



### WITNESS ADMITS ILLEGALITY IN MP'S ACCOUNTS

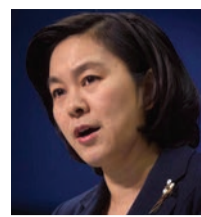
Ho Chio Meng's trial continued yesterday with a session exclusively devoted to hearing the witness Chan Ka Fai

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### FRINGE: LOCAL SALON BECOMES STAGE

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### 'ONE CHINA PRINCIPLE' NOT NEGOTIABLE

A gov't spokesperson said those who try to use Taiwan's status in a negotiation would be "smashing their feet by lifting a rock"

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## WORLD BRIEFS



### VIETNAM-JAPAN

Japan will provide Vietnam new patrol vessels, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday on the last stop of his four-nation tour to boost his country's trade and security engagements in Asia amid China's rising dominance. Vietnam already has six used patrol vessels provided by Japan and how many were in the fresh offer wasn't mentioned. The two leaders also called for the upholding of international law in resolving disputes in the South China Sea. **More on p10**

**PHILIPPINES** A low-key diplomatic protest against China was filed by the Philippines after a U.S. think tank reported that Beijing appears to have installed anti-aircraft and anti-missile weapons on its man-made islands in the strategically vital South China Sea. **More on p10**



**CAMBODIA** has informed the United States that it is canceling an annual joint military exercise this year, even though planning for the event had already begun, officials from both countries said yesterday. Some analysts have tied the cancellation to China's influence in the region, which they believe will be exercised more vigorously after Donald Trump becomes U.S. president. **More on p13**

More on backpage

## CRIME

# Man who faked terrorist attack reports arrested

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# Cargo jet from Hong Kong crashes in Kyrgyzstan, killing dozens

P15

## GAMING

# DICJ say casino taxes may face revision

**D**ISCUSSION over gaming tax rates in the MSAR has prompted the director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) to announce the possibility of amending existing casino taxation laws. Such an amendment would occur before the casino license renewal period due in the next decade.

DICJ chief, Paulo Martins Chan, said that the government would review any changes to gaming tax rates after considering both public opinion and voices from the gaming sector itself. He told public broadcaster TDM that any change would have to be "beneficial to Macau's gaming sector."

"At the moment, we do not have any specific plan [for a change in tax rates] but we are open to listening to the opinions of the sector," he said, as cited by the broadcaster. "There's still time until the license renewals for us to listen to the community."



Paulo Martins Chan

The casino licenses granted to the concessionaires in Macau are due to expire between 2020 and 2022, depending on the operator in question.

The statements from the go-

vernment come in response to discussion over whether gaming taxation should be amended.

Some industry leaders have argued that it ought to be reduced to fend off emerging competition from other locations in East Asia, notably Japan, Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines and Russia. They argue that Macau could lose its edge to low-taxation jurisdictions.

The region has one of the highest gaming taxation rates in the world, with a direct tax rate of 35 percent and an effective tax rate of 39 percent on gross gaming revenue, including various levies. The direct taxation alone is responsible for bringing in the bulk of government revenue.

Some voices in the community have argued the contrary - that gaming taxation should be increased - while others still say differentiation is possible between the VIP and mass markets. **DB**

## JAPAN

# Analysts: Many complications ahead of integrated resorts bill

**G**AMING analysts are confident that Japan's recently approved integrated resorts bill will present both a popular and profitable venture to investors. However, these analysts note that many complications must be dealt with before the first resorts open, and Japanese homegrown brands will likely command a majority share.

The Integrated Resort Promotions Bill, which was passed in Japan's lower parliamentary house late last year, is expected to lead to the creation of a market worth around USD40 billion annually according to analysts at CLSA. This figure outstrips the annual gross gaming revenue recorded last year for Macau, which stood at just under USD28 million (MOP223.2 billion).

Though numerous legislative obstacles stand in the way of the bill's implementation, proponents expect it to help revive Japan's sluggish economy by doubling the number of foreign tourists, lifting the figure to approximately 40 million each year.

According to Global Market Advisors managing partner Steve Gallaway, this is unlikely to diminish the number of mainland tourists who typically visit Macau. Though there will be some Chinese tourists who visit Japan as a result of this new sector, Gallaway predicts that "the success of the Japanese opportunity is primarily dependent on the local population and influx of [general] tourism."

"While I don't expect the Chinese VIP player to be a significant part of proponents' business plans for success, the Chinese will travel to Japan. [...] However, this will be an additional outlet where the Chinese will gamble and will grow the overall Chinese gambling pie rather than cannibalize existing locations," said Gallaway, adding that South Korea was the only jurisdiction that might be impacted by Japan's foray into gaming.

If foreign backers agree with Gallaway's analysis, they might be eyeing the opportunity to invest in Japan's first integrated resorts. Indeed, Spectrum Gaming Asia CEO Paul Bromberg believes that almost every gaming company looking to expand will be considering Japan.

Bromberg implied that the uncertainty over the number of licenses for integrated resorts may also make competition fierce, especially given the potential for a minor company to make its name in the country, as Sheldon Adelson did in Macau for Las Vegas Sands.

Nevertheless, Bromberg warned of major hurdles that still lie in the path of potential investors, namely the number of licenses, the authority given to industry regulators, and whether a Japanese company will need to own a majority stake in the resorts.

Wells Fargo Securities analysts suggested that foreign investors could own as little as one-fifth in Japan's integrated resorts. **DB**

# Report claims Macau could merge with Zhuhai, Shenzhen



Zhuhai Jinwan airport. Until then, the Zhuhai airport will add another runway to cater to customers from Macau.

The report also states that people entering Hengqin from Macau will no longer need to be checked. According to the report, the Macau airport close would be a safety measure.

"Currently, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Macau all have their own airports. With one less airport, aviation safety will be improved," the report stated.

However, lawmaker Au Kam San says that despite the "big Macau" theory being around for many

years, at the moment it is still hypothetical. He further added there are currently no signs the Macau airport will be closed.

**M**ACAU, Zhuhai, and their neighboring regions will steadily merge into a "big Macau," according to a report by Hong Kong TV news channel ONTV, which claimed to have received authoritative information regarding this matter.

The theory of a "big Ma-

cau" would involve the two SARs, in addition to Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Shenzhen.

It states that Macau's airspace and aviation systems will undergo major changes, including shutting down the Macau International Airport and merging it with the

## ONE SHOT NEWS



The Judiciary Police presented its annual report for 2016, which recorded a total of 12,340 new investigations, 1,035 more than in 2015.

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### 307,020 singular voters by end-2016

Following a campaign for voter registration, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) announced yesterday that there were 25,238 new requests for registration in 2016. During the previous year, 4,117 registered voters were scrapped from the books due to death, judicial rulings and other reasons. By the end of 2016, the total number of registered singular voters was 307,020 and the number of collective electors reached 858. Comparing with the number of singular electors registered by the end of 2015, there was a 7.3 percent increase, representing around 21,000 more people.

### University of Macau makes offers to 59 'top-scoring' students

The University of Macau (UM) has completed its "Principals' Recommended Admission Scheme" process for students for the 2017/18 academic year. A total of 450 "outstanding" applicants were registered, up 10 percent from last year. Of these, almost 400 have confirmed their acceptance of offers from UM. Among them, 59 are ranked first in their respective secondary schools. The university describes these students as "top-scoring" and "outstanding" pupils. UM noted in a statement published yesterday that all students admitted through the scheme will receive scholarships as well as "special guidance and training from the deans and professors in their faculties." The statement also claimed that many of the students excel in areas beyond academia and have won awards at various local and international competitions.

### CRIME

# Man takes revenge by faking reports of terrorist attacks to police

Julie Zhu

A 45-year-old male from Bangladesh has been arrested for faking reports to the police, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said at a press conference yesterday.

The suspect, known as Gaurab, claims to be an engineer at a telecommunication engineering company.

According to the police, several airlines and hotels in Macau reported receiving emails informing them of an impending terrorist threat in Macau in August and October last year.

The emails were all sent from the same email account, according to the PJ.

Those emails claimed that three male Filipinos said to be involved in drug and criminal activities were planning a terrorist attack on Macau.

The PJ, after receiving the reports, initiated investigations. Soon after, the three men were found and taken for interrogation.

During the investigations, the PJ found no signs of the men attempting to organize a terror attack.

The PJ subsequently identified Gaurab as the email sender, and he was arrested by the police at the Macau International Airport when he tried to enter the territory last Saturday. He admitted to knowing all three men and to setting them up.

He later confessed to making false accusations about the three men to draw the attention of the local police authority and trigger investigations against them.

The identities of the three men were not disclosed by the PJ. Moreover, the reasons that motivated Gaurab's actions are still under investigation.

In a non-related case, a local minor was found to have lit a fire for

fun, the PJ reported at yesterday's conference.

Last Thursday evening, the police received reports of an iron bottle that had been set on fire. Police began investigating residents who lived around the building.

A minor who lived on the building admitted to police that he was the one to trigger the alarm.

The underage resident said that he had set on fire plastic tape surrounding an iron bottle. Upon doing this, he returned home.

The person who later reported the incident to police turned out to be the minor's mother, who was not told of the event by the child because he was scared to do so.

### HK MAN ARRESTED AFTER ESCAPING THE TERRITORY

A HONG KONG male (43), surnamed Leong, was arrested last Saturday when entering Macau, the police reported yesterday. Leong was involved in a drug manufacturing case in Macau back in July 2011. That year, local police uncovered a drug factory based in Macau, resulting in the detention of three

people. At the time, police identified Leong, based on his previous employment by the factory ringleader. Leong immediately fled Macau and remains in Hong Kong. Police are still investigating his involvement in the drug case, but so far Leong has refused to answer any questions.

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## COURTS

# Chan Ka Fai admits illegalities on MP's accounts



Renato Marques

**T**HE trial of the former Public Prosecutions Office (MP) Prosecutor-General, Ho Chio Meng, resumed yesterday in a session exclusively devoted to hearing the witness Chan Ka Fai, former chief of the Group of General Administration of the MP.

In a hearing lasting all day, a range of topics were addressed with the witness revealing, among other things, some “accounts juggling” procedures, as well as quotation changes and resorting to fake invoicing at the MP.

Chan was questioned by the prosecution about the specific case of a trip to Denmark for the Magistrate's Annual Meeting made by Ho in 2005 together with other family and MP members, which resulted in a hefty bill of over MOP500,000.

In reference to the document, Chan replied that since, at the time, “the MP's budget for that kind of activity only had a remaining balance of about MOP280,000... We paid that amount that was about half of the bill and decided to move

the remaining to the next year [2006].” “For the remainder of the payment, this was done in six installments since it was quite a high amount.”

In order to justify those installments and, as Chan mentioned, “since we can't count an activity that already occurred in the past, we had to ‘come up with’ some activities [which were in fact never done] in order to ask the travel agency for six separate invoices.”

Questioned by the prosecutors as to who knew about these “schemes” and who was the author of the plan, Chan could not answer explicitly but remarked, “I don't know if the Chief [of the Office of the Prosecutor General] told the Prosecutor [General] but he and all the staff from the office knew about it.”

Besides the accounting irregularities admitted by Chan, the witness also explained, after being questioned by the prosecution, that there were no original receipts or invoices that could prove those trip-related costs and expenses “so we just had to trust [in them],” Chan concluded.

This, however, was not the only irregularity regarding the

accounts of the MP, as in several occasions during yesterday's hearing, Chan was asked to explain the many erasures, alterations and amendments to proposals, quotations and invoices, most of which were related to works, services or acquisitions to companies owned by Wong Kuok Wai.

Chan acknowledged that this was “common practice” within the services, stating that such amendments were, in almost all cases, suggested by the former Chief of Office of the Prosecutor General, Lai Kin Ian, most of times by the use of yellow sticky-notes that were added to the documents, sometimes with comments and or indications from several people. Chan decoded the various handwriting in the court session.

Chan also confirmed in the court session that companies run and owned by Wong would get a 5 percent (or 10 in some cases) commission on the intermediary jobs between the MP and other companies, although he mentioned that he never “really paid attention or confirmed [if the percentage was correct in any of the deals].”

Such deals were said to be verbal agreements with no documents to substantiate them.

Although he considered that in some occasions the procedure taken was not a “correct one” or “fair,” Chan mentioned that it was more a matter of convenience and trust.

Questioned if he thought the procedure to be inadequate, Chan admitted to have considered it to be so and even questioned Lai about it. However, Lai always replied in anger to such questioning which led Chan to question less and just follow orders.

Referring to both the Teachers' Resting Room and the Cheoc Van accommodation villa, Chan said they were considered “very secret places,” saying that he never entered them and had received direct orders from Lai to “never go there without his authorization which was to be requested in advance.”

Responsible for the assets of the MP, Chan also revealed that he was aware of the sauna installed in the room of the 16th floor through the invoices but such facilities were never listed in the inventory of the MP, which Chan was required to update and send to the Finance Services Bureau (DSF).

Although the effort of the prosecution during the session was aimed to connect the actions and internal procedures with Ho, it was in fact Lai who was pointed to in most of Chan's responses. In reference to some cases, Chan mentioned that “I can construe that such orders should come from Ho Chio Meng but I'm not certain of that, I can only infer.”

The trial will resume tomorrow in order to hear more witnesses listed by the prosecution.

**TAM COMMENTS AFTER COURT MENTION**

**THE OFFICE** of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture issued a statement last week to clarify Alexis Tam's position, following reference made to an official visit with the secretary during Ho Chio Meng's trial last Friday. The former Chief of the Office of

the Prosecutor-General, Lai Kin Ian, recalled an official trip to Beijing with Tam, followed by a trip to Fujian that was fully paid by the government. Tam's office says that the trip was not for leisure and that all those involved submitted reports after the trip.



## Foreign reserves up 2.8 percent

The Monetary Authority of Macao announced yesterday that its preliminary estimate of the region's foreign exchange reserves amounted to MOP155.7 billion (about USD19.5 billion) at the end of December 2016. According to a statement released by the authority, the reserves increased by about 2.8 percent from the revised value of MOP151.4 billion for the previous month. The MSAR's foreign exchange reserves at the end of December represented around 12 times the currency in circulation, as was the case for most of 2016 with the exception of November, when they were equivalent to just 11 times the currency in circulation. Meanwhile, the trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the MOP rose 1.67 points month-to-month and 2.91 points year-on-year to 110.2 in December. This implies that, overall, the exchange rate of the MOP increased against the currencies of the Macau's major trading partners.

## Consultant views air quality index inaccurate

Lam U Tou, a member of a community service advisory board, is concerned that Macau's air quality monitoring stations are unable to report a valid measure of Macau's air quality. The region currently has five of these stations. Lam believes that the location of each station is far from representative of Macau's air quality, because all of them are distanced from densely populated areas. He further believes that Macau's air quality has seen an impact from Mainland China. A report by the Stand News says that mainland authorities have ordered mainland air quality app designers to maintain China's air quality AQI value at below 500 for PM2.5 measures.

## Black Box Theatre to be built

Leong Hio Meng, current vice-president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), advised that the city will build a Black Box Theatre next to the Macao Cultural Center (CCM), according to a report by Macao Daily News. It will be situated between Sands Macao casino and CCM. Leong revealed that a plot of land had already been set aside for the theatre back in 1999, when CCM was put into operation. A preliminary design of the theatre has already been approved by local public works departments. The construction is expected to start next year. The theatre is planned to seat more than 300.

Lynzy Valles

**A**N interactive performance of music and storytelling was presented to local audiences over the weekend as part of the 16th Macao Fringe Festival.

Performed by two Irish actresses and singers, "In Good Hands" celebrates the rituals of hairdressing – of secrets, of trust and of the human need to share and connect.

Held for two days at a local salon located at Rua de Bruxelas, the second show was attended by nearly two dozen local residents.

The play featured songs and ongoing personal dialogue between Julie, a salon owner (played by actress Catherine Ireton), and her frequent customer Lisa (played by Grace Kiely).

Over time, they exchange information on their personal lives and the drama surrounding other clients in the salon. The play signifies a unique and personal relationship between women and their hairdresser.

In explaining the concept of the show to the Times, Ireton said the show was inspired by a thought that salons are a place of natural drama - where eavesdropping, story-telling and advice from hairdressers is common.

"We're from the other side of the world and yet the ritual is the

# 'In Good Hands' attracts participative audience to salon



"In Good Hands"

exact same," explained Ireton when asked about bringing the Irish show to Macau.

"It can be seen as quite a shallow industry but also there's also a [plot] to it and that's something that we value. We also look at how we can make it feel like an experience everyone is familiar with," Ireton added.

The show involves some audience participation, with local audience members playing the parts of a hairdresser trainee and salon clients.

"We wanted to involve people

as much as possible and allow them to feel that they're part of the action," said Ireton.

Written by Ireton and Kiely, the two actresses noted that, as there are several audience interactions, it remains a challenge to improvise to and invent new lines when an audience member asks a question.

Yet, the duo said they have familiarized the structure of the show, thus knowing certain points they have to hit in the play.

The 60-minute performance also plays an Irish radio broad-

cast in the background to create the vibe of an Irish salon.

Performed for the first time in Asia, the show has been touring in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

"It's a type of show that is suited to a festival because it has that unusual kind of quirky vibe," remarked Ireton.

Meanwhile, according to the duo, they have seen very participative audiences in the territory, adding that it was surprising to see how active the local audience could be.

"We didn't know what to expect at all, in terms of the amount they would understand. [...] There were people last night [and] they were just responding to all the little kind of jokes that I felt were particularly Irish," said Kiely.

The 16th Macao City Fringe Festival presented "In Good Hands" on Saturday and two shows on Sunday.

Farnham Maltings and Cork Midsummer Festival originally commissioned the play as a site-specific theater piece designed to reach new audiences.

## FRINGE FESTIVAL INTENDS TO BE A 'FEAST OF CREATIVITY'

**THE 16TH** Macao City Fringe Festival, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and co-organized by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, is being held from January 13 to 22. This edition of the festival, uses "A Feast of Creativity! Bon Appétit!" as a slogan and featu-

res artists from local and foreign parts of the world. According to a statement from the IC, tickets for the shows such as "Mobile Kitchen," "Funeral for the Living," "The Smooth Life," "Bubble" and "The Other Side of the Sacred," among others, are sold out.

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GAMING

# Nevada casinos turn profit in fiscal 2016; first since 2008



Ken Ritter, Las Vegas

**N**EVADA'S biggest casinos combined to turn a profit in fiscal 2016 for the first time in eight years, but it wasn't due to gambling winnings, according to an annual report by state regulators.

Room rentals and fees helped resorts generate income of almost USD979 million from total revenues of \$25.2 billion in the year ended last June 30, the state Gaming Control Board said.

That compared with a net loss of almost \$662 million on revenues of \$24.6 billion a year earlier.

Casinos across the state recorded net income for the first time since fiscal 2008, board analyst Michael Lawton said last week, amid a trend that continues to tilt away from gambling and toward restaurant, retail, entertainment and room rental business.

"It's been a long road to get back

in the black," Lawton said. "It's good not only because it's net income for the first time, but because it's net income in all areas across the board."

The revenue figure came in just 0.1 percent below the record \$25.3 billion in total recorded in fiscal 2007, Lawton added.

The comprehensive annual report, dubbed the Gaming Abstract, was made public last week. It includes more than 200 pages of data about 273 casinos in the state that grossed \$1 million or more in gambling revenues. Topics include number of employees, room occupancy rates and gambling revenue per square foot of casinospace.

The report found that 70 casinos owned by public companies statewide accounted for 78 percent of the total.

The report came amid reports of growth from Las Vegas tourism and airport officials.

McCarran International Airport was on pace in December to top

the record 45 million passengers handled in 2015. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority reported a record number of tourists, 42.9 million, in 2016.

The abstract includes data from casinos statewide, on the Las Vegas Strip, in downtown Las Vegas, along Boulder Highway in Las Vegas and in the Reno-Washoe County areas.

The most dramatic change was on the Strip, said David Schwartz, director of the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"Nevada casino resorts have always been about more than just gambling," Schwartz said in an analysis of the report. He pointed to hotel rooms, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, entertainment venues and retail shopping.

"The revenue pattern of the industry has shifted," he said.

Lawton said the last time gambling revenues accounted for half the profit on the Strip was in the 1997-98 fiscal year.

This year, gambling revenues dropped to 34.2 percent of the total, the lowest percentage ever and a decrease from 34.9 percent last year. Gambling revenue in 1990, by comparison, made up about 58 percent of the total.

Schwartz said that while Las Vegas Strip casinos made about 2 percent more money in fiscal 2016 than they did in 2015, gambling revenues were up less than a quarter of a percent.

Room revenues, by comparison, grew almost 8 percent, and food revenues grew almost 3 percent, he said. **AP**

## S. Korea prosecutor seeks arrest of Samsung's Jay Y. Lee

Jungah Lee, Hooyeon Kim

**P**ROSECUTORS are seeking a warrant to arrest Samsung Group's Jay Y. Lee for allegations including bribery and embezzlement, a stunning turn for the scion of South Korea's richest family groomed for decades to take over the company from his father.

Lee, 48, the de facto head of the Samsung Group and vice chairman of Samsung Electronics Co., is accused of participating in payments that Samsung made to a close friend of South Korean President Park Geun-hye in exchange for government support in the company's succession planning. A court will still have to determine whether to approve the warrant, which was announced by prosecutors in a briefing yesterday. A hearing is scheduled for tomorrow.

A special prosecution team was established in December to investigate whether Samsung and other chaebol business groups contributed money to Choi Soon-sil, the Park confidant, in exchange for political favors. President Park has been already impeached and her powers suspended. Samsung shares, which have been near record highs, fell 2.1 percent to 1,833,000 won at the close in Seoul.

"We believe that there was an illegal request made by Samsung in facilitating the process of business succession," Lee Kyu-chul, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office, said in the briefing. The arrest warrant would let prosecutors con-



Jay Y. Lee, co-vice chairman of Samsung

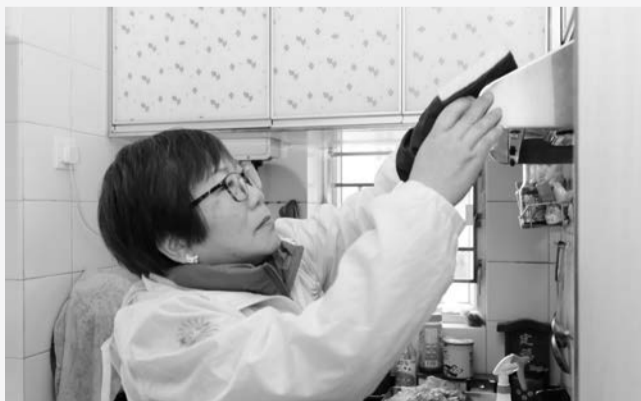
tinue their probe while Lee is detained. Formal charges and an indictment would follow. The total amount of bribes, including promised funds and money embezzled is alleged to be about 43 billion won (USD36 million), Lee said.

Samsung denied the company provided financial aid in return for any favors. "We can't accept the prosecutor's argument that we made illegal requests associated with the merger and management succession," Samsung Group said in a statement. "We believe the court will make a wise decision."

The investigation jeopardizes Lee's ability to take over Samsung Group and risks further destabilizing the leadership of South Korea's largest company. His father, Chairman Lee Kun-hee, has been hospitalized since suffering a heart attack in 2014. Samsung is now facing its second crisis in a matter of months, after it was forced to pull the Note 7 smartphone off the market last year because the device was catching fire. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### SANDS CHINA HOLDS SPRING-CLEANING



The Sands China Care Ambassador program sent a group of over 70 volunteers to Seac Pai Van public housing in Coloane Sunday morning, where they spent

time with local independently living elderly for an annual spring-cleaning activity.

This year is the eighth in a row the Care Ambassadors

are assisting the region's elderly who live alone to prepare for the Chinese New Year with an annual spring-clean.

The volunteers paid a visit to 50 households – double that of the previous year – taking cleaning supplies along with them so they could sweep, mop and vacuum the homes.

According to Sands China's press release, the Care Ambassadors also brought Chinese New Year gift packs for the residents, which contain useful staples like oil, grain and noodles, and a hygiene kit recently put together by Sands China team members. Each hygiene kit includes soap, shampoo, conditioner, a toothbrush and toothpaste.

Mandarin Oriental is celebrating the auspicious Year of the Rooster with a range of traditional Chinese gourmet foods and festivities.

From January 21 to February 12, the resort's dedicated culinary team at the hotel's signature Vida Rica Restaurant will serve up a delectable selection of festive dishes.

Vida Rica Bar will serve "Afternoon FANTasy" during Chinese New Year – available from January 28 to February 5.

Mandarin Oriental Cake Shop will offer a range of festive hampers and homemade delicacies. Meanwhile, The Spa at the resort will offer wellness hampers packed with "Five Elements Signature Treatment" oils

#### MANDARIN ORIENTAL ANNOUNCES CNY FESTIVITIES



for balanced well-being.

From January 28 to February 28, complimentary 20-minute foot reflexology will also be offered to guests who book any of the two-hour Mandarin Oriental

Signature Spa Therapies.

The Lunar New Year will be ushered in at the hotel with firecrackers and the traditional Chinese lion dance procession from 11 a.m. on January 28.



## The all-new Maserati Levante. The Maserati of SUVs.

The practicality and versatility of an SUV or the power and panache of a Maserati? Now you can enjoy both, courtesy of the new Levante. Featuring potent 3.0 V6 diesel (Variable Geometry Turbo) engine, Q4 intelligent all-wheel drive system, an 8-speed ZF transmission and sophisticated air suspension, the Levante is every inch a refined SUV. Meanwhile, its exclusive Italian styling, luxurious interior and unique exhaust note affirm its Maserati DNA. So that's one less difficult decision to make.

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## GOING GLOBAL

# Zhuhai Airport aims to double its passengers by 2020

Nian-Le\*

**Z**HUHAI Jinwan Airport (ZUH) aims to establish itself as a hub for business jets and implement a pilot training facility – ambitious goals for the smallest of the Pearl River Delta's five airports all competing fiercely in the same market.

In the first half of 2016, 2.73 million passengers and 13,160 tonnes of cargo passed through ZUH – both year-over-year increases of 18 percent. In the same period, the airport added 15 new routes and now serves 39 cities on the mainland. A total of 21 airlines fly in and out of the airport which has no international routes as of yet.

ZUH is famous for hosting the mainland's only international aerospace trade shows endorsed by the central government. Held annually in November, it includes flying acrobatics, life-size product displays, trade negotiations and technological exchanges, attracting a wide variety of Chinese military and civilian aircrafts as well as American, Russian and European planes.

According to the airport's website, ZUH will expand and improve its network on the mainland. With 24 million people living and working within a one-hour radius of the airport and more than 200 million regular flyers on a daily basis in the mainland, ZUH intends to tap into this vast potential market for a target traffic of 12 million passengers by 2020.

However, flyers have many travel options: the airports in Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Macau all offer more flights, including international destinations. Hong Kong and Guangzhou alone each handle roughly 60 million passengers a year.

Thus, ZUH is exploring ways to complement its mighty neighbours in addition to competing with them. It is currently negotiating a permit for the overflow of international business jets and helicopters coming in and out of Hong Kong International Airport, just 20 minutes away by helicopter. Setting up a civil airline pilot flight training facility has also been proposed; it would be only the second of its kind in China.

Zhuhai Jinwan Airport, formerly Zhuhai Sansao Airport, opened June 1995 in Sanzao township, 37 kilometres from the city centre of Zhuhai and 33 kilometers from Macau. Originally a military airport built by the Japanese during their occupation in World War II, it is situated 55 kilometers from Zhongshan and 85 km from Jiangmen, two strategic cities during the war.



The 2016 Airshow China takes part at the Zhuhai Jinwan Airport

With an annual capacity of 12 million passengers and 600,000 tonnes of freight, it is designed to handle 100,000 take-offs and landings a year.

This is a much larger airport than what Beijing's civil aviation regulator had originally approved, authorizing the city to build a smaller regional airport in an area already well served by major airports in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macau. Conflict over disregard for these instructions and the substantial debt the city incurred as a result contributed to Liang Guangda stepping down as mayor in 1995.

In its early years, ZUH lost money, operating at a fraction of its capacity. With no international flights, it was at a disadvantage compared to the other four airports in the region, all of which offered (and still do) a far wider range of domestic and international destinations. An additional handicap is ZUH's distance from the city centre. Guangzhou Baiyun (White Cloud) International Airport, one of the mainland's three major airports, is only 45 minutes' ride away for Zhuhai residents and offers flights all over China and around the world.

The Zhuhai government turned to Hong Kong International Airport to turn things around. In August 2006, the two announced the establishment of a joint venture, the Zhuhai-Hong Kong Airport Management Company – Hong Kong holding 55 percent and Zhuhai 45 percent – with a registered capital of RMB360 million. The company paid a franchise fee

for the exclusive right to manage and operate ZUH for 20 years.

In 2008, two years after the partnership, the airport broke even for the first time. That year, it handled 1.1 million passengers and 11,140 tonnes of cargo – increases of 7.8 per cent and 3.7 per cent, respectively, from 2007.

## ■ The growth is a result of the rapid development of China's domestic and international tourism markets

Formation of the Zhuhai-Hong Kong Airport Management Company proved a wise decision. Passenger volume doubled from 2 million in 2012 to 4.07 million in 2015. There were 39,600 takeoffs and landings, an increase of 9.6 percent from 2014, with an average of 118 flights a day to 42 cities across the mainland. Cargo shipment reached 25,800 tonnes, an increase of 16.7 percent. Both passenger and cargo traffic were record numbers. The target for 2016 is to exceed 5 million passengers.

ZUH is served by 21 airlines including Air China, China Southern, China Eastern, Shanghai Airlines, Xiamen Airlines, Shan-

dong Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines, Hainan Airlines and Sichuan Airlines with flights to cities all over China, including Urumqi in the far west and Harbin in the far north. As of 2015 year end, there were 8 flights a day to Beijing, 12 to Shanghai and 3–5 to Hangzhou, Nanjing, Chongqing, Chengdu and Xiamen.

This growth is a result of the rapid development of China's domestic and international tourism markets as well as the Pearl River Delta's economic growth. Many tourists choose to enjoy Macau via Zhuhai to save money, crossing the border by day for gambling, shopping and leisure and staying in Zhuhai hotels by night.

Zhuhai, a city of 1.63 million, is also developing rapidly. Its per capita income, RMB120,000, is one of the highest in China. Additionally, it is a resort city where people from all over the mainland buy holiday apartments. In 2015, the city posted a GDP of RMB202 billion yuan, a 10 percent increase from 2014. With 31.2 million domestic visitors, up 8 percent, and 4.71 million international visitors, up 2.3 percent, tourism revenue was RMB21.79 billion and USD962 million, respectively.

Zhuhai's yacht industry has an annual output of more than RMB2 billion and increasingly caters to the domestic market with its growing number of wealthy Chinese. The city boasts a Club Med on Dong'ao Island and offers a wide range of water sports. Zhuhai's government plans to transform the city into a major international yachting center.

All this traffic from vacationers, tourists and yachters – domestic and international alike – contributes to the airport's expanding market base.

Since opening, ZUH has always operated well below its design capacity. A 66,000-square-metre air show center next to the airport stands empty most of the year and could house up to 50 business jets. Even 2015's record-high passenger and cargo traffic is less than 50 percent of capacity.

Airport management is always looking for ways to utilize this spare capacity. One idea, developed in consultation with the Zhuhai-Hong Kong Airport Management Company, is to receive Hong Kong's overflow of international business jets. Hong Kong International Airport handles more than 1,100 commercial flights daily. With fewer than 70 parking slots for business jets and even fewer landing slots, finding space for the private jets based there is often difficult, not to mention jet traffic in and out. With this new proposal, aircrafts would be able to land and offload passengers in Zhuhai instead of waiting hours for undesirable slots in Hong Kong. With the proper customs facilities in place, a 20-minute helicopter route then could be set up between Zhuhai and Hong Kong's Central district.

ZUH has already submitted this proposal to the regulatory authorities in Beijing. While the cost of landing and parking in Zhuhai is cheaper than in Hong Kong, there is a compensation and administration fee of \$3,800 every time a non-mainland-Chinese aircraft crosses its airspace. The Asian aviation industry is lobbying for this fee to be scrapped in order to make the new proposal more attractive.

Another proposal is to use the airport as a civil airline pilot flight training facility for Pegasus Flight Academy (China). This Sino-foreign joint venture would involve an investment of \$80 million. The Asian Development Assistance Board and the Sino-Foreign Aviation Education Associates Ltd of Hong Kong are currently in negotiations with the Zhuhai Aviation Industrial Park, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), local aviation authorities and Chinese and foreign investors.

The academy would initially matriculate 120 students and grow to 400 over five years. Captain John Bent, former manager of the Cathay Pacific/Dragonair Flight School in Hong Kong, is slated to be Director of Strategic Training.

Currently, the mainland's only pilot-training facility is located in Guanghan, Sichuan. The school graduates 800 civil airline pilots a year with similar numbers trained at flight schools in Australia, Canada and the United States licensed by CAAC. With industry estimates pegging the demand for new pilots at around 2,000 a year, the growth of China's aviation sector is the fastest in the world.

\*MDT/Macao Magazine

Teresa Cerojano, Manila

SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Philippines protests Chinese weapons installation on islands

**T**HE Philippines has filed a low-key diplomatic protest with China after a U.S. think tank reported that Beijing appears to have installed anti-aircraft and anti-missile weapons on its man-made islands in the strategically vital South China Sea, the country's top diplomat said yesterday.

Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay said the diplomatic communication was issued after the report came out last month.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies report said anti-aircraft guns and weapons systems designed to guard against missile attacks appear to have been placed on all seven of China's newly created islands.

Yasay told CNN Philippines that Manila had responded, but did so quietly.

"We have taken action on that, we have issued a note verbale," he said, referring to a diplomatic communication that is issued in the third person and is not signed. It is considered less formal than a letter of protest.

He did not say when it was issued, adding it was a matter that he did not want to discuss.

"I just want to assure the Filipino people that when we take action at engaging China in this dispute, we do not want to take such aggressive, provocative action that will not solve the problem," he said. "We cannot engage China in a war."

Nevertheless, he said, "when there are reports about the build-up of weapon systems in the area, during our watch we made sure that the interests and rights of the Philippines are properly protected."

Beijing says the artificial islands are intended to boost maritime safety in the region while downplaying their military utility. They also buttress China's claim to ownership of practically the entire South China Sea.

Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei also claim territory in the waterway, through which an estimated USD5 trillion in global trade passes each year.

AP PHOTO



After China took control of disputed Scarborough Shoal in 2012 and blocked Filipinos from the rich fishing area, then President Benigno Aquino III brought his country's territorial disputes with Beijing to international arbitration. China ignored the Philippine case and refused to recognize the outcome, which was heavily in favor of the Philippines.

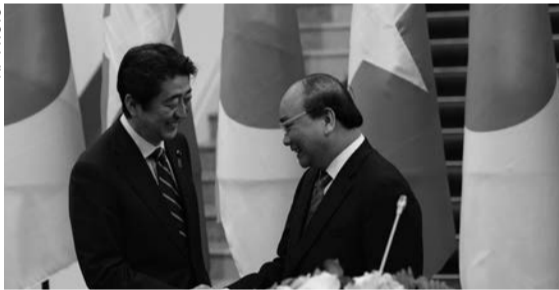
President Rodrigo Duterte, who succeeded Aquino in June, has taken steps to mend the strained relations with China. He also has taken an antagonistic stance toward outgoing President Barack Obama's administration after the U.S. leader criticized his deadly crackdown on drugs.

In the interview yesterday, Yasay said Duterte is expected to visit Russia sometime in May, and has been invited to both Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russian President Vladimir Putin's hometown.

Several agreements may be signed during the visit, including a defense cooperation pact, he added. **AP**

## Japan to provide Vietnam new patrol vessels Abe says during visit

AP PHOTO



Japan will provide Vietnam new patrol vessels, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday on the last stop of his four-nation tour to boost his country's trade and security engagements in Asia amid China's rising dominance.

"The two countries will further strengthen security and defense cooperation and this time Japan has decided to provide [Vietnam with] newly built patrol vessels at Vietnam's request," Abe said at a news conference in Hanoi with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc. "We will strongly support Vietnam's strengthening its maritime law-enforcement capabilities."

Vietnam already has six used patrol vessels provided by Japan and how many were in the fresh offer wasn't mentioned.

Both countries have maritime disputes with China — Vietnam in the South China Sea and Japan in the East China Sea.

The two leaders called for the upholding of international law in resolving disputes in the South China Sea.

"The two sides agreed on the importance of ensuring peace, security and safety of maritime navigation and overflight in the East Sea, promoting the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, no use of force or threat to use force," Phuc told reporters, referring to the South China Sea by Vietnamese term.

Phuc said Abe has committed to give Vietnam more development assistance amounting to 123 billion yen (USD1.05 billion) in the fiscal year of 2016 for maritime security, responding to climate change and water treatment.

It's not clear whether the new loans will cover the purchase of new patrol vessels.

The two leaders also pledged to deepen their two countries' strategic partnership.

Japan is one of Vietnam's top investors and trading partners and is the communist country's single largest bilateral donor.

Abe has already visited the Philippines, Australia and Indonesia on his trip. **AP**

## Hong Kong tycoon Li to buy Australian energy firm Duet

**A** group led by Hong Kong billionaire tycoon Li Ka-shing's infrastructure business said yesterday it is buying Australian energy company Duet in a multibillion dollar deal.

Cheung Kong Infras-

tructure Holdings Ltd. and Li's property and power utility companies are proposing to buy Duet Group for 3 Australian dollars a share, in an acquisition worth AUD7.4 billion (USD5.5 billion).

The investment still

needs approval from Australian regulators and Duet shareholders, who will also get a special dividend of 3 Australian cents, according to a separate news release from Duet. That makes the terms of the deal slightly more at-

tractive than the initial offer announced in December. Duet said its board is recommending shareholders give their approval.

The deal signifies Li's undiminished interest in Australian investments even after being dealt a

setback last year when the government blocked a \$10 billion joint offer with Chinese state-owned State Grid for a Sydney electric grid lease. That deal was rejected on national security grounds.

The Cheung Kong consortium said in a statement that the acquisition "is consistent with its strategies of investing in energy infrastructure opportunities around the world and embracing

new growth opportunities through diversification."

Duet operates gas and energy networks in Melbourne, a 1,600-kilometer gas pipeline in Western Australia and generates power from landfills in the U.S. and Europe.

Cheung Kong Infrastructure already owns significant energy businesses in Australia, as well as utilities in Britain and New Zealand and parking lots in Canada. **AP**

# 'One China principle' not negotiable, Beijing tells Trump

Nomaan Merchant, Beijing

**R**ESPONDING to remarks by Donald Trump, China's Foreign Ministry yesterday said the country's "one-China principle" regarding Taiwan is not negotiable and any attempt to reconsider the issue would be self-defeating.

Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters that anyone attempting to use Taiwan's status in a negotiation would be "smashing their feet by lifting a rock."

"Not everything in the world can be bargained or traded off," Hua told reporters at a daily briefing.

"Whoever attempts to harm the one-China principle out of any motive or uses the principle as a bargaining chip will definitely be facing broad and strong opposition from the Chinese government and people, as well as the international community," Hua said.

Trump told The Wall Street Journal in an interview published Friday that "everything is under negotiation, including 'one China.'" It was the latest sign that Trump could shake up the U.S.-China relationship, particularly regarding Taiwan, which China considers a core national interest.

The one-China principle holds that Taiwan is part of China and the Communist government in Beijing is China's sole legitimate government.

The U.S. acknowledged that stance when it formalized diplomatic relations with Beijing in 1979, but continues to maintain robust unofficial ties with Taiwan. Washington also provides weaponry to the self-gover-



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying

ning island democracy to help it guard against China's threat to use force to end their division dating from a civil war in 1949.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to upend that status quo since winning the November election.

Also yesterday, the Chinese nationalist tabloid Global Times published an editorial blasting Trump's strategy and saying China would have a strong response to any reconsideration of Washington's long-standing "one-China policy."

"In the past, Trump infuriated us, but now we find him risible," said the tabloid, which is published by the People's Daily, the ruling Communist Party's newspaper. "With a skyrocketing as-

cent in his political life, he has been stunningly confident in his ostensible knowledge of the job, though he speaks like a rookie."

The English-language China Daily ran an editorial accusing Trump of "playing with fire."

"If Trump is determined to use this gambit on taking office, a period of fierce, damaging interactions will be unavoidable, as Beijing will have no choice but to take off the gloves," the newspaper said.

China was already angered by Trump's Dec. 2 phone call with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, the first time an American president or president-elect has publicly spoken to Taiwan's leader in nearly four decades. Beijing considers any reference to a

separate Taiwanese head of state to be a grave insult.

Trump then said in a television interview that he didn't feel "bound by a one-China policy unless we make a deal with China having to do with other things, including trade."

Yesterday, Reince Priebus, Trump's incoming chief of staff, said that "there are no plans to change the one-China policy."

"But certainly that policy is on the table if China doesn't also come to the table and work with us on trade, work with us on the South China Sea and what's happening there," Priebus said on ABC's "This Week."

After attacking China repeatedly during his campaign, Trump has continued to disparage Chi-

na on his Twitter account over its military buildup in disputed areas of the South China Sea, its alleged currency manipulation to put American companies at a disadvantage, and what he says are its inadequate efforts to curb North Korea's nuclear program. He has also announced that a new White House trade council will be led by economist Peter Navarro, a sharp critic of Chinese economic policy who wrote a book titled "Death By China."

Trump told the Wall Street Journal that he would not label China a currency manipulator as soon as he takes office, though he repeated his contention that China is manipulating its currency, the yuan.

**If Trump is determined to use this gambit on taking office ... Beijing will have no choice but to take off the gloves.**

EDITORIAL  
CHINA DAILY

So far, Beijing has reiterated its refusal to negotiate on Taiwan and has pushed for positive cooperation with the U.S., though state-run media have printed several strongly worded editorials attacking Trump.

Chinese political observers said Sunday that they expect Beijing's response to change once Trump is inaugurated next week.

"Trump has not taken office yet, so he is an ordinary person now," said Shen Dingli, a professor of international relations at Fudan University. "Therefore, there's no need for China to take his remarks seriously or further respond to what he said." AP



**T**HE International Monetary Fund yesterday raised its growth forecast for China but warned rising debt that has prompted concern about the country's finances increase the risk of a sharper slowdown.

The world's second-largest economy should expand by 6.5 percent this year, the IMF said in a report. That is up by 0.3 percentage points from the agency's last forecast in October.

However, that growth is

## IMF raises national growth forecast but warns on debt

supported by heavy government spending and rapid expansion of credit, which "raises the risk of a sharper slowdown," the agency said.

The report adds to mounting warnings about the economic drag of debt that has soared since the 2008 global crisis as Beijing used infusions of credit to shore up growth.

China's growth held steady at 6.7 percent in the three

months ending in September, supported by government spending and a boom in real estate sales and bank lending. Private sector forecasters expect that to decline as regulators tighten controls to cool surging credit and housing prices, which they see as a financial risk.

Communist leaders are trying to nurture more sustainable growth based on consumer spending instead

of trade and investment but have repeatedly pumped credit into the economy to avert an abrupt downturn and politically dangerous job losses.

China's total debt has risen to the equivalent of 250 percent of gross domestic product, high for a developing economy. That has prompted warnings of a possible financial crisis or a drag on growth.

"Continued reliance on policy stimulus measures, with rapid expansion of credit and slow progress in addressing corporate debt, especially in hardening the budget constraints of state-owned enterprises, raises the risk of a sharper slowdown or a disruptive adjustment," the IMF said.

The agency said official Chinese stimulus might lead to even stronger performance than forecast, which might help boost growth for the country's trading partners. But it warned that might be disrupted if governments resort to "protectionist trade policies." AP



## ANALYSIS

# How Trump might shake things up in Asia

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**D**ONALD Trump has offered views on U.S. relations with Asia that could indicate radical shifts in long-standing policy toward the region. From opposing free trade agreements to confronting China and questioning Japan-South Korea alliances, he appears set to be charting a course far different from previous administrations.

Yet, in other areas, including North Korea, India and Pakistan, Trump appears ready to carry forward well-established U.S. policy. As Trump prepares to be sworn-in as president on Friday, here is a look at some of the stand-out issues and how developments might play out:

## TRADE

Trump says he plans to scrap the 12-nation trade pact known as the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement, or TPP. The pact was the centerpiece of the Obama administration's outreach policy to America's Asian partners known as "the pivot," which also involves a greater military commitment to the region.

Obama said the TPP would allow the U.S. to impose higher labor, environmental and human-rights standards, as well as give U.S. businesses access to some of the fastest-growing economies. The deal would have slashed 18,000 taxes that other countries impose on American goods and

services, but Congress failed to act amid skepticism from both Republicans and Democrats.

Trump's opposition to free-trade agreements has fueled fears of protectionism and puts him at odds not only with U.S. trading partners but also with many in the Republican Party. Killing the TPP may open the way for other regional free-trade initiatives, including those pushed by rival China.

"With the U.S. withdrawing from TPP, Japan will have to redesign its external economic policy," said Harukata Takenaka, politics professor at National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. Other options "may not be easy," Takenaka said.

## CHINA

Trump raised China in speech after speech during his campaign, at times accusing the country of ripping America off in trade and threatening a 45 percent tariff on all Chinese imports.

Things turned far more serious after his election win when he took a phone call from the president of self-governing Taiwan, upending four decades of diplomatic protocol barring such direct contacts. Critics accused him of ignoring the "one-China policy," long considered unassailable in China-U.S. relations, to which Trump responded by questioning why the U.S. should be bound by such an arrangement without economic incentives.

He again touched on the issue

in an interview with The Wall Street Journal published Friday, saying "everything is under negotiation, including 'one China.'" While the Chinese government's response was muted, the official China Daily newspaper said he was "playing with fire."

Trump has also criticized the Chinese military's island-building program in the South China Sea, and accused it of blocking U.S. imports through high taxes and manipulating its currency to the detriment of American exports.

## ALLIANCES WITH JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA

Trump raised eyebrows during the campaign when he appeared to question the inviolability of long-standing U.S. military alliances with Japan and South Korea, seen as bulwarks against North Korea's military threats and China's push for regional dominance. The two were included in a list of countries that Trump said he would be "respectfully asking [...] to pay more for the tremendous security we provide them."

During the campaign, Trump suggested Japan and South Korea should obtain nuclear weapons so the U.S. would no longer be burdened with the costs of defending them, a disquieting notion in many Asian capitals. But after Trump's election win, Japan's Shinzo Abe became the first foreign leader to meet with him, sitting down in Trump Tower with the business mogul

and his daughter, Ivanka.

Japan is concerned about how spill-over from China-U.S. conflicts might affect its economy and foreign relations, possibly compelling it to play a larger role in regional security, said Harukata Takenaka, politics professor at National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. "Trump measures would be the top priority for Prime Minister Abe this year. The biggest question is that Trump is unpredictable," he said.

## NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR THREAT

Trump's approach to North Korea probably offers the least divergence from previous administrations, but he faces stark choices on countering North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's missile threat. After Kim, announced in his annual New Year's address that the country had reached the "final stages" of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile, Trump responded by Twitter: "North Korea just stated that it is in the final stages of developing a nuclear weapon capable of reaching parts of the U.S. It won't happen!"

Trump has not said how his approach to the North might differ from Barack Obama's, although his campaign's position paper talked of more "modern destroyers to counter the ballistic missile threat from Iran and North Korea." That would appear to indicate continued support for deploying the advanced Termi-

nal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, anti-missile system in South Korea, despite Chinese and Russian objections. Trump appears to be a firm believer that North Korea could be reined-in if only its sole significant ally China would tighten the screws.

## INDIA AND PAKISTAN

During the campaign, Trump was largely positive toward both India and Pakistan, even while he piled negative rhetoric on China and other nations. However, his threat to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. has raised accusations of Islamophobia.

In the days after his win, Trump appeared to follow in the well-trodden path of seeking a balance between the nuclear rivals — albeit in his unorthodox style. A phone call between Trump and Pakistan's prime minister was remarkable mainly for the effusive praise he reportedly lavished on the struggling state. Pakistan is a U.S. ally in the battle against Islamic extremism but is also close to U.S. rival in Asia, China. In its readout of that call, Pakistan said Trump described the country as "amazing" and expressed a desire to visit — something President Barack Obama did not do.

India's national security adviser followed the Pakistan exchange with a low-key visit to Washington to meet with a senior Trump aide in a sign of New Delhi's desire to forge close ties with the incoming U.S. administration. **AP**

CAMBODIA

# Military exercise with US canceled

**CAMBODIA** has informed the United States that it is canceling an annual joint military exercise this year, even though planning for the event had already begun, officials from both countries said yesterday.

Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Chhum Socheath said the Angkor Sentinel exercise had to be postponed because Cambodian forces would be unable to fully participate as a result of two important events: local elections in June and a six-month campaign to eradicate drug-related crime.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Jay Raman confirmed in an e-mail that the exercises for 2017 and 2018 have been canceled. He said military exchanges and training programs are not affected. After the local elections in June, Cambodia will hold a general election in 2018 in which long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen is expected to face a strong challenge.

Some analysts tied the cancellation more closely to China's influence in the region, which they believe will be exercised more vigorously after Donald Trump becomes U.S. president. Trump's rhetoric on China has been unfriendly, and he has suggested that the U.S. may reduce its involvement in the region. **AP**

# JPMorgan upgrades Indonesia, lifting call that riled Jakarta



A highway stands under construction in Jakarta

Chanyaporn Chanjaroen

**JPMORGAN** Chase & Co. upgraded its assessment of the Indonesian stock market, reversing an earlier bearish call that prompted Jakarta to

stop doing business with the U.S. bank.

The bank's analysts raised their "tactical" view of Indonesian equities one level to "neutral" in a report dated yesterday, saying volatility in emerging-market bonds

following Donald Trump's U.S. election victory in November should now subside. The upgrade came two weeks after Indonesia's government cut business ties with JPMorgan, citing a two-notch equities downgrade by the bank in November.

"Our tactical downgrade two months ago was driven by the risk of Indonesia underperforming the Asia Pacific ex Japan and EM indices as investors de-risked," analysts led by Adrian Mowat said. "Redemption and bond volatility risks have now played out, in our view."

Indonesia welcomed the bank's new assessment. The neutral recommendation is more in line with fundamentals, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Darmin Nasution told reporters in Jakarta yesterday. The finance ministry had earlier said it would stop using JPMorgan as a primary dealer and an underwriter for sovereign bonds. JPMorgan said in an e-mail

that its research views are independent and yesterday's report, like previous ones, "is no different."

Foreign investors sold a net USD2.8 billion of Indonesian stocks and bonds last quarter as emerging-market assets retreated following Trump's victory. That drove the rupiah lower, forcing policy makers to intervene to stabilize the currency.

Last week, Indonesia widened its campaign against negative research by ordering all primary dealers in Indonesian bonds to maintain relations with the government "based on professionalism, integrity and avoiding conflicts of interest." Firms that fail to comply with the rule, which took effect on Dec. 30, risk losing their dealership licenses, the government said.

Global banks that are primary dealers in Indonesia's bonds include Standard Chartered Plc, HSBC Holdings Plc, Deutsche Bank AG and Citigroup Inc. **Bloomberg**

AD

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Jessica Gresko, Washington

USA

# Revelers, rally-goers to clog DC for Trump's inauguration

**HUNDREDS** of thousands of people are expected to clog the nation's capital for Donald Trump's inauguration and a major demonstration the day after, but how many will actually arrive to party or protest is an open question.

Officials estimate that 800,000 to 900,000 people will be present Friday for the inauguration, a celebration that takes over the city, closing roads, taxing the city's Metro transit system and making getting around difficult. Trump himself has promised "massive crowds" but just what that will mean is unclear.

Hundreds of thousands of others are expected Saturday for the Women's March on Washington.

Trump showed he could draw crowds during the campaign, but his supporters weren't so quick to make plans to be in Washington for his inauguration.

Elliott Ferguson, the president of Destination DC, the city's convention and tourism bureau, said that before Election Day hotels had more events tentatively planned for a Hillary Clinton victory than a Donald Trump one. And when Trump won, the "level of enthusiasm" and demand for hotel rooms did not immediately reach that of past recent inaugurations, he said.

"No one's phones were ringing" on the day after the election, he said.

Things started to pick up after New Year's but some hotels have cut back minimum-night stays from four nights to two. Some hotels are only 50 percent full, though higher-end hotels apparently have more bookings, he said.

"It's been much, much slower than anyone would have anticipated for a first-term president," he said.



The U.S. Capitol looms over a stage during a rehearsal of President-elect Donald Trump's swearing-in ceremony

Saturday's march has helped drive more reservations, he said.

"The moment it was confirmed it was happening in the city our hotels were seeing reservations take place," he said.

City planners are betting that Trump's inauguration is more like President Barack Obama's second inauguration in 2013, which drew more than 800,000, rather than Obama's first in 2009, which drew 1.8 million people. But while officials have experience and historical data to draw on to estimate crowds for Friday, guessing how many

people will show up for Saturday's demonstration is harder. Women's March on Washington organizers said in applying for a demonstration permit that they expected 200,000 people.

Christopher Geldart, the District of Columbia's homeland security director, thinks the march will draw more than that. Some 1,800 buses have registered to park in the city on Jan. 21, which would mean nearly 100,000 people coming in just by bus, Geldart said. Amtrak trains into and out of the city are also fully booked on that day, Geldart said.

"Usually when I look at things like that, that tells me we've got a pretty substantial crowd coming in. That leads me to believe we're definitely above the 200,000-person mark," Geldart said.

In contrast, approximately 400 buses have registered to park in the city on Inauguration Day, said Terry Owens, a spokesman for the District Department of Transportation, though he said that number is growing daily.

For their part, march organizers are trying to get a headcount by asking people who plan to participate to fill out a questionnaire

on their website. That will help ensure they have the right number of things like portable toilets, medical tents and food trucks, said Janaye Ingram, who is handling march logistics. More than 100,000 people have already registered using the form, Ingram said.

Rally, a New York City-based transportation company that connects people with bus rides to events, has organized many of the buses coming to Washington for Saturday's march. The tally includes buses from more than 200 cities in 26 states. The company's president and co-founder Siheun Song said the northeastern portion of the United States has "largely become sold out of motor coaches" for the day. Demand is so great the company is using school buses to bring people to the march from Maryland, she said.

"In six years of doing business we've never seen buses get sold out so quickly," she said.

For its part, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, which runs the city's rail and bus system, is planning an all-day effort to move people on Inauguration Day. The system is opening at 4 a.m. — an hour earlier than normal — and running rush hour service for 17 hours until 9 p.m. But the system hasn't seen a need to change its usual Saturday operations. The rail system will open at 7 a.m., its normal time for the day, and run on a regular Saturday schedule. **AP**

## Oman says it accepts 10 Guantanamo Bay inmates at US request

**OMAN** said it accepted 10 inmates from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay ahead of President Barack Obama leaving office, part of his efforts to shrink the facility he promised to close.

There was no immediate word from the U.S. Defense Department about the transfer.

Oman's Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the state-run Oman News Agency that it had accepted the prisoners at Obama's request. It did not name the prisoners.

Omani and U.S. military officials did not immediately respond to a request



Entrance to Camp 5 and Camp 6 at the U.S. military's Guantanamo Bay detention center

for comment from The Associated Press.

The sultanate of Oman, on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, previously accepted 10 Guantanamo prisoners from

Yemen in January 2016. Oman also took another six in June 2015. Meanwhile, Oman's neighbor Saudi Arabia took four prisoners on Jan. 5 and the United Arab Emirates took 15 pri-

soners in the largest-single transfer during Obama's administration on Aug. 15.

Oman, ruled by Sultan Qaboos bin Said since 1970, has served as an interlocutor between the West and Iran. It also has negotiated a number of prisoner releases in recent years for Western countries.

Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, remains in the grips of a civil war and a Saudi-led military offensive against the rebels — making returning Guantanamo inmates there impossible.

Days earlier, authorities said 19 of the remaining

55 prisoners at the U.S. military base in Cuba were cleared for release and could be freed in the final days of Obama's presidency.

It was part of an effort by Obama to shrink the prison since he couldn't close it.

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said during his campaign that he not only wants to keep Guantanamo open but "load it up with some bad dudes."

The U.S. began using its military base on southeast Cuba's isolated, rocky coast to hold prisoners captured during the Afghanistan invasion, bringing

the first planeload on Jan. 11, 2002, and reaching a peak 18 months later of nearly 680.

There were 242 prisoners when Obama took office in 2009, pledging to close what became a source of international criticism over the mistreatment of detainees and the notion of holding people indefinitely, most without charge.

Obama was unable to close Guantanamo because of Congressional opposition to holding any of the men in the United States. That ultimately became a ban on transferring them to U.S. soil for any reason, including trial, making the failure to close the detention center part of his legacy.

The majority of Guantanamo prisoners released have been sent to Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. **AP**

KYRGYZSTAN

# Ministry: Turkish cargo plane crash kills 37

AP PHOTO



The tail of a crashed Turkish Boeing 747 cargo plane lies at a residential area outside Bishkek

Leila Saralayeva, Bishkek

A cargo plane crashed yesterday in a residential area just outside the main airport in Kyrgyzstan, killing at least 37 people, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. The Turkish Boeing 747 crashed just outside the Manas airport, south of the capital Bishkek, killing people in the residential area adjacent to the airport as well as those on the plane.

Reports of the death toll yesterday ranged from 37 people according to emergency officials in the Central Asian nation, to 31 reported by the presidential press office which also said rescue teams

had recovered parts of nine bodies. Fifteen people including six children have been hospitalized.

Images from the scene showed the plane's nose stuck inside a brick house and large chunks of debris scattered around.

Several dozen private houses cluster just outside the metal fence separating the cottages from the runway. Manas has been considerably expanded since the United States began to operate a military installation at the Manas airport, using it primarily for its operations in Afghanistan. American troops vacated the base and handed it over to the Kyrgyz military in 2014.

"I woke up because of a bright red light outside," Baktygul Kurbatova, who was slightly injured, told local television. "I couldn't understand what was happening. It turns out the ceiling and the walls were crashing on us. I was so scared but I managed to cover my son's

face with my hands so that debris would not fall on him."

More than a thousand rescue workers were at the scene by late morning in the residential area where 15 houses were destroyed, Deputy Prime Minister Mukhammetkaly Abulgazyev said.

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear. Kyrgyz Emergency Situations Minister Kubatbek Boronov told reporters that it was foggy at Manas when the plane came down but weather conditions were not critical. The plane's flight recorders have not yet been found.

The plane, which had departed from Hong Kong, belonged to Istanbul-based cargo company ACT Airlines. It said in an emailed statement that the cause was unknown.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu yesterday called his Kyrgyz counterpart, Erlan Abdildaev, to offer Turkey's condolences, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said. AP

AD

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

## what's ON

## 16TH MACAU CITY FRINGE FESTIVAL: TEAPOT STORM 2017

TIME: 8pm

DATE: January 17-18, 2017

VENUE: Old Court Building, 2nd floor

ADMISSION: MOP 50

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

TICKETING ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

## 16TH MACAU CITY FRINGE FESTIVAL: GIVE IT A SHOT SERIES: I MET CATS

TIME: 8pm

DATE: January 17-18, 2017

VENUE: Garden of Sir Robert Ho Tung Library

ADMISSION: MOP 50

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

TICKETING ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

## BROADCASTER LEONG SONG FONG - 33 YEARS IN RADIO

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

UNTIL: February 5, 2107

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

## 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

## MACAU STORYBOARD - A REMINISCENT COLLECTION BY DIXON LEI

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: January 30, 2017

VENUE: Macau Tower Convention &amp; Entertainment Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2893 3339

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

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

UNTIL: February 2, 2017

ADMISSION: Free

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## Offbeat

## CUTEST CAPTAIN: SEA LION CAUGHT IN FISHING GEAR HOPS ON BOAT



Officials say a juvenile sea lion was so happy to be rescued after getting hooked by fishing gear off Southern California, it jumped into a Coast Guard boat.

The Coast Guard says a Los Angeles-area crew on patrol pulled the sea lion free this weekend near Newport Harbor.

Officials say after a little persuasion, the sea lion hopped aboard the boat and posed for photos.

The animal was handed off to a crew from the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, which brought the sea lion to its rescue facility. It will be rehabilitated and released.

## TV canal macau

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated)                              |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast                    |
| 14:50 | RTPi Live  |
| 15:30 | Nos League: Chaves - Sporting (Repeated)         |
| 17:10 | Happy Endings Sr.2                               |
| 17:50 | Precious Pearl (Repeated)                        |
| 18:40 | TDM Sport (Repeated)                             |
| 19:40 | Soap Opera                                       |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report            |
| 21:00 | TDM Interview                                    |
| 21:40 | Once Upon A Time S2                              |
| 22:10 | Precious Pearl                                   |
| 23:00 | TDM News   |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous                                    |
| 00:05 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:40 | RTPi Live  |

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

12 JAN - 18 JAN

## ARRIVAL

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Denis Villeneuve

Starring: Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker

Language: English

Duration: 116min

## CHERRY RETURNS

ROOM 2

2:30, 21:30pm

Director: Chris Chow

Starring: Song Jia, Lam Ka Tung, Cherry Ngan, Hu Ge

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, English)

## A STREET CAT NAMED BOB

ROOM 2

4:30, 7:30pm

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

## 10000 MILES

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Simon Hung

Starring: Yuan Huang, Megan Lai, Darren Wang

Language: Mandarin (Cantonese, English)

Duration: 103min

## MACAU TOWER

12 JAN - 18 JAN



## ARRIVAL

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Denis Villeneuve

Starring: Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker

Language: English

Duration: 116min

## this day in history



## 1983 BBC WAKES UP TO MORNING TV

People have been switching on their televisions a little earlier than usual to catch Britain's first breakfast news programme.

The BBC's new Breakfast Time programme went on air at 0630 GMT, presented by Nationwide's Frank Bough and former ITN news reader Selina Scott.

Nick Ross, who has presented a range of BBC radio news programmes, will also be hosting the show.

The two-and-a-half hour programme - presented live from the BBC's refurbished Lime Grove studios - is costing a reported £6m a year.

It is the corporation's biggest investment since BBC Two went on the air.

The battle for ratings will really hot up next month, when TV-am launches its new breakfast news programme.

The BBC's Director General, Alasdair Milne, was full of praise for this morning's show: "It was a terrific start. The first Tonight programme was not as good as this."

Breakfast Time editor Ron Neil said the show was intended to be relaxed and informal - and he dismissed suggestions it would fail to draw a big audience.

One survey in this morning's papers claims only four out of 10 people will watch the programme. Mr Neil said "That's an awful lot of people. If four out of 10 are watching, I will be delighted."

He added: "It isn't costing the licence fee payer any more money, the licence fee hasn't gone up. I think we will give people a very entertaining and informative two-and-a-half hours every morning."

The programme is catering for a wide variety of tastes - with its own resident astrologer, Russell Grant, and a regular exercise slot led by "Green Goddess" Diana Moran.

Families around the country got up especially early to watch the first programme. The BBC says it received 1,500 calls from well-wishers phoning to offer their congratulations.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Newspaper critics at the time claimed there was no demand for breakfast TV.

Richard Ingrams writing in *The Spectator* said: "There is no earthly reason why anyone of intelligence should want to watch it."

TV-am's Good Morning Britain launched two weeks later and the battle for ratings quickly hot up.

Personalities on both programmes came and went - but TV-am faced financial ruin when ratings plummeted to 200,000 in May. Greg Dyke was brought in from London Weekend Television to save the programme. The original five presenters were sacked and he promoted a puppet, Roland Rat, to help read the news. His tactics paid off.

A year later, the BBC and TV-am were bringing in weekly audiences of 1.5m and 1.2m respectively.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Spending more time with your family should be a higher priority for you right now. Don't think that you have to spend all day long with them, either. The quality time you need is not about special events or family outings.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Do you feel as if something is going on and no one is letting you in on it? Your intuitive powers are steering you in the right direction. Today, you will get a glimpse of some information that makes you think twice.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
You know how sometimes after you've been sitting in one position for a while, your muscles get cramped and your joints get stiff? You're going through something like that right now, only in an emotional sense.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Someone's opportunistic tendencies have served you well in the past, but it's time that you stood on your own two feet and made the bold moves you've been letting other people make for so long.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
When you enter into a new situation today, watch for people who aren't interested in making you feel at home. They could see you as the competition (even if you are not) and give you less than a naturally warm welcome.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Today, you need to get it in your head that asking for help is not a sign of weakness. In fact, it's a sign that you are smart enough to know your limits - and when you are about to go past them.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
Your routine will get disrupted today, which will get on your nerves more than it probably should. You've been on such a nice roll for so long that this new turn of events is disrupting your flow and making you cranky.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Things are going so well today that you might feel as if you are living out one of your dreams! Things will come easy to you and it is a good day to get whatever it is that you've been hankering for.

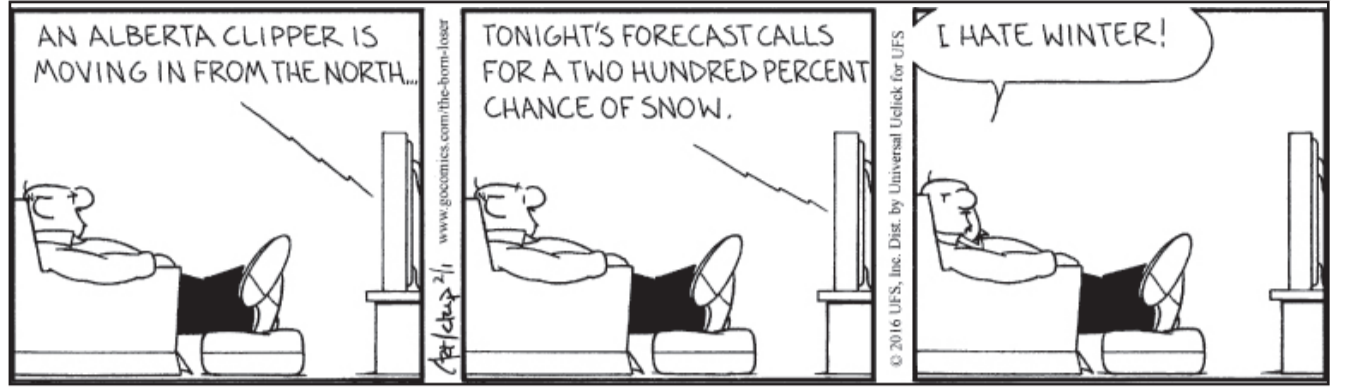
**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
As soon as you wake up today, get as active as you can. You'll be in the mood to move fast anyway, so just follow your mood! If you have a long-distance trip planned, an early start will yield a surprising type of upgrade.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Recent personnel additions to your social scene have stirred up some confusing feelings. Do you feel as if someone isn't being totally up front about who they are and what they want?

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Uneasy energy is circulating around your pets right now, so it might be a good idea to schedule a veterinarian appointment for your favorite furry friend. Stop thinking so much about things you cannot control.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
It's more important than ever to keep connections alive with the people you love. They are ultimately your rock and can serve as a grounding force in your life.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 |   | 4 | 9 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8 | 9 | 3 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 4 |   | 1 |   | 8 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 7 | 3 |   |   |   |
| 2 | 9 |   |   |   |   | 5 | 1 |   |
|   | 1 | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8 |   | 3 |   | 4 | 8 |   | 2 |   |
|   | 3 |   |   | 7 | 1 |   |   | 9 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

|              | MIN | MAX | CONDITION        |
|--------------|-----|-----|------------------|
| <b>CHINA</b> |     |     |                  |
| Beijing      | -5  | 5   | smoggy/cloudy    |
| Harbin       | -23 | -10 | smoggy           |
| Tianjin      | -3  | 2   | foggy/cloudy     |
| Urumqi       | -17 | -10 | clear            |
| Xi'an        | -3  | 5   | smoggy           |
| Lhasa        | -7  | 7   | clear/cloudy     |
| Chengdu      | 5   | 9   | drizzle/overcast |
| Chongqing    | 8   | 11  | overcast         |
| Kunming      | 4   | 18  | clear            |
| Nanjing      | 2   | 9   | cloudy           |
| Shanghai     | 5   | 10  | cloudy/overcast  |
| Wuhan        | 3   | 9   | cloudy           |
| Hangzhou     | 2   | 11  | cloudy/overcast  |
| Taipei       | 14  | 21  | drizzle          |
| Guangzhou    | 2   | 16  | drizzle          |
| Hong Kong    | 15  | 18  | drizzle/cloudy   |
| <b>WORLD</b> |     |     |                  |
| Moscow       | -9  | -4  | flurry           |
| Frankfurt    | -2  | 0   | sleet            |
| Paris        | 1   | 3   | drizzle/cloudy   |
| London       | 3   | 8   | drizzle          |
| New York     | 2   | 4   | cloudy/drizzle   |

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Harness part; 5- Sun. delivery; 8- Remove water from a boat; 12- Kleine Nachtmusik; 13- Great grade; 15- Skin disorder; 16- Bric-a-...; 17- Intended; 18- Farm measure; 19- Nostalgic; 22- Auction ending?; 23- Foofaraw; 24- Singer Young; 26- Father or mother; 29- Sayings; 31- Circle segment; 32- Buenos...; 34- Sensitive spots; 36- Having wealth; 38- MetLife competitor; 40- Domesticated; 41- French farewell; 43- Has to have; 45- Russert of "Meet the Press"; 46- Prepared for publication; 48- Plaintive cries; 50- Part of QED; 51- Before; 52- Transgression; 54- Harried; 61- Drunkards; 63- Sheer fabric; 64- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 65- Asterisk; 66- Loudness units; 67- Reclined; 68- Room in a casa; 69- Poseidon's realm; 70- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland;

**DOWN:** 1- C.S.A. soldiers; 2- Joyce's land; 3-... instant; 4- Drink of the Gods; 5- Graf...; 6- Enthusiasm; 7- Litter's littlet; 8- Bleat of a sheep; 9- Increase in speed; 10- About, in memos; 11- Lewd look; 13- Refrigeration gas; 14- Rise to one's feet; 20- Conception; 21- Grazing sites; 25-... Rhythm; 26- Self-respect; 27- Happening by chance; 28- Tendency; 29- Good...; 30- Big rigs; 31- The Altar; 33- Summer on the Seine; 35- Religious sch.; 37- One who has something coming?; 39- Sticks; 42- D-Day beach; 44- Father; 47- Les...-Unis; 49- Snuggle; 52- Flat sound; 53- Very small quantity; 55- Outback hoppers; 56- Sup; 57- Entreaty; 58- German river; 59- Yale students; 60- Hamlet, for one; 62- Madrid Mrs.;



**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
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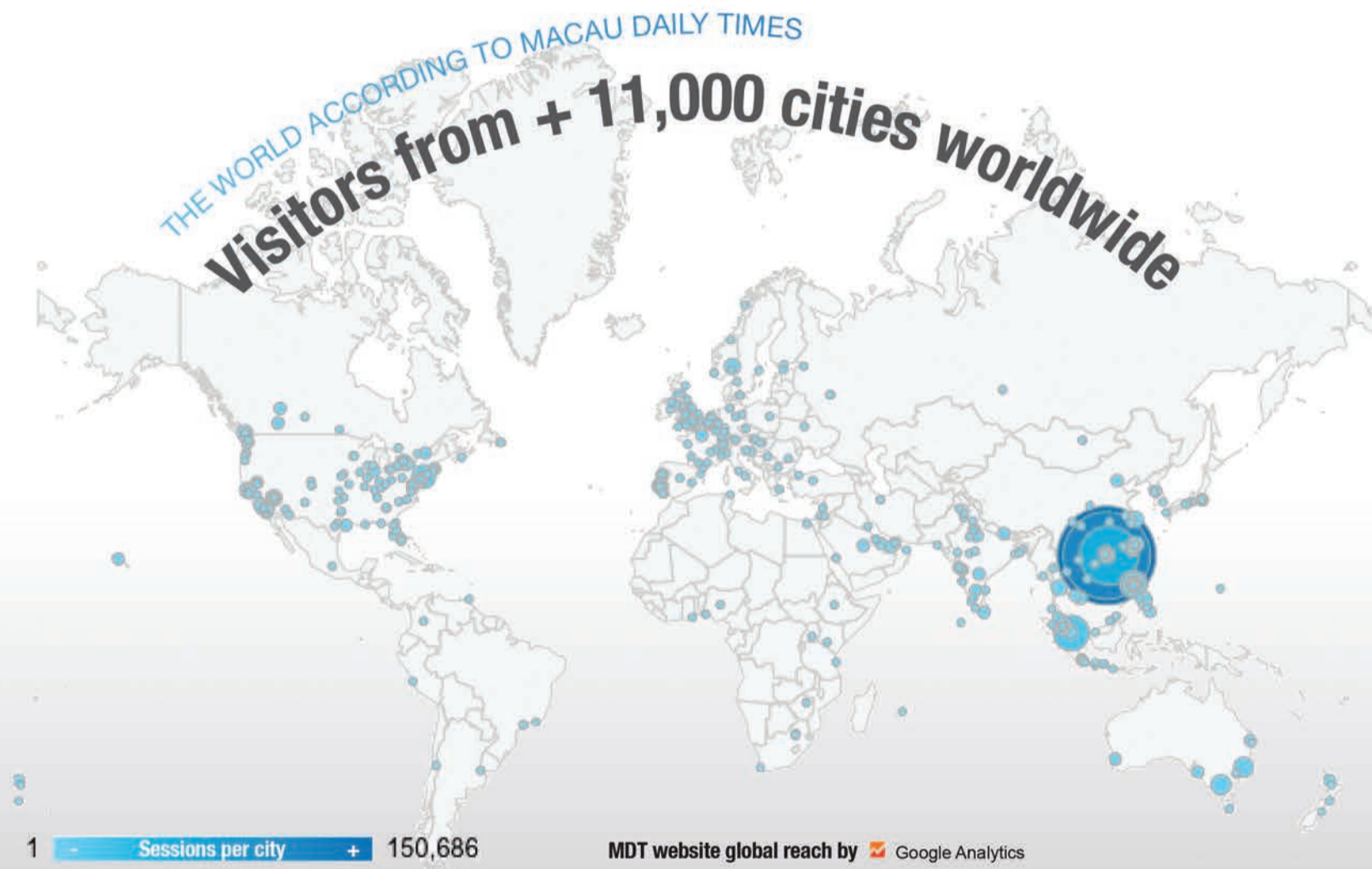
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

FOOTBALL | EPL ROUNDUP

# Guardiola virtually concedes title after heavy loss for City

Steve Douglas, Manchester

**T**HE Premier League season is barely past the halfway point and already Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has virtually given up on winning the title.

The world's most coveted coach can't have envisaged his first year in English soccer being this tough.

It takes something special to overshadow a match between bitter rivals Manchester United and Liverpool, but City's 4-0 loss at Everton yesterday [Macau time] did just that.

As he slumped to the heaviest loss of his career in a domestic league match, Guardiola — with his arms folded — was seen staring into space while he sat in the Goodison Park dug-out. At other times, he had his face in his hands.

City has dropped out of the Champions Leagues positions, into fifth place, and 10 points adrift of leader Chelsea.

Asked if the gap to first place was now too great, Guardiola said: "[To] the first one? Yes. Ten points is a lot of points. The second one is three points. We have to see."

A fifth loss of the league season was administered by a team managed by Guardiola's



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola gestures during the English Premier League match between Everton and Manchester City

friend and former Barcelona teammate, Ronald Koeman.

"Pep Guardiola knows it is a project at Manchester City," Koeman said. "Of course, maybe they expected better results and a defeat like this is really strong but Pep has the experience to turn it around."

Man United kicked off less than an hour after City's drubbing but couldn't get a win that would have put the neighbors tied on points, drawing 1-1 with Liverpool at Old Trafford.

After 21 of 38 games, City and United — the two pre-season title favorites — are ou-

tside the top four. Two high-profile managers were always going to have their reputation tarnished this season, with six big teams challenging for four Champions League spots.

Few would have predicted they'd be Guardiola and Jose Mourinho.

## EVERTON 4, MANCHESTER CITY 0

While there was misery for City at Goodison Park, there was jubilation for Everton after a win that was sealed by goals from two of the club's promising teenagers.

Goals either side of halftime

by Romelu Lukaku and Kevin Mirallas set Everton on its way before 18-year-old midfielder Tom Davies raced into the area and dinked a deft finish over goalkeeper Claudio Bravo, the ball landing just inside the post.

It completed an impressive display by Davies, who has now started two straight games and is distinctive with his all-action style and mop of blond hair.

The fourth goal was scored by 19-year-old debutant Ademola Lookman, four minutes into injury time. And it summed up City's sloppy perfor-

mance.

John Stones — a former Everton player — tried to clear the ball for a throw-in only to see it ricochet off Everton defender Seamus Coleman to set up Lookman. Signed from Charlton this month and on as a late substitute for his debut, Lookman placed his shot through Bravo's legs.

"How we played in the second half was really perfect," Koeman said. "In my opinion, it is impossible to play at a higher level, in every aspect of football. It was a perfect afternoon."

## MANCHESTER UNITED 1, LIVERPOOL 1

Zlatan Ibrahimovic equalized late for United to bail out teammate Paul Pogba in a frantic, intense match at Old Trafford between the two most decorated teams in English soccer.

On the day United rolled out advertising hoardings displaying Paul Pogba's new Twitter emoji, the player himself made a crucial mistake by conceding a penalty for handball while jumping with his back to the ball at a corner.

James Milner converted the spot kick but Liverpool was denied a win after Ibrahimovic glanced a header in off the crossbar in the 84th minute, moments after substitute Marouane Fellaini headed against the post.

Liverpool ended United's nine-game winning run in all competitions — six of which had come in the league — but dropped seven points behind first-placed Chelsea. Sixth-placed United was 12 points off the leader. **AP**

**N**o tirades at the umpire. No insults directed at spectators. No rackets smashed to smithereens.

For Nick Kyrgios, the talented yet combustible bad boy of tennis, it was a rather routine 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 win over Portugal's Gastao Elias in the first round of the Australian Open yesterday.

But given the way the Australian imploded at the end of last season, drawing intense criticism and a brief suspension from the sport, an ordinary match without fireworks might be a good thing.

The No. 14-seeded Kyrgios played with focus and composure against Elias, the kind of self-control many Australian fans wish he displayed in every match. Playing with a

sore left knee, which has bothered him since the beginning of the year, he ended points quickly and conserved his energy throughout the encounter, getting off the court in a swift 85 minutes.

"If you happen to go deep, it gets pretty tiring," Kyrgios said. "So you just want to reserve that mental energy and other parts of your body as well. The quicker you can get it done, the better it is for deeper in the week."

The Australian player didn't sound quite as thoughtful in his last news conference of 2016. His season came to an abrupt end at the Shanghai Masters in October when he sped through a match against Mischa Zverev with little effort or apparent care whether he won or lost. At

## TENNIS

# Kyrgios' new approach: Keep calm and move on at Aussie Open

one point, a spectator challenged his professionalism and Kyrgios responded with vitriol, inviting the man to switch places with him on court.

In a testy, post-match news conference, Kyrgios said he didn't owe the spectators anything and added that the fans could "just leave" if they didn't like his attitude.

Tennis officials told Kyrgios to leave instead. In a harsh response, the ATP Tour handed him more than USD40,000 in fines and an eight-week suspension that was later reduced to three

when he agreed to consult with a sports psychologist.

Yesterday, Kyrgios admitted he had been struggling to maintain his morale at the tail end of a tiring season. "It's hard for me to stay happy on the road," he said. "I get homesick quite easily. It's not easy being away from your home, being away from your girlfriend. I just wanted to be with them."

He's playing in front of a home crowd now, including family and friends who had traveled from his hometown of Canberra, the Australian capital, to

watch him play.

Will it make a difference? Kyrgios seems to think so — and he believes he's due for a breakthrough at a Grand Slam after reaching the quarterfinals at Wimbledon in 2014 at the Australian Open the following year.

"I just want to get back to it and try to have fun again," he said. "I know I can do well at these tournaments. My level has been great all the last year. I'm 13 in the world. I'm not in a bad space. Try and be positive, try and enjoy myself." **AP**



Nick Kyrgios

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



SILENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Fifty-nine mainland universities are currently attracting local students through a direct admission program which will exempt students from taking an entrance examination. In other words, good grades to enter these schools are not required if interested students wish to further their education at these schools.

Let us reflect upon another fact. Last year, in mainland China, 9.4 million high school students applied for the Gaokao, the national college entrance exam. Only the best of the best students (in general, measured in terms of performance in school exams) out of this number will enroll in the "top" universities in mainland China.

A small number of mainland students won't take the Gaokao (and some won't even take the exams) because they have already been recommended to enroll in a top school. However, it is remarkable how small this number is: in a city with a population of around four million people, only five students at most are recommended for the top schools. Keep in mind that they are the ones considered to be the "best" students.

In Shandong province, one of the largest source of students for mainland universities, only 214 "good" students were recommended, in 2016, to go through the direct admission program, which is now being promoted in town. As of 2014, Shandong province has a total population of 9.789 million, according to the National Bureau Statistics of China.

This year, Macau, through the direct admission program, offers 930 vacancies to its students to study in the mainland. Macau has an estimated population of 646,800, as of 2015.

Shandong's number of recommended students accounts for 23.7 percent of the number of students recommend by Macau, despite the fact that Shandong's population is 15.1 times that of Macau.

The latest news says that 604 local students have been accepted by mainland schools.

On the other hand, local universities are recruiting a tremendous number of mainland students to study here. While some schools survive on their students' tuition fees, others appear not to have enough students to fill up their classrooms, and are desperately in need of them.

The city's universities don't rank well internationally when compared to mainland universities.

That said, can this exchange program lead Macau to achieve anything? In my opinion, no. Citing a local report, a teacher from Jiang University responsible for the enrollment process said that Macau students are confident, open-minded, and have their own stances towards current affairs.

While many Western readers may not relate to this, it is, however, a completely accurate remark from my perspective.

Therefore, why would such a great number of Macau students spend four years having their confidence eroded, building their ignorance, or fertilizing spiritual victories?

The "exchange program" does indeed bring many benefits for mainland students. By coming to Macau, they learn what it is like to be in another Chinese community different from the mainland.

If Macau is truly desperate to train what they often term "local talents", more opportunities in Macau should be created for students to take advantage of.

More investments should be made in Macau in order to create really talented students.

I am not opposed to allowing students to see the rest of the world, I'm just concerned about some of the negative impacts.

THE CHINESE FOOTBALL: ACTION PLANNED ON 'IRRATIONAL' SALARIES

China's football association said yesterday it plans a series of measures in response to "irrational" spending by clubs on transfer fees and player salaries, amid concerns that foreign stars are crowding out local talent and harming the country's goal of becoming a global force in world football.

The Chinese Football Association said in a

statement that the unidentified steps would target the "operations and management" of teams in the top-tier China Super League and the China Premier League one step below it.

The new measures will address "recent irrational investments by clubs, high-figure transfer fees and salaries paid to domestic and international athletes and other issues," the CFA said in a news release.

Stark inequality: Oxfam says eight men as rich as half the world



Warren Buffett (left) and Bill Gates top the eight richest

Pan Pylas, Davos

THE gap between the super-rich and the poorest half of the global population is starker than previously thought, with just eight men, from Bill Gates to Michael Bloomberg, owning as much wealth as 3.6 billion people, according to an analysis by Oxfam released yesterday.

Presenting its findings on the dawn of the annual gathering of the global political and business elites in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, anti-poverty organization Oxfam says the gap between the very rich and poor is far greater than just a year ago. It's urging leaders to do more than pay lip-service to the problem.

If not, it warns, public anger against this kind of inequality will continue to grow and lead to more seismic political changes akin to last year's election of Donald Trump as U.S. president and Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

"It is obscene for so much wealth to be held in the hands of so few when 1 in 10 people survive on less than USD2 a day," said Winnie Byanyima, executive director of Oxfam International, who will be attending the meeting in Davos. "Inequality is trapping hundreds of millions in poverty; it is fracturing

our societies and undermining democracy."

The same report a year earlier said that the richest 62 people on the planet owned as much wealth as the bottom half of the population. However, Oxfam has revised that figure down to eight following new information gathered by Swiss bank Credit Suisse.

Oxfam used Forbes' billionaires list that was last published in March 2016 to make its headline claim. According to the Forbes list, Microsoft founder Gates is the richest individual with a net worth of \$75 billion. The others, in order of ranking, are Amancio Ortega, the Spanish founder of fashion house Inditex, financier Warren Buffett, Mexican business magnate Carlos Slim Helu, Amazon boss Jeff Bezos, Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg, Oracle's Larry Ellison and Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York.

Oxfam outlined measures that it hopes will be enacted to help reduce the inequality.

They include higher taxes on wealth and income to ensure a more level playing field and to fund investments in public services and jobs, greater cooperation among governments on ensuring workers are paid decently and the rich don't dodge their taxes. And business

leaders should commit to paying their fair share of taxes and a living wage to employees.

Max Lawson, Oxfam's policy adviser, urged billionaires to "do the right thing," and to do "what Bill Gates has called on them to do, which is pay their taxes."

The ability of the rich to avoid paying their fair share of taxes was vividly exposed last year in the so-called "Panama Papers," a leaked trove of data that revealed details on offshore accounts that helped individuals shelter their wealth.

"We have a situation where billionaires are paying less tax often than their cleaner or their secretary," Lawson told The Associated Press. "That's crazy."

It's because of this kind of inequality that trust in institutions has fallen sharply since the global financial crisis of 2008, according to Edelman, one of the world's biggest marketing firms.

In its own pre-Davos survey of more than 33,000 people across 28 markets, Edelman found the largest-ever drop in trust across government, business, media and even non-governmental organizations. CEO credibility is at an all-time low and government leaders are the least trusted group, according to the survey. AP

| Station                       | Air quality    |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Roadside                      | 40-60 Moderate |
| High Density Residential Area | 40-60 Moderate |
| Ambient                       | 45-65 Moderate |

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**KYRGYZSTAN** A cargo plane crashed in a residential area just outside the main airport in Kyrgyzstan, killing at least 37 people on the ground and in the plane, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. More on p15

**IRAN** The chief of the U.N. atomic agency says Iran has complied with a key commitment of its nuclear deal with six world powers by removing sensitive equipment from a strategic underground site.



**OMAN** said yesterday it accepted 10 detainees from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay ahead of President Barack Obama leaving office, part of his efforts to shrink the facility he promised to close. Oman's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it had accepted the prisoners at Obama's request. More on p14

**POLAND-GERMANY** The powerful leader of Poland's ruling party says he will tell German Chancellor Angela Merkel when she visits the country next month that she has some responsibility for what he sees as the German media's critical and harmful opinion of Poland.



**BRITAIN** After months of repeating the mantra that "Brexit means Brexit," Prime Minister Theresa May is set to reveal details of Britain's closely guarded plans for leaving the European Union in a speech later today. The currency hit a three-month low yesterday, a day before her address, on worries May will signal an economy-roiling clean break, known as "hard Brexit."