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# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS



**PORTUGAL** Spain's King Felipe VI and Brazilian President Michel Temer were among the dignitaries in Lisbon attending the state funeral of Mario Soares, a former Portuguese leader who steered his country to democracy after a 1974 army coup toppled Portugal's four-decade dictatorship.

**THAILAND**'s prime minister says he will honor a request from the country's new king that several changes be made to a constitution that was approved in a referendum last August. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha informed the public that the king wished to have several articles about the monarchy amended. More on p13



**PHILIPPINES** Eight Filipino fishermen were fatally shot by at least five suspected pirates who boarded their boat in the southern Philippines, officials said yesterday. Seven other crewmembers survived the attack by jumping off the boat and swimming away, said the head of the Philippine Coast Guard. More on p12



**SOUTH KOREA** Disgraced South Korean President Park Geun-hye's longtime friend at the center of a massive corruption scandal refuses to testify at Park's impeachment trial, with lawmakers alleging it is a stalling tactic. More on p13

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## JAPAN CASINOS MAY NOT IMPACT MACAU

# Morgan Stanley predicts gaming to grow steadily

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PHOTO ARCHIVE



**FIFA to expand World Cup to 48 teams in 2026, adding 16 extra nations**

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## Zheng Anting suggests reduction of gaming taxes

Lawmaker Zheng Anting has said that by lowering gaming taxes, Macau can attract more high-end customers to spend money in the city. Zheng also believes that doing so can bring more businessmen to Macau. The lawmaker further stated that once all gaming-related parties agree that there should be a tax reduction, the public can discuss how this goal should be achieved. Zheng claimed not to be worried at all about the negative impacts of reducing the taxes, and the consequences for the city's living standards and social welfare system.

## Guangdong to establish laws to protect sea environment

The Department of Environmental Protection of Guangdong Province says that it has already submitted a draft bill regarding the province's sea trash dumping to the Guangdong provincial government. According to a report by Macao Daily News, the province has been recently dealing with instances of people dumping trash into the sea. The environmental department claimed that, with respect to the Pearl River estuary, the low-level government is not strictly implementing the province's environmental protection policies, which allowed local domestic trash to flow into the seas. It also considers that the territory lacks a proper administration of punishments to avoid these incidents.

## Six new local faces to serve Zhuhai CPPCC

Fourteen Macau residents started their work as members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) of Zhuhai city. Six out of the 14 are new members of the conference, which is holding a three-day meeting in the neighboring city. Last June, Zhuhai's CPPCC chairman Qian Fangli was sacked from her position, and has since been subject to investigations over alleged corruption. Until now, her position has been empty. The CPPCC has elected a new chairman for the conference.

# FMBA to support 'Project Shepherd'

Lynzy Valles

**T**HE French Macau Business Association (FMBA) will host its Charity Gala Dinner on January 20 to raise funds for another project of Architecture Sans Frontières (ASF) Macau, "Project Shepherd."

In a press conference yesterday, FMBA chairman Rutger Verschuren announced that the eighth edition of the Gala Dinner will be themed "Le Grand Bal Masqué de Versailles."

"Guests will be led into a grand masquerade ball filled with the glorious and artistic ambiance of Versailles," he informed the press, adding that musical and dance performances would also be given during the ball.

Similar to last year, FMBA partnered with ASF Macau, a local charity organization, to aid in renovating the infrastructure of a local association, Cradle of Hope.

This year, with the assistance of FMBA, ASF Macau will utilize the funding to renovate parts of the Good Shepherd Sisters Center.

The center is a non-profit charity in Macau for women and their young children living with disadvantage.

Verschuren said 350 people have confirmed their attendance to the gala. Yet, he was careful when questioned on the expected funds that would be raised next Friday. The FMBA president told the media that the Gala Dinner is hoping to raise funds totaling over MOP50,000.

"Project Shepherd" is looking to revamp the center in a bid to enhance the indoor environment and improve the interior lighting of the site.

The outdoor terrace and play area will be improved by the restoration of garden hardware and play equipment.

ASF Macau founding president Dominic Choi informed the press that the organization is expecting the overall project to take nine to 11 months and cost around MOP110,000.

"As soon as we have the funding, we're going to start the planning because we have initiated the budget estimated by overlooking what can be done. [...] I would imagine the construction can start just before summer time," said Choi.

Yet according to him, the association is still searching for a contractor that could offer cost-effective planning.



Dominic Choi (left) and Rutger Verschuren

Choi noted that this upcoming project has been initiated last year, however due to limited funding, they prioritized their 2016 project, "Project Cradle."

Meanwhile, Choi noted that ASF Macau is also looking at coordinating with other local associations to provide accessibility to disabled residents.

"Another [big project] we still want to look for is the accessibility [of the disabled] but this is on our own priority list [but] it's not as simple as doing renovations. It in-

volves planning, it's a much wider issue," Choi remarked.

ASF Macau is currently collaborating with a local school to help raise funds for "Project Nepal," a humanitarian project aimed at building eight classrooms in the province of Sindhupalchok, an area affected by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake.

Partnering with ASF Nepal, Choi noted that each classroom would roughly cost USD10,000.

FMBA's Charity Gala Dinner will be held at MGM Macau.

## FORUM MACAU

### Echo Chan pledges to fulfill Li's goals



Echo Chan

Julie Zhu

**T**HE Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau) organized a cocktail reception welcoming the Chinese New Year.

Approximately 200

people, including government representatives as well as representatives of the commercial, financial, and legal industries, among other sectors, attended yesterday's event.

Lionel Leong, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, made a speech, stating that the MSAR government will continue to

support Forum Macau in order to promote cooperation between Portuguese-speaking countries and China.

Leong informed that, also this year, Macau will focus on adding more aspects from Portuguese-speaking countries across the region and on organizing international exhibitions and trade related activities.

The secretary stated that this year will also mark the first time that products and services from Lusophone countries are exhibited independently at exhibitions organized by the city.

Earlier, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang visited Macau and announced several new measures.

Echo Chan, who has been re-appointed as

coordinator of the Supporting Office of the Secretariat of Forum Macau, was also present at yesterday morning's reception.

Chan said that she would prioritize the fulfillment of the goals which were announced by Li. Chan noted that she feels lucky and happy to contribute to Forum Macau, as she also thanked Leong, who, according to Chan, had been supporting her.

In Chan's opinion, it is a great challenge for her to be working on the Secretariat "because it is a place of experts from China and Portuguese-speaking countries."

According to Chan, the Secretariat will focus mainly on achieving the five goals that Li set for Macau, and on promoting the establishment of the aforementioned foundation headquarters, as well as in building three centers in Macau for different sectors to aid in collaboration between China and

the Portuguese-Speaking countries.

Echo Chan left Forum Macau for personal reasons in October 2015, but returned as an adviser to the Secretary for Economy and Finance before the Ministerial Conference of the Forum in October 2016.

Chan will replace Cristina Morais, who left her post after serving for one year following Chan's departure in October 2015.

Before Chan's initial appointment to Forum Macau in March 2015, she was a director at the Macau Institute for Promotion of Trade and Investment (IPIM).

Chan graduated with an economics degree from the University of Jinan, China, and has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Macau. She also holds a diploma in Portuguese Language from the University of Coimbra in Portugal.

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## TOURISM MASTER PLAN

# Locals call for measures to attract high-value visitors



**T**HE Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) has published a report that compiles public opinions on the "Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan," based on the almost 1,200 local opinions collected during the public consultation period.

The 1,185 responses were collected during a two-month public consultation for the Master Plan held between May 23 and July 22 last year.

According to a statement published by MGTO, "most" of the opinions were solicited through exchange sessions for local trade and organizations

(28.7 percent), email (17.6 percent) and by mail (12.2 percent). MGTO did not clarify the other means of gathering the opinions, which would account for around 58.5 percent of the respondents.

The opinions were organized and divided into 11 major categories comprising of 51 subcategories. Among the opinions, the highest degree of concern was given to three major categories in the following order: tourism resources and products, city development, and tourism source markets and target segments.

According to MGTO, respondents in particular expressed

concern about the diversity of local tourism products and measures to attract more high-value visitors to the city, as well as the development of urban areas.

The research team behind the collection of responses and the subsequent analysis "mapped out corresponding action plans" to respond to suggestions outlined in the consultation report, "hoping to foster comprehensive tourism development in different fields."

The team will now explore the feasibility of these projects through studies and discussions with relevant departments, before publishing the final Master Plan with several amendments. It is expected to be ready in mid-2017.

The Master Plan is intended to promote sustainable tourism development in the city and realize the government's vision of the transformation of Macau into a "World Center of Tourism and Leisure." Its ultimate objective is to "lay a key

foundation and direction for [the tourism industry's] future development in the next 15 years."

Following the current guidelines on public consultations on government policies, the compilation report has been made available to the general public within 180 days after the end of the consultation period. This marked the conclusion of the first stage of compiling the report - namely the process of data collection and analysis - and of the second stage that included the report on the results of the public consultation period.

MGTO noted that, in an effort to support environmental protection, the office encourages interested parties to download the compilation report from its website. Alternatively, a limited number of printed copies will also be made available to the public at various government offices and public libraries in the MSAR from mid-January. **DB**



**SMG claims environment has improved**

The director of the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), Fong Soi Kun, says that the pollution in the city stems mainly from car emissions, according to a report by Macau Daily News. Fong claimed that the number of polluted days in the territory greatly decreased after a series of environmental protection measures the city implemented. The director believes that there is only a small possibility of mainland China's pollutants affecting Macau, which means that heavy pollution is not expected to hit the territory. Last week, Macau's air registered a poor quality reading. Fong explained that the situation was not serious. In the same report, Fong also judged that the chances of Macau facing heavy polluted days are very small.

## UM applications open until January 20

The University of Macau (UM) has announced that its undergraduate programs for the 2017/18 academic year are now open for application and will remain so until January 20. Students who intend to apply to UM, the Macao Polytechnic Institute, the Institute for Tourism Studies or the Macau University of Science and Technology, are required to take the joint admission examination for the four education institutions. The examination covers four subjects, namely Chinese, Portuguese, English and mathematics. An admission examination in physics will be organized separately by UM, according to a statement from the university.

## Macau Daily Times contest



### Riverdance – The 20th Anniversary World Tour

#### Question for readers:

Where was Riverdance's world premiere held?

Please email the answers to:  
[riverdance@macaudailytimes.com](mailto:riverdance@macaudailytimes.com)  
Along with your name and contact details.

#### Tickets-Giveaway

Four sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us more correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for 3 days (Tuesday to Thursday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP688 for a total prize value of MOP5,540.

Tickets from MOP288 are now available through [cotaiticketing.com](http://cotaiticketing.com) or 2882 8818.  
[www.riverdance.com](http://www.riverdance.com)

Riverdance – The 20th Anniversary World Tour will be presented at The Venetian Theatre from Jan. 24 to Feb. 5. The show is an innovative and exciting blend of dance and music that draws on Irish traditions and has been seen live by over 25 million people worldwide, capturing the imagination of audiences across all ages and cultures.

For the 20th Anniversary World Tour, the original Riverdance team of composer Bill Whelan, producer Moya Doherty and director John McColgan have been reunited. The show includes new costumes, lighting and projections and the addition of a brand new song, "Anna Livia", featuring the female members of the Irish dance troupe in an a cappella hard-shoe number. The set design is by Robert Ballagh, lighting design by John Comiskey, costume design by Joan Bergin and sound design by Michael O'Gorman.

For over 20 years, few entertainment concepts have carried the energy, sensuality and spectacle of Riverdance. Beginning its journey as the interval act in the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest, the electrifying and innovative seven minute dance piece was then developed into a full-length stage show by Doherty, Whelan and McColgan. With its fusion of Irish and international music and dance, the show broke all



box office records during its world premiere run in Dublin in early 1995. When it transferred to London the reaction was unprecedented. This was followed by 16 years of non-stop

touring by Riverdance companies throughout North America. Since its inception Riverdance has packed theatres across North America, Oceania, Asia, Europe, South Africa and South America.



## HISTORY

# Revamped pharmacy is important addition



Mark O'Neill\*

**S**UN Yat-sen, forerunner of the Chinese Revolution, spent 16 months in Macau upon completing his medical studies in Hong Kong in

1892. During his stay, he opened two clinics where he treated patients with both Western and Chinese medicine.

One of these clinics, restored to its original condition, opened to the public this November after five

years of steady effort by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). November 12, 2016 marked the 150th anniversary of Sun's birthday, an event being celebrated across the Chinese-speaking world.

In Macau, the anniversary was

marked with a photography exhibition of Sun Yat-sen's life in the territory. The event was organized by the local government.

"It was one of the earliest clinics in Macau, opened by a Chinese, that sold Western pharmaceuticals and served as a Western medical clinic," says Deland Leong

prises 525 square meters of built-up area on 188 square meters of land. It was built prior to 1892 in a busy Chinese residential and business district.

The clinic becomes the latest of several sites in the city officially connected with Sun: others include the house where his first wife

**It was one of the earliest clinics in Macau, opened by a Chinese, that sold Western pharmaceuticals.**

DELAND LEONG  
IC'S DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Wai Man, head of the IC's Department of Cultural Heritage. "It has great significance in the history of medicine in Macau. The clinic is also valuable as evidence of his life before his mission as a revolutionary."

The clinic is located at 80 Rua das Estalagens. Admission is free, and the restoration includes a temporary exhibition of Sun's life. A permanent exhibition will be installed within the next couple of years. The structure com-

lived until her death in 1952 and a 17.3-acre park – Macau's largest – named after him.

"The project has cost MOP13 million," according to Leong. "The government acquired the site in 2011. Our principle in restoration is to use original materials, which were not easy to find."

The main challenge for the IC was the condition of the original building which had deteriorated greatly in the 120 years since Sun's departure. It was repurpo-

AD

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# to Sun Yat-sen's legacy in Macau



sed as a silk shop, then a retail store for electrical goods and finally a storehouse. "We had a lot of work to do," confesses Leong. "First, we had to repair the roof, to stabilize the structure. Many of the bricks had crumbled."

Of course, this particular kind of old brick is no longer produced, so the IC had to go to sites where old buildings were being demolished and salvage them. It was a similar situation with the roof tiles. Skilled conservationists were also employed to repaint the interior in its original form.

During renovation of the rear part of the building, a large amount of rough stone and silt was uncovered. After excavation, archaeologists determined that these had been part of the earliest piers in Macau. This archaeological work caused a severe delay in the restoration.

"The base of the structure was close to the water, so the foundation was weak," says Leong. "So we had to work there, to prevent salt from coming up through the walls and causing decay. The engineering work was very hard. It is a narrow structure, with buildings on each side and there is no side access," she adds.

Each floor of the clinic is comprised of front and rear sections. A lift, toilet and staircase in the rear section have been installed for the convenience of the public.

Macau played an important part in Sun's life. It was there that his father Sun Dacheng worked

as a cobbler in a shoe store for 16 years, from 1829 to 1845. He returned to his hometown of Cuiheng Village in what was then Xiangshan County, 37 kilometers from Macau. There he farmed and married Madame Yang. Their son Sun Yat-sen was born November 12, 1866.

In 1879, mother and son passed through Macau on their way to Hong Kong. There they boarded a steamship for Hawaii where Sun received his education in America.

He returned to his hometown in 1885 to marry Lu Mu-zhen, the daughter of a Chinese merchant in Hawaii. It was a marriage arranged by the two families as was the custom at that time.

After graduating from secondary school in Hawaii, Sun went to Hong Kong where he spent five years studying at the Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese, of which he was one of the first two graduates in 1892. During his time there, he often travelled to Macau to visit his friend Yang He-ling; the two discussed reforming China amongst a group of friends.

In September of 1892, Sun moved to Macau and worked at Kiang Wu Hospital, established in 1871 by and for the Chinese. It offered traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and had no facilities for Western treatment or operations. At the time, the majority of Macau's Chinese doctors practiced TCM, and many Chinese regarded Western medicine with

fear and skepticism.

The hospital gave Sun a MOP1,440 loan to open the pharmacy at 80 Rua das Estalagens where he could offer both Western and Chinese medicine. Every day was a busy schedule for Sun: 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. at 80 Rua das Estalagens, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Kiang Wu and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at 14 Largo do Senado. After 3 p.m., he would pay house calls to his patients.

## Sun's career as a doctor was short-lived. He closed his Macau practice in Sept. 1893

While Sun was a diligent doctor, his greater mission in life was to reform China. In the 1890s, he wrote a long article to Li Hongzhang, one of the highest officials of the Qing government, setting out the reforms he considered necessary to modernize China and confront Western powers. Li did not dignify him with a response. This was a critical moment for Sun: believing that the government would not reform, he concluded that violent revolution was the only way forward.

While studying in Hong Kong,

he met a Macanese named Francisco Hermenegildo Fernandes who was sympathetic to his ideas. Fernandes was a translator at the Hong Kong High Court and became a strong supporter. In 1892, Fernandes returned to Macau and founded the weekly newspaper Echo Macaense printed in both Portuguese and Chinese. It published Sun's articles promoting political reforms as well as news of his medical work. The newspaper was distributed in Xiangshan, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Fuzhou and Xiamen in addition to Macau.

Fernandes' family had lived in Macau for generations. It was Fernandes whom Sun asked to apply on his behalf for a license to practice in Macau. But Sun's career as a doctor was short-lived. He closed his practice in the city in September 1893 having decided that his mission in life was not to treat the sick but lead a revolution. Even while he was a practicing doctor, he would meet with his associates in Macau and Guangdong to plan the revolution.

This finally brought him to the attention of the Qing government, which began putting pressure on local authorities. This pressure became intolerable after an uprising incited by Sun and his compatriots in Guangzhou in October 1895; the rebellion ultimately failed having been leaked beforehand to the government. However, it put Sun on a wanted list, and the Hong Kong govern-

ment banned him from entering the city.

It was at that moment that Fernandes did him another great service. First, his newspaper Echo Macaense published an article by Sun explaining the rationale for the uprising. Then, Fernandes hid him while he was a wanted man, using friends and connections to smuggle him out of Macau by boat, first to Hong Kong and then Japan.

As a token of gratitude for saving his life, Sun later gave his friend his medical equipment and daily items, now on display at the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial House in Macau. His dear friend Fernandes is buried in the local St. Miguel Arcanjo Cemetery.

After numerous failed uprisings, the revolutionaries finally succeeded when a Qing army rebelled in Wuhan on October 10, 1911, leading to the overthrow of the government. On December 19, representatives from 17 provinces elected Sun to act as provisional president of the Republic of China. He held the post for only three months before being forced to give up the position to Yuan Shikai, the most powerful warlord in China.

In May 1912, at the invitation of some local Chinese businessmen, Sun made his first visit to Macau since being forced out in 1895. It would also be his last.

On March 29, 1925, 20,000 people in Macau – one fifth of its population – attended a memorial service for Sun at Kiang Wu hospital where a statue of him now stands in his honor.

By then, several members of his family were living permanently in Macau. In 1913, his wife Lu Mu-zhen had moved there with their son, two daughters and his brother Sun Mei who became a local businessman. He died in Macau in 1915, at the age of 61. Lu continued to live with her family at their home in the city with her three children and grandchildren. In 1930, an explosion at a nearby army munitions warehouse destroyed the house. Deeply embarrassed, the government provided funds, supplemented by money from her son Sun Ke. With the money, the family built a spacious three-story structure that is open to visitors today. Lu was a devout Baptist and devoted much of her time to the church and charity. She died on September 7, 1952, at the age of 85.

In 1958, the building was named the Sun Yat-sen Memorial House. It has since become one of Macau's most popular visitor destinations. In the courtyard stands a life-size bronze statue of the doctor-turned-revolutionary by his friend Umeya Shokichi. It is one of three statues of Sun in town. He also has a garden and two roads named after him.

The newly restored pharmacy will be an important addition to this legacy: another important stop for those coming to Macau to retrace the steps of the father of the Chinese revolution.

\*MDT/Macauhub



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Q30 # BORNTOCHALLENGE

# Gaming to grow steadily in 2017, Japan's legalization 'unlikely' to affect Macau



Praveen Choudhary

**Renato Marques**

**T**HE gaming sector is projected to continue to grow steadily during 2017, according to Praveen Choudhary,

managing director of Asia Gaming Research at Morgan Stanley.

Choudhary was citing the findings of the latest research done by the Asian branch of the American financial servi-

ces company. "Macau's cycle has turned and 2017 could show 10 percent Gross Gaming Revenue [GGR] and 13 percent earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization [EBITDA] growth

th, the first in four years," the research reads.

The analyst was speaking on the sidelines of a presentation on integrated resort development in Asia that was included at the press conference that launched the 2017 edition of the Global Gaming Expo (G2E Asia).

The positive estimate revisions and growing dividends should also extend positive benefits for the stock prices of some of the gaming operators, and in particular Morgan Stanley mentions Wynn Macau and Galaxy as being well positioned for 2017.

Questioned on the potential threat for the territory of the recent legalization of gambling operations in Japan, Choudhary said the impact of such a decision in the local market would be "unlikely" to

be great since Macau enjoys a superior location and closer relations with the Chinese mainland that facilitates the continued growth of gaming-oriented tourism.

Choudhary took the example of Singapore to make his argument: "When Singapore opened casinos in 2010 the gaming market earned USD6 billion in the first year without impacting Macau at all. So it's possible that Japan opens up, and that will take three to five years, and the same happens. [...] The implementation bill [of Japan's casinos] which will come out in the next six to twelve months, will have a lot more details." Those details, he said, will determine whether the casinos in Japan will be VIP or mass market-centered and will cater to Japanese only or also attract overseas gamblers.

During his speech, Choudhary addressed the topic of the integrated resorts in Asia and the advantages for the places where they are located not only in terms of visitation and job creation (as are most commonly addressed) but also on less visible criteria like "a higher service mentality," and even a "fashion sense."

In this perspective, the analyst claims that Macau gaming operators are putting a focus on the mass market and on the non-gaming elements, which are responsible for 65 percent of revenues in Las Vegas.

According to his figures, non-gaming revenue is now responsible for around 13 percent of sector revenue, a figure that has almost doubled in the last three years (from 7 percent in 2014) and that according to Choudhary will tend to grow and find stability around the 15 percent mark.

Other advantages of the region mentioned for the short- and mid-term were the completion of the HKMZ bridge as well as the increased number of high-speed railway connections to the mainland, pointing out many reasons why Macau still continues to make sense and deserve investment from all gaming concessionaires.

## 2017 G2E Asia to follow 'diversification' trend



Josephine Lee

PROMISING to exceed expectations after the record-breaking 10th anniversary edition, the 2017 Edition of the Global Gaming Expo (G2E Asia) will be larger and bigger in its approach. This year the Expo will shine a spotlight on gaming but also beyond gaming, the organizers announced yesterday in a press conference held at Banyan Tree Hotel to launch this year's event.

In her speech, the executive vice president of Reed Exhibitions Greater China, Josephine Lee, said "G2E Asia 2017 is set to reach new heights." she explained that "the show is growing very rapidly and today the show has already achieved 11,000 square meters," a figure that represents a growth of about 21 percent from 2016 and according to Lee is likely to reach a level of about 30 percent higher

than last year.

As for the number of visitors, Lee said to expect about 12,000 from 90 countries and regions out of which about 30 percent will be senior executives. From the 12,000 visitors, organizers believe that at least 9,000 will arrive from abroad, which includes attendees through a governmental project, that will allow 500 of these visitors to come expense-free.

New technologies will also be used during this year's edition "to help to connect the visitors and exhibitors" for networking purposes. Organizers and visitors will mingle using an app that will allow a closer and simpler exchange of contacts and improve networking capabilities in a new and paper-free method.

As for the event, it will be comprised of three major sectors: Gaming, Integrated Resort Experience, and Parts and Components, of which the last two will be included for the first time in Asia. "Gaming is always our core and in this sector we will have both the traditional land base gaming and also the iGaming," Lee said, "On top of that we will add two new sectors [...] the Integrated Resort Experience and the Parts and Components that is related to all components and technologies that help our gaming equipment to bring a new excitement to our customers," she remarked.

The 2017 G2E Asia will take place over May 16 to 18 at The Venetian Macao.

### GLOBAL LEGAL GUIDE FOR GAMING TO BE LAUNCHED AT G2E ASIA

A NEW set of resources for gaming sector clients will be launched during the upcoming G2E Asia expo. The Lex Mundi Global Client Program will offer a broad network of certified law firms that can be reached by clients in order to solve problems or ask questions relating to the gaming industry of any jurisdiction.

Presented by the Head of Busi-

ness Development and Strategy, Asia/Pacific, Edwin Seah, the program has partnered in Macau with law firms MdME Lawyers and Private Notary, aiming to provide a more efficient and faster service to all current and potential gaming professionals and investors in fields ranging from gaming law to taxation, among many others.

## GAMING

# Packer returns to Crown board as overseas plans fall apart

Angus Whitley

**BILLIONAIRE** James Packer is re-exerting control of his Australian casino operator that's seen its international ambitions clipped after a Chinese clampdown put overseas revenue at risk.

Packer will return to the Crown board, while removing Robert Rankin as Crown chairman and chief executive officer of the businessman's privately held investment company, Consolidated Press Holdings Pty, according to a filing by Melbourne-based Crown yesterday. Consolidated Press is Crown's controlling shareholder.

Since Packer stepped down as a Crown director in Dec. 2015, the company has more than halved its stake in Macau casino operator Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd., ditched a proposed development in Las Vegas and abandoned a spinoff of international assets. That proposed spinoff had been complicated by a clampdown by Chinese authorities in October, when 18 Crown staff were detained for alleged gambling crimes.

"Crown has some really big hurdles to jump over in the next few

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years," said Evan Lucas, a market strategist at IG Ltd. in Melbourne. "It's known that Packer has not been impressed with what has happened since he stepped aside."

Back on the board, Packer is now closer to Crown's management as it gauges the extent of

the crackdown on overseas casino operators in China. It's still not clear if any of the detained Crown workers will be jailed. At the same time, Crown is pushing on with a planned AUD2 billion (USD1.5 billion) high-stakes, luxury gaming resort in Sydney.

Crown shares fell as much as 2.1 percent to AUD11.48 in Sydney, the biggest intraday decline in more than three weeks and valuing the company at AUD8.4 billion. The stock has fallen for the past three years, its worst run since listing in 2007.

The top-level reshuffle reflects Crown's almost sole focus on its Australian resorts and development projects in Australia.

Packer, who lured Rankin from Deutsche Bank AG a little over two years ago, said it made sense

■ Since Packer stepped down as a Crown director in Dec. 2015, the company has more than halved its stake in Melco Crown

for him to step aside as chairman given the casino firm's change in geographic focus. Rankin, who has been based in London and Hong Kong for the past 16 years, will be replaced at the head of Crown's board by deputy chairman John Alexander on Feb. 1.

Packer had stepped down as a director of Crown amid speculation he was closer to a deal to take some of the company's casino assets private. That was just months after he'd quit as chairman.

Guy Jalland will become CEO of Consolidated Press. Rankin will remain as a Crown director and a director of Melco Crown. Bloomberg

**CHINA** will face more frequent liquidity shocks this year, according to the manager of the nation's biggest money-market fund, which plans to hold extra cash to protect against the risk of rising redemptions.

The government's efforts to curb risk in the financial system and support the sliding yuan are likely to "over-stretch a rope that's already tight," said Wang Dengfeng, who manages the 800 billion yuan (USD115 billion) Yu'Ebao fund at Tianhong Asset Management Co. "The biggest challenge for us this year is to appropriately manage our own liquidity risks - that we have ample cash to meet demand when large redemptions occur," Wang said in an interview in Beijing last week. "We'll set aside much more cash than needed, rather than allocating into high-yielding assets."

China's investors don't have to look back far to assess the damage that a liquidity squeeze can do: as the average interbank

repurchase rate surged to a 20-month high in December, bonds slumped by the most in six years to end a record bull run. The size of money-market funds in China shrank by 247 billion yuan from a month earlier to 4.5 trillion yuan at the end of December, according to Stanley Lei, a Shanghai-based analyst at Chinese fund tracker Howbuy.

Yu'Ebao is sold on Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s Alipay platform, and can be used to make credit-card payments and buy products. That means that most of its investors - who numbered some 300 million as of June last year - are individuals rather than cash-starved companies or financial intermediaries. In fact, Yu'Ebao has been a beneficiary of the recent market volatility: the spike in borrowing costs is driving up money-market fund returns, attracting inflows in December, Wang said, without being more specific.

Assets stood at 800 billion yuan as of September, according to the most recent

## Biggest money fund bracing for more liquidity shocks

quarterly report.

The average seven-day return for Yu'Ebao investors was last at an annualized 3.37 percent, versus 2.52 percent at the end of November, data from Tianhong's website show. The pool is the world's fourth-largest money-market fund, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The PBOC has been driving up the cost of money in China since August, when it started injecting longer-term funds into the financial system that carry a higher interest rate. Adding to the liquidity shortage, lenders may need to hoard capital from this quarter as the central bank will start to include shadow banking in an assessment of financial institutions' credit growth and risks.

"The central bank is showing increasing tolerance over more volatile

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funding costs, which is needed to lower leverage," said Wang. "Monetary policies will be tighter than last year. We've created a white list of banks we feel comfortable to lend money to, based on their size, financial

indicators, reputation, etc, as risks diverge within the banking system."

The number of onshore bond defaults in China more than quadrupled last year from just seven in 2015. The PBOC said

in November that it will proactively cut leverage and prevent asset bubbles, and smaller banks were last month paying the widest credit spreads relative to large lenders since at least October 2015. Bloomberg

MOZAMBIQUE  
Prices one quarter higher in 2016

**PRICES** in Mozambique ended 2016 with a cumulative increase of just over 25 percent, which was one of the highest increases in the cost of living in the country in recent years, according to figures published this week in Maputo by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

INE also said that prices rose by 3.47 percent in December and that the inflation rate measured by the average of the indices of the last 12 months over the preceding 12 months reached 19.85 percent.

Accumulated inflation, despite its high value, was below the forecasts of the Bank of Mozambique, which initially predicted a price increase of around 30 percent and later revised this forecast downwards to 27 percent.

In cumulative terms, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages category was the driving force behind rising prices, accounting for about 17 percentage points of the total recorded value.

Prices have risen almost every month, except May. November and December saw the highest price rises for both food and electricity.

Part of the price increases was due to the devaluation of the national currency, the metical, against its major trading currencies, including the dollar and the South African rand. **MDT/Macauhub**

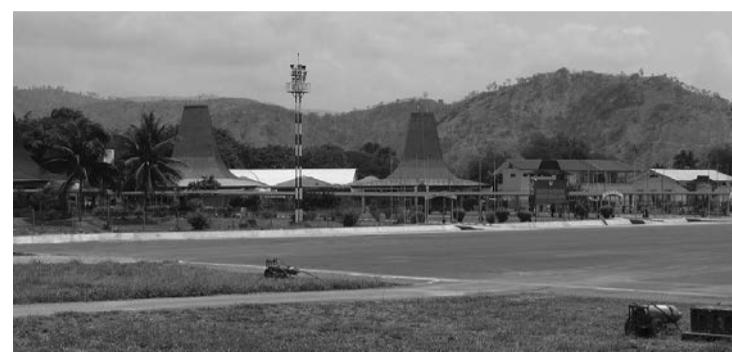
# Air Timor suspends links to Bali, blames own gov't

**A**IR Timor, which from yesterday suspended its flights between Dili and Denpasar (Bali), has blamed the government of East Timor for decisions that led to it losing USD3 million in 2016, the company said in statement in the Timorese capital.

Specifically, the company said in the statement, the decision to grant a license to a third party to fly to Dili led to overcapacity on the route, occupancy rates of less than 50 percent and consequent daily losses of \$10,000.

"Over the past eight years, we have built one of the best companies in Timor, we were a big contributor and supporter of tourism and of the government", said Abessy Bento, director of Air Timor, adding "in a year the government policy destroyed us."

Inacio Moreira, deputy minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications – who is mentioned by name in the Air Timor statement – told Portuguese news agency Lusa neither



View of the terminal building at Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport, in East Timor's capital, Dili

he nor the government were responsible for what he considered to be the "internal pro-

blems of a private company."

"Air Timor is a private company and the government has

no responsibility for private companies, as it only deals with the regulation process," added the deputy minister.

In a statement, Air Timor said the government's decision in late 2015 to grant NAM Air (a subsidiary of Sriwijaya Air, which already offered flights between East Timor and Bali) an operating license, led to over-capacity on the route.

Air Timor also announced it had reduced flights between East Timor and Singapore from three to two flights per week.

**MDT/Macauhub**

## Angola air transport in downturn

**A**IR transport in Angola in 2016 recorded a 28 percent decreases in aircraft movements, 11 percent in passenger numbers, 19 percent in cargo carried and 13 percent in postal services, said the chairman of airport management company ENANA.

Cited by the Angolan press, Ceita said that the economic and financial crisis in Angola had a direct impact on air transport and re-

stricted ENANA's business, leading to a significant drop in turnover in 2016.

Despite a drop in the number of aircraft flying to Luanda, as well as passengers and cargo, Ceita said ENANA had contributed to the economic diversification process, creating and improving mechanisms that facilitate the movement of people and goods in Angolan airports.

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**CHINA'S** recent push to clean up its air is leaving some of its neighbors feeling threatened.

The Asian country's road to cleaner air has been gradual, with lead-free gasoline only becoming a requirement in 2000, almost three decades behind the U.S. This month, China imposed new curbs on the amount of sulfur in vehicle fuels to about a fifth of the previous standard, putting it on par with Europe, which has the world's strictest emissions controls.

While the change helps China battle the smog that's choking residents from Beijing to Xian, many of its refiners still produce the dirtier fuel. That's causing concern in both South Korea and Japan that China will boost exports of low-quality diesel to markets such as Indonesia and Malaysia, where standards are laxer. Both depend on southeast Asia as a key customer for their diesel.

"Competition will surely heat up next year and we will have to fight to maintain market share," Kim Wookyoung, a spokeswoman at SK Innovation Co., South Korea's biggest refiner, said in a telephone interview.

Already, China has been aggressively selling refined fuel in the region. In September, its diesel exports jumped more than 50 percent to a record, while its sales to the Philippines soared more than six-fold in 2016 through November to about 17 million barrels, according to Bloomberg calculations based on data from China's General Administration of Customs.

With the decision to cut sulfur levels, there's "no doubt China's

## ENVIRONMENT

# Clean air bid scares rivals in duel over dirty fuel

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upgrade to cleaner fuels will be an accelerating factor for China to ship dirty fuel," said Wu Kang, a Beijing-based analyst with industry consultant FGE.

Meanwhile, South Korea's southeast Asian sales of diesel, its most-exported fuel, has slumped to its lowest level in six years. Oil-product exports from the country fell 2 percent in the quarter ended in September as shipments to the Philippines, for example, dropped 33 percent in 2016 from the previous year.

Japan's supply to southeast Asia is poised to be the worst in a decade. The country's exports of gasoil to the region slid about 15 percent between January and November to 25,580 barrels a day, on course for its lowest annual volume since 2006.

The end result: China is likely to overtake South Korea as the region's top diesel exporter by 2020, according to Peter Lee, a Singapore-based analyst at BMI Research.

Refiners have also been suffering from lower margins. The profit

from turning benchmark Dubai crude into oil products in Singapore averaged less than USD5.50 a barrel last year, compared with \$7.72 in 2015, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Not all of China's neighbors are concerned. India, the fastest-growing oil consuming nation globally, has been reducing diesel exports in order to meet its own needs, with oil demand there forecast to double through 2040 to 10.3 million barrels a day.

"There's not much of a threat to

Indian refineries because we are self-consuming," said H. Kumar, managing director of state-run Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. "But if there's plenty of diesel coming into the market because of Chinese dumping, that can impact the margins for all refiners."

**China's upgrade to cleaner fuels will be an accelerating factor for China to ship dirty fuel.**

WU KANG  
BEIJING-BASED ANALYST

State-owned oil majors Petro-China Co. and Sinopec have been investing heavily in facility upgrades to enable the production of higher-quality fuels, and they are now capable of meeting the new standard, said Amy Sun, analyst with Shanghai-based commodities researcher ICIS-China.

That also increases the risk low-sulfur fuel could flow into Japan from China, leading to more competition there as well.

"The quality of oil products exported from the country has improved to a level similar to those shipped from Japan," said Ko-suke Kai, a spokesman at Tokyo-based refiner TonenGeneral Sekiyu K.K. "We expect competition in Asian oil-product markets will intensify." Bloomberg

# Xinjiang tightening border amid terrorist threats

AP PHOTO



Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Chairman Shohrat Zakir

**CHINA** is tightening border controls in its northwestern Xinjiang region amid rising terrorism threats, the regional governor was quoted as saying yesterday.

State media reported Shohrat Zakir made the pledge in a speech at the region's main annual political meeting on Monday, saying increased measures taken

in the last year would be further strengthened.

The crackdown seeks to prevent suspected insurgents both from leaving Xinjiang to fight abroad and from returning to the region after receiving military training overseas, the official China Daily newspaper said.

Xinjiang has long been home to a simmering insurgency against Beijing's rule waged by extremists among the native Turkic-speaking Uighur (WEE-gur) ethnic group, who are mainly Muslim and culturally distinct from most Chinese. Many Uighurs already face onerous restrictions on where they can work and travel to, including extreme difficulties in obtaining passports.

Xinjiang shares a border with Afghanistan, Pakistan and four nations in the often volatile Central Asian region, whose native populations share ethnic, linguistic and religious links with Uighurs. Uighur extremists have also been reported to have joined the fighting in Syria and were blamed for a deadly attack on a Buddhist temple in Thailand.

Xinjiang has been smothered in heavy security since deadly riots in 2009 that pitted Uighurs against ethnic Han Chinese migrants in the regional capital of Urumqi. Those measures were tightened further following a wave of attacks blamed on Uighur separatists striking in Xinjiang and other parts of China, including the capital Beijing.

While such incidents have largely been curtailed, three knife-wielding assailants last month attacked staff at a Communist Party office in southern Xinjiang's Hotan region and set off an explo-

sive device, killing two and injuring three others. The attackers were then shot dead by police.

**Xinjiang has been smothered in heavy security since deadly riots in 2009 that pitted Uighurs against ethnic Han Chinese migrants**

The incident was the first publicly reported fatal attack in months in Xinjiang, where information is strictly

controlled and reporting access highly limited.

Prior to that, police in November 2015 killed 28 people who authorities said had killed 11 civilians and five police officers at a remote Xinjiang coal mine controlled by members of China's main Han ethnic group.

Additionally, a Chinese state media outlet reported that three alleged assailants wanted in relation with a 2015 terrorist incident in Hotan were killed in a police raid on Sunday. No details were given.

Beijing's critics say the violence in Xinjiang is prompted by government policies that have marginalized Uighurs in their native region, which has seen a massive influx of Han Chinese who dominate the local economy, security forces and civil service. Some Uighurs are also believed to have been radicalized by extremist jihadi ideologies that have spread from Central Asia to the Middle East. AP

# Jack Ma bets USD2.6b he can revamp China's retail industry

**A**LIBABA Group Holding Ltd. pioneered shopping on the internet in China. Now it thinks it can teach old-school retailers a thing or two about real-world commerce.

The online juggernaut that vanquished eBay and Amazon in China has set its sights on transforming the byzantine world of brick-and-mortar retail. In its biggest old-economy deal so far, Alibaba is leading a bid to buy out department store chain Intime Retail Group Co. for as much as USD2.6 billion. That's a premium for the privilege of owning a company with shrinking revenues and a minuscule footprint beyond its eastern home region.

But by teaming up with retailers, billionaire founder Jack Ma hopes to develop a new model of online and offline retail. The idea is that Alibaba's superior computing power, a decade of experience moving billions of dollars of goods and strong ties with government and big brands will help it succeed where others like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and even Amazon.com Inc. have failed. If it works, the tie-up may open the door to still more, helping Alibaba both extend its logistics network and gain invaluable consumer data.

"No one has any solution or concrete answer, although everyone knows that this is the next page of the industry. Alibaba wants to be the one to develop the solution," said Anson Chan, a Hong-Kong based Daiwa Capital Markets analyst.

History has shown that online and offline businesses don't play well together. Wal-Mart spent billions of dollars on growing its e-commerce operation at the expense of profits, yet Amazon still holds sway in the U.S. Amazon it-

BLOOMBERG



self is now venturing into brick-and-mortar stores though that effort is still nascent.

Alibaba however is dealing with a very different market, and is driven by a need to secure new sources of growth as e-commerce plateaus. Ma himself has confessed he sees "tremendous challenges" for one-dimensional e-commerce operators as the country's economy slows. His goal is to try and up-end a splintered and bloated \$4.5 trillion Chinese retail landscape, stripping out middlemen to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Apart from Intime, Alibaba has also bought into electronics players Suning Commerce Group Co. and Haier Electronics Group.

Chinese retailers could use some help. They've struggled in past years to retain consumers frustrated with lackluster, poorly managed malls. Unlike in the U.S., whi-

ch is controlled by a clutch of mega-chains, the Chinese retail experience is far more fragmented and inconsistent. Intime, one of the better-known players, operated and managed just 29 department stores and 17 shopping malls across the country as of end-June last year, mainly in eastern Zhejiang province. That's a far cry from the U.S., where nationwide chains such as Wal-Mart and Macy's Inc. dominate specific strata.

More important than geographical reach however is simple store management. While Wal-Mart and Amazon's logistical machines inspire college case studies, most Chinese retailers still operate in separate, walled-off regions. Management lacks incentive to innovate.

Alibaba sees an opportunity in helping such retailers use technology to transform inventory management, while

securing a physical network through which it can get goods to its own customers more efficiently, for instance by letting customers pick up orders from stores.

"Physical retail in China is backwards compared to elsewhere," said Catherine Lim, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence in Singapore. "It's going to be a root-and-branch effort to get the offline side up to standard, and that's probably why Alibaba felt the need to take it over totally."

Lim cites a familiar example: You have to wait days to find out if there's a size 10 dress in another branch of the same store.

"The players have started to modernize, but it's been very slow. The truth is that the technology and software is there, it's whether the people were willing to adapt to it."

The logic of the Intime deal isn't apparent to all. Alibaba

may be counting on success in reviving the mall operator to encourage other retailers to adopt its online-to-offline or O2O model, Chan said.

"What's possible is that Alibaba wants to develop the O2O model and system through this partnership and, once it's perfected, open up that system for others to use as a platform, like its cloud business," Chan said.

Also, neither Alibaba nor Intime own a lot of the inventory they sell - Intime operates much like a bazaar where different brands run concessions. That means brands will need to be won over.

"There is still the missing piece of the people who actually sell the items," said Chan Wai-Chan, a Hong-Kong based senior partner at Oliver Wyman's Asia Pacific consumer practice. "Intime is only in Zhejiang, so there won't be a national reach. Maybe in the grand plan, Alibaba will buy other department stores, since sales of department stores have fallen through the floor."

But Alibaba's certainly giving it a go. It's already building a network that will allow physical stores - and the brands they sell - to monitor transactions as they happen.

Like Amazon, Alibaba also owns a sprawling collection of online assets, from its budding cloud computing business to mobile search and video entertainment, that could conceivably be combined with physical retail. Shoppers might spot a dress they like on Youku Tudou, run a search via Alibaba's photo-recognition technology and find 10 similar garments online. Its logistics affiliate, Cainiao, can help retailers identify vacant warehouses and available inventory and match goods with the company's 450 million active buyers more efficiently.

"What Alibaba might want to do is to crunch its marketing, logistics, cloud computing and search and entertainment services all into a package for brands to create value, something they won't be able to do themselves," said Julia Pan, a Shanghai-based analyst at UOB Kay Hian. **Bloomberg**

## Xi to be first Chinese president to attend Davos forum

**C**HINA'S President Xi Jinping will attend the World Economic Forum next week, becoming the first Chinese head of state to do so.

As part of an official visit to Switzerland, Xi will attend the annual

economic meeting in the ski resort of Davos on Jan. 17, a foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Xi's attendance comes as China has sought to be more influential globally and present itself as a force for stability

and champion of globalization and opponent of protectionism.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said last month that China would "lead the way amid a shakeup in global governance, we will take hold of the situation amid internatio-

nal chaos, we will protect our interests amid intense and complex games."

At the same time, while Xi has promised to make the world's second-largest economy more competitive and productive by giving market forces a bigger role, re-

form advocates complain Beijing is failing to reduce the dominance of state companies. Foreign companies say regulators are trying to squeeze them out of technology and other promising fields.

Ministry spokesman

Lu Kang says Xi's Jan. 15-18 trip to Switzerland will also include visits to the offices of the United Nations and the World Health Organization in Geneva, and the International Olympics Committee's headquarters in Lausanne. **AP**

Fathiya Dahrul, Judith Ho

**I**NDOONESIAN tycoon Hary Tanoesoedibjo says he's fending off potential rivals to his pact with the Trump Organization by building new projects such as a motorbike-racing track and Disneyland-like theme park to cement the alliance.

Tanoesoedibjo's MNC Group, which is redeveloping two Indonesian resorts to be managed by the company owned by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, is open to more joint ventures given his existing relationship and access. To enhance its 3,000-hectare resort in Lido, West Java, MNC is planning a MotoGP course that will be subsequently pitched to Formula One, Tanoesoedibjo said in an interview at his sprawling South Jakarta residence.

"We're partners - we can come to meet them anytime to discuss the business," said Tanoesoedibjo, 51, who's working closely with the president-elect's older sons, Don Jr. and Eric. "But for a newcomer, logically speaking, it would be difficult because I don't think Trump may entertain any new project from any new third party except for the existing partner."

The real estate developments are helping Tanoesoedibjo, who built his wealth from free-to-air television and advertising, diversify from his media business that now make up two-thirds of sales. The Indonesian group will spend as much as USD1 billion on the two resorts that will bear the Trump brand, said Tanoesoedibjo, who's aiming to reduce his reliance on the media bu-

# Trump's Indonesia man to boost ties with theme park, track

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Indonesian tycoon Hary Tanoesoedibjo

siness to 40 percent of revenue in the next five years as he expands other sectors.

Trump Hotel Collection will manage about 700 hectares of the Lido site to operate a resort, a golf course by golfer Ernie Els, as well as a country club. The golf course has been

built, with the country club to follow before the villas and hotel begin construction next year, Tanoesoedibjo said. In addition to the racetrack, his PT MNC Land will also build a residential complex, a factory outlet and a theme park in the scale of Disneyland around the

area, he said.

Trump Hotel will also manage Tanoesoedibjo's 100-hectare resort in Bali set across the water from Tanah Lot Temple, including its existing hotel and country club, and talks are being held with golfing champion Phil Mickelson to redesign the course, he said. Villas

**MNC Group will spend as much as USD1 billion on the two resorts that will bear the Trump brand**

in the property will be renamed Trump Residences.

Trump has said he plans to put his two eldest sons in charge of the Trump Organization and vowed to do no deals while he's president. He's expected to outline a plan for leaving his business at a news conference later today.

While Tanoesoedibjo has secured the first-mover advantage in partnering the Trump Organization, how the ties "can translate into meaningful benefits for his businesses remains to be seen," John Teja, director

at PT Ciptadana Securities in Jakarta, said by phone yesterday.

While some shares of MNC group's listed companies advanced after Trump's surprise win, they have since pared gains. Shares of MNC Land are down 3.3 percent this year after capping a second annual gain in 2016, while PT Media Nusantara Citra is little changed since the start of the year.

For his media business, Tanoesoedibjo plans to merge his satellite and broadband television units, PT MNC Sky Vision and PT MNC Kabel Mediacom, into an entity called Sky Vision Networks that will be offered in an initial stock offering in the next three to four years. Tanoesoedibjo is buying the remaining shares of MNC Sky from the market "almost everyday" to fully own the company before the restructuring, he said.

Tanoesoedibjo has been in talks with a strategic investor keen on buying a stake in the holding company before the share sale, he said, declining to name the suitor.

"I will push all four units of my business to grow with none being too dominant," Tanoesoedibjo said, referring to his media, real estate, banking and investment companies. "It's very important. If you are too dependent on one industry, it's dangerous." Bloomberg

## PHILIPPINES

# 8 fishermen killed in suspected pirate attack

**E**

Seven other crew-members survived the attack Monday night in waters near Zamboanga City by jumping off the boat and swimming away when the attackers began tying up their colleagues, said Commodore Joel Garcia, head of the Philippine Coast Guard.

"According to the initial investigation, [the attackers] were on board a boat and they were all armed," he said. "They immediate-

ly tied up eight of the crewmen, and the seven others were able to

**Two of the survivors reached land and reported the massacre to a village leader**

jump out and survive."

Two of the survivors reached land and reported the massacre to a village leader, who alerted the coast guard.

AP PHOTO



Members of the Philippine Coast Guard (left) approach the almost sunken fishing boat of fishermen who were killed by suspected pirates

Two vessels were sent to the area, and coast guard personnel found the fishing boat floating with eight bodies on board.

Pictures released by the coast guard showed the bodies sprawled on the boat's bow, with a nylon cord tying the men together by their hands.

The coast guard found the five other survivors floating near Siromon Island, and they were given medical care and

taken to the fishing boat's homeport.

"We are now conducting an investigation with the seven survivors and will find out who are the perpetrators," Garcia said.

Lt. Commander Alvin Dagalea, commander of the coast guard station in Zamboanga on Mindanao island, said in a telephone interview that the gunmen are believed to be pirates. A military report said other motives being looked into include extortion or a grudge between fishing groups.

Abu Sayyaf militants are suspected of being behind a string of ship hijackings in the southern Philippines. Last week, coast guard and navy units foiled an attempt by suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen to hijack a cargo vessel in nearby Basilan province. AP

## THAILAND

# PM says king seeks change in pending constitution

**T**HAILAND'S prime minister said yesterday he will honor a request from the country's new king that several changes be made to a constitution that was approved in a referendum last August.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha told reporters that King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun told his royal advisers that he wished to have several articles about the monarchy amended. Prayuth did not specify what chan-

ges he desired, but said three or four points were involved.

Vajiralongkorn took the throne on Dec. 2, succeeding his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died in October after an extended illness. An interim constitution put in place after the army seized power in 2014 calls for the approved charter to be endorsed by the king within 90 days, and Vajiralongkorn's failure so far to do so had caused concern.

Prayuth is expected to make the changes by invoking Article 44 of the 2014

interim constitution, which gives him executive powers tantamount to lawmaking abilities.

The proposed revisions cast further doubt on the military government's promise to hold elections by the end of this year. In recent weeks, the government has been hedging on its promise, stressing that the polls will follow processes decreed in the interim constitution — involving the duration of different stages — rather than being pinned to a specific date. The date has already

been set back several times, with critics charging that the military is trying to enshrine its own power while crippling political parties.

Aside from attending memorial services for his father and some religious and civic ceremonies, the 64-year-old Vajiralongkorn has been keeping a relatively low profile, as he did when he was crown prince. Much public attention is still focused on his late father, who was revered as an industrious monarch who acted selflessly during his 70-year reign. AP



Thailand's new King delivers a speech

# Michael Chamberlain, father of baby killed by dingo, dies



Michael Chamberlain (right) and then his wife Lindy when Lindy launched her book on the disappearance of her baby daughter in 1980

Kristen Gelineau, Sydney

**M**ICHAEL Chamberlain, who waged a decades-long battle to prove his baby daughter was killed by a dingo in Australia's most notorious case of injustice, has died, his former wife said yesterday. He was 72.

Chamberlain died suddenly, his ex-wife, Lindy Chamberlain, said in a statement. Michael Chamberlain's longtime friend and former lawyer, Stuart Tipple, told Australia's Fairfax Media that Michael died on Monday night as a result of complications from leukemia.

"I am on my way today to support and be with our children," Lindy said in a statement. "Given Michael's death was unexpected, I would ask that

doubted the wild dogs were capable of carrying an infant. Instead, prosecutors argued that Lindy had slit her daughter's throat and buried her in the desert.

There were no witnesses, no motive and no body; Azaria's remains were never found. But in 1982, Lindy was nonetheless convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. Michael was convicted of being an accessory after the fact and given a suspended sentence.

Three years later, Azaria's jacket was found in the desert near a dingo den and Lindy was quickly released from prison. A Royal Commission, the highest form of investigation in Australia, later debunked much of the forensic evidence used at trial and the Chamberlains' convictions were overturned. In 2012 — more than three decades after Azaria vanished — a coroner finally ruled that the infant had died as a result of a dingo attack.

The trial remains a source of shame for the many Australians who initially doubted the Chamberlains and cast Lindy as a villain largely due to her religious beliefs. Michael Chamberlain was a pastor with the Seventh-day Adventist church, a Pro-

testant denomination that few Australians understood. Rumors flew that Lindy had killed her daughter as part of a grisly religious ritual.

Shortly before the coroner's ruling in 2012, Michael Chamberlain told The Associated Press that religious bigotry played a large role in the injustice he and his former wife suffered.

"The church got so smashed up, erroneously, and all through, really, a nasty dose of prejudice," Chamberlain told The AP. "I can say that I think our religion definitely impacted quite strongly on the attitude that many Australians developed."

Michael and Lindy divorced in 1991. He later married Ingrid Bergner, and went on to become an author and teacher.

Actor Sam Neill, who portrayed Michael in "A Cry in the Dark," said on Monday that the Chamberlains had been "terribly, cruelly wronged."

"Throughout their cruel ordeal & the years of injustice, [Michael] Chamberlain maintained that quiet unassuming dignity — an impressive man," Neill tweeted. "RIP."

Chamberlain, who was born in New Zealand, is survived by his wife and four children. AP

## SOUTH KOREA

# Park's confidante snubs impeachment trial

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

**D**ISGRACED South Korean President Park Geun-hye's longtime friend at the center of a massive corruption scandal refused to testify at Park's impeachment trial yesterday, with lawmakers alleging that it was a stalling tactic.

The Constitutional Court had expected to hear from Choi Soon-sil, a confidante of Park who's currently jailed and on trial herself for allegedly using her connections with the president to extort money and favors from companies and unlawfully interfere with government affairs.

But Choi (pronounced Chwey) submitted documents to the court saying she was unable to testify because she had to prepare for her own trial. Two jailed former presidential aides who purportedly helped Choi also refused to testify, saying they needed to prepare for their own trials as well.

Lawmakers, who function as prosecutors at the impeachment trial, raised suspicions that Park's lawyers were controlling the witnesses in order to stall.

"Three important witnesses all refused to testify, like they planned it ahead," said lawmaker Lee Chun-suak. "We think there's an invisible hand at work [controlling the witness]."

Choi said in the documents that it was difficult for her to testify because she needed time to prepare for her trial, which is

being held at a different court, said Park Han-Chul, the Constitutional Court's chief justice. Choi also noted that her daughter is also being investigated over the corruption scandal, and cited an article in the country's criminal litigation law that allows a person to refuse to give testimony that could put their relatives at risk of prosecution or conviction.

However, the court said it would call Choi and the two former presidential aides as witnesses again next week, and that it would take steps to forcibly summon them if they refused to appear again.

The no-shows by the three came after the court last week heard from only one of four former and current presidential aides it had called in as witnesses. Police are currently trying to locate two of Park's former aides after court employees failed to deliver subpoenas to them.

Park's powers have been suspended since Dec. 9, when South Korea's opposition-controlled parliament voted to impeach her.

Park, who has not appeared at her impeachment trial, cannot be forced to attend the hearings, and her lawyers say there's no possibility she will. Some experts have said Park's lawyers may want to stall because the president's popularity is so low now, they might feel that the longer the trial takes, the better chance they have of the court rejecting the impeachment. AP

USA

# Lunar New Year 2017 events from NYC to Disney to Vegas

Beth J. Harpaz

**L**UNAR New Year begins Jan. 28, kicking off the year of the rooster. The holiday is observed in China, Vietnam and other Asian countries, but a number of U.S. destinations from New York to Las Vegas also host celebrations. Events include parades featuring lion dancers, special holiday menus at Asian restaurants, cultural festivals and more.

Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim, California, hosts a Lunar New Year celebration from Jan. 20 through Feb. 5. Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse will be costumed for the occasion.

Live performances at Disney California Adventure will include Chinese acrobats, dancers and musicians in colorful costumes, activities and crafts themed on the holiday and three new marketplaces offering food inspired by Asian cuisine. A new short feature called "Hurry Home" will be shown each ni-



A lion dancer is accompanied by a drummer and gong during a Lunar New Year celebration in New York's Chinatown neighborhood

ght prior to the "World of Color" show, telling the story of a little lantern on a journey home for Lunar New Year, using projected animation, lighting, special effects and fountains. The park will also be decorated with lanterns and banners wishing guests a happy Lunar New Year in English, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.

In New York City, visitors have three Chinatowns to explore: one in downtown Manhattan, one in the Sunset Park neighborhood of Brooklyn and one in Flushing, Queens. Check out the restaurants, food markets and shops selling everything

from housewares to souvenirs. In Manhattan, holiday events include a Jan. 28 firecracker ceremony and cultural festival in Sara D. Roosevelt Park and a Feb. 5 Lunar New Year parade. There's also a parade and festival in Flushing on Feb. 4.

San Francisco has been celebrating Lunar New Year with a parade that dates back to the 1860s. This year's event rolls the evening of Feb. 11 with acrobats, lion dancers, floats and a 268-foot dragon, kicking off at Second and Market streets. Other events include a flower market fair, Jan. 21-22, and a Feb. 19 5K/10K run-walk.

In Las Vegas, Jan. 28 is the kickoff for a 15-day celebration at Lucky Dragon Hotel & Casino, a new resort themed on Asian culture. Elsewhere in Las Vegas, at The LINQ Promenade, a four-day festival is scheduled for Jan. 27-30 including dragon dances at 6 p.m. nightly on the Fountain Stage. A Jan. 27-29 "Chinese New Year in the Desert" event includes performances, a parade on Fremont Street, a party at Downtown Container Park and the DragonFest Benefit Concert at The LINQ Theater.

Other Las Vegas venues hosting lion and dragon dances, parades, performances and more include the Cosmopolitan, ARIA Resort & Casino, The Palazzo Las Vegas and The Venetian Las Vegas, MGM Grand Hotel and Casino, Palms Casino Resort and the Bellagio and Palace Station. The Conservatory & Botanical Gardens at Bellagio will host a display that includes incense, red lanterns and a rooster perched atop a mountain. The Palazzo's Waterfall Atrium and Gardens will host a 15-foot, crystal-covered rooster and an 18-foot dragon. In addition, many restaurants offer holiday menus.

Lunar New Year parades will also be held in Washington, D.C., Jan. 29; Chicago, Feb. 5; and Orlando, Florida, Feb. 11. AP

DEAD AIR

## Norway to phase out analog radio

FOR some radio listeners in Norway, there will be dead air starting today. The mountainous nation of 5 million will become the first in the world to phase out analog signals in favor of Digital Audio Broadcasting, or DAB.

The move has provoked concern for the elderly and motorists, while others will be nostalgic for the crackling sound of old radio.

Judith Haaland, 98, remembers the radio broadcasts from London during World War II and Norway's king stiffening the resolve of his countrymen under German occupation. Now blind and living alone, her radio has been her tether to the outside world.

In a move likely to be watched closely by other nations, the Norwegian government will begin shutting off the FM signal today. By the end of the year, national networks will be available only on DAB.

Switzerland and Britain are both considering a switch to digital networks.

Norway claims the move will free up cash for broadcasters to invest in programming, while providing a clearer and more reliable network that can better cut through the country's sparsely populated rocky terrain. AP

AD



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# DECOUPAGE

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QUARTAS  
WEDNESDAYS  
18h30 - 20h30  
24 horas/hours  
12 sessões/sessions

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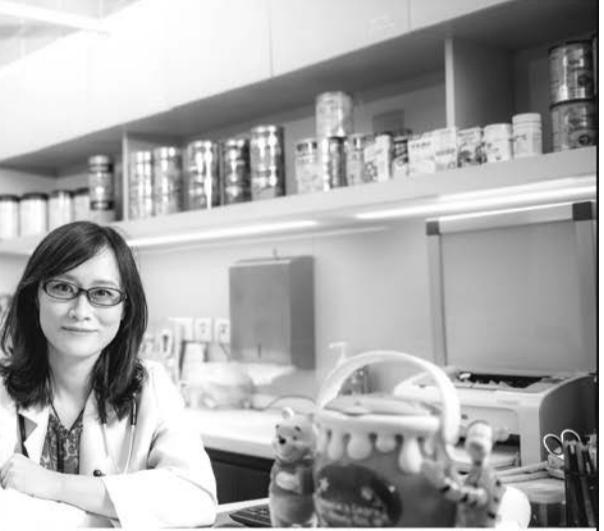
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Matti Huhtanen

**N**ORWEGIAN mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik made a neo-Nazi salute as he walked into a courtroom at a high-security prison where judges yesterday began reviewing a ruling that his solitary confinement is inhumane.

Dressed in a dark suit, the bearded Breivik stared briefly at reporters while making the salute but did not speak.

Judge Oystein Hermansen asked Breivik not to repeat the salute, saying it insulted the dignity of the court. "It also disturbs what we are dealing with here, so I ask you not to repeat it," Hermansen said, brushing aside attempts by Breivik to defend his action.

The 37-year-old right-wing extremist, who killed 77 people in a bomb and shooting rampage in 2011, sued the government last year, saying his solitary confinement, frequent strip searches and the fact that he was often handcuffed during the early part of his incarceration violated his human rights.

But lawyers representing the government said he enjoys better prison conditions than some inmates in Norway.

The government is appealing a surprise decision in April by the Oslo District Court, which sided with Breivik's claims that his isolation in the maximum-security Skien prison breaches the European Convention on Human Rights.

The ruling said "the prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment represents a fundamental value in a democratic society. This applies no matter what — also in the treatment of terrorists and killers." It also ordered the government to pay Breivik's legal costs of 331,000 kroner (USD41,000).

However, it dismissed his claim that his right to res-

NORWAY

# Mass murderer Breivik makes Nazi salute at court

AP PHOTO



Breivik raises his right hand at the start of his appeal case

pect for private and family life was violated by restrictions on contacts with other right-wing extremists.

Speaking for the state, Fredrik Sejersted said the government's view is that Breivik's prison conditions do not violate his human rights in any actual or legal sense.

Describing the killer as Norway's most expensive prisoner, Sejersted said that "in many ways they are better than [those] of other prisoners to compensate for

the fact that he cannot make contact with other inmates."

"That is far from violating human rights," he said.

Breivik was convicted of mass murder and terrorism in 2012 and given a 21-year prison sentence that can be extended for as long as he's deemed dangerous to society. Legal experts say he will likely be locked up for life.

He is being held in isolation in a three-cell complex where he can play video games, watch TV and exercise. He has

also complained about the quality of the prison food, having to eat with plastic utensils and not being able to communicate with sympathizers.

The government has rejected his complaints, saying he is treated humanely despite the severity of his crimes and that he must be separated from other inmates for safety reasons.

Breivik had carefully planned the attacks on July 22, 2011. He set off a car bomb

outside the government headquarters in Oslo, killing eight people and wounding dozens. Dressed in a police uniform, Breivik then drove to the island of Utoya, about 40 kilometers away, where he opened fire on the

## Breivik claims his solitary confinement violated his human rights

annual summer camp of the left-wing Labor Party's youth wing. Sixty-nine people there were killed, most of them teenagers, before he surrendered to police.

At the time of the attacks, Breivik claimed to be the commander of a secret Christian military order plotting an anti-Muslim revolution in Europe, but now describes himself as a traditional neo-Nazi who prays to the Viking god Odin. He also made a Nazi salute to journalists at the start of his human rights case last year.

The massacre shocked the oil-rich, quiet Scandinavian country and many feel Breivik has had too much attention and visibility.

The case is being heard by the Borgarting Court of Appeals in a makeshift courtroom in the gym of Skien prison in southern Norway, where Breivik is incarcerated.

Six days have been reserved for the hearings. Judge Hermansen said a ruling is expected in February. AP

# Court backs Swiss that Muslim girls must attend swim class

Jamey Keaten, Geneva

A European court has rejected an appeal by a Turkish-born couple who were fined in Switzerland for keeping their daughters out of mixed-gender, mandatory public school swimming lessons for reasons linked to their

Muslim faith.

The European Court of Human Rights announced a summary of the ruling yesterday. The decision upheld a Swiss federal court ruling that education officials hadn't violated the family's rights of freedom of conscience and religion in the case in Basel

dating to 2008.

The Strasbourg, France-based court acknowledged "interference" in freedom of religion, but that public schools had a "special role" in integration, particularly of children of foreign origin.

Under Basel school system rules, attending

swim class is mandatory for all grade-school pupils and exemptions are possible only once they reach puberty. The girls were 7 and 9 when their parents first became aware that no exemption was allowed, according to the ruling.

The court noted that Swiss authorities had

taken steps to ease the family's concerns, such as by allowing for individual, separate showers and allowing for the wearing of a "burkini," or body-covering swimwear used by some Muslim women.

The girls' mother refused that option, arguing that "the burkini didn't erase the contours" of their bodies, and the family believed that wearing one would "stigmatize" its wearer, the ruling said. The paren-

ts kept their daughters out of the swim classes.

Two years after the case emerged, education officials in Basel ordered the family to pay a total of 1,400 Swiss francs (about USD1,400 today) for repeatedly violating the rules.

Such issues of compulsory public education and religious belief have prompted similar cases in neighboring Germany and Liechtenstein in recent years. AP

## what's ON



QINGHAI ORIGINAL ECOLOGICAL CHILDREN'S MUSIC DRAMA

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Cinema Alegria, No. 85 Est. do Repouso  
Free tickets will be distributed, please refer to organizer.

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

ORGANIZERS: Macao Foundation, Hong Kong United Arts Entertainment Co., Ltd.

LEONG WAN SI ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 2, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, no.10

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

BROADCASTER LEONG SONG FONG - 33

YEARS IN RADIO

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 5, 2017

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy, Av. do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, no. 95 C-D

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP

TIME: 10:30am-7pm daily (Closed on the first Monday of every month)

VENUE: No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

'DESTINY IS A MATTER OF CHOICE FOR YOURSELF' LEONG WAN SIN EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30 am to 6:30 pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: February 2, 2017

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, Calcada da Igreja de S. Lazaro

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## Offbeat

## UNDERSEA QUAKE HITS SOUTH PHILIPPINES, NO DAMAGE

A powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 struck under the Celebes Sea off the southern Philippines yesterday but was far too deep to cause any damage and casualties or generate a tsunami.

Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the quake, which was set off by movement of oceanic plates 625 kilometers (387 miles) under the seabed, was slightly felt in southern General Santos city.

The undersea quake was centered 223 kilometers southeast of Sulu province and aftershocks were possible, he said, adding such quakes at that depth are rare although shallower ones have struck the region a number of times in the past.

The Philippine archipelago lies in the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where earthquakes and volcanic activities are common. A magnitude 7.7 quake killed nearly 2,000 people on the northern island of Luzon in 1990. AP

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Happy Endings Sr.2
17:40	Once Upon A Time Sr.2 (Repeated)
18:20	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
18:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Criminal Minds S10
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	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, 9:30pm

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, 9:30pm

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



## 1962 THOUSANDS KILLED IN PERU LANDSLIDE

At least 2,000 people are believed to have been killed after a massive avalanche of rocks and ice buried an entire mountain village and several settlements in north-west Peru.

Last night millions of tons of snow, rocks, mud and debris tumbled down the extinct volcano of Huascarán, Peru's highest mountain in the Andes range.

The village of Ranrahirca and its inhabitants was totally destroyed along with eight other towns. The mayor Alfonso Caballero said only about 50 of its 500 inhabitants survived. "In eight minutes Ranrahirca was wiped off the map," he said.

Relief efforts are being hampered by the very storms that started the devastating landslide, but there are believed to be few survivors.

Colonel Umberto Ampuera, head of emergency services, said the disaster was "like a scene from Dante's Inferno." He appealed to the Peruvian Government for aid to restore stricken communications and reach anyone who escaped the landslide.

Two Peruvian Air Force planes have carried relief supplies to the area and troops have been sent there to open up roads to Ranrahirca and other areas cut off by the avalanche.

A massive wall of ice and rocks, about 12 meters high and 1km high, roared down the River Santa. The river rose by eight meters carrying with it everything in its path down the Rio Santa valley.

Bodies have been found at the port of Chimbote, 60 miles from the scene of the tragedy, where the river meets the sea.

The President of the Peruvian Red Cross, Roberto Thorndike, estimated between 2,000 and 2,500 people were killed. But local authorities believe the death toll is higher - between 3,000 and 4,000 people.

The region is prone to major avalanches at this time of year when glaciers melt and break off sliding through the "quebradas" (deep canyons) in the valley below.

U Thant, the acting United Nations Secretary General, has offered Peru aid to alleviate the situation.

In a telegram to President Manuel Prado he said representatives of the UN technical assistance board and the UN children's fund would be ready to give any help required of them.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

It is estimated that about 4,000 people died in the avalanche but the final figure will never be known.

The 1962 avalanche that caused so much devastation in the Rio Santa Valley was eclipsed in 1970 by another massive landslide. On 31 May a huge earthquake 25km from the town of Chimbote, on the north coast of Peru, triggered off Latin America's biggest recorded landslide.

A wall of ice was dislodged from Mount Huascarán and in three minutes slid down a glacier and travelled another 10km to bury the town of Yungay.

The avalanche destroyed Ranrahirca all over again - about 20,000 people died and there were just 400 survivors.

## YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

A partner or a dear old friend - someone you either share your deepest thoughts or your checkbook with (or both) - will make you a rather odd, yet extremely wonderful, offer.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

You've never been good at taking orders, especially if they're delivered by a higher-up with a chip on their shoulder. Under those circumstances, you'll go out of your way to do exactly what you've been told not to do.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

If you can manage to get through whatever the universe has decided to toss your way at the moment, which will be considerably interesting, you can get through anything.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

As the song says, you're in the mood for love - simply because they're near you. You won't settle for just any old red-roses-candle-lit-dinner type thing, though. You're in the mood for a whole lot more.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your routine is about to be seriously disrupted, but just this once, you won't be too upset about it. It's going to be for a sentimental reason and as you've no doubt noticed, emotions seem to be first and foremost on your mind lately.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You may still be a bit irritated about yesterday's events. Besides, if a certain person you're quite fond of has anything at all to say about it, the type of secrets and intrigue you'll be dealing with will be far from unpleasant.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your mantra, should you choose to repeat it, is this: 'Yesterday never happened. Today will be wonderful.' Keep it up until you absolutely believe it - although after a certain person makes contact with you this morning,



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Self-control has never been high on your list of the qualities you admire in yourself. More like the 'qualities I wish I had' list. So don't beat yourself up if you're not exactly the soul of willpower when it comes to the plastic right now.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

In your not so humble opinion, life is meant to be a series of extended vacations, which certainly explains why you move so much, so easily and with such great abandon. It's not that you're irresponsible, exactly.

Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

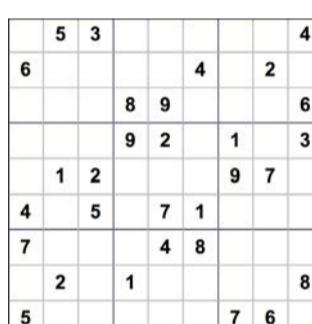
It's not exactly that you're aiming to aggravate everyone you cross paths with, especially the ones you love. The situation is this: you just can't hold back your feelings and more importantly, your ideas.

## THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom

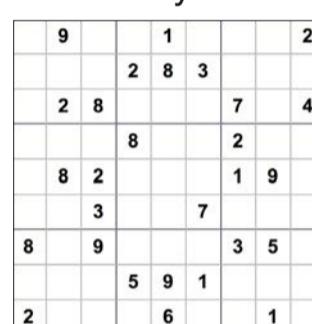


## SUDOKU

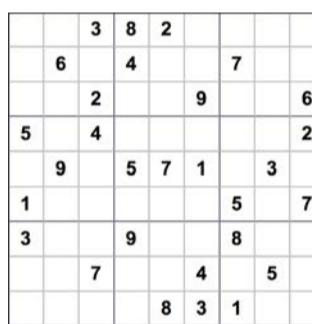
## Easy



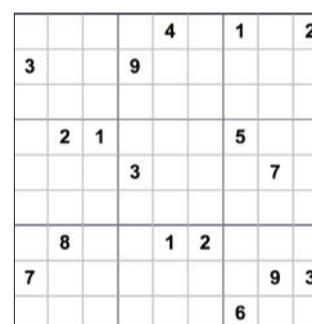
## Easy+



## Medium



## Hard

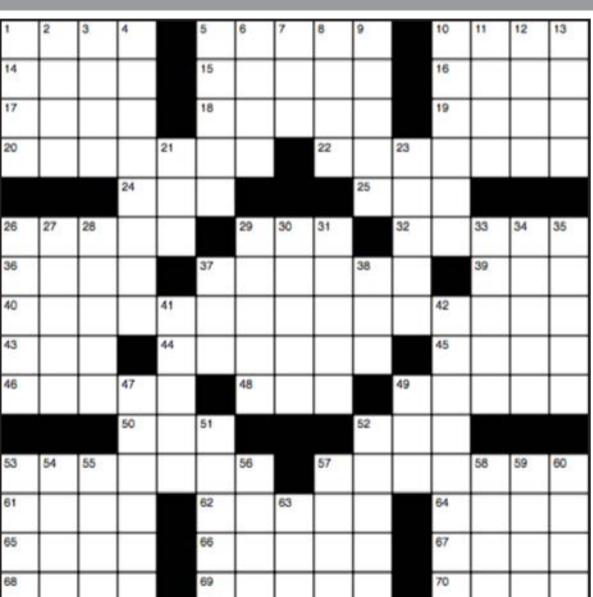
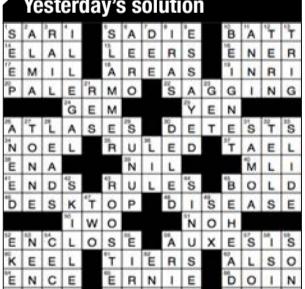


## CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS:** 1- Blueprint detail, for short; 5- Things; 10- Faithful; 14- Hawaiian city; 15- Remove dirt with a broom; 16- Merit; 17- Like Nash's lama; 18- Actress Palmer; 19- High-ranking NCO; 20- Ripple; 22- Fur hunter; 24- Posed; 25- Ending for legal or Japan; 26- Works hard; 29- UK honor; 32- Call; 36- A Chaplin; 37- Attack with severe criticism; 39- Far out!; 40- In spite of; 43- Land in la mer; 44- Musical dramas; 45- Suffix with exist; 46- Unit of weight in gemstones; 48- Dorn overseers, for short; 49- Earnings; 50- Has been; 52- Bumbler; 53- Variety of rummy; 57- Inactive; 61- Bumpkin; 62- Ball partner; 64- Western Indians; 65- Dies \_\_\_; 66- Bird of prey; 67- Pack down; 68- Strong \_\_\_ ox; 69- Christopher "Back to the Future"; 70- Slaughter of baseball;

**DOWN:** 1- Display; 2- \_\_\_ colada; 3- Mtn. stat; 4- Cabbage salad; 5- Speck in the ocean; 6- Tease; 7- Long fish; 8- Thaw; 9- Steeple; 10- Fermented soybean cake; 11- File; 12- Impulse to act; 13- \_\_\_ 'acte; 21- Part of UNLV; 23- Colorado resort; 26- Medicine; 27- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 28- Lay to rest; 29- Earth tone; 30- Iraqi port; 31- Kett and James; 33- Rubber gasket; 34- John \_\_\_ Garner; 35- Borders; 37- Indy 500 sponsor; 38- Holds; 41- Little bits; 42- Unable to hear and speak; 47- Rouse; 49- Armed conflict; 51- Madame de \_\_\_; 52- Seeped; 53- Pet plant; 54- Broadcasts; 55- Final Four org.; 56- Shrinking Asian sea; 57- Tyne of "Judging Amy"; 58- all-time high; 59- Captain of the Nautilus; 60- Cookbook amts.; 63- Vietnam's \_\_\_ Dinh Diem;

## Yesterday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

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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

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Spacious and Furnished  
HKD 22,000 / 1,680 sq ft  
Ref: 16120630

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Taipa  
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HKD 4,231 sq ft  
Storage Space & Cargo Lifts  
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Ching Fai Court, Macau  
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Ref: 16120629

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

Hellene Gardens, Lot 4,  
D Unit, Coloane  
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Ref: 16100623

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

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**POKER STARS LIVE**  
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Germany's Thomas Muller shoots a goal during a semifinal match between Brazil and Germany of the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil

Graham Dunbar

**F**IFA will expand the World Cup to 48 teams, adding 16 extra nations to the 2026 tournament which is likely to be held in North America.

President Gianni Infantino's favored plan — for 16 three-team groups with the top two advancing to a round of 32 — was unanimously approved yesterday by the FIFA Council.

It meets Infantino's election pledge of a bigger World Cup, and should help fund promised raises for FIFA's 211 member federations.

With 80 matches instead of 64, FIFA forecasts the equivalent of USD1 billion extra income at current rates from broadcasting and sponsor deals, plus ticket sales, compared to \$5.5 billion revenue forecast for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

FIFA projects an increased profit of \$640 million despite some extra operating costs and prize money for teams.

FIFA's six continents should find out by May how many extra places they will each get.

UEFA wants 16 European teams at the tournament, which is strongly favored to be played in North America. The CONCA-

# FIFA to expand World Cup to 48 teams in 2026

CAF region has not hosted the World Cup since the 1994 tournament in the United States.

American, Canadian and Mexican soccer leaders have had informal talks about a co-hosting bid.

Africa and Asia could be winners in a bigger World Cup with up to nine places each. They had only five and four teams, respectively, at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Still, FIFA said it expects the standard of soccer to drop compared to the 32-team format locked in for the next two World Cups in Russia and Qatar.

The "absolute quality" of play, defined by high-ranked teams facing each other most often, is achieved by 32 teams, FIFA acknowledged in a research document sent to members last month. It made 10,000 tournament simulations to reach that conclusion.

Instead, Infantino wants to create fervor and months of anticipation back home in the 16 extra nations which would qualify, some probably making their World Cup debut. FIFA has

pointed to Costa Rica, Wales and Iceland as examples of teams which overachieved at recent tournaments.

FIFA must break with soccer tradition to make its new format work after an original 48-team plan — with an opening playoff round sending 16 "one-and-done" teams home early — was unpopular.

**With 80 matches instead of 64, FIFA forecasts the equivalent of USD1 billion extra income at current rates**

Instead, three-team groups will replace the usual groups of four to create simple progress to a knockout bracket. However, it leaves one team idle for

final group games and could risk collusion between the other two teams.

FIFA said it could guard against result-rigging by introducing penalty shootouts after group games that end in draws.

Despite the 16 extra games, FIFA believes the current maximum of stadiums needed will stay at the 12 used by Brazil and Russia. However, the demand for more training bases and hotels means developed countries would be better equipped to win future hosting contests.

North America is the strong favorite for 2026 because European and Asian countries are blocked by a FIFA rule excluding continents which hosted either of the two previous tournaments. Russia will host the World Cup next year and Qatar in 2022.

South America has been focused on a centenary tournament including original 1930 host Uruguay, and African nations are seen as lacking existing capacity and unlikely to fund multi-billion dollar infrastructure spending. AP

## Ronaldo wins best player award for 4th time

**CAPPING** what he called the best year of his career, Cristiano Ronaldo won his fourth FIFA best player award yesterday (Macau time).

The double European champion with Portugal and Real Madrid beat great rival Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann to complete a sweep of top individual awards.

"It was a year that was magnificent at a personal level and at a sporting level," the 31-year-old Ronaldo said in Portuguese in his acceptance speech, which he began by exclaiming "Wow, wow, wow."

Ronaldo's fourth career FIFA award closed the gap on five-time winner Messi, who has been the runner-up to each Ronaldo victory.

His 34.54 percent of total voting points in a 23-candidate ballot was clearly better than Messi's 26.42 percent. Griezmann got 7.53 percent. Voting was by national team captains and coaches, selected media, and fans online.

Messi did not attend after

being pulled out hours before the ceremony by his club Barcelona to prepare for a cup match today.

"Of course, I wish that they (Barcelona players) had been here tonight like in the other years. We have to respect the decision," Ronaldo said.

Yet again, Ronaldo and Messi snubbed each other on ballot papers they got as captains of Portugal and Argentina. Ronaldo selected three Real Madrid teammates headed by Gareth Bale, and Messi picked Luis Suarez atop an all-Barcelona ballot.

Ronaldo's 2016 trophy haul included the European Championship, Champions League, and Club World Cup, plus individual best player awards from UEFA and France Football magazine.

"I won a lot of trophies, collective and individual, so I am proud," said Ronaldo, adding he would send the inaugural silver FIFA Best trophy to the museum dedicated to his career on his home island, Madeira.



Messi's Barcelona won the Spanish league and cup double in 2016, though Argentina lost another Copa America final. Griezmann's France and Atletico Madrid lost their finals to Ronaldo's teams.

Ronaldo's mentors for club and country were beaten to the coaching award by Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri, who earned the prize for a stunning English Premier League title.

"What happened last year was something strange. The God of football said Leicester must win," said Ranieri, who was in his first season at

the unfashionable provincial club widely tipped for relegation.

Ranieri rose from his seat and politely shook hands with his two opponents, Madrid's Zinedine Zidane and Portugal's Fernando Santos, plus their partners before heading to the stage.

The 65-year-old Italian collected his trophy from Diego Maradona, who on Monday played in an exhibition match with other retired greats at FIFA headquarters.

Carli Lloyd of the United States won a FIFA player prize for the second straight year, despite a quarterfinals

exit at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

With gold-medal winner Melanie Behringer of Germany in third place, Lloyd got more than 20 percent of the vote and five-time winner Marta of Brazil was runner-up with 16.6 percent. Behringer got 12.34 percent.

"I honestly was not expecting this," Lloyd said. "I know Melanie did fantastic in the Olympics."

Germany did win the women's coaching prize as Silvia Neid earned her second FIFAPrize, after also winning the 2010 award. Neid beat two previous winners: last year's winner, Jill Ellis of the United States, and Pia Sundhage of Sweden, the Olympic silver medalist.

The Puskas Award for best goal was won in an online poll by Mohd Faiz Subri, who scored with a wildly swerving long-range free kick for Malaysian club Penang.

A players' vote organized by international union FIFPro gave a World XI of: Manuel Neuer (Germany,

Bayern Munich); Dani Alves (Brazil, Barcelona/Juventus), Sergio Ramos (Spain, Real Madrid), Gerard Pique (Spain, Barcelona), Marcelo (Brazil, Real Madrid); Toni Kroos (Germany, Real Madrid), Andres Iniesta (Spain, Barcelona), Luka Modric (Croatia, Real Madrid); Messi, Luis Suarez (Uruguay, Barcelona), Ronaldo.

The First FIFA fan award was chosen by fans and was made to supporters of Liverpool and Borussia Dortmund, who joined in singing the English club's anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" before a Europa League quarterfinal. The other nominees were Iceland fans at Euro 2016, and Dutch club ADO Den Haag, whose fans brought soft toys to children supporting rival team Feyenoord.

FIFA made its Fair Play Award to Atletico Nacional, the Colombian club which was scheduled to host Chapecoense in the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana final on Nov. 30.

After most of the Brazilian team died in a plane crash flying to the match, Atletico Nacional asked the South American soccer confederation to present the title and trophy to Chapecoense. AP

## opinion

### Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



### WORKING HOLIDAY VISAS

Around the world about 20 countries have reciprocal arrangements to allow their citizens to get visas for working holidays. In Asia these countries include Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Australia. In Europe, it includes Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. And finally, Canada is also a participant.

Generally, if you are a citizen from any of these countries aged 18-31 you can get a working holiday visa to live and work and/or study in any of the other participating countries for up to 1 year. These visas do not allow you to travel with dependents, and you cannot work for the same employer for more than 3-6 months. To me, this seems to be a great system for younger people to see the world and learn what it is like to live and work in different countries. I wish it had been available when I was young.

It is increasingly common for young people to take a "gap year" after finishing high school to decide what they want to do with the rest of their lives. To me, an international working holiday is an excellent way to productively fill this gap. Young people can try out different employment fields, learn about the world, gain confidence and independence, and build a bank-roll for later study. I had a gap year myself in the 1970's before completing 10 years of university study and never felt it was a waste and, if anything, it reinforced my desire to study at university. (There is nothing like working as a day laborer for a year to make you want to go to university to start a career with better pay for using your brain rather than your brawn.)

I strongly believe in the value of internships as an integral part of university studies as long as they are well managed. The kinds of work that student interns do needs to be carefully designed and monitored so that it is truly a learning experience, and not just cheap labor. And the quality of the student's performance, and the quality of the mentoring given by the employer, also needs to be properly evaluated. I feel that doing an internship in another country would definitely add a great deal of richness and value to the experience.

I do think that the age range for these working holiday visas is too restrictive - why not also make them available for people over 60? As a semi-retired person, I would be very happy to have the opportunity to live and work in different countries for 3-6 month time periods, while relaxing for the rest of the year. For example, teaching one semester a year, in a different country each year, sounds like a lot of fun to me.

I believe that joining this group of countries offering working holiday visas would be very good for Macau, and especially for young people who have grown up here. What is stopping us?

## THE BUZZ REJECTED TIGER CUB BEING CARED FOR AT COUPLE'S HOME

Four-month-old Elsa was born in a traveling circus and rejected by her mother. Now the little Siberian tiger is being cared for by a human couple, and she's growing up fast.

Monica Farrell and Saad Rose, who run a park with 13 tigers and five lions near Germany's Baltic coast, are taking care of Elsa at their home. She's getting cat milk from the bottle,

along with chicken, beef and egg yolk. Farrell told news agency dpa "it's a full-time job, like with a baby." That includes taking Elsa for walks in the woods or on the beach.

Elsa, who already has sharp claws and a fighter's instincts, is set to move into an enclosure in the tiger park in March — with an older female tiger as her neighbor.



SOURCE: DSGM

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Good
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Good
Ambient	50-70 Good

## WORLD BRIEFS

**PAKISTAN** International and local rights groups yesterday urged the Pakistani government to investigate the abductions last week of four anti-Taliban activists — disappearances that critics claim reflect a crackdown on secular dissent.



AP PHOTO



Esteban Santiago

### Malcolm Ritter

**E**STEBAN Santiago, the 26-year-old man held in the fatal shootings last week at Fort Lauderdale's airport, reportedly has a history of mental difficulties and it's tempting to assume they explain the crime. Experts say: Don't.

"There is no one explanation that will fit this case or any case," says criminologist James Alan Fox of Northeastern University, an expert on violence.

While mental health troubles could turn out to play a role in the case, it's unusual for symptoms to drive violence, says Edward Mulvey, a psychologist at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine who studies violence and mental illness.

There has been no public explanation of a motive for the crime, and terrorism has not been ruled out. It could be that mental illness played no role — it is unclear if Santiago had been formally diagnosed with any mental condition or was undergoing treatment.

A few reported details suggest he was troubled. The mother of the Iraq

and being dangerous and psychotic," Fox said.

While certain factors often show up in the history of mass murderers, like a history of failure, a tendency to blame others and social isolation, they also appear in the histories of people who don't harm anybody, Fox said. That's why mass killers can't be reliably identified in advance of the crime, he said.

Dr. Paul Appelbaum, a professor of psychiatry at Columbia University in New York, also warned against jumping to the conclusion that a psychiatric disorder is the reason for the shootings. Most behaviors have multiple causes, he said. And even if Santiago suffered from psychosis when he walked into the FBI office, symptoms wax and wane, Appelbaum said, so it's not clear what his situation was at the airport.

In any case, even if he had had a psychotic disorder, "most people with psychotic disorders never hurt anybody at all... There may still be other influences on him that affected his behavior in a material way," Appelbaum said.

Santiago had other recent stresses. He recently became a father, he said in court Monday he hadn't worked since November, and he had no money.

Mulvey said there are people who are driven to violence by delusions, but "they're rare, they're much less common than people might expect." Often when psychotic people are involved in violence it's not because of their mental illness but rather something else, like substance abuse, he said.

The American Psychological Association says that while there's a small association between mental illness and violence directed at others, the overwhelming majority of people with serious mental illness don't pose a risk to others and should not be stereotyped as dangerous. AP

humanitarian aid agency says an average of 1,000 people have fled the Iraqi city of Mosul each day over the last week amid a stepped-up Iraqi offensive to retake the city from the Islamic State group. According to the U.N., some 135,500 people have fled Mosul since the operation began in mid-October.

**LEBANON**'s newly elected president met yesterday with the Saudi king during his first visit to the kingdom, a meeting that could melt the ice between the two countries after relations became strained over divisions on Iran and the Shiite militant group Hezbollah.

**TURKEY** Private NTV television says an assailant has been killed during an attempted attack on a police station in the Turkish city of Gaziantep, near the border with Syria. Two suspected accomplices are believed to have fled the scene, the station said, citing local journalists.

**UKRAINE** Police say a monument to the victims of a Second World War massacre in a western Ukrainian village has been blown up. Vandals are suspected of destroying a stone cross commemorating Polish villagers who were massacred in 1944 by a Nazi unit mostly composed of Ukrainian volunteers.