



### AF PROMOTES FRENCH COMICS FESTIVAL

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### TAX LEVELS NOT ONLY FACTOR

Tax levels are not the sole determinant of the competitiveness of Macau's gaming industry, Lionel Leong said

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### MH370 SEARCH ENDS AFTER NEARLY THREE YEARS

The hunt for the troubled flight concluded in frustration, as crews ended their search of a desolate stretch of the Indian Ocean

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## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**BRITAIN** Prime Minister Theresa May has made it clear: the U.K. will make a clean break from the European Union and leave its single market of some 500 million people. In her most direct remarks since the June 23 vote, May said yesterday that Britain must regain control of its laws and borders, even as she called on the bloc to negotiate a free-trade agreement that will benefit both sides.

**TAIWAN-US** A former premier will represent Taiwan at Donald Trump's inauguration Friday, a visit likely to be closely scrutinized by China for signs the incoming president intends to make good on remarks suggesting a shake-up in relations between Taipei, Washington and Beijing.

More on p10

AP PHOTO



**VIETNAM** Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc yesterday urged Japan to invest more in the Southeast Asian country to become its top foreign investor. He said Vietnam would like to see Japan invest more in infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and services.

**INDONESIA** A shallow earthquake rattled Indonesia's third-largest city Medan, damaging houses and sending thousands of frightened people into the streets. The U.S. Geological Survey estimated the quake's magnitude at 5.7 and said it struck at a depth of 10 kilometers southwest of Medan on the island of Sumatra.

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# VIP gaming rebounding after 2-year slump

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AP PHOTO



# Xi Jinping takes spotlight at Davos as US makes transition

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Jacqueline Davis from the United States

## Jockey Club to hold int'l mixed doubles race

FOR the first time in the region, international jockeys will be competing at the running of the International Mixed Doubles Jockeys Challenge on January 21.

In the upcoming competition initiated by the Macau Jockey Club, the challenge will see a lineup of six teams each consisting of one male and one female.

These doubles will be drawn via a ballot and will compete in three races on the turf.

With a total prize money of

HKD1.62 million, the teams will be competing for points, with the duo accumulating the most points taking home the first prize of HKD120,000 from each race's pool of HKD270,000.

According to information from the organizer, the Macau Jockey Club is looking to stage similar challenges in the future.

"We've quite a star studded lineup from around the globe for the launch of the first Mixed Doubles Jockeys Challenge, aimed to

bring more diversity to our product for racegoers and attracting more awareness to the exciting racing industry in Macau," the Club said to the Times.

The Macau Jockey Club has listed the international competitors that the audience will see on the turf.

To represent Macau, four-time Champion Luis Corrales will be looking to repeat his victory against international visitors as he did in 2010 when he won Macau's

International Sand Premier Cup on Golden Star.

Representing Hong Kong where he has been for more than a decade, will be the former Champion Apprentice in France, Olivier Do-leuze.

The Frenchman is remembered for his association with the former 2008 Hong Kong Horse of The Year Good Ba Ba.

Former six-time Macau Champion Manoel Nunes is also set to return to represent Singapore. The Brazilian jockey has won the last three Singapore Jockeys Titles and won Macau's Triple Crown in 2010 on Luen Yat Forever.

Japanese racing legend Yutaka Take is also one of the international jockeys bound for the region. Take has been crowned Champion jockey on 16 occasions with some 4000 wins in his racing history.

Information from the organizers stressed that the Japanese jockey has over 100 Group 1 victories and has amassed over 300 graded races in Japan.

Representing Korea is reigning Champion jockey Moon Se Young. With over 1300 race wins throughout his career, the Korean jockey is the second jockey in Korea to pass the 1000-win mark.

Representing his country in the upcoming tourney, his biggest wins to date have been the 2007 Grand Prix and the 2012 Korea Derby.

New Zealand will be represented by Andrew Calder, who won the Derby in Imabayboy in 2011 and

took out Macau's other premier event, the Macau – Hong Trophy.

Meanwhile, Australia's Katelyn Mallyon is heading the lineup for the six female international jockeys. Mallyon has been crowned Victoria's Champion apprentice twice and has amassed 238 wins in her race rides.

Brazil's Jeane Alves De Lemos, winner of the GP Brazil Breeders Cup Challenge in 2015, is also set to compete in the region.

Emily Finnegan will represent her home country Ireland, and is looking to add a victory to her record.

Representing Japan is Nanako Fujita, the first female rider to be licensed by the Japan Racing Association in 16 years. Fujita also competed in the Sheika Fatima bint Mubarak Ladies World Championships in Abu Dhabi in November last year.

Korean Kim Hye Sun will represent her home country in her second trip to Macau. The Korean jockey is noted as being the first female rider in Korea to win over 100 races, and has 207 wins from 2754 race rides to date.

Completing the lineup is Jacqueline Davis from the United States.

Jacqueline is a graduate from Hall of Fame Jockey Chris McCarron's Racing Academy and has brought home 523 race wins out of a total of 4803 rides.

Information from the organizers noted that her biggest wins to date have been the 2013 African Prince Stakes at Suffolk Downs and the 2016 New York Oaks. LV

### LEGAL WISE BY MdME



Isolda Brasil\*

## BONUS OR NO BONUS: THAT IS THE QUESTION!

The modern employment relationship is, more often than not, haunted by the ghost of the past and present bonuses. Among other entitlements, it is usually the "cherry on the top of the cake" which employers use to entice new employees to join their ranks or, as frequently occurs, to continue their service for as long as possible.

As simple as it might seem, however, bonus entitlements are not as straightforward as they look at first sight.

For starters, not every bonus is actually a bonus. According to Macau law, bonuses are considered variable remuneration, i.e., non-regular payments made on a case-by-case basis by the employer to the employee. Moreover, the bonus is, by nature and generically, an unexpected contribution paid on top of the normal salary that aims to reward the performance of employees. As such, bonuses are not part of the employees' base

remuneration. In order to truly fit the variable remuneration definition, they should not be linked to predetermined conditions/criteria that, if met, enable the employees to receive them on a recurrent and expected basis.

So, it is not the case that should the employer call a certain benefit granted to employees a discretionary bonus that such payment automatically becomes either discretionary or a bonus.

In fact, Macau's Labour Law regards the 13th month, or other periodic benefits of similar nature, to be payments that are part of the basic remuneration. In practical terms, this means, for example, that the very popular Chinese New Year Bonus of one month's salary paid every year by some employers should not, actually, be considered or treated as a bonus, but as a part of the base remuneration of employees.

For a bonus to be a true bonus its cha-

racteristics and eligibility requirements should be linked to and/or dependent on factors that are vary in accordance with the circumstances. At the same time, those characteristics and eligibility requirements should give no grounds for employees' to claim having any kind of expectations about receiving them. Generally speaking, a bonus that is, for example, dependent on the employee's and the company's performance would, in principle, have the characteristics of a true bonus if the criteria for eligibility are rightly tailored.

Another aspect to consider when it comes to the bonus is, naturally, whether it is payable or not upon termination of the work relationship. As we all know, it is a common practice among Macau employers to deny the payment of a bonus when employees leave the company. This causes most employees seeking new job opportunities to tender their resignations

immediately or shortly after they have received their bonus. As the saying goes, better safe than sorry, which would be a valid position for employees working for companies with true discretionary bonus schemes that, among other factors, link the attribution of the bonus to the actual and future employment of the employees with the companies.

However, for employees working for companies that have bonus schemes that are not really bonuses, but actually part of the employees' remuneration, then the fact that the employees submitted their resignation should not create an impediment to pay said bonus upon termination. In fact, if the bonus is not really a bonus, but a periodic payment similar to the 13th month, then upon termination employees are entitled to claim the payment of those benefits in proportion to the time they have worked, according to the law.

That being the case, to pay or not to pay a bonus seems to be a question much less rhetorical than it has become in the employment market!

\* Senior Associate, MdME

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# French Comics Festival brings renowned cartoonists

Lynzy Valles

**T**HE first French Comics Festival will run at Sofitel Macau until February 5, showcasing selected prints by two renowned French cartoonists.

Organized by Alliance Française de Macao (AF), the aim of the festival is to promote French comic culture in the territory.

The festival showcases renowned comic series Lucky Luke and Cestac pour les Grands, penned by French cartoonists Achdé and Florence Cestac respectively. The artists were present at book-signing events and drawing workshops.

AF president Xavier Garnier explained that the festival is also a way for the association to further promote an aspect of French culture in Macau.

“Usually we know French culture through fashion, food and art. In Asia, many don’t know about comics [but] it’s actually



From left to right: Achdé, Florence Cestac, Guillaume Gallas and Xavier Garnier

quite [an] old tradition in France and in Belgium,” said Garnier.

Lucky Luke is a comic series created by Belgian cartoonist Maurice De Bevere, better known as Morris. French artist Achdé continued the series after Morris passed away in

2001.

According to Achdé, his books are currently translated into 32 languages.

He dedicated himself fully to drawing in 1985 and began illustrating newspapers and self-published Destins Croisés, his first comic book.

The local artist visited Macau back in 2015 for a book-signing event organized by AF, but this is his first time showcasing his drawings in the region.

“I really like Macau because after being in China [for] fifteen days [...], Macau is completely different,” he told the Times.

Achdé, who used to be in the medical field, affirmed that comics in France are viewed similarly to classic literature, and stressed that comics are a part of French culture. Achdé added that Lucky Luke is now published in China.

Meanwhile, Florence Cestac brought a selection of her prints from “Cestac pour Grown-Ups” (“Cestac for Grown-Ups”).

Cestac is the only woman to have won the prestigious Grand Prix de la ville de Angoulême.

Cestac said most of her comics – which often feature characters with large noses – portray the daily lives and problems of an adult. She has published a

total of 38 comic books.

Cestac is visiting Macau for the first time, but previously visited Hong Kong for a book signing.

Meanwhile, Sofitel Macau hotel manager Guillaume Gallas stressed that the hotel is keen to promote such events.

“The big picture of what we’re trying to do is to always promote whatever is French related because its part of the DNA of the hotel,” he said.

“So whenever we have French ambassadors from music, novels, [etc.] that we can basically support, we do it every time,” Gallas added.

In 2016, AF and Sofitel Macau collaborated on some nine French events.

According to Gallas, the hotel intends to host similar events this year in order to promote French activities in Macau.

On average, these French events attract audiences of up to 200, depending on the nature of the event, he said.

The French Comics Festival, sponsored by Macao Foundation and Sofitel Macau commenced on January 10.

On Sunday and Monday, the two artists held drawing workshops at Ze Ai Nursery and Macau Polytechnic Institute targeting local children and teenagers.

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# CE meets FAOM's future leaders



Chan Kam Meng

Julie Zhu

SIXTEEN members of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) visited government headquarters yesterday morning to meet Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On and Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong.

The 16 current FAOM members will succeed the association's outgoing leadership from February 9, becoming the 34th generation of leaders in the history of FAOM.

Future FAOM president Chan Kam Meng, when talking to the media, provided information about the topics that

FAOM and the CE had discussed.

According to Chan, the group invited the CE to attend the 34th FAOM inauguration on February 9, in the hope that the CE's presence would inspire them.

During the meeting, FAOM and Chui discussed labour training policies and the livelihood of the local community.

"We had a talk with the CE and with Secretary Leong," said Chan, adding that the CE and the secretary are both pleased with the new FAOM leadership, and that they talked about how to serve FAOM amid the city's economic diversification and adjustments to the condi-

tions of the gaming industry. They also discussed how the association can meet members' needs more efficiently.

Another topic under discussion was the Labor Affairs Bureau's plan to launch a new policy regarding the city's non-local workers, particularly non-professional workers and domestic helpers. The planned policy will require these workers to present an identification card when entering the territory.

"The plan should have advantages, mainly in protecting Macau's local employees," explained Chan, saying that a few extra regulations can be added to meet the conditions required by local employees.

In some cases, people that arrive in Macau as tourists end up becoming legal workers. Chan said that it is the responsibility of job agencies to help people confirm a job offer before they come to Macau.

During their meeting, Chan reminded the CE to pay attention to fostering local talent, as well as housing policies.

Last year, several controversies arose involving local occupational drivers. Employers have been suggesting that the city open its market to non-local occupational drivers, a proposal which was met with much opposition from employees.

When asked whether the topic was discussed during the meeting, Chan said, "it was not particularly mentioned."

However, he said both parties had agreed that Macau should carefully manage non-local employees' policies, so as not to affect local employment.

# Tigerair Taiwan to operate Taichung Macau flights

**LOW-COST** carrier Tigerair Taiwan announced on Monday that it will launch flights between Taichung and Macau on March 29.

State-owned Central News Agency reported that the airline, a subsidiary of Taiwan's China Airlines, will operate one round-trip flight per day.

The new flight will ease Taiwanese residents' travel to and from the MSAR.

The carrier will offer promotional tickets between January 20 and 25 in a bid to boost interest for the new service.

From 10 a.m. on January 20 to 11:59 p.m. on January 22, round-trip tickets from Taichung to Macau can be purchased for around MOP650 (excluding taxes). The offer includes a meal and 20-kilogram

baggage allowance at no additional charge.

The airline will hold a second promotional ticket sale from 10 a.m. on January 23 to 11:59 p.m. on January 25; during which a one-way ticket can be purchased for around MOP200 (excluding taxes).

Tigerair Taiwan currently operates 30 flights per week between Taiwan and Macau, originating from Taipei and Kaohsiung. The new Taichung-Macau route will bring the total number of flights to 37 per week.

According to data published by the Macau Government Tourism Office, Taiwan is one of Macau's top three sources of visitors.

Around 980,000 Taiwanese citizens visited Macau between January and November last year.

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## AL PLENARY

# Lawmakers show concern over air quality

of forests and green spaces, as well as energy savings and the reduction of the number of vehicles on the road. The lawmaker said the meeting with the Premier had led to a meaningful outcome and that the "[MSAR] government should absorb this spirit."

Chan also tackled the topic of solid waste collection. A few years back, he said, a system of underground garbage collection had been set up in the Areia Preta neighborhood, but the measure was not widespread and yielded minimal results.

Ho Ion Sang addressed recent reports on complaints about "noise pollution," particularly

at night. The lawmaker presented data that showed a rising number of complaints among residents, expressing concerns over the authorities' inability to address such issues in a timely fashion.

Ho remarked that the competences on the topic shared by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) and the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) "lack clarity [which] leads to public dissatisfaction." He suggested that the government clarify the roles of the different public services involved, so as to improve cooperation and create an effective prevention mechanism. Such a mechanism, Ho said, could start with a frequent inspection to "blackspot" locations, or the main sources of the environmental noise.

Tsui Wai Kuan expressed disapproval over the recent protests against the fee hike on several vehicle- and traffic-related services; namely, the removal of illegally parked vehicles and the fee for vehicle following inspection (to be performed when the vehicles fail to pass the normal inspection). These measures, according to both Tsui and the government, are intended to combat air pollution by reducing the number of vehicles on the road.

"At the AL, the criticism [of] the government for not being able to control the vehicles never ended," said Tsui.

"But then, after they put into force a policy [people] immediately started the demonstrations and criticism and the trade-off of interests. So creative!"

## Renato Marques

**P**OLLUTION was a topic in the spotlight at yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting.

Chan Meng Kam was one of several lawmakers who raised the issue, stating that combating smog "was the priority among the topics to discuss at

last month's 14th Meeting of the Central Leadership Group for the Economic and Finance Affairs," convened and led by Chinese Premier Xi Jinping.

"Air pollution is global and Macau is not an exception," Chan reiterated. He urged the government to take steps to control and combat various forms of pollution; from waste treatment to the protection

## Soares: Five vote against condolence motion

**T**HE AL plenary session opened with a motion for an official expression of condolence regarding the recent death of the former Portuguese President and Prime Minister Mário Soares, who passed away on January 7.

The proposal was made by lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, who highlighted the importance of the statesman in the recent history of Macau, including the handover and the establishment of the current good relations between China and Portugal, in which Macau was always involved.

Coutinho recalled not only Soares' personal qualities but the opinions of Premier Xi Jinping and Chief Executive Chui Sai On on the occasion of his death. He also commented on Soares' decision to

legalize around 50,000 people of Chinese ethnicity who had then been living illegally in the territory, considering the move a great "humanitarian gesture."

The motion was then approved by 13 votes in favor, with five against and two abstentions.

The opponents included AL vice president Lam Heong Sang, as well as other lawmakers typically seen as belonging to a pro-Beijing wing.

On the sidelines of the plenary session, Pereira Coutinho said, "it is amazing that the vice president of the AL decided to vote against this proposal. But we know him and what he stands for."

Coutinho expressed satisfaction that the proposal had gathered the support of the majority.

## 2015 BUDGET EXECUTION REPORT FINALLY APPROVED

**FOLLOWING ITS** analysis by the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly earlier this month, the 2015 Budget Execution Report was approved without much discussion. Due to the absence of the committee's president, Cheang Chi Keong, the secretary of the committee presented the final conclusions. Mak Soi Kun referred

to public criticism the low execution of some items, namely the Building Repair Fund. A Housing Bureau official replied that this was due to a lack of requests for repair from citizens. Mak urged the government to enforce a mandatory inspection of old buildings, which was unanimously approved by all 26 members in attendance.

## GAMING

## Tax levels not only factor in city competitiveness says Leong

**T**HE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, yesterday said gaming tax was not the only element to be considered in determining the competitiveness of Macau's gaming industry.

Other elements that help enhance the city's competitiveness internationally included service quality, the variety of services, marketing promotion efforts, the city's Internet infrastructure, the efforts to create a smart city in terms of information technology and efforts regarding prioritizing the

local MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) sector, a statement from the Government Information Bureau (GCS) noted.

Speaking to reporters this afternoon, Leong said the government would analyze the issue of a revision to gaming rights for the city's current gaming concessionaires and sub-concessionaires.

The government is planning to take into consideration a number of factors when considering these renewals. They included opinions

from the community regarding the operators' efforts to promote non-gaming as well as gaming offerings at integrated resorts – particularly in light of the "Interim Review of Gaming Liberalization for Games of Fortune", published in May 2016.

Other factors for consideration, said Leong according to the GCS statement, include the levels of either upward or horizontal job mobility granted to casino employees, the operators' strategies to attract a greater number of international visitors and

whether the plans of the operators were in line with the government's goal of positioning Macau as a world center of tourism and leisure.

The concessions and sub-concessions of the six gaming operators will expire on various dates between 2020 and 2022.

The government is also paying close attention to the development of the gaming industry in neighboring countries, in a bid to adjust in a timely manner the strategy of the city.

Leong said that during the adjustment period



of Macau's gaming industry, the structure of the sector had seen consistent improvement in terms of a growing contribution from the mass-market segment regarding casino revenue.

In addition, the advancement of non-gaming

elements at integrated resorts not only helped enhance the employment opportunities of local residents, but also helped diversify the source of visitors, including by attracting a greater number of family visitors.

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# VIP gaming rebounding after two-year slump



Daniela Wei

**C**HINESE high-rollers are finally returning to Macau, two years after an anti-corruption crackdown by China's government scared many of

them away from the world's largest gambling hub.

VIP gaming, measured by revenue from the baccarat card games favored by high-stakes gamblers from China, rose 13 percent in the last three months of 2016, marking a turna-

round since the first quarter of 2014, data from Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau show. Mass-market games improved 7.3 percent, the second-straight quarter of gains.

"While we are very happy to finally see VIP turn positive, we remain cautious on the outlook for this segment, which is driven by increasing concerns on Beijing's stance on capital flight," said Union Gaming Group analyst Grant Govertsen.

Shares of Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. reversed an earlier drop in Hong Kong trading to rise as much as 1 percent, while Sands China Ltd. rose as much as 0.3 percent. MGM China Holdings Ltd. fell as much as 2 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng Index rose 0.4 percent.

Macau is increasing its over-

sight of gambling after China's anti-corruption campaign scared off high-stakes VIP bettors, causing a steep casino downturn since mid-2014. Operators such as Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Resorts Ltd. have shifted focus to casual gamblers and tourists by opening resorts with more tourist-friendly features.

**The strength seen in the fourth quarter was not primarily driven by VIP. It was driven by mass.**

GRANT GOVERTSEN

"The strength seen in the fourth quarter was not primarily driven by VIP. It was driven by mass," said Govertsen. "This is very important in the context of what we see as a sustainable mass market led recovery." The growth rate

of VIP revenue could be overstated, as some casinos had reclassified higher-end mass market tables as VIP to skirt smoking restrictions in late 2014, Govertsen said by phone yesterday.

The likely gain for VIPs during the period may be closer to 7 percent and at 13 percent for the mass market, he said.

The importance of VIPs to Macau has been declining, with the high-stakes market contributing about 53 percent to gaming revenue in 2016, data from the gaming regulator showed, down the peak of 73 percent in 2011.

Macau's casino market continues to face challenges, amid growing concerns that China's increased scrutiny on capital outflows will curtail spending at the gambling tables.

Average daily gaming revenue fell 4 percent last week compared with December, likely due to weakness among VIP players and a seasonal slowdown before the Lunar New Year holiday which begins end-January, analysts led by Vitaly Umansky at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. wrote in a note Monday. **Bloomberg**

## ANIMAL RIGHTS

# Gov't support last hurdle in race to save greyhounds

Daniel Beittler

**E**NLISTING the coercive power of the government to force the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome to surrender their racing greyhounds is now the final hurdle for Anima (Macau) in securing the animals' safe retirement.

Following confirmation last week from Portugal's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development that the country is open to accepting some 650 greyhounds from the Canidrome, Anima (Macau) president Albano Martins said all that remains is to secure the help of the MSAR government.

The animal rights activist was in Portugal

last month, where he met a government minister to discuss a special exemption to animal import regulations. Usually, it is only possible to import a maximum of seven animals at a time, he told the Times, which would make it too costly to arrange the transportation of 650 dogs.

"I was told before that Portugal would not permit [the import of] so many animals [...] but on January 11, I received a letter from the cabinet of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development explaining the conditions for [their import]," Martins told the Times yesterday.

"The answer was very clear: once blood tests,

vaccines and certificates are [arranged], there will be no obstruction to their import."

"Now all we need is for the Canidrome to release the dogs. This will become likely if the Canidrome is forced to [release them] by the government," he said. "We will try to convince the Secretary for Economy and Finance to ask the Canidrome not to kill the animals."

The Canidrome facility has been under pressure since it came to light in 2015 that around 30 injured greyhounds were euthanized there each month. Activists blame the state of Macau's racing track, which they consider inappropriate and harmful to the animals.

The reports, which led to the Macau Canidrome being labeled the worst greyhound-racing center worldwide, soon prompted an international campaign to close the facility, led by local group Anima (Macau).

Martins told the Times yesterday that the Canidrome has been forced



Albano Martins

to reduce the number of races it holds each week in order to keep the facility operational until the end of its concession period in 2018.

Following an Anima (Macau) campaign last year to obstruct the import of greyhounds to the MSAR, Martins said the facility has been forced to hold fewer ra-

ces in order to maintain the number and strength of the dogs it currently manages.

"If they raced the greyhounds today like they used to [in 2015 and before] with those death rates, then they would run out of dogs before their concessionaire ends in 2018 [...] and by the terms

of their contract, they need to hold at least 12 races per day," the animal rights activist explained.

"So they need to reduce the number of days per week [that races are held]."

Martins said a source had told them that "the Canidrome will soon reduce the number of racing days to just two per week."

Martins also said he welcomes sponsors to help provide funding and accommodation for the dogs, prior to their certification and transportation to Portugal. He said that there are some European organizations that may help with this project, but that finding space for the animals will remain a challenge.

### FREQUENCY OF GREYHOUND RACES\*

Period	Races per day	Days per week
2015	18	5
2016 (January)	16	5
2016 (June)	12	3
2017 (unconfirmed)	12	2

With the Canidrome's ability to import greyhounds severed last year in a major victory for Anima (Macau), Albano Martins claims that fewer races are being held at the facility. \*Data according to figures provided by Anima (Macau).

### BORBA COULD BE GREYHOUND RETIREMENT HOME

**ALBANO MARTINS** revealed this week that he has obtained permission to have the greyhounds sent to Borba, Portugal. After meeting with a Portuguese government minister and a local mayor, Martins said that the favored location for the animals is a site in Portugal's Borba municipality, located in

the District of Évora, which will be converted into a greyhound sanctuary with an area of up to 50 hectares. While they are still considering other potential sites, the association wants the arrangements for the greyhounds finalized before the end of the Canidrome's government concession in 2018.

# Rolls to pay USD807m to end UK, US bribery probes



A Rolls Royce plane engine

Suzi Ring, Benjamin Katz

**ROLLS-ROYCE** Holdings Plc agreed to pay about 670 million pounds (USD807 million) to resolve long-running U.S. and U.K. investigations into allegations its representatives bribed foreign officials to win business.

Europe's largest maker of commercial jet engines will pay the U.K. Serious Fraud Office 497.25 million pounds plus interest, and the U.S. Department of Justice about \$170 million, the company said Monday in a statement. The British penalty is the biggest-ever sanction issued against a company by the U.K.

"It's a very large fine which we didn't see coming: it's something of a bolt from the blue," said Nick Cunningham, an aerospace and defense equity analyst at Agency Partners in London. "Usually these settlements are relatively moderate compared to the size of the company."

The settlement still offers a slight reprieve for Chief Execu-

tive Officer Warren East, who has been working to turn around the ailing engine-maker since taking over in 2015. Allegations that Rolls illegally used middlemen to conduct deals in about a dozen countries has weighed on the company even as East tries to recover from a slew of profit warnings.

The company also said profit and cash performance for 2016 was better than expected ahead of its full-year results next month. The shares rose 3.5 pence to close at 665 pence Monday shortly before the settlement was announced.

A spokesman for the Justice Department declined to comment. The global pact also includes a pledge to pay \$25.5 million to Brazilian authorities.

In December 2012, Rolls-Royce disclosed it had handed over documents to the SFO relating to allegations of corruption at some of its overseas businesses, including China and Indonesia, following a request from the prosecutor. A year later the SFO opened an investigation

and in 2014 the company revealed it was also being probed by the Justice Department.

Since then, the U.K. investigation expanded to include about a dozen countries, among them places like Nigeria, and the SFO was granted extra government funding for the case. Only two arrests from the probe have become public: high-profile Indian businessmen Sudhir and Bhanu Choudhrie. The father and son were arrested in London in February 2014 and haven't been charged.

A lawyer for the pair said his clients hadn't been accused of anything and have always conducted their business lawfully. Sudhir Choudhrie has been a major donor to U.K. political party the Liberal Democrats.

The SFO said in a separate statement that it will seek court approval for the U.K. settlement - known as a deferred prosecution agreement - at a hearing today [Macau time].

The financial implications of the payments, which will add up to about 293 million pounds in the first year, will be provided when the company reports annual results Feb. 14. The DPA is only the third such agreement the SFO has entered into since the enforcement tool, which is commonly used by U.S. prosecutors, was introduced in the U.K.

"The total penalty dwarfs the first few DPAs struck a year ago under new U.K. legal powers," said Lisa Osofsky, European chair of Exiger, a financial crime and risk adviser. It "sends a clear signal that the U.K. means business in cracking down on global bribery and corruption." **Bloomberg**

## British American Tobacco agrees to take over Reynolds



Danica Kirka, London

**BRITISH** American Tobacco Plc has agreed to fully take over Reynolds American Inc. in a deal that will create the world's largest publicly traded tobacco company.

The USD49 billion takeover was agreed on improved terms compared with an initial bid made last year. It would combine BAT's presence in developing countries, where anti-smoking campaigns are not as strong as in the U.S. and Europe, with Reynolds' almost exclusive focus on the U.S.

BAT sells Dunhill, Rothmans and Lucky Strike cigarettes, while Reynolds owns brands like Newport, Camel and Pall Mall.

"Our combination with Reynolds will benefit from utilizing the best talent from both organizations," BAT's chief executive, Nicandro Durante, said in a statement yesterday. "It will create a stronger, global tobacco and (next generation products) business with direct access for our products across the most attractive markets in the world."

London-headquartered BAT will buy the 57.8 percent of Reynolds it does not already own. Reynolds shareholders will receive for each share \$29.44 in cash

and 0.5260 BAT shares.

That values Reynolds, which is based in Winston Salem, North Carolina, at \$59.64 per share, or \$49.4 billion for the stake to be acquired, BAT says.

"This is a big move, that makes a lot of sense for BAT," said Steve Clayton, a fund manager a financial services firm Hargreaves Lansdown. "They already had billions tied up in Reynolds, now they will have billions more, but with full control of the company and its cash flows. The United States is an attractive market, with good pricing dynamics, and BAT can also take Reynolds' portfolio of new generation tobacco products and sell them worldwide."

Reynolds traces its roots to 1875, when Richard Joshua Reynolds started a chewing tobacco company in what was then Winston, North Carolina. The company's links with British American Tobacco date to 2004, when R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. merged with BAT's Brown & Williamson unit, creating Reynolds American. BAT was left with a 42 percent stake in the new company.

The two companies already have a technology-sharing agreement in the development of electronic cigarettes. **AP**

### corporate bits

#### MGM ANNOUNCES DISCRETIONARY BONUS



MGM China has announced a discretionary bonus to eligible recipients in non-manage-

rial positions, in recognition of the "dedication and commitment" of its employees in the

territory. The bonus will be equal to one month's salary.

The discretionary bonus is additional to a special bonus announced earlier in 2016, from which the second half of that bonus will be paid to eligible employees on July 5, 2017. This latter bonus is also equal to one month's salary.

"I would like to thank each and every one of our team members for giving their best, and being passionate in creating great moments for our guests through quality service and products," said Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Grant Bowie.

He added: "2017 is a special year for all of us at MGM as our Cotai property is about to open and [...] I look forward to delivering more unique experiences to our guests."

Wynn Macau's Forbes Five Star Italian restaurant Il Teatro is bringing guests a new menu to commemorate its eleventh year, together with new contemporary décor.

The revitalized a la carte menu features a variety of dishes, including a selection of the ocean's finest in a seafood platter.

With more than 10 years of experience in Italian cuisine, Chef de Cuisine Nicholas Olivas recently took the helm at Il Teatro. Olivas' goal is to share his passion and his country's traditional culinary arts with his guests and team, according to Wynn Macau's press release.

As the restaurant is named after the Italian word for theatre, its revamped design

#### WYNN'S IL TEATRO UNVEILS NEW ITALIAN MENU



is inspired by the light and water shows that guests enjoy while dining.

Il Teatro is open for dinner Tuesdays to Sundays from 5.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.



# China's financing still essential to Angola

**A**NGOLAN public finances remain under pressure, despite improvements in the oil market and the country's economic diversification efforts, with funding from China to remain key source of funding, according to Angolan economist Alves da Rocha.

Speaking last week in Lisbon at a conference organized by the Africa Intelligence Monitor and the AIP Foundation, the economist from the Catholic University of Angola stressed that GDP growth rates expected until 2022 are "low" when compared with the 2002-2008 period – the "mini-golden age of the Angolan economic growth," an annual average rate of 11 percent – and state revenues will remain under pressure in the period.

"Except for the cases of China, possibly except in the case of Brazil, from which the authorities have called for a review of financial relations with the release of closed credit lines [...] we have

this problem of obtaining external financing, with interest rates that the country is able to pay afterwards," he said.

Budget deficits, he added, will have to be financed by creating public debt, subscribed mainly by banks and large companies, and foreign debt, in this case "led by China through the credit lines that have recently increased," with a new line worth almost USD9 billion.

State debt is expected to reach 75 percent to 80 percent of GDP at the end of the year, excluding public enterprises, among which the "big question is Sonangol," a state oil company that is undergoing restructuring with debts of about USD9 billion, which there has been "an attempt to cover with the support of China," worth about USD5 billion, which did not materialize.

The latest edition of the Africa Intelligence Monitor claims the impact on Sonangol's revenues is limited – particularly for relieving current oil liquidity constraints –

due to the current price of Brent crude oil rising to about USD55, after production cuts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The limitations, AIM said in an article published on January 12 on the outlook for the oil sector, are the result of downward pressures on prices, which are preventing prices from climbing to US\$60 per barrel, which is considered to be the minimum level for the oil company to have some room to manoeuvre and also for payments in oil credits already incurred, in particular with China.

The 2017 State Budget, the year of general elections in Angola, was drawn up based on a value of USD46 per barrel and expected oil production of 1.8 million barrels per day.

The Economist Intelligence Unit reported that China "will continue to be an extremely important partner" for Angola, in the current economic and financial context.

"The government will continue



Luanda Bay, Angola

to seek out China's loans to allow it to continue with much needed capital expenditure programs – building roads and power plants, for example," the EIU said in one of its recent reports on Angola.

Other sources of funding for the

Angolan State include international financial institutions credit facilities and soft loans from the African Development Bank, as the use of eurobonds market is "unlikely in the short and medium term," it said. MDT/Macauhub

## CHINESE COMPANY HIRED TO BUILD CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

**THE CHINA** National Electronics Import & Export Corporation has been hired to provide the technology solution for management of civil and criminal identification in Angola, as well as the issue of registration of birth and identity cards, under a presidential order. The contract, which will cost

Angola USD243 million, will be signed by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, arises from the need to "implement the Integrated Management Platform of Civil and Criminal Identification" and requires the Chinese company to "supply goods, facilities and technical support."

AD

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## TAIWAN

# Ex-premier heading delegation to Trump inauguration



A former premier will represent Taiwan at Donald Trump's inauguration Friday, a visit likely to be closely scrutinized by China for signs the incoming president intends to make good on remarks suggesting a shake-up in relations between Taipei, Washington and Beijing.

Yu Shyi-kun will be joined

by lawmakers and local government officials representing both the ruling Democratic Progressive Party and the opposition Nationalists, the Foreign Ministry announced. It said the delegation, which intends to "express the importance our government and people place on close friendly bilateral relations," left Mon-

day.

Along with attending the inauguration, the delegation will hold talks with politicians, academics and overseas Chinese community representatives, the ministry said in a statement on its website.

"Taiwan-U.S. relations have a lengthy history and have made significant progress in

recent years," the statement said. Congratulating Trump on his election, it said the government would "continue to strengthen Taiwan-U.S. relations in future on the basis of excellent mutual trust and interaction."

The U.S. has no formal relations with Taipei in deference to China, which claims the is-

■ Yu Shyi-kun will be joined by lawmakers and local government officials representing both the ruling Democratic Progressive Party and the opposition Nationalists

land as its own. However, the two maintain robust informal ties, while Washington sells Taiwan arms and is legally bound to regard any threat to the island as a matter of grave concern.

Trump upset decades of diplomatic precedent by talking by phone with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen shortly after his victory in November's presidential election. Last week, he said in a newspaper interview that Washington's "one China policy" under which it recognized Beijing in 1979 was open to negotiation, and had earlier questioned why the U.S. should be bound by such an approach without China offering incentives.

This week, China's Foreign Ministry said the "one-China principle" regarding Taiwan is not negotiable and any attempt to reconsider the issue would be self-defeating.

"Not everything in the world can be bargained or traded off," Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters.

China threatens to use force to assert control over Taiwan and tensions across the Taiwan Strait have risen since Tsai's election last year. Beijing has cut off contacts with her government and is using its diplomatic clout to further isolate the island.

Yu served as premier under former President Chen Shui-bian, who was despised by Beijing for his defiantly pro-independence stance. AP

CHINA'S top underwriter of green bonds said the government may accelerate approvals in 2017 as the nation battles a toxic wave of smog.

Guotai Junan Securities Co. said the government should boost incentives for notes with proceeds earmarked for environmental projects, after a People's Bank of China researcher said it may recommend tax breaks for investors. Chinese firms including banks, automakers, developers and power producers sold a world-leading 186 billion yuan (USD27 billion) of the debt in the domestic market in 2016, including the nation's debut offering onshore.

"This affects the air we breathe, it affects everyone," said Huang Baoyi, general manager in the debt financing department of Shanghai-based Guotai Junan, which managed 11 percent of 2016 issuance. "The government should support and encourage green bond investors."

Dirty air forced more than 60 Chinese cities to

## Smog-choked may fast-track green debt, top banker says

issue health alerts this year, delaying hundreds of flights and encouraging consumers to stay at home. China plans to invest 2.5 trillion yuan in renewable energy through 2020 and outlined measures to channel funds toward reducing pollution at the G20 meeting in Hangzhou in September. President Xi Jinping's speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday will be watched for signs China will take global leadership in fighting climate change as the U.S. retreats.

Ma Jun, chief economist at the PBOC's research bureau, said in March the monetary authority will recommend steps such as waiving tax for holders of the notes, though no such policy has been introduced. The central bank hasn't responded to faxed questions.

"I think it is likely and



would be a natural first step by the government," said Magdalene Teo, head of fixed income research Asia in Singapore at Bank Julius Baer & Co., a Swiss private bank that includes responsible investing principles in its analysis. "Offering tax breaks to bond investors will incentivize

issuers such that they will pay a lower coupon and at the same time help change the mindset of enterprises towards sustainable investments."

The world's most-populous nation accounted for \$31.3 billion of the \$78.1 billion in total global green bond sales in all curren-

cies last year, data compiled by Bloomberg show. HSBC Holdings Plc, which ranked 5th in managing those deals, sees issuance around the world reaching between \$90 billion and \$120 billion this year. It's starting a new unit to help mobilize sources of sustainable finance.

"China is central to our focus on sustainable financing, having set out a clear path to a lower carbon economy," said Alexi Chan, global co-head of debt capital markets at HSBC. "Market-based reforms are aligning the financial system with China's green objectives and stricter environmental standards are being enforced."

An HSBC survey published last month showed three-quarters of 300 investors planning green investments globally said they lack credible opportunities and quality research. The PBOC's Green Bond Guidelines, which insist funds get independent assurances and regularly audited disclosure from issuers, are a "very good step forward," Chan said.

New incentives will be needed to encourage more sales, said Guo Shizai, head of bond innovation department of Haitong Securities Co., the fifth-ranked underwriter of such debt onshore.

"Green bond issuers don't enjoy enough benefits," Guo said. Bloomberg

Jamey Keaten, Davos

**C**HINA is taking the world's most elite annual gathering by storm.

President Xi Jinping leads a Chinese delegation of over 100 officials and scores of business executives attending the World Economic Forum, embodying a tectonic shift at an event that started nearly a half-century ago among Europeans and Americans.

Xi's opening plenary address yesterday to political and business leaders is shaping up as perhaps the highlight both of this year's WEF and Xi's one-country European visit to ultra-stable and chronically neutral Switzerland.

"The two countries will strive to maintain world peace and stability, promote common development and jointly maintain a global trade system which is open and tolerant," Xi told reporters at a joint briefing with Swiss President Doris Leuthard earlier. "We will push global governance toward a fairer and more reasonable direction."

It comes as mainstream Western democratic leaders have been grappling with populist movements at home, including the one that helped undergird Donald Trump's U.S. presidential election victory. Trump's transition team plans to have only one top adviser, Anthony Scaramucci, attending the forum ahead of Friday's presidential inauguration.

Such transitions have given an opening for Xi, who arrived by train in the Alpine snows of Davos to a red carpet welcome Monday, to project political stability while drumming up business for China.

# Xi takes spotlight at Davos as US makes transition



AP PHOTO

The bumpy run-up to the Trump administration — Trump's poll numbers are low for an incoming president — has given the Chinese leader a convenient opportunity to advance his goal of giving his country a more assertive leadership role on the world stage.

China previously sought to capture the mantle as a supporter of world trade after Trump said he would pull the United States out of the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal championed by President Barack Obama.

Chinese media have trumpeted Xi's moves in the global arena as a force for stability. But analysts say he isn't likely to address Trump

straight on.

"People will be asking, 'Will he say anything about Trump?'" Steve Tsang, director of SOAS China Institute in London, said. "He would want to play his cards close to his chest at this stage. It would not make sense for him to say anything about Trump at the moment."

Francois Godement, head of the Asia and China program at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said the Chinese are "extremely careful about what they say about the incoming Trump presidency."

"I think right now they must be very busy watching and wonder-

ing what will come next," Godement said. "But I have no doubt that he (Xi) will try to portray China as open, corporatist, stable, predictable, reliable on a number of global issues. Even if he doesn't cite the Trump administration, he'll try to project a contrast."

Xi is the first Chinese head of state to visit Davos, and he will be trailed by four government ministers.

Russia also will be represented, with two deputy prime ministers and dozens of business leaders attending the gathering. When the first Davos conference took place in 1971, it was all about European leaders trying to tap into U.S. bu-

**“We will push global governance toward a fairer and more reasonable direction.”**

XI JINPING

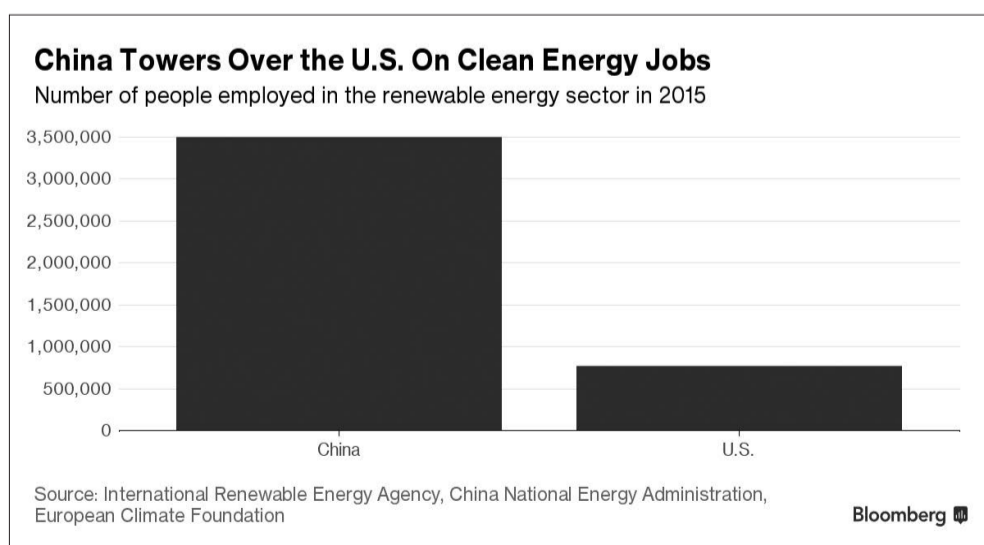
siness acumen.

Speaking Monday before the conference's official opening, WEF Founder Klaus Schwab said this year's event is "not just a Western meeting." One-third of the participants are from the emerging world — including the largest-ever delegations from China and India, Schwab said.

In today's era of populism, a presence at uber-elite Davos can be a bit unseemly for Western leaders. "Bear in mind that elites, bankers and top businessmen are not usually popular with voters in democracies, so I can see that democratically elected leaders don't rush to show themselves in Davos," Godement said.

"Whereas, more authoritarian regimes, they believe in business... So they think of Davos as an arena for influence for the people who matter," he said. **AP**

## Experts see Xi tout clean energy leadership at World Forum



Jessica Shankleman

**F**OUR days before climate change skeptic Donald Trump becomes president of the U.S., his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will appear at Davos. His theme is res-

ponsible business and his speech is expected to tout the world's largest polluter as a leader in the fight against global warming and shift toward renewable energy.

"President Xi will likely underscore China's conti-

nued commitment to decarbonizing its economy and providing leadership on climate change," said Alden Meyer, director of policy at the Union of Concerned Scientists. "By contrast, President-Elect Donald Trump has

downplayed the risks of climate change."

Xi will be the first Chinese head of state to address the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in a year when the gathering of global politicians, financiers and business leaders in the remote Swiss ski resort will focus more than ever on climate change.

While Trump has threatened to reverse President Obama policies on tackling climate change and pull the U.S. out of the 2015 Paris Accord, China is strengthening its commitment to the issue. Earlier this month, it pledged to invest 2.5 trillion yuan (USD360 billion) in renewable energy through 2020 to reduce greenhouse gases that are blamed for global warming.

China's government also plans to suspended 101 coal-power projects across 11 provinces as it moves toward cutting carbon dioxide emissions. The deferred investments are

worth about 430 billion yuan (\$63 billion), China's financial daily Caixin reported yesterday.

"If the U.S. does step back from leadership in the climate process then China will step forward, not least for pure realpolitik reasons," said Michael Liebreich, founder of Bloomberg New Energy Finance. "If you've got large parts of the world including all of Africa, really hungry for investment and energy solutions, then the U.S. is seen as an unreliable partner, or trying to push dirty solutions, then I think China will step into that breach."

China already leads in renewable energy investment, spending almost \$88 billion in 2016, one-third more than the U.S. according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. China's investment has already created 3.5 million renewable energy jobs and that's expected to grow to 13 million by 2020, accor-

ding to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

It's not just rising global temperatures and sea levels concerning China. The nation's increasingly wealthy middle class is worried about the quality of air it breathes and water it drinks and has become more vocal about complaints. With Beijing again cloaked in smog at the start of the year, Xi faces continued pressure to show he's doing what it takes to clean things up.

Xi's comments on climate change will help reassure clean energy investors at a time when the future of the U.S.'s own renewables market is doubt, said Li Shuo, policy adviser at Greenpeace East Asia.

"The U.S. political situation provides an external driver for China to go forward from being a reluctant leader to climate hero," he said in a phone interview. **Bloomberg**

INSIDE A NORTH KOREAN FACTORY

# Silk, steam and slogans



AP PHOTO

### Wong Maye-E, Pyongyang

As the morning light poured through large windows, women wearing olive-colored overalls, pink aprons and headscarves stood at stations where silkworms were being boiled. Some used their bare hands to pull silk thread from the boilers and winced as the steam rose toward their faces. But the heat didn't seem to slow them down.

The Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, named after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's grandmother, is where 1,600 workers — mostly women — sort and process silkworms. The worms, from the countryside in South Pyongan province, ultimately produce silk thread that officials at the Pyongyang factory say is made into roughly 200 tons of silk a year.

Seen prominently on a red-and-white sign hanging above a main corridor was a propaganda slogan: "Let us step up the victorious advancement of socialism through self-development!" Lining the walkway were names of supervisors and workers that were leading teams, placed as a form of encouragement for the workers.

In his New Year's address, leader Kim Jong Un called on the North Korean people to step up production in order to raise the nation's standard of living, which is among the lowest in Asia. Kim himself visited the silk mill in early January.

The Associated Press toured the factory in early January. Though the temperature outside was minus 6 C (21 F), there was little heating in the high-ceilinged building. And though it was noisy — both from the machinery and from loudspeakers blasting propaganda music — no one seemed to be wearing ear plugs.

Groups of eight to ten women stood before heavy machinery along the processing line, sorting out silkworms as they were being washed and later boiled. In another room, women examined sheets of unfinished silk with tweezers, looking for impurities as a glowing tabletop illuminated their faces.

The mill was proud to showcase its "sci-tech center," where workers could take classes conducted via an intranet system. It also boasted a childcare facility where 200 children are enrolled while their mothers work at the factory. **AP**

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### JAPAN

## Australian family of four OK after night on mountain



AP PHOTO

A family of four believed to be from Australia has been rescued after becoming lost on a ski resort in central Japan, where they survived the night reportedly inside a hole they dug in the snow.

Police said yesterday that the family — a woman in her 50s and her three sons — went off course while skiing near the 1,650-meter peak of Nozawa Onsen ski resort the previous day. Rescuers were unable to find the family Monday night, but found them walking down a hiking trail early yesterday.

Media reports say the family dug a hole in the snow and sat inside it.

Police spokesman Yuichiro Miyasaka said the four appeared to be unhurt, but were taken to a local hospital as a precaution. It was not known whether they knowingly skiing outside the designated areas,

which some skiers do to try unbeaten tracks. Police have cautioned against going off course because of a growing number of accidents and searches.

Television footage showed the four wrapped blankets as they were escorted to ambulances.

A rescue official said the four were shivering a lot when they were found. "They don't seem to have carried any food or supplies, so I believe they had a rough night," the official, whose name was not given, told public broadcaster NHK and other TV stations.

The rescue comes after a strong snowstorm hit northern Japan over the weekend, leaving five people dead and injuring nearly 70 people across the country, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. **AP**

Kristen Gelineau, Sydney

MH370

# After 3 years, search ends with no plane, few answers

**A**FTER nearly three years, the hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 ended in futility and frustration yesterday, as crews completed their deep-sea search of a desolate stretch of the Indian Ocean without finding a trace of the plane.

The Joint Agency Coordination Center in Australia, which helped lead the USD160 million hunt for the Boeing 777 in remote waters west of Australia, said the search had officially been suspended after crews finished their fruitless sweep of the 120,000-square kilometer search zone.

"Despite every effort using the best science available, cutting-edge technology, as well as modeling and advice from highly skilled professionals who are the best in their field, unfortunately, the search has not been able to locate the aircraft," the agency said in a statement, which was a joint communique between the transport ministers of Malaysia, Australia and China.

"Accordingly, the underwater search for MH370 has been suspended. The decision to suspend the underwater search has not been taken lightly nor without sadness."

Officials investigating the plane's disappearance have recommended search crews head north to a new area identified in a recent analysis as a possible crash site. But the Australian government has already nixed that idea.

Last year, Australia, Malaysia and China — which have each helped fund the search — agreed that the hunt would be suspended once the search zone was exhausted unless new evidence emerges that pinpoints the plane's specific location. Since no technology currently exists that can tell investigators exactly where the plane is, that effectively means the most expensive, complex search in aviation history is over.

There is the possibility that a private donor could offer to bankroll a new search, or that Malaysia will kick in fresh funds. But no one has stepped up yet, raising the bleak possibility that the world's greatest aviation mystery may never be solved. For the families of the 239 people on the doomed aircraft, that's a particularly bitter prospect given the recent acknowledgment by officials that they had been looking for the plane in the wrong place all along.

In December, the transport bureau announced that a review of the data used to estimate where the plane crashed, coupled with new information on ocean currents, strongly suggested the plane hit the water in a 25,000-square kilometer (9,700-square mile) area directly north of the search zone. But Australia's government

AP PHOTO



rejected a recommendation from the bureau that crews be allowed to search the new area to the north, saying the results of the experts' analysis weren't precise enough to justify continuing the hunt.

The three countries' transport ministers reiterated that view in their statement yesterday, noting: "Whilst combined scientific studies have continued to refine areas of probability, to date no new information has been discovered to determine the specific location of the aircraft."

The lack of resolution has caused agony for family members of the flight's passengers, who have begged officials to continue the hunt for their loved ones.

"The whole series of events since the plane disappeared has been nothing but frustrating," said Grace Nathan, a Malaysian whose mother was on board Flight 370. "It continues to be frustrating and we just hope they will continue to search. [...] They've already searched 120,000 square kilometers. What is another 25,000?"

Investigators have been stymied again and again in their efforts to find the aircraft since it vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014. Along the way, hopes were repeatedly raised and smashed by false leads: Underwater signals wrongly thought to be emanating from the plane's black boxes. Possible debris fields that turned out

to be sea trash. Oil slicks that contained no jet fuel. A large object detected on the seafloor that was just an old shipwreck.

In the absence of solid leads, investigators relied largely on an analysis of transmissions between the plane and a satellite to narrow down where in the world the jet ended up — a technique never previously used to find an aircraft.

Based on the transmissions, they narrowed down the possible crash zone to a vast arc of ocean slicing across the southern hemisphere. Even then, the search zone was enormous and located in one of the most remote patches of water on earth — 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) off Australia's west coast. Much of the seabed had never even been mapped.

For years, search crews painstakingly combed the search area in several ships, largely pinning their hopes on towfish, small vessels equipped with sonar that sent information back to the boats in real-time. The ships slowly dragged the towfish through the ocean just above the seabed, hoping the equipment would detect some trace of the plane. Unmanned submarines were used to examine areas of rougher terrain and objects of interest picked up by sonar that required a closer look.

The search zone shifted multiple times as investigators refined their analysis, all to no avail. Some began to question whether the plane had gone down in the southern hemi-

sphere at all.

Then, in July, 2015, came the first proof that the plane was indeed in the Indian Ocean: A wing flap from the aircraft was found on Reunion Island, east of Madagascar. Since then, more than 20 objects either confirmed or believed to be from the plane have washed ashore on beaches throughout the Indian Ocean. But while the debris proved the plane went down in the Indian Ocean, the location of the main underwater wreckage — and its crucial black box data recorders — remains stubbornly elusive.

The transport ministers prai-

sed the efforts of the search crews and said the search had presented an "unprecedented challenge."

"Today's announcement is significant for our three countries, but more importantly for the family and friends of those on board the aircraft. We again take this opportunity to honor the memory of those who have lost their lives and acknowledge the enormous loss felt by their loved ones," the ministers wrote. "We remain hopeful that new information will come to light and that at some point in the future the aircraft will be located." AP

## MALAYSIA AIR ON REBOUND AS MISSING FLIGHT SEARCH CALLED OFF

**NEARLY THREE** years after twin disasters took it to the brink of financial collapse, Malaysia Airlines' new CEO says an overhaul aimed at turning the ailing carrier around is going better than expected. CEO Peter Bellew called the disaster an "awful tragedy." "There's people I work with every day who lost some of their friends, so they're living with that," he said yesterday. "We owe it to the people that lost their lives and the families and everything to make sure that the place is a success and that it survives, because that's the right thing to do," Bellew said when asked about the disaster at an industry gathering in Hong Kong. Bellew said the airline is on track to meet key performance goals,

including turning an annual profit by 2018 and relisting on the stock exchange the following year. The company's jets are carrying more passengers, including on its London route, he said. London is the carrier's last remaining European route and one where it uses superjumbo Airbus A380 jets that must carry many passengers to be profitable. Just months after Flight 370 disappeared, a second Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 carrying 298 people was shot down over Ukraine. Those tragedies deepened the carrier's already daunting troubles. But lower jet fuel prices have since helped cut costs, and revenue has improved thanks to strong traffic growth in the region.

TURKEY

# Istanbul gunman captured after more than two weeks on the run

AP PHOTO



Mehmet Guzel, Istanbul

**TURKISH** authorities captured the gunman who carried out the deadly New Year's nightclub attack in Istanbul, with officials saying yesterday that he's an Uzbekistan national who trained in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told reporters in Ankara that the man was being questioned by police and expressed hope that the interrogation would unveil the "forces" behind the attack, which killed 39 people and was claimed by the Islamic State group.

"The vile terrorist who attacked the place of entertainment on New Year's eve and led to the loss of so many lives has been captured,"

Yildirim said.

He added: "What is important is for the suspect to be captured and for the forces behind it to be revealed."

The premier wouldn't provide further details on the arrest or the investigation, saying authorities would provide specifics "in time."

Istanbul governor Vasip Sahin said that the captured nightclub attack suspect is an Uzbekistan national who trained in Afghanistan. He is believed to have entered Turkey in January 2016.

Sahin says the suspect, captured late Monday, has confessed to carrying out the massacre and that his fingerprints matched those of the attacker.

The suspect, according to Sahin,

was a well-educated terrorist who speaks four languages and had clearly carried out the attack in the name of IS.

The statements come hours after police began questioning the suspect, who was identified in Turkish media reports as Abdulgadir Masharipov and was caught in a police operation at a luxury residential complex in Istanbul.

The state-run Anadolu Agency said that a man from Kyrgyzstan and three women — from Soma-

lia, Senegal and Egypt — were also detained in the raid, while the gunman's 4-year-old son was taken into protective custody.

IS group has claimed responsibility for the nightclub massacre, saying the attack in the first hours of Jan. 1 was in reprisal for Turkish military operations in northern Syria. The man identified as the suspect had been on the run since the attack.

Anadolu said police have also carried out raids on members of a

suspected Uzbek IS cell in five Istanbul neighborhoods, and detained several people.

Authorities had set up a 1,000-person force to capture the gunman, Anadolu said.

Photographs from raids, widely published in the Turkish media, showed a bruised, black-haired man in a gray, bloodied shirt being held by his neck. NTV television said the gunman had resisted arrest.

Hundreds of people were gathered at the swanky Reina nightclub to celebrate the end of a tumultuous 2016 only to become the first victims of 2017. The gunman shot a police officer and a civilian outside the club, before storming the premises.

Most of the dead in the attack on the upscale club were foreign nationals, mainly from the Middle East. AP

## BLAST TARGETING POLICE IN THE SOUTHEAST KILLS 4 OFFICERS



**A ROADSIDE** bomb in a pre-dominantly Kurdish city in southeast Turkey yesterday [Macau time] killed four policemen and wounded two others, according to the state-run news agency. Anadolu Agency said the explosion occurred near Dicle University in the Sur district of Diyarbakir province. The report blamed the attack on militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Worker's Party, or PKK.

The private Dogan news agency broad-

cast footage showing ambulances, a fire-truck and security forces deployed at the scene of the blast.

The wounded were taken to Dicle University's Medical Faculty Hospital, Anadolu reported.

The office of Diyarbakir's governor gave the same death toll for the afternoon explosion. In a statement, it offered condolences to the families of the officers who died and said an investigation was underway to find those responsible.

AD

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Martin Crutsinger, Washington

# IMF boosts growth forecast for US, cites Trump impact

**T**HE International Monetary Fund raised its forecast for the U.S. economy over the next two years, saying President-elect Donald Trump's policies should boost economic growth, particularly in 2018. But officials warned that if Trump's protectionist trade proposals set off a trade war, that could be "quite destructive" for the global economy.

The IMF also increased 2017 growth projections for a number of other countries including China, Germany, Japan and Britain, but warned that the global economy faced a number of downside risks from rising protectionism to a jump in interest rates.

The 189-nation global lending agency's latest economic outlook took note of the significant impact Trump's election has already had in giving a boost to U.S. stock prices, interest rates and the dollar. The new outlook puts U.S. economic growth at 2.3 percent this year and 2.5 percent in 2018. That would be an improvement from lackluster U.S. growth around 1.6 percent in 2016.

During the campaign, Trump said his economic policies of tax cuts, regulatory reform and boosts in infrastructure spending would lift U.S. growth to annual rates of 4 percent.

The new forecast represents a boost of 0.1 percentage point this year and an increase of 0.4 percentage point for 2018, when Trump's stimulus plans would be expected to be phased in. That is a half-point higher growth than the IMF was forecasting in October, before Trump's election.

In contrast, the World Bank last week left its U.S. forecast unchanged at 2.2 percent growth in 2017 and 2.1 percent for 2018, arguing that there was too much uncertainty over the fate of Trump's proposals to incorporate them in



Monetary Fund Economic Counsellor Maurice Obstfeld speaks at a news conference during the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings

a forecast.

But IMF Chief Economist Maurice Obstfeld told reporters at a briefing this week that he viewed the IMF's upgrade for the United States as a moderate increase that took into account the U.S. election results.

"We now have the presidency and the legislative branch in the same hands. It seems very clear to us that some of the promises will be delivered on," Obstfeld said. "We know the direction of policies. We don't know the specifics."

He said that the IMF had chosen not to incorporate Trump's threats of imposing higher tariffs on countries such as China and Mexico if their trade policies do not change because of a belief "that at the end of the day, countries will realize these are not in their best interests given the threat of retaliation. ... The outbreak of a trade war would be quite destructive."

For the overall global economy, the IMF left its projections unchanged growth of 3.4 percent for this year and 3.6 percent for 2018,

both up from 3.1 percent growth in 2016, a year when global growth slowed to its weakest performance since the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

But the IMF saw better prospects in a number of countries including Germany, Japan, Spain and Britain, thanks in part to a rebound in growth in many parts of the world in the second half of last year that provided momentum going into 2017.

"The global economic landscape started to shift in the second half of 2016," Obstfeld said, helped by a rebound in manufacturing activity in many countries and the financial market rally that started with Trump's November election victory.

## ■ The new outlook puts US economic growth at 2.3 percent this year and 2.5 percent in 2018

But Obstfeld said there was a wider than usual range of upside and downside risks in part because of the uncertainty over how much of Trump's program will win congressional approval and what the spillover effects will be for the rest of the world.

While Trump's election victory

boosted economic prospects in the United States, the impact has been uneven for the rest of the world. Some countries could see stronger growth from the increase in activity in the United States, the world's largest economy, but some emerging market countries may face challenges as global interest rates rise.

The new outlook boosted the growth forecast for China, the world's second largest economy, by 0.3 percentage point to 6.5 percent this year. The IMF expects the Chinese government to providing further stimulus to the economy.

The outlook also boosted 2017 growth projections for Germany, Japan, Spain and Britain to reflect stronger-than-expected performances in the second half of last year. At the same time, the IMF lowered its forecasts for Italy, South Korea, India and Brazil, reflecting disappointing performances in the last half of 2016.

The IMF said that growth prospects in Latin America were being hurt by rising uncertainty about the outlook in Mexico, given Trump's statements overhauling trade relations between the United States and Mexico. about The IMF slashed its growth projections for Mexico by 0.6 percentage point in both 2017 and 2018 to 1.7 percent this year and 2 percent next year.

Obstfeld said that among the risks facing the global economy at the moment were "higher popular antipathy toward trade, immigration and multilateral engagement" among voters in the U.S. and Europe. **AP**

## GERMANY

# Supreme court rejects bid to outlaw far-right party

**G**ERMANY'S supreme court yesterday rejected a bid by lawmakers to outlaw a fringe far-right party accused of pursuing a racist and anti-Semitic agenda.

Andreas Vosskuhle, chief justice of the Federal Constitutional Court, said that while the party's goals run counter to the German constitution, "there are currently no concrete indications ... that its actions will lead to success."

The German parliament's upper house had applied for the ban at the end of 2013.

It was the second attempt to ban the National Democratic Party, better known by its German acronym NPD. In 2003, the court rejected a previous application because paid government informants within the group were partially responsible for evidence against it.

Vosskuhle, in explaining the verdict, cited the party's political irrelevance, pointing out that it has only a single seat in the European Parliament and that the NPD's election results have in recent years been "on a low

level."

Vosskuhle said that a party's questionable ideology alone wasn't reason enough for a ban. A party would need to be actively working to abolish Germany's free and democratic order, he said, adding: "There's no evidence for this here."

The rise of the nationalist Alternative for Germany party, which has assailed Chancellor Angela Merkel for allowing large numbers of migrants into the country and appeals to a much broader range of protest voters, has eroded the NPD's support in

recent years.

The party isn't represented in the Bundestag after winning just 1.3 percent of the vote in the last national election in 2013. Parties need to pass a 5-percent threshold to win seats in the federal parliament. It is still represented at the local level, though, and receives money just like other parties based on its electoral performance.

The NPD could not immediately be reached for comment, but celebrated the verdict on Facebook saying it was "now fully back in business."



NPD party leader Frank Franz (right) NPD's member of the European Parliament, Udo Voigt, and head of the Berlin NPD Sebastian Schmidtke (left)

Only two parties have been outlawed in West Germany and reunited Germany — the neo-Nazi Socialist Reich Party in 1952 and the German Communist Party in 1956. **AP**

## what's ON

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

TIME: 8pm

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

VENUE: Garden of Sir Robert Ho Tung Library

ADMISSION: MOP 50

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

TICKETING ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 5555

## LEONG WAN SI ART EXHIBITION

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

UNTIL: February 2, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries

Incubator, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, no.10

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## BROADCASTER LEONG SONG FONG - 33 YEARS IN RADIO

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

UNTIL: February 5, 2017

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy, Av. do Conselheiro

Ferreira de Almeida, no. 95 C-D

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

## MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

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

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

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

## Offbeat

## OBAMA MADE KENYAN ARTIST'S NAME, BUT TRUMP PORTRAITS FIZZLE



Kenyan artist Evans Yegon is sad to see President Barack Obama leave office. The artist has made a name for himself painting USD1,000 portraits of Obama and he's finding the new focus of his work — Donald Trump — a hard sell.

Obama's presidency electrified Kenyans, who are proud that his father was a Kenyan. Thousands thronged Obama's visit to the country as president in 2015. Many express sadness at the impending end of Obama's time in office.

"Simple: Obama is a sort of miracle of the century," journalist Ochieng Ogodo posted on Facebook.

While Trump is an interesting subject with his facial expressions and persona, Yegon said he has struggled to find buyers for his paintings of the president-elect.

"Even if you are a Donald Trump supporter, you don't want to make it public," Yegon said. "I painted him because he is hated and he is loved."

Yegon has sold just one Trump painting, to an American client, of the 10 he has painted so far. He said he sold 28 of the 30 Obama paintings he made during the outgoing president's second term.

## TV canal macau

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

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

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, 9:30pm

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



## 1991 IRAQI SCUD MISSILES HIT ISRAEL

Iraq has attacked two Israeli cities with Scud missiles, prompting fears that Israel may be drawn into the Gulf War.

Israel's largest city, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, its main seaport, were hit in the attacks, which began at 0300 local time (0100 GMT), when most residents were asleep.

Reports from Tel Aviv say the air was filled with the wail of sirens and minutes later up to eight missiles streaked in and exploded in balls of flame.

Residents scrambled for protective clothing and gas masks, issued to most of the population before the conflict began.

Casualties are believed to have been light - nobody was killed, and only a few people injured.

It is the first time Tel Aviv has been hit in the history of the Israel-Arab conflict.

Initial reports that one of the missiles had a chemical warhead were quickly proved wrong.

Air raid sirens went off again this evening amid fears of a second Scud attack, but they were swiftly followed by an all-clear as it proved to be a false alarm.

Israel has the strongest military forces of any Middle Eastern country, and has said that any attack by Iraq would bring massive "punishment".

The American President, George Bush, issued an appeal to Israel to hold back from retaliation for the attack.

Allied commanders have been ordered to make special sorties to seek out and destroy Iraqi missile sites and mobile launchers which could threaten Israel, and Mr Bush emphasised his determination to protect Israel from further attack.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, called an emergency meeting of the ministerial defence committee of senior ministers and military officers to decide Israel's response.

After the day-long meeting, the Foreign Minister, David Levy, told journalists no decision had yet been taken on whether to retaliate.

"Israel reserves the right to retaliate in the manner and with the scale and method of its own choosing," he said.

Any Israeli military action could break apart the multinational coalition against Iraq by provoking the Arab members to withdraw their support.

Meanwhile, the Allied air bombardment of Iraqi military targets is continuing at the rate of 2,000 sorties a day.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Israel decided to leave retaliation to Allied forces, to the relief of the Coalition.

Iraq fired Scud missiles at Israeli cities again the next day and throughout the Gulf War, but failed to provoke Israel into unilateral retaliation. After more than a month of intensive air attacks, the Allies launched a land offensive on 24 February. One day later, the Iraqis began retreating.

On 28 February, President George Bush declared victory. Kuwait was liberated but Saddam Hussein remained in power in Baghdad.

The US and Britain launched a second war against Iraq in 2003. Saddam Hussein was overthrown and captured to be put on trial for war crimes. He was eventually executed in December 2006.

A democratically-elected government was sworn in after elections in 2005.

Tensions between Shia and Sunni Muslims have spilled over into brutal sectarian violence, prompting fears of civil war. The execution in December 2006 of Saddam Hussein, himself a Sunni Muslim, did little to heal the widening rift between the two groups.

Coalition and Iraqi troops have faced armed rebellions and guerrilla-style attacks.

American and British troops have so far been unable to pull out despite repeated guerrilla attacks which have killed more soldiers than the war itself.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Group activities are a good choice for you today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Circumstances beyond your control have thrown you into the middle of a power struggle today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Being well educated and being intelligent are not necessarily the same thing...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If you need to get someone's attention today, consider making an extravagant gesture...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Today you'll need to use your willpower to avoid stepping into a complicated situation that could turn into a trap...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A lot of pressure is being put on you today, but the one who's pushing so hard is you!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You'll be so tuned in to the bigger picture today that the little details might slip right by...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 In a work or school situation, if the folks around you are missing something that you think is obvious...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Good luck is on your side today, so get ready for some lovely surprises!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 It's time to acknowledge that you cannot change how people make decisions...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 In a current power struggle, you might be focused on winning, but are you really seeing what's at stake?

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 A recent change in your diet is starting to create some changes in your physical body today...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized as Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

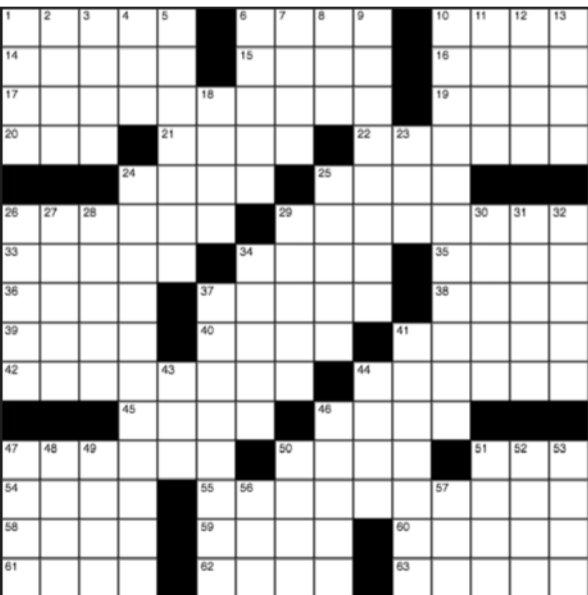
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- In the right direction; 6- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 10- Boxer Oscar Hoya; 14- Glisten; 15- Yes \_\_\_?; 16- Capital city of Western Samoa...

DOWN: 1- ...\_\_\_ forgive our debtors; 2- Restaurateur Toots; 3- Fork feature; 4- Break off; 5- Nobility; 6- Flies alone; 7- Part of QED; 8- First name in advice; 9- Inhabitant of Gomorrah's twin city...



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FOOTBALL

# African Cup: Ivory Coast stumbles, Congo beats Morocco

Gerald Imray, Oyem

**I**VORY Coast's Europe-based stars stumbled in the heat of northern Gabon in their African Cup of Nations opener, with the defending champion held by Togo to 0-0 yesterday [Macau time] in another twist to start the tournament.

Ivory Coast's title-winning coach fared worse as Congo beat Herve Renard's Morocco 1-0 in the day's second game.

Congo, a team that was on strike and refusing to train two days ago, finished with 10 men on the field and on top of Group D.

Ivory Coast created few clear chances against Togo, with Wilfried Zaha's blocked shot in the second half after a clever run probably its best. Zaha was substituted two minutes later and, although Ivory Coast pressed hard in stages, it never broke open



Congo's Issama Mpeko celebrates with supporters after they won their match against Morocco

Togo's well-drilled defense in the first game in Group C in the northern jungle town of Oyem.

Togo was competitive in the first half and had two good openings with around 10 minutes to go, when Kodjo Laba

missed with a header from in front of goal and Mathieu Dossevi's deflected shot dropped onto the roof of the net.

Four of the first six games at the African Cup have been draws, with Ivory Coast's fellow title challenger, Algeria, held to 2-2 by Zimbabwe, a team that hasn't qualified for the African Cup in over a decade. Also, host Gabon couldn't beat outsider and tournament debutant Guinea-Bissau in the opening game.

"After Algeria-Zimbabwe and Gabon-Guinea-Bissau, we were very careful," Ivory Coast coach Michel Dussuyer said. "But we still have two (group) matches so we are still confident."

Togo even started better, and Dossevi was clear on goal in the 29th minute only for Ivorian goalkeeper Sylvain Gbohhouo to smother the chance.

Zaha was at the heart of Ivory Coast's two best attacks, first in the first half when he sped down the right wing and sent across a dangerous low cross that was scrambled away. Then, in the 68th minute, he tricked his marker with a clever turn, cut inside, and hit a low shot that was headed to goal before two Togo defenders managed to get in the way.

Senegal and Congo are the only teams to win at the tournament. **AP**

AD

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John Pye, Melbourne

TENNIS

# Six-time champions Djokovic, Williams open with wins

**T**HERE was no easing into a title defense for Novak Djokovic, starting his Australian Open against the man who upset Rafael Nadal here last year in the first round.

He lifted when he most needed to yesterday night, holding off Fernando Verdasco in a 71-minute, momentum-swinging second set before winning 6-1, 7-6 (4), 6-2. There were glares, stares and frustrated outbursts from both players who met in a tense semifinal earlier this month in Doha, where Djokovic won after saving five match points.

"When I saw the draw, I thought to myself this is going to be the only match I'm going to focus on," said Djokovic, aiming to be the first man to win seven Australian titles. "If he's on, you never know."

"I started well with a great intensity. First and third sets went well, second set was a gamble — pretty close."

Another six-time champion had a tough first round, with Serena Williams needing to produce some of her best tennis to get far enough ahead against Belinda Bencic that a late lapse wasn't a real worry.

After starting her quest for a record 23rd Grand Slam title with a 6-4, 6-3 first-round win, Williams walked into her news conference wearing a black shirt with the word "Equality" printed across the front.

It was still before midnight Monday in the United States, where the holiday in honor of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was nearly ending.

"With today being Martin Luther King Day, it's important to spread the message of equality," Williams said. "Something he talked about a lot and he tried to spread a lot, is equality and rights for everyone."

Asked if she was concerned about the future of equality in the U.S., Williams declined to get into specifics but said the issue is "a concern for just everyone in general."

"We want to make sure we always conti-



nue to move forward and always have the opportunity to have equal rights for all."

Williams became engaged to Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian during the holiday break, and he was in the crowd watching her play at Rod Laver Arena. She has been asked repeatedly about her wedding plans since arriving in Australia. She gave a clearer time frame for discussion on that.

"February I'll start looking at the bigger picture of my life," she said. "But right now I'm just so focused that this is kind of all I can think about."

For five games in the second set, Williams played almost flawless tennis. Then came the rustiness that tends to follow a lengthy layoff.

Williams, after three double faults — including one on match point — and "some errors on key points," held on to improve her record in the first round of Grand Slam tournaments to 65-1.

Nadal, also on the comeback from a couple of months on the sidelines following the U.S. Open with an injured left wrist, had a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Flo-

rian Mayer to go one better than he did last year in Australia.

"Great. I'm happy to do an interview with you — last year, I didn't have the chance!" Nadal said in his on-court interview. "Very happy this year."

Third-seeded Milos Raonic, who reached the semifinals in Australia last year and the final at Wimbledon, opened with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over Dustin Brown.

On a day when the temperature reached almost 38 Celsius (100 Fahrenheit), No. 11 David Goffin was pushed all the way before beating 19-year-old qualifier Reilly Opelka, making his Grand Slam debut, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Also advancing were No. 8 Dominic Thiem, No. 13 Roberto Bautista Agut, No. 15 Grigor Dimitrov, No. 18 Richard Gasquet, No. 24 Alexander Zverev, No. 25 Gilles Simon, and No. 32 Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Two women who had breakout seasons in 2016, and opened this season with tournament titles, advanced in straight sets.

U.S. Open finalist Karolina Pliskova

following her title win at the Brisbane International with a 6-2, 6-0

victory over Sara Sorribes Tormo. Johanna Konta, a surprise se-

mifinalist in her debut at the Australian Open last year, won the Sydney International last week and opened here with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Kirsten Flipkens.

Lucie Safarova beat Yanina Wickmayer 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-1 and will next play Williams.

WTA Finals champion Dominika Cibulkova and former No 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki had straight-set wins.

Heather Watson beat local hope and 18th-seeded Sam Stosur, the 2011 U.S. Open champion, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.

Also progressing to the second round were No. 14 Elena Vesnina, No. 21 Caroline Garcia, No. 28 Alize Cornet, No. 30 Ekaterina Makarova, No. 31 Yulia Putintseva and Naomi Osaka, who beat Thai wild-card entry Luksika Kumkhum 6-7 (2), 6-4, 7-5. **AP**

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opinion

**World Views**  
 The Editors, Bloomberg

**TRUMP'S TRADE PLAN IS A LOOMING DISASTER**

Even by his standards, President-elect Donald Trump's statements on trade have been stunning in their recklessness. His proposals essentially amount to the repudiation of a system that has fostered global stability and lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty over the last several decades -- and if he actually intends to execute his radical agenda, there's little to stop him.

In other areas of economic policy, such as budget matters, Congress will make the crucial choices. On trade, the White House has wide discretion. The stakes could hardly be higher.

During the campaign Trump threatened to rip up existing trade pacts, withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement, and put punitive tariffs on imports from Mexico and China. He's called the World Trade Organization, which promotes liberal trade and adjudicates disputes, "a disaster," and he has said the U.S. might "pull out." Congratulating Britain on its decision to quit the European Union, he says the U.K. and the U.S. can design a new trade deal -- but that it makes no difference to the U.S. whether the EU, "a vehicle for Germany," stays together or falls apart.

Trump's nominee for commerce secretary, meanwhile, appears to believe in the top-down management of trade: "We should treat ourselves as the world's biggest customer and treat nations that are selling to us as suppliers to us," Wilbur Ross told the Financial Times. The global economy, according to this thinking, is not about myriad firms competing across borders to give consumers everywhere the best products at the lowest cost; it's a zero-sum battle between two monolithic collectives: us and them.

Trump's other trade appointments aren't reassuring. Peter Navarro, named as head of the new National Trade Council, seems opposed to imports on principle. He says they subtract from economic growth, which is nonsense. The nominee for U.S. trade representative, Robert Lighthizer, brings his experience as an advocate for restrictions on imports of cars and steel -- restrictions that made U.S. consumers worse off and impeded the ability of U.S. manufacturers to compete.

Congress wouldn't be able to do much to restrain the new team's trade measures, especially in the short term. Laws authorizing existing trade agreements, as well as other statutes delegating authority to the president in times of emergency, grant the president wide powers to take unilateral action such as terminating previous commitments and imposing tariffs, quotas or other restraints. Such moves would surely face a legal challenge, but before the cases were resolved, President Trump could very well kill or cripple Nafta, the WTO and any prospect of orderly market-driven trade arrangements.

Americans have legitimate concerns over trade, jobs and living standards. But they should be addressed in the same way as the threat from automation and other kinds of technological advancement -- forces that are likely to be more disruptive in the future than trade. And the record of nations trying to resist trade and innovation speaks for itself: It leads to economic stagnation.

The right approach is to focus on competitiveness, opportunity and effective social insurance. Education reform, tax reform, deregulation, and investment in the right kind of infrastructure could raise the long-term rate of growth and spread the benefits to more workers. Trump deserves some credit for taking up some of these points. Doing more to help workers retrain and move to new jobs would also relieve the stress, as would more effective unemployment and health insurance.

If Trump follows through on trade, it won't be long before he and his supporters regret it. Declaring a trade war on the world can only lead to collapsing confidence and recession. Yet if the system of international commerce, painstakingly put together over decades, is carelessly torn down, rebuilding it won't be easy or quick -- however much a chastened Trump administration might wish to.

Mr. President-elect: Just don't do it.

**THE BUZZ Baidu hires Microsoft expert in artificial intelligence push**

Baidu Inc., which operates China's most popular Internet search engine, said yesterday it has hired a former Microsoft executive and artificial intelligence specialist to improve its competitiveness in the field. The Beijing-based company said Qi Lu was named group president and chief operating officer in charge of products, technology and

sales. Qi, who has a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University, previously was Microsoft Corp.'s global executive vice president. "With Dr. Lu on board, we are confident that our strategy will be executed smoothly and Baidu will become a world-class technology company and global leader in Ai," said Baidu chairman Robin Li in a statement.

LITERATURE

**Patchett, Chabon among nominees for critics prizes**

Hillel Italie, New York

ANN Patchett, Michael Chabon and Zadie Smith were among the nominees announced yesterday for the National Book Critics Circle Awards.

Books by Louise Erdrich and former U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky also were among 30 finalists in six competitive categories selected by the 42-year-old organization.

The critics circle bypassed Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad," winner of the National Book Award for fiction and one of last year's most highly praised novels. It did include the winner of the National Book Award for nonfiction, Ibram X. Kendi's "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America."

Margaret Atwood, the celebrated Canadian author known for such novels as "The Handmaid's Tale" and "Cat's Eye," will receive a lifetime achievement prize. Honorary awards also will be presented to Yaa Gyasi for best debut novel, "Homegoing," and to Michelle Dean for excellence in reviewing.

Winners will be announced March 16.

Patchett's "Commonwealth," Chabon's "Moonglow," and Smith's "Swing Time" were all fiction finalists, along with

Erdrich's "LaRose" and Adam Haslett's "Imagine Me Gone."

Besides Kendi's book, nonfiction nominees were Matthew Desmond's "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City," Jane Mayer's "Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right," Viet Thanh Nguyen's "Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War," and John Edgar Wideman's "Writing to Save a Life: The Louis Till File."

In autobiography, the nominees were Marion Coutts' "The Iceberg," Jenny Diski's "In Gratitude," Hope Jahren's "Lab Girl," Hisham Matar's "The Return: Fathers, Sons, and the Land in Between," and Kao Kalia Yang's "The Song Poet: A Memoir of My Father."

Biography finalists were Nigel Cliff's "Moscow Nights: The Van Cliburn Story," Ruth Franklin's "Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life," Joe Jackson's "Black Elk: The Life of an American Visionary," Michael Tisserand's "Krazy: George Herriman, a Life in Black and White," and Frances Wilson's "Guilty Thing: A Life of Thomas De Quincey."

Pinsky's "At the Foundling Hospital" was a poetry finalist, along with Ishion Hutchin-



former U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky recites one of his poems

son's "House of Lords and Commons," Tyehimba Jess' "Olio," Bernadette Mayer's "Works and Days," and Monica Youn's "Blackacre."

In criticism, the finalists were Carol Anderson's "White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide," Mark Greif's "Against Everything: Essays," Alice Kaplan's "Looking for The Stranger: Albert Camus and the Life of a Literary Classic," Olivia Laing's "The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone," and Peter Orner's "Am I Alone Here?: Notes on Living to Read and Reading to Live."

The National Book Critics Circle is made up of about 1,000 critics, book review editors and supporting members. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate	
Ambient	40-60 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**SYRIA** Representatives of some Syrian rebel groups said they will attend talks sponsored by Russia and Turkey scheduled later this month, despite mounting violations of a cease-fire across the war-ravaged country. A rebel adviser said the talks will initially focus on ways to strengthen and monitor the cease-fire that went into effect Dec. 30.



**TURKEY** Police captured the gunman who carried out the deadly New Year's nightclub attack in Istanbul, with officials saying yesterday that he's an Uzbekistan national who trained in Afghanistan and confessed to the massacre. More on p14



**UKRAINE-RUSSIA** Ukraine has filed a case against Russia at the United Nations' highest court, accusing Moscow of illegally annexing Crimea and illicitly funding separatist rebel groups in eastern Ukraine. Kiev also is seeking compensation for deadly incidents including the 2014 shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

**MEXICO** Gunfire broke out in a crowded beachfront nightclub throbbing with electronic music, causing five deaths and setting off a bloody stampede by screaming concertgoers at an international festival in a Caribbean resort. At least one person died in the crush to escape and some of the 15 people wounded or injured were hurt in the rush out, authorities said.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Xinhua/Magnus Nascimento



Inmates stage a demonstration on the roof of the Alcauz State Penitentiary in Nisa Floresta, Natal, northern Rio Grande do Norte state. Riot broke out at the jailhouse on Saturday, killing 26 prisoners.