentioning car park and proximity to lift.

Real estate advertisement for Iau Lei Garden Taipa, featuring views across Taipa and a 3-bedroom apartment.

JML Property logo and contact information, including the tagline '卓雅物業' and 'since 1994'.



**LOTTO BAND**

LOTTO BAND, will be performing live at D2 Club Macau

From :  
10 : 30 p.m - 3 : 00 a.m (every day except Monday)

**LADIES FREE ENTRANCE AND DRINKS**



**D2 CLUB**  
www.d2club-macau.com

Macau, Fisherman's Wharf, Edf. New Orleans 111  
澳門漁人碼頭新奧樂區 111  
Tel: (853) 2872 3777

Hennessy V.S.O.P  
MOËT & CHANDON  
JOHNNIE WALKER GOLD LABEL RESERVE



**PLATINUM SERIES**

**ACOP PLATINUM SERIES 16. HKD \$500,000 GUARANTEE PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN A SEAT AT THE ASIA CHAMPIONSHIP OF POKER**

From 6–15 January, 'PokerStars LIVE Macau' will host the ACOP Platinum Series 16 which will have fourteen Official Asia Player of the Year events and features the HKD \$500,000 Main Event.

The Top 10 players from the Main Event will be entered into the ACOP: Platinum Series Playoffs for a chance at HKD \$100,000 ACOP Main Event Seat!

Find out more at [PokerStarsLIVEMacau.com](http://PokerStarsLIVEMacau.com)

**POKER STARS LIVE MACAU**

Level 2, Estrade do Istmo, Cotai

All tournaments are subject to regulatory approval.

# Help, please save me! Thermomix will save you!



### Save Money

Save on your grocery bills by swapping expensive pre-packaged items for 'whole' foods and pantry staples. Plus, Thermomix has an advanced heating system that cooks with minimized energy consumption, so you can enjoy savings on your household bills!

### Save Time

Thermomix gives you more time to enjoy life! Thermomix reduces preparation time by finely chopping ingredients in seconds. Its versatility means that while Thermomix gently cooks and stirs your food, you're left free for other things.

### Save Space

Less is more. Thermomix brings together 12 different functions in one compact unit. The ergonomic design means anyone can master it, from young children just starting out to experienced cooks. With Thermomix you won't only taste the difference, you'll feel it too. Please contact us for a free demo:

**"Final Clear Out Stroke special price for the Thermomix. The original price is HKD 12,800 and now only HKD 8,000. This is the last and best chance for you to have your Thermomix."**

**Tong Jia de Ramirez**  
Phone Number : +853 6668 1771.

**S**ERENA Williams was knocked out of the ASB Tennis Classic yesterday, reducing her match practice for the upcoming Australian Open, while sister Venus withdrew due to injury.

Top-seeded Serena was frustrated by a swirling wind, her inability to find her A-game, and a tenacious opponent as she went down 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-4 to 72nd-ranked American compatriot Madison Brengle.

Older sister Venus withdrew from the tournament with an arm injury ahead of her scheduled second-round match.

Both players will now head to Melbourne to prepare for the first Grand Slam tournament of the season with less match play than they would have hoped.

Serena had shown signs of rustiness in her 6-3, 6-4 first round win over Pauline Parmentier of France, and her power-hitting game was again affected by gusting wind on the open-air center court.

She struggled with her ball toss in the windy conditions and made 88

TENNIS

# Serena, Venus Williams forced out of ASB Classic



United States' Serena Williams (left) waves to the crowd as she walks onto the court with her sister Venus during an exhibition event ahead of the ASB Classic tennis tournament in Auckland

unforced errors, including the double fault that ended the match and caused Brengle to clap

her hand over her mouth in surprise.

Brengle, a 26-year-old Delaware native, had

played Serena only once before, in 2015, losing 6-0, 6-1.

Williams, a 22-time

Grand Slam tournament winner, played only eight events in 2016 — the most recent at the U.S.

Open in August — but still got off to a good start, taking a 4-1 lead before faltering.

Brengle rattled off four straight games to lead 5-4, and then served out the set.

Williams was down a break in the second set before breaking Brengle and then powering through her service game to lead 5-4. She had four set points in Brengle's next service game but again her accuracy deserted her and she squandered every one. It finally took a fifth set point in the tiebreak for Williams to close out the set in 60 minutes.

Games went on serve in the third set, and Brengle's plan of taking the pace off the ball with her returns paid off as she broke Williams in the final game.

"I just tried to concentrate on every point and run down every ball," Brengle said. "It was difficult conditions with the wind and I just tried to right for every point."

"I tried to use the slice and get as many balls back as I could and it ended up working out." **AP**

## Angela Lee to defend title against Huang in Thailand



Taiwan's Jenny Huang (right) fights against her opponent Filipina April Osenio in the female Mixed Martial Arts tournament in Manila, Philippines

Chris Lines

**H**AWAIIAN Angela Lee will defend her women's atomweight title against Taiwan's Jenny Huang when ONE Championship hosts its second mixed martial arts promotion in Thailand on March 11.

The 20-year-old Canadian-born Lee improved her perfect career record to six wins when she won the title in a unanimous decision against Mei

Yamaguchi in May last year. The fight in Bangkok will be her first defense.

"I had back to back fights leading up to the title fight, and after I won the belt I took some time off," Lee said. "The goal for 2017 is to be an active champion and to stay busy."

"Since my last fight, I've been training extremely hard, improving my skill set and I can't wait to show everyone."

Huang also has a perfect re-

cord, winning her fifth fight against April Osenio by submission last month.

Five years older than Lee, Huang was later to start her MMA career than her upcoming opponent.

"I have been working so hard to come to this point in my career, and now that I'm finally here it all feels very surreal to me," Huang said.

"Inside the cage I only have one goal and that's to win this bout at any cost. She better be prepared for what I bring to the table because I will go to battle with my full arsenal."

The event in Bangkok will be ONE's second promotion in Thailand after the inaugural event in May last year. ONE has an expanded schedule this year, including five fight nights in China and a first in Vietnam.

The first event of the year will be in Jakarta this month. Marcin Prachnio has withdrawn from the middleweight title fight against Vitaly Bigdash due to injury and will be replaced by Aung La N Sang of Myanmar. Russia's Bigdash will be making the first defense of the title he won back in 2015. **AP**

FOOTBALL

## Axel Witsel completes transfer to Tianjin

**B**ELGIUM midfielder Axel Witsel has become the latest Europe-based player to move to the Chinese Super League.

Zenit St. Petersburg said yesterday in a statement that the 27-year-old Witsel will join Tianjin Quanjian, a club recently promoted to China's top league and coached by former Italy captain Fabio Cannavaro.

Italian media quoted Witsel this week saying that he had turned down a chance to join Juventus after receiving "a crucial offer for my family that I couldn't turn down" from Tianjin.

The transfer fee was not disclosed.

The cash-rich Super League has spent enormous sums luring stars to China. Recent transfers include Argentine striker Carlos Tevez, who joined Shanghai Shenhua, and Brazilian midfielder Oscar, who signed with crosstown rivals Shanghai SIPG.

Top coaches have also made the switch, with former Manchester City and Real Madrid coach Manuel Pellegrini now at Hebei China Fortune and Luiz Felipe Scolari, the former Brazil coach, leading Guangzhou Evergrande. China's national team recently hired Italian World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi to a hefty contract, signaling its desire to become a regional superpower.

Witsel joined Zenit from Benfica in 2012 and made 180 appearances for the Russian side. The central midfielder also played for Belgium at the European Championship.

Witsel's transfer is not the first big-money transfer from Zenit to a Chinese club. Zenit sold Brazilian striker Hulk in June to Shanghai SIPG for 55.8 million euros, breaking the Asian transfer record. **AP**

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



HIC FROM THE STICKS

This is not a sophisticated column. I may be called a hic from the sticks. But here goes.

The problem began on a festive night out with great gal pals. We had Prosecco to start, the international female 'usual' and my only visit to the Magic Flute. This was accompanied by nibbles.

Half way through the evening, I got hiccups. It was impossible to make conversation when every sentence was punctuated by a hic. And that recurrence was during the initial period. Soon thereafter the hics gained in rapidity and came in the middle of every third word.

Some of the hiccups had me jumping noticeably. I was a terrible Christmas jumper, not the wearer of one.

Other times there was a lull and the table held its breath (I had already tried that), listening intently for a silence that would ratify the hiccups had gone. Then came a hiccupping spree and everyone slumped into laughter.

Thankfully we were against a wall. If there had been a table directly behind, they would have turned round and complained about being hic hassled.

NHS Choices, the medical website consulted on my phone, apprised me reasons for hiccups included alcohol, fizzy drinks and excitement. Prosecco ticked two of those boxes, and anticipation of my night out the third.

The website's suggested solutions started with 'breathe into a paper bag'. I did have my Christmas shopping under the table. Would my Dad mind if I hiccupped onto his new socks?

Deciding he would, I read on. Another solution was to sip vinegar. The venue was an Italian deli, so the vinegar on the table was fancy. I wondered about asking my friends their thoughts on this remedy. Could I time it right? 'Ladies, do you think 'balsamHIC will work?'

If medicine couldn't help, I wondered if tech might. Was there a 'Hic App'? When a bout struck, the sufferer would download it; the app would do nothing then, a few minutes later, when you'd forgotten, it would give you a fright with a really loud noise. There was no Hic App.

I remembered a recent newsletter from a health and fitness website I subscribe to. The newsletter was titled 'Bouncing Back After a Food Binge.' How about bouncing during a food binge? I opened it. Nothing. Hic.

There is, frankly, a want of hiccup-banishing tips. What's with the lack of peer-reviewed treatments, science? No glory in papers which might conclude a condition be best treated by 'drinking water from the other side of the glass? Not pioneering enough? Hic hic hic.

Being irritated didn't subdue me. Time, however, did. And so, in the hiccup-less calm of the morning after, historical research revealed some notorious cases. An American called Charles Osborne had hiccups for 68 years – from 1922 to 1990. He hiccupped 430 million times. It was the longest ever recorded attack. The cause of cessation was not noted.

I sat back at the breakfast table. Why me? Why Mr Osborne? Did we possess diaphragms that were into pranks?

As a precaution, I barely drank any alcohol on New Year's Eve. I didn't want to hic my way through Hogmanay.

And I'm already nervous about food at Chinese New Year. When I start hiccupping 'spring roll' could double as description of my chest movement.

I really hope Trump doesn't get them during his presidency. He'll declare them 'terrific things, terrific things' and the rust belt will copy. Actual hicks going hic. I will hold my breath and never let it go.

Other than, I am working on a way to make the condition cool. Hic-sters.

THE NY WOMAN CHARGED WITH STEALING USD1 MILLION FROM EMPLOYER

Authorities say a western New York woman has been charged with stealing more than USD1 million from the auto dealership where she worked.

Police in the Buffalo suburb of Orchard Park say 55-year-old Billie Becker of East Aurora is accused of embezzling the funds from Town Automotive, where she had worked since 2001, the last eight years as controller.

Officials say she had been stealing company

funds since at least 2012.

Investigators say the business discovered the thefts after a credit card company called to inquire about a credit card it wasn't aware of. Police say they believe Becker was using the credit card to pay personal accounts.

Becker was charged with grand larceny and released after posting \$10,000 bail. It couldn't be determined if she has a lawyer who could comment on the charges.

Eurozone inflation spikes to highest in over 3 years



A child laughs as she tries to catch soap bubbles created by a street artist, in Lisbon's Comércio Square, Portugal

**SURGING** oil prices caused inflation in the 19-country eurozone to spike in December to its highest rate in more than three years, official figures showed yesterday.

Eurostat, the European Union's statistics agency, said the annual inflation rate rose to 1.1 percent from November's 0.6 percent. December's rate was the highest since Sept. 2013, when inflation also stood at 1.1 percent.

The figures are likely to cheer policymakers at the European Central Bank who through various stimulus efforts in recent years have sought to get inflation toward their target of just below 2 percent.

The main contributor to the increase was a sharp rise in energy prices. Eurostat said they were up 2.5 percent in the year to December compared with a 1.1 percent drop in November. In December, oil prices rose sharply after major crude-producing na-

tions agreed to cut output levels and are now trading well above USD50 a barrel.

Still, there are likely to be lingering concerns at the ECB that, when excluding energy costs, inflation remains muted. The core rate, which strips out the volatile items of alcohol, energy, food and tobacco, rose to only 0.9 percent from the previous month's 0.8 percent.

A separate survey yesterday provided some evidence that the spike in inflation will likely continue over the coming months.

Financial information company IHS Markit found in a closely monitored survey of economic activity across the eurozone that price increases for companies input costs surged to a five-and-a-half year high in December. This, it said, reflected a combination of higher fuel and oil prices alongside increased import costs due to the weaker euro exchange rate.

The firm also found that output charges – what companies price their goods at – rose for the second month running and at the steepest pace since July 2011.

Eurozone business activity as a whole accelerated in December to its highest level of growth since May 2011, the same survey found.

IHS Markit's composite purchasing managers' index – a broad gauge of business activity across the manufacturing and services sectors – rose to 54.4 points in December from 53.9 the previous month. Anything above 50 indicates growth.

The firm said that manufacturing led the acceleration, which points to quarterly economic growth of 0.4 percent. That's better than it has been for most of 2016 but is still modest compared with the United States.

IHS Markit's chief economist, Chris Williamson, said it's too early to say whether the economic performance at the end of 2016 represents the "much-needed springboard" to further growth this year.

"Much depends on political events over the course of the next year," he said. "The concern is that domestic demand is likely to remain subdued over the course of 2017 as political uncertainty dominates, resulting in another year of disappointing growth across the region as a whole." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Zhu Zheng



The downtown area of Jinan City wrapped in fog and haze in east China's Shandong Province. The provincial meteorological observatory issued a red alert for fog and extended its orange alert for smog yesterday.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	40-60 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**INDONESIA** said yesterday that it has suspended military cooperation with Australia over an alleged insult of Indonesian state ideology. Indonesian military spokesman Maj. Gen. Wuryanto said that cooperation has been suspended indefinitely, and that the decision was made after considering many matters.

**PAKISTAN** A police official says a roadside bomb has struck a vehicle carrying police in the country's northwest, wounding four officers and 15 passers-by. Local police official Mohammad Nawaz says yesterday's attack took place in the city of Dera Ismail Khan, a gateway to Pakistan's troubled tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

**PHILIPPINES** Southeast Asia's worst-performing currency of 2016 is in for another tough year with President Rodrigo Duterte's spending plans seen boosting imports just as rising U.S. interest rates spur capital outflows. The peso is forecast to be collateral damage as an economy growing faster than 7 percent and the government's infrastructure program drive demand for inward shipments



**THAILAND'S** prime minister is vowing to crack down on the country's private van transportation industry after a fiery crash that killed 25 people.

More on p12

**GAMBIA** Relatives say Gambia's election chief has fled the country because of threats made after he declared longtime ruler Yahya Jammeh had lost last month's presidential election. Independent Electoral Commission chairman Aliou Momarr Njai has gone to Senegal, as the political standoff deepens between Jammeh and President-elect Adama Barrow.