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## WORLD BRIEFS

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**JAPAN** The government starts offshore construction work on relocating a U.S. Marine base on Okinawa. The step marks the beginning of the main construction to move Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko, a less populated area on the island's east coast.

**CHINA** A highly accurate Chinese ballistic missile capable of threatening U.S. and Japanese bases in Asia has made its latest appearance at recent Rocket Force drills.

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**CHINA** A Chinese navy task force has wrapped up visits to four Persian Gulf states as the increasingly capable maritime force grows its presence in the strategically vital region. More on p11

AP PHOTO



**AUSTRALIA** Seven percent of priests in Australia's Catholic Church were accused of sexually abusing children over the past several decades, a lawyer says. More on p13

AP PHOTO



**AFGHANISTAN** At least 119 people have been killed in recent days by avalanches caused by heavy snow in different parts of the country, more than doubling an earlier death toll estimate of 54.

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# Gov't plans to ban highly polluting scooters

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BLOOMBERG



# Trump's former rival Wynn takes over as his new GOP money man

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## TOURISM

# Golden Week visitors soar 10 percent



**M**ACAU recorded over 930,000 visitor arrivals during the seven days of the Spring Festival's Golden Week, from January 27 until February 2, representing a 9.9 percent increase over the corresponding period of last year, according to preliminary estimates from the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

During the Spring Festival, visitors from the greater China market went up by 10.8 percent year-on-year to 880,000, according to MGTO, accounting for 94.4 percent of total visitor arrivals.

Among them, around 660,000 visitors came from mainland China and 200,000 were from Hong Kong, representing increases of 13.8 percent and 5 percent respectively. On the other hand, the number of Taiwanese visitor arri-

vals decreased by 15.9 percent to about 20,000 and the number of international visitors dropped 3 percent to a total of 50,000.

As of this month, the number of rooms across Macau's hotels and guesthouses reached a total of 37,634, with all establishments registering an average occupancy rate of 94.5 percent during the Golden Week, a slight year-on-year increase of 0.4 percentage points.

Five-star hotels recorded an average occupancy rate of 95.5 percent, down by 0.7 percentage points; four-star hotels registered 92.8 percent, up by 0.2 percentage points; three-star hotels 96.2 percent, up by 4.8 percentage points; two-star hotels 83 percent, up by 4.3 percentage points; guest houses 75.9 percent, slightly up by 0.3 percentage points.

Meanwhile, the average

room rate for both hotels and guesthouses in Macau dropped by 3.1 percent, according to MGTO to approximately MOP1,800 during the Golden Week, with all categories except five-star hotels registering an increase (see table).

During the week, MGTO conducted 53 inspections at various ports of entry and tourist spots in Macau and also arranged for two apartments that were allegedly operated as illegal accommodation to be closed.

During the Chinese New Year, MGTO received a total of 27 visitor complaints regarding public transportation, shopping, tour guides, hotels, dining, service quality and other matters. According to the statement, MGTO followed up with the cases, in some instances transferring the issues to other entities for settlement. **DB**

## AVERAGE ROOM RATES DURING GOLDEN WEEK

Hotel type	Room rate (MOP)	Change rate
Five-star hotels	2,087.7	-3.6%
Four-star hotels	1,520.8	+2.4%
Three-star hotels	1,466.4	+0.4%
Two-star hotels	1,161.1	+14.4%
Guesthouses	773.6	+0.1%

## TERRORISM

# Militants heading home could amplify local threat

Daniel Beittler

**I**NCREASED military pressure on the Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq could see hundreds of Indonesian, Filipino and Malaysian insurgents head back to their Southeast Asian homes and heighten the threat of a terror attack in the region, according to analysts. This could include the possibility of a terror attack in Macau.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Southeast Asia and the Pacific estimates that there are around 500 Indonesians, 100 Filipinos and 100 Malaysians currently fighting as insurgents in Syria and Iraq.

The office has previously stated that militants losing ground in the Middle East might consider returning to

Southeast Asia, which "includes many who will want to pursue violent jihad in the region."

Macau is among the potential targets in the region for Islamic terrorist attacks, according to Hong Kong-based risk consultancy Steve Vickers and Associates. The group repeated its 2016 warning in a report last month which stated that the city remains "vulnerable".

The 2017 Annual Asia Risk Assessment, published by the organization, stated: "An understated threat [to Macau] is terrorism. Macau represents a unique agglomeration of Chinese, American and Jewish interests, engaged alongside triad societies in an activity [gambling] that Islamists deem sinful. Worse, the city is vulnerable."

Two influential people in

Macau, Steve Wynn and Sheldon Adelson, are both Jewish, and the latter has close ties with both Israeli president Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. president Donald Trump. Though neither casino tycoon is based in the city, both own multibillion-dollar integrated resorts in Macau that could be potential targets.

Citing an anonymous "security insider", Hong Kong's South China Morning Post claims that the Macau International Airport is considered a "weak link" in the chain when it comes to the MSAR's external security. The airport connects Macau to various Southeast Asian destinations, including Malaysia and the Philippines.

In January 2016, in response to the report issued by Steve Vickers and Asso-

ciates, the director of the Judiciary Police (PJ) stated that although the threat of an Islamic terrorist attack in Macau remained low, contingency measures were being planned.

PJ director Chau Wai

Kuong explained the city's security forces had been developing mechanisms to respond to such an event with the cooperation of Hong Kong and mainland authorities.

"We are actively carrying

out preventive measures such as collecting data and participating in joint anti-terror drills with police forces in Hong Kong, mainland China, and even Guangdong Province," Chau said.

## Vickers' outlook for greater China

**T**HE 2017 Annual Asia Risk Assessment, published last month by specialist risk and security consultancy Steve Vickers and Associates, included a summary of the major challenges facing the greater China region.

The report noted that for mainland China, the country's tightening political climate and rising economic nationalism could mean brewing instability. Moreover, tensions with Taiwan – exacerbated by the rhetoric of the new U.S. administration – could present an enduring strain for Beijing-Taipei relations in 2017. In relation to the two Special Ad-

ministrative Regions, Macau is deemed likely to fare much better than its sister SAR. Dissent and the intensification of the localism movement in Hong Kong will entrench both the positions of the local government and the protestors, the report predicted.

Together with a general weakening of the rule of law and greater intervention from Beijing, the instability may present "moderate risks to investors" this year. Meanwhile, Macau will face "relative political stability and a reviving economy" in 2017, even if the slim chance of a terrorist attack on casinos persists.

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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Renato Marques

## ENVIRONMENT

# Plan to curb high-polluting scooters unveiled

**T**he government's new plan to curb the number of two-stroke engine vehicles in Macau hopes to gain the attention of the owners of "about 30 percent of the total number of vehicles."

The information was announced by the director of the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), Raymond Tam, during a press conference yesterday at the bureau's headquarters.

Tam's explanation to the press came after a presentation of the program, which aims to remove a total of 9,575 two-wheel vehicles that run on two-stroke engines from the territory's roads. These vehicles are considered major sources of pollutants.

The new measure proposed in the government's financial support plan will compensate vehicle owners by up to MOP3,500 for the disposal of such vehicles.

DSPA deputy director Ip Kuong Lam said during the conference that the plan, which will be implemented between February 15 and June 30 this year, will expedite the disposal procedure of these vehicles before the new administrative regulation for "exhaust emissions limits and measuring procedures" comes into force on July 1.

Ip said there are rules and procedures in place to determine candidates for the program.

Vehicle owners must fill out a registration form and ensure that their vehicle is in good condition, with the road tax up to date.

Ip also noted that "the analysis of the process can take up to 75 days," after which owners will receive a written reply telling them to deliver the vehicle to a specific inspection center. The owner will then be required to wait another 60 days for the payment of government support.

When asked about the 75-day waiting period, Tam explained, "75 days is the maximum time [to solve the most complex cases, whereas] the normal processing time will be much faster and can even be only seven days."

Tam added that the DSPA expects to invest about MOP 30 million in this program, which he said "will have an important effect."

To help owners follow up on their application status, the DSPA also created a specific page on its official website. Vehicle owners can track their application

or check whether their motorcycle is eligible for the program.

Another topic that raised questions was the subsidy amount of MOP3,500. "We pondered the situation of the local market as well as the experience gathered in similar operations made by the neighboring territories," Tam said, noting that the government considered the amount to be "a good incentive."

## DSPA expects to invest about MOP30 million in this program

In order to help the population understand the procedure and clarify doubts, the DSPA will host public sessions on February 14 and 18, as well as a media campaign across newspapers, TV, radio and on public buses to edu-



RENATO MARQUES

cate the population.

In response to the possibility of extending such plans to diesel vehicles in future, Tam said: "We will study and see what is possible to do."

The local government appears to be trying to enforce the European emission standards (Euro 4), which limits the exhaust emissions of new vehicles sold in EU (European Union) and

European Economic Area (EEA) member states.

According to Tam, the government plans to enforce stricter rules by implementing the Euro 5 emission standards in the near future.

The Euro 4 rule was implemented in EU and EEA member states on January 2005, while the Euro 5 came into force in September 2009.

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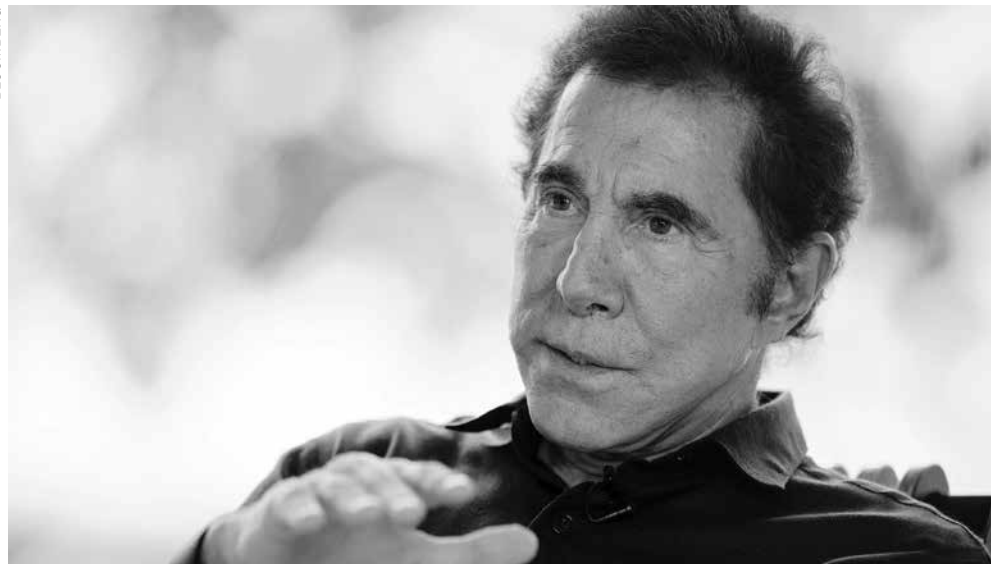
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# Trump's former rival Wynn takes over as his new GOP money man



Steve Wynn

John McCormick

**B**ILLIONAIRE casino magnate Steve Wynn says he voted for Democrat Barack Obama in 2008, and he didn't fully embrace the 2016 candidacy of longtime rival Donald Trump until after the real estate developer had already won.

Those considerations alone might seem to make Wynn an unlikely choice to lead the Republican Party's fundraising for the 2018 midterm elections, which will be the first full electoral test of Trump's presidency. Throw in the fact that when Wynn and Trump competed in the Atlantic City casino market two decades ago - a period that included a fierce court battle between the two - Trump called Wynn a "scumbag," and Wynn suggested Trump was "all hat, no cattle."

But bygones appear to be bygones. As Wynn took a break from the slopes during a weekend ski trip to Idaho's Sun Valley, he sounded anything but ambivalent about his new assignment - even if it means that his friends will now always assume he's dialing for dollars.

"None of my friends will return my calls anymore," Wynn joked during a telephone interview. On Jan. 31, the 75-year-old chairman of Wynn Resorts Ltd. was named the Republican National Committee's finance chairman. That gives Wynn a key role in maintaining or expanding the party's hold on Congress during the Trump administration.

Wynn said Trump - whom he described as a friend - personally asked him to take the post before the inauguration, adding that White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, a former RNC chairman and proficient fundraiser himself, had been talking to him about it before that.

**The clientele of the Wynn Hotel are there for one reason only, and it doesn't have a damn thing to do with my politics.**

STEVE WYNN

Trump is pleased to have Wynn "working to maintain the record level of organizational strength that helped to produce overwhelming success for the Republican Party last November," said Lindsay Walters, deputy White House press secretary. "As a steadfast supporter of Republican candidates, and an incredibly successful businessman, Mr. Wynn has already contributed greatly to improving the lives of Americans, and President Trump knows he will excel in this new role, advancing conservative solutions across the country."

The RNC post was last

held by New York financier Lew Eisenberg, a longtime Republican money-raiser and a former chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The duties include building a national network of fundraisers and courting top donors, who increasingly have more options amid the rise of outside groups that can raise and spend unlimited sums.

In August, Wynn opened a second casino in Macau. On the campaign trail, Trump often complained about China's trade practices and alleged that the Chinese government was manipulating its currency.

That's mostly saber-rattling, said Wynn, who said he's not concerned about the president's contentious posture toward China. Leaders in both countries know that a healthy relationship between them is critical, he said.

"Both governments believe it and feel it, privately, in spite of the short-term stuff you see publicly," he said. "I am very, very positive about China long-term, and I'm very comfortable that they will work it out."

Wynn said he's also unconcerned about the potential for protest or lost business at his casinos because of his newly elevated profile in Trump's Republican Party.

"I don't have a care in the world about it," he said. "The clientele of the Wynn Hotel are there for one reason only, and it doesn't have a damn thing to do with my politics." That reason, he said, is a desire to enjoy the "highest rating of product quality and service" that his properties offer.

Too much was made during the campaign about top Republican donors having doubts about Trump, Wynn said. He then mentioned two friends, New York real estate magnate Steve Roth and Blackstone Group LP Chief Executive Officer Steve Schwarzman.

"We all know Donald," he said. "We know he's sort of an exciting and sometimes unpredictable guy, but nobody doubted that he was intelligent enough to do this job."

In 2015, Wynn gave USD2,700 to Senator Marco Rubio, one of Trump's rivals for the Republican presidential nomination, and an additional \$5,000 to the Floridian's political action committee, data from the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics shows.

Virtually all of Wynn's campaign contributions have been to Republican

candidates and groups, although he did give \$20,000 to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 2000 and \$1,000 in 2004 to a Democratic political action committee.

Wynn also has ties to the Republican Party's establishment wing and is close to Karl Rove, former President George W. Bush's key political adviser. He contributed at least \$10.1 million between June 2010 and May 2011 to Rove's Crossroads GPS super political action committee, according to Politico.

Asked about the RNC's fundraising goals for the 2018 midterm election, Wynn offered just one number: "Eight," he said, referencing the gain in Senate seats that would be needed to give Republicans a filibuster-proof majority.

Whatever financial goals are set - the RNC raised almost \$200 million in the

2014 midterm election cycle - Wynn said he suspects they'll be comparatively easy to achieve.

"When the Republican Party has the president, it makes it much easier on the finance chairman," he said. "A lot of Republicans feel that there's a real chance of improvement and fixing so many things that need to be fixed."

Wynn said he's quite certain Trump will help raise money for the party and congressional candidates. "I can't imagine that President Trump won't, but I haven't discussed it with him," he said.

For last month's inauguration, Wynn turned party planner and helped secure some of the entertainment. "We haven't added everything up, but it's \$800,000, \$900,000 or a \$1 million," he said of his personal contribution to the event. **Bloomberg**

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# Ho's trial resumes with focus on agarwood artworks



Julie Zhu

**F**OLLOWING the end of the Chinese New Year Holiday, Macau's Court of Final Appeal returned yesterday to the trial of the city's former top prosecutor, Ho Chio Meng, to conduct its 16th session.

Six witnesses, including some prosecutors currently working at the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) who had also served under Ho, were called to provide their testimonies.

In the morning, MP Assistant Prosecutor Vong Vai Va was the first to be called to the stand. He told the court his knowledge of a specific case, one among thousands of accusations against Ho.

In particular, the court focused on agarwood pieces, which were originally seized by the Macau Customs Service (SA) and placed under the jurisdiction of the MP. These items were later found in Ho's office, as well as a variety of other locations.

VongVaiVaclaimedthatHo—through the former Chief of Office of the Prosecutor General of the MP, Lai Kin Ian—had instructed Vong to study whether the agarwood case involved criminal elements, and to retrieve some of the wood in order to test it.

Vong said he had not suspected Ho of any ulterior motives because, in the past, it was normal for the MP to undertake such investigations.

Vong added that he had gone to the 16th floor of the

Hotline Center building accompanied by prosecutor Ip Son Sang, where they found some of the agarwood in Ho Chio Meng's office.

At the time, Ho was under investigation by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC). He subsequently delivered two bags of agarwood to Ip Son Sang.

The second witness, Wu Hio, has been a prosecutor since 2000. Wu was responsible for one of the two cases relating to the agarwood.

According to Wu, he had been assigned to deal with a case involving a tonne of agarwood. Wu, like Vong, said that it was typical for the MP to retrieve large numbers of agarwood pieces for investigation in similar cases, even when Customs would say that the case was simply about administrative infractions.

Wu added that, as the person in charge of the case, he had never signed any document that would have allowed someone to remove agarwood pieces from the confiscation site. He affirmed that anyone who wanted to remove any pieces would have had to secure his approval.

At the time, some MP staff told Wu that certain individuals had taken some of the seized agarwood out of storage, although Wu claimed he had never believed these comments.

Wu said it was only when he visited the Hotline Center with Ip Son Sang and other MP staff that he realized that some of the agarwood had

indeed been removed.

According to Wu, it was eventually determined that Ho himself had taken out the wood.

However, Wu noted that Ho had never once admitted to having been the one who had taken the agarwood pieces.

Wu also told the judge that the former top prosecutor had never lodged any formal paperwork to ensure his participation in the agarwood case.

When the morning trial finished, Ho claimed that he did not know the agarwood cases were associated with criminal elements, and that was the reason he requested the Customs service forward the wood to MP. He also said the agarwood pieces he returned had mixed fake items with real ones.

He also pointed out that the real pieces could not be sold and must be destroyed unless they are used for exhibitions or educational purposes.

During the trial, Wu mentioned that Ho talked to Ip Son Sang alone.

In response to this Ho said "I will not disclose what I talked about with Ip Son Sang. It would be better if he is willing to [testify] for me."

Ho added that the agarwood cases were complicated.

The session resumed at 3 p.m. in the afternoon with four more witnesses called to the stand, including another person to whom Ho handed some agarwood pieces. This person had also transported the agarwood artworks from the MP storage to Ho.

The third witness, who was also responsible for the agarwood confiscations, said he had found it abnormal that confiscated material had been taken out of MP storage.

He said he had always asked individuals to return items and affirmed that unless people are investigating related cases, they should not be granted access to the apprehended material no matter their official rank.

The witness also claimed that he reported the absence of the seized material to his higher official, Vong Vai Va, right after the MP saw changes in its leadership.

The last witness, Leong Weng Tak, the chief of the division of judiciary and technician department at the MP, was the individual who removed the agarwood from the MP storage on two occasions (Ho allegedly obtained the agarwood pieces in both cases).

Leong said that it was Lai Kin Ian who had instructed him to retrieve the agarwood, and that Ho told him to bring the wood to the MP office on the 16th floor of the Hotline Center.

Leong claimed that Ho Chio Meng had never told him to pick up a specific kind of wood, although he said he was given a specific figure for the number of pieces he should bring to Ho. Leong told the judge that when he obtained the wood for Ho, he did not believe that Ho was breaking the law.

Leong revealed he had visited the Hotline Center's "Teachers' Training Room" fewer than 20 times.

However, when asked by Ho's lawyer whether or not he was familiar with several individuals—including the names of prosecutors from Guangdong province and judiciary officials from Beijing—Leong admitted to knowing most of the people, despite never having seen them in the Teachers' Training Room.

When the afternoon session finished, Ho said that Leong did not provide the whole story regarding the questions he was asked.

"The 16th floor is a place everyone tries to avoid," commented Ho.

The former top prosecutor reiterated the difficulty of finding people to testify for him, saying he had "trouble" finding willing witnesses.



Sérgio Godinho

## The Script Road announces participants

Man Booker Prize finalists Madeleine Thien and Graeme Macrae Burnet are among the guest authors for the sixth edition of the Script Road—Macau Literary Festival, which will take place between March 4 to 19. In a press release issued yesterday, several other participants were confirmed for the event, including Portuguese singer Sérgio Godinho, who will perform a concert at the Venetian Theatre and launch his first novel, "A Heart Too Perfect", at the festival. Pedro Mexia, a prominent Portuguese columnist, author, and political commentator, will also participate in the event to discuss his work.

## UCLA head visits Polytechnic Institute

According to a statement from the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM), Professor Jayathi Murthy, Dean of the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science, has conducted a visit to the IPM where she exchanged views with faculty staff and students from IPM's computing program. The visit is intended to promote deeper ties between the two educational institutions, ultimately leading to "groundbreaking research work" in the field of computing technologies. An academic exchange partnership between UCLA and the IPM computing program has been in operation for the past few years, resulting in several cooperative research projects and a number of joint academic programs. One example of this cooperation is the opportunity for IPM students to undertake scientific research projects at UCLA.

## Banks to launch subsidies for language studies

The Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) revealed during a TDM radio show that the office will cooperate with the local bank industry to launch an interest-free loan program in March, directed at the city's language programs. Director of GAES, Sou Chio Fai, said that the subsidy program will support local university graduates to study Mandarin, Portuguese or English outside of Macau. Loan applicants must pay for the programs out of pocket, and in turn the Macau government will cover the associated interest fees in the event that the students take out bank loans for their program fees. The maximum period of governmental support is two years.



## CHINA

# Global auto ambitions get a boost as Takata picks bidder

Ma Jie

A year ago, Ningbo Joyson Electronic Corp. would have been an unlikely name on a shortlist of candidates to rescue Takata Corp., the Japanese air-bag maker that's behind the biggest safety recall in automotive history.

The Chinese components supplier, founded by a former TRW Automotive Inc. manager, made less than a quarter of Takata's annual revenue, employed a workforce that's less than half the size of its peer, and was about 70 years younger. At the same time, the costs linked to a potential bailout for Takata kept ballooning as additional defective air bags in the millions were recalled. "Takata is too big and the situation it's facing means huge risks," Joyson Chief Executive Officer Tang Yuxin said in an interview in March.

On Saturday, Takata said that an offer by Key Safety Systems Inc., the U.S. auto supplier that Joyson acquired for USD920 million a year ago, was recommended by the committee hired to identify a sponsor for Takata's restructuring.



Sterling Heights, Michigan-based Key Safety, a distant No. 4 in air bag manufacturing with a global market share of 4 percent in 2015, is bidding against industry leader, Autoliv Inc. of Sweden.

It's a coup for Wang Jianfeng, who founded Joyson in 2004 and built the company into one of China's largest private-sector automotive manufacturers. Joyson supplies parts including control, air-intake and windscreen-washer systems, and counts Volkswagen AG, Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Co. among its customers. Since this decade, the company has gone on an acquisition spree,

picking up assets including Preh GmbH, IMA Automation Amberg GmbH and Quin GmbH in Germany, and Evana Automation in the U.S. Along with announcing the acquisition of Key Safety last February, Joyson also took over the automotive division of Germany's TechniSat Digital GmbH to develop car connectivity, infotainment and navigation systems.

But an investment in Takata would be the most audacious for Joyson. In July, Bloomberg News reported that Key Safety was planning a bid for Takata. A deal would not only instantly make Key Safety the world's second-largest

air-bag maker, surpassing Germany's ZF Friedrichshafen AG, but also give Key Safety greater access to Japanese automakers.

More broadly, Joyson's foray in Japan is the latest example of Chinese companies' growing ambitions overseas as economic growth slows at home. Corporate China spent a record \$248 billion on overseas deals in 2016. The makers of Pirelli tires, Volvo cars and Weetabix cereals are Chinese owned, as are soccer team Inter Milan, New York's Waldorf Astoria hotel and the Hollywood studio behind "Jurassic World."

To bolster its chances, Key Safety has teamed up with U.S. buyout firm Bain Capital LP, which will take a 30 percent stake in the consortium, while Japanese air-bag inflator maker Daicel Corp. will be a production partner without equity participation, according to people familiar with the matter. The two partners had earlier submitted a separate joint bid for Takata, people familiar with the matter have said.

If a deal goes through, Key Safety plans to keep Takata's main bu-

sinesses, including air bags, seat belts and steering wheels, and will move its Asia headquarters from Shanghai to Tokyo, while keeping the global headquarters in Michigan, said one of the people, who asked not to be identified because the proposal is confidential. Key Safety operates independently under Joyson and directly leads the negotiations with Takata.

Representatives for Key Safety and Joyson declined to comment and said Wang isn't available for an interview. Daicel spokesman Masahiko Hirokawa declined to comment whether the company is involved in the bid, saying Key Safety is a customer and Daicel will supply to its customers to "meet their increasing demand." A call to Bain's offices went unanswered.

While zeroing in on a preferred bidder is a step toward Takata's restructuring, the company still needs to win over its key customers - which have a say in the sale process and over whether the supplier will file for bankruptcy protection. Takata has said it doesn't envision reorganization through a court-led bankruptcy, which would disrupt the supply of parts. However, its shares and bonds have plunged since reports that bidders and car-makers are leaning toward such a step for the company as it will shield them from liabilities. Takata said on Saturday that no decision has been made regarding the company's restructuring approach.

Bloomberg

Caleb Melby

## Maserati recalling around 40k vehicles on risks of fires

MASERATI North America Inc. is recalling at least 39,381 Quattroporte, Ghibli, and Levante vehicles after discovering two defects that could lead to fires.

Adjusting the front seats could potentially lead to electrical shorts and fires in those vehicles from model years 2014 through 2017, according to documents filed with the U.S.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The company is also recalling 10,879 Quattroporte and Ghibli vehicles for the 2014 and 2015 model years that may have fuel-line leaks.

The most recent models of the vehicles have suggested retail prices ranging from USD71,600 to \$145,500.

These are the third major recall efforts for Maserati, which is owned by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, in the past year.

In May, the luxury automaker recalled from China almost 20,000 Quattroporte and Ghibli models produced between 2013 and 2015 due to a problem that could affect the rear wheel,

according to a statement on the website of that country's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. Two months earlier, it recalled 28,235 of the vehicles in the U.S. for floor mats that could move and become caught between accelerator pedal and vehicle carpet. Bloomberg



### corporate bits

#### POP STAR SANDY LAM TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN



Hong Kong's original pop princess, Sandy Lam, will bring her "2017 Sandy Lam Pranava World Tour" concert to the Cotai Arena at The Venetian macao on March 4.

Lam started her career in 1985 as a DJ with Commercial Radio Hong Kong before she was spotted for her singing ability.

The singer's many hits inclu-

de popular Cantonese songs "Gray", "Still" and "Crazy", according to a release issued by Sands China.

She recently appeared as a contestant on mainland Chinese TV singing competition "Singer 5".

The pop star has won several awards, including Best Regional Performing Female Artist, Best Album, Best Female Vocalist, Asia Pacific Most Outstanding Female Artist, and an honorary music award for her contribution to the industry.

Pranava means "cosmic sound" in Sanskrit, and the "2017 Sandy Lam Pranava World Tour" represents an explosion of celestial energy.

Tickets go on sale today at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.

#### MGM LAUNCHES 'M LIFE' MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



Gaming operator MGM has unveiled "M life," a new resort membership program which offers exclusive benefits and rewards at MGM properties.

"M life" is available to all MGM guests and includes promotions at both MGM

Macau and MGM Cotai. The latter property is scheduled to open in the second half of 2017.

According to an MGM statement, the program entitles members to various benefits and discounts, including up to 20 percent off dining and 30 percent off spa packages.

In addition, members can earn 5 percent in points for every dollar spent in the properties' restaurants, hotels, banquets, ballrooms and spas.

In celebration of this launch, Macau residents will be entitled to a complimentary upgrade to Pearl Tier status when signing up, as well as greater discounts and rewards.

#### SHERATON TO LAUNCH 'GREEN TODAY, GREEN EVERY DAY'

Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central will launch its "Green Today, Green Every Day" sustainability campaign tonight. The initiative is designed to make guests' stays and overall hotel operations as environmentally friendly as possible.

The campaign starts tonight at 8:30 p.m., with the lights of the hotel façade going dark for one hour as part of the property's "Monthly Earth Hour", which takes place on the first Tuesday of each month.

With a focus on guest empowerment through "Make A Green Choice" (MAGC), and other measures such as the hotel's "Monthly Earth Hour", the program comprises solutions designed to reduce the property's ecological footprint.

The hotel said in a press release



that guests can sign up for MAGC, a guest-empowerment program in which participants can opt out of having their rooms cleaned and towels changed during their stay. Participants are entitled to 250 Starpoints, MOP40 in dining credit, late check-out and complimentary drinks at selected hotel restaurants.



**T**HE isolationist trend in the foreign policy of the new US administration, particularly towards Africa, has led some analysts to predict that the Chinese “One Belt, One Road” strategy will take on an even greater role on that continent.

After initial contacts with the State Department President Donald Trump’s team was skeptical about the effectiveness of competing with China’s cooperation programs with Africa, in particular the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), several public appeals have been made calling for the program to be kept, which includes all African Portuguese-speaking countries.

According to Calton Cadeado, lecturer and researcher at the Institute of International Relations in Maputo, Africa will have to show its strategic value to the new administration, in order for Washington not to reduce investment.

However, the researcher said in recent statements to the Voice of America, “if Trump leaves [Africa], the other competitors will not leave [...] and will gain space.”

Manuel Ennes Ferreira, a researcher from the Institute of Economics and Management, in Lisbon, said that, despite the small weight of Africa’s trade relations with the United States,

# ‘One Belt, One Road’ strategy drives Africa towards China



A container is unloaded onto a truck at the 19th berth in Mombasa Port, Kenya. Being East Africa’s largest port, Mombasa port serves as an important logistic hub in the region. China funded the berth expansion project, which significantly improved the port’s operational efficiency

the impact of “isolationist” policies will have an effect on the continent.

“The suspension of trade agreements that have been announced may be extended to AGOA. The consequences will be a decrease in African exports to the US due to the customs barriers going back up,” wrote the researcher in an article published in Portuguese weekly Expresso.

“More complicated” in the long-term for the US, he added, is the “One Belt, One Road,” strategy

whose maritime route will have a link point in Kenya, with a center for expansion into the interior of the continent based on the standard gauge railroad, costing USD3.8 billion, which should be completed in 2017.

The Chinese proposal also includes funding corridors of rail, road and energy infrastructure, connecting to neighboring countries (Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), projects under a package of \$60 billion pledged

by China in December 2015.

These projects says Ennes Ferreira, will stimulate Inter-African and international trade and the “One Belt, One Road” strate-

**If Trump leaves [Africa], the other competitors will not leave.**

CALTON CADEADO  
SCHOLAR

gy “will have an easier life if the United States turn its back on the world.”

Lauren A. Johnston, of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, noted in a recent article how Justin Lin, former chief economist of the World Bank, translated the opportunity for Africa in building long overdue projects crea-

ted by the “One Belt, One Road” initiative.

Johnston said that regardless of Africa’s autonomous performance, China’s initiative is attracting global attention to the vast potential for development of the continent, which has less developed economies but many young people, when most OECD countries and even the Group of 20 have ageing populations.

Even at the current time of crisis experienced in African countries, China’s support has remained firm, as has been the case for Angola, for example.

The Economist Intelligence Unit has said that China is the “predominant” origin of \$11.5 billion in foreign debt contracted by Angola since November 2015, allowing the country to bridge the gap caused by the fall in oil prices.

“The Angolan government will continue to seek China’s loans to allow it to continue with many capital expenditure programs, for example the construction of roads and power plants,” the EIU said. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD

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# Cambodian PM, citing 'One-China' policy, bans Taiwan flag



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen waves to his party members as he arrives at an event marking the 38th anniversary of the 1979 downfall of the Khmer Rouge regime in Phnom Penh

**C**AMBODIA'S prime minister says raising Taiwan's flag is banned because Cambodia follows the "One China" policy promoted by Beijing.

Hun Sen, in a speech to the Cambodian-Chinese Association posted on his Facebook page, said he welcomes investment from Taiwanese businesspeople, but that respecting Chinese sovereignty means acknowledging Taiwan is a province of China. He said in his remarks, delivered Saturday, that Taiwan's flag shouldn't be raised on its national day.

Hun Sen, who has led his country for three decades, said this has always been his policy. He has in the past rebuffed Taiwanese efforts to open an official representative office in Cambodia, and reaffirmed that position in his speech.

He also told his audience that Cambodia holds the same policy toward Tibet, recognizing China's sovereignty against claims for independence of what China calls the Tibet Autonomous Region.

China is impoverished Cambodia's key ally and economic partner. It has provided millions of dollars in aid and investment over the past decade, granted it tariff-free status on hundreds of trade items, and written off debt.

In return, Cambodia supports China in international forums, including in Beijing's ongoing territorial disputes with other Southeast Asian countries in the South China Sea. **AP**

## CORRUPTION

# Ex-deputy intelligence chief graft probe to start



Xi Jinping signals determination to continue targeting high-level officials in his anti-graft campaign

**T**HE corruption investigation into a former Chinese deputy intelligence chief is proceeding, prosecutors said yesterday, signaling President Xi Jinping's determination to continue targeting high-level officials as part of his sweeping anti-graft campaign.

The supreme state prosecutor's office said that Ma Jian, a former vice minister of state security, has been placed under "compulsory measures."

The term can refer to arrest, detention, bail pending trial or house arrest. The proceedings in such investigations are shrouded in secrecy and Ma is believed to have already been under initial investigation for about two years.

Prosecutors say Ma, who was in charge of counterespionage, is suspected of having taken bribes in return for favors and abusing his position to help his relatives' businesses. He's also accused of interfering with law enforcement and judicial activities, secreting away money and property relating to his case, and arranging for exit permits for his family mem-

bers.

Reports in the widely respected Chinese magazine Caixin, which were later reprinted by state media, said investigators found that Ma had been keeping six mistresses with whom he'd had a pair of sons, and owned a half-dozen mansions in Beijing.

Ma, who had worked in the Ministry of State Security for three decades, was expelled from the ruling Communist Party in December, placing him in line for prosecution and almost certain conviction.

High-level officials such as former Communist Party Politburo Standing Committee member Zhou Yongkang have received sentences of up to life in prison as President Xi seeks to purge the ruling party of corrupt officials seen as diminishing its standing among the public and weakening its mandate to rule.

Though broadly popular among the public, the campaign is seen by some as a tool for Xi to eliminate political rivals and strengthen his hold on power. **AP**

# Managers held over massage parlor fire that killed 18

**A**UTHORITIES have detained those in charge of a foot massage parlor in eastern China in which 18 people were killed and another 18 in-

jured in a fire Sunday.

The official Xinhua News Agency gave no further details and the cause of the fire was under investigation yesterday. Workers

jumped out of windows to escape the blaze, which broke out at the Zuxintang parlor in Zhejiang province's Tiantai county at around 4 p.m.

China has struggled to improve workplace safety and change a deep-rooted business mentality that puts profits above all else.

Recent disasters include an explosion at a hazardous material warehouse in the eastern city of Tianjin in August 2015 that killed at least 114 people.



A man walks past the Zuxintang Foot Massage Parlor damaged by a fire in east Zhejiang Province yesterday



# New missile makes latest appearance in drills

AP PHOTO



A highly accurate Chinese ballistic missile capable of threatening U.S. and Japanese bases in Asia has made its latest appearance at recent Rocket Force drills. The medium-range DF-16 featured in a video posted last week on the Defense Ministry's website showing the missiles aboard their 10-wheeled mobile launch vehicles being deployed in deep forest during exercises over the just-concluded Lunar New Year holiday. While the Rocket Force boasts an extensive armory of missiles of various ranges, the DF-16 fills a particular role in extending China's reach over waters it

seeks to control within what it calls the "first-island chain."

First displayed at a Beijing military parade in 2015, the missile is believed to have a range of 1,000 kilometers, putting it within striking distance of Okinawa, home to several U.S. military installations, as well as the Japanese home islands, Taiwan and the Philippines.

The two-stage DF-16 replaces the older, shorter range DF-11, with a final stage that can adjust its trajectory to strike slow moving targets and evade anti-missile defenses such as the U.S. Patriot system deployed by Taiwan.

It also carries up to three warheads weighing as much as a ton and carrying conventional high explosives or a nuclear weapon. Further increasing its lethality, the missile is believed to be accurate to within as little as 5 meters of the target, similar to that of a cruise missile. **AP**

## Navy wraps up visits to four Persian Gulf states

AP PHOTO



A Chinese navy task force has wrapped up visits to four Persian Gulf states as the increasingly capable maritime force grows its presence in the strategically vital region.

The three ships departed Kuwait this weekend after stopping in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, the Defense Ministry said on its website yesterday. They had previously completed an assignment escorting commercial shipping and patrolling for pirates in the Gulf of Aden, the 24th Chinese task force to be dispatched for such duties since China joined the multinational effort in December 2008.

China's navy has used the patrols to build its capacity to operate far from home ports and expand its use

of the military as a tool of diplomacy following the model of other major nations. In its report, the ministry said the visits aimed to stir interest in China's project to link European and Asian economies along the ancient Silk Road land and sea routes.

In addition, the deployments have prompted Beijing to build a logistics and support center in Djibouti that is widely considered to be China's first overseas military base.

The Horn of Africa nation already hosts U.S., French and Japanese bases for logistical support and to facilitate African military operations. Japan, China's longtime Asian rival, is now seeking to expand its Djibouti facility as a counterweight to China's presence, Japanese media report.

The patrols have also given China ready access to the Mediterranean, and, in 2011, it took the unprecedented step of sending one of its most sophisticated warships together with military transport aircraft to help in the evacuation of about 35,000 Chinese citizens from Libya.

In 2015, China detached three navy ships from the anti-piracy patrols to rescue Chinese citizens and other foreign nationals from fighting in Yemen. The same year, it took part in its first Mediterranean joint naval exercises with Russia.

The Chinese task force making the recent visits consists of the guided-missile destroyer Harbin, the guided-missile frigate Handan and the supply ship Dongpinghu. **AP**

## China's first large homemade passenger jet to fly in 2017

AFTER years of delays, China's first large homemade passenger jetliner will take to the air for its maiden flight in the first half of this year, state media reported yesterday.

State-owned aircraft maker Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China Ltd., or Comac, based in Shanghai, has nearly completed work on the 175-passenger C919, the ruling Communist Party newspaper People's Daily reported.

The C919 was originally due to fly in 2015, but has been beset by delays blamed on manufacturing problems. It is now scheduled to enter service in 2019, aimed at competing with the Airbus A320 and Boeing 737, along with the Russian Irkut MC-21.

Airbus and Boeing say the market for new aircraft will be worth more than USD5 trillion over the next 20 years. Industry experts say China faces a tough slog

capturing a significant share of that market, even with government support. Comac has 517 orders for the C919.

Company officials couldn't immediately be reached.

The C919 is part of China's efforts to develop a homegrown aviation industry in one of the world's biggest and fastest-growing air travel markets. China currently relies heavily on foreign-made aircraft.

Last June, the ARJ21-700, China's first home-made regional jet, made its debut flight carrying 70 passengers. The jet is one of a series of initiatives launched by the party to transform China from the world's low-cost factory into a creator of profitable technology in aviation, clean energy and other fields.

The ARJ21, also made by Comac, is a rival to aircraft made by Bombardier Inc. of Canada and Brazil's Embraer SA. **AP**



## PHILIPPINES

# Regular troops resume assaults on rebels after talks scrapped



Secretary Ismael Sueno (left) and National Police Chief Director General Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa, at a ceremony to mark the police force's 26th Foundation in Manila yesterday

Jim Gomez, Manila

**P**HILIPPINE troops have resumed assaults against communist rebels, killing at least one guerrilla, after President Rodrigo Duterte scrapped

peace talks with the insurgents, military officials said yesterday.

Duterte had lifted the government's six-month-old cease-fire Friday and the next day discarded the talks being brokered by Norway. Those moves came af-

ter the Marxist guerrillas abandoned their own truce and killed six soldiers and kidnapped two others in new flare-ups in the 48-year insurgency.

The government and the rebels separately declared cease-fires last year to foster the peace talks, which progressed steadily for months before rapidly deteriorating in recent weeks.

Yesterday, rebel adviser Luis Jalandoni accused the military of violating the government's cease-fire by deploying troops in 500 villages, occupying village halls and schools, and continuing surveillance operations that he said inevitably led to clashes.

The guerrillas want to continue with talks set for Feb. 22-25 in Europe to negotiate a possible joint cease-fire agreement, Jalandoni said, adding the government has not issued the formal notice required to terminate the talks.

"We're saying the peace talks

are still possible in the absence of a cease-fire," Jalandoni told radio DZMM by telephone from Europe.

Troops have resumed combat operations after Duterte lifted the cease-fire, military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said. The operations were in response to complaints from villagers of rebel extortion and efforts to rescue the kidnapped soldiers, he said.

Army troops clashed with about 20 New People's Army guerrillas Sunday in Occidental Mindoro province south of Manila, killing one rebel, and on Saturday, troops and policemen arrested a rebel couple in Misamis Occidental province in the south for a multiple attempted murder case, the military said. At least four other combat operations occurred elsewhere.

In Compostela Valley province in the south, guerrillas were suspected of setting ablaze a banana plantation packing wa-

rehouse in Pantukan town late Sunday, military officials said, and a rebel consultant, Ariel Arbitrario, was taken into custody for questioning by troops at a checkpoint in southern Davao city, Duterte's hometown.

Duterte called the insurgents terrorists for their brutal attacks on troops and threatened to re-arrest several rebel leaders who were temporarily freed to join the peace talks.

Jalandoni, however, said the 17 freed rebels are protected by a 1995 agreement under which the government agreed to grant them immunity from arrest while serving as peace talks consultants. All have returned to the Philippines after joining a recent round of talks in Rome and should not be arrested, he said.

Duterte has said he may reconsider his decision if there was a compelling reason, but he did not elaborate.

The setback in the talks is the latest reality check for Duterte, whose signature crackdown on illegal drugs has been tainted by an extortion scandal involving police and alleged extrajudicial killings. He has said he would use the military to enforce anti-drug laws instead of police, adding to the pressure on forces already fighting communist rebels and a Muslim insurgency in the south. **AP**

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Speaker: **Mr. Anson Bailey**, Head of Consumer Markets & member of the High Growth Tech & Innovation Group, KPMG

**FMBA Breakfast Meeting**



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**Time:** 9:00-10:30 am (Reception: 8:45am)  
**Venue:** Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16 Promenade Meeting Room (6<sup>th</sup> floor)

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Robert Burns, Tokyo

**I**N his debut abroad as the first retired general to lead the Pentagon in more than half a century, Jim Mattis found that in Japan and South Korea his experience in uniform is seen as an asset.

Not everyone who knows Mattis well in the U.S. shares that view, but he clearly was an instant hit in northeast Asia.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was effusive in his endorsement as the two shook hands before a phalanx of Japanese and international news reporters and cameras.

"I was very encouraged," Abe said, "to see someone like you who has substantial experience, both in the military and in security, defense and diplomacy, taking this office."

Mattis won easy confirmation by the U.S. Senate just hours after President Donald Trump's swearing in on Jan. 20. But some had questioned the wisdom of breaking a long American tradition of picking defense secretaries with primarily civilian backgrounds.

In fact it has been more than a tradition. There is a legal prohibition on appointing a defense secretary who has not been out of uniform for at least seven years. Mattis retired from a 41-year career in the Marine Corps in 2013. The Congress had to pass a bill making a one-time exception for Mattis, who was widely praised as a thoughtful, level-headed leader.

The only other time in history that such an exception was made was for George C. Mar-

# New Pentagon chief Mattis a hit in Japan, South Korea

AP PHOTO



shall, the former Army chief of staff who had served as secretary of state before President Harry Truman picked him as defense secretary in September 1950, at a crucial point in the just-started Korean War.

Abe noted that Mattis's military career included a stint on Okinawa, which the U.S. returned to Japanese control in 1972 based on an agreement signed a year earlier to end the postwar period of U.S. military control.

"So I believe that you are quite familiar with the situation surrounding Japan," he said.

In Seoul, where civilian con-

trol of the military has a mixed history, Mattis's counterpart, Han Min Koo, portrayed him as a kindred spirit. Han told reporters he knew why they were able to forge a bond in their very first meeting.

"I believe this was possible because we both served as active-duty servicemen for 40-plus years," Han said.

Mattis was not shy, either, about highlighting his military background. In Tokyo he recalled training in Okinawa and elsewhere in Japan as a newly minted lieutenant in 1972. He said he made Japanese ac-

quaintances that have lasted a lifetime.

Asia is hardly Mattis's forte, however. He spent the bulk of his career focused on the Middle East, including combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also served as NATO supreme allied commander, focused on Europe, from 2007 to 2009.

In picking Mattis, 66, to lead the Pentagon, Trump seemed enamored of the general's popular nickname, "Mad Dog," as if this served as a warning to the world not to mess with America.

Mattis, however, insists that

the nickname was a media invention that he does not embrace. He certainly came across as anything but "mad" or rabid on his visits to Japan and South Korea. He was a picture of sober restraint at his several public appearances, including a news conference Saturday in Tokyo.

He expressed caution on Iran, saying its adventurism did not mean the U.S. should send more military forces to the Middle East. And he called for diplomacy to address China's militarization of disputed islands and land formations in the South China Sea.

Even some of his biggest admirers have questioned, however, whether he is the right man for Trump's Pentagon. One such skeptic is Erin Simpson, a noted defense strategist who wrote about a prospective Secretary Mattis last fall, before he had been selected.

"Not only does the role of secretary of defense not play to Mattis' strengths," she wrote, "but success in that role would compromise much of what we admire most in him: his bluntness, clarity and single-minded focus on war fighting. The secretary's job is by necessity much more political than all that." **AP**

## AUSTRALIA

# Seven percent of Catholic priests accused of abuse

**S**EVEN percent of priests in Australia's Catholic Church were accused of sexually abusing children over the past several decades, a lawyer said yesterday as officials investigating institutional abuse across Australia revealed for the first time the extent of the crisis.

The statistics were released during the opening address of a hearing of Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The royal commission — which is Australia's highest form of inquiry — has been investigating since 2013 how the Catholic Church and other

institutions responded to the sexual abuse of children over decades.

**These numbers are shocking, they are tragic and they are indefensible.**

FRANCIS SULLIVAN  
TRUTH JUSTICE AND HEALING  
COUNCIL

The commission has previously heard harrowing testimony from

scores of people who suffered abuse at the hands of clergy. But the full scale of the problem was never clear until yesterday, when the commission released the statistics it has gathered.

Commissioners surveyed Catholic Church authorities and found that between 1980 and 2015, 4,444 people reported they had been abused at more than 1,000 Catholic institutions across Australia, said Gail Furness, the lead lawyer assisting the commission. The average age of the victims was 10.5 for girls and 11.5 for boys.

Overall, 7 percent of

priests in Australia between 1950 and 2010 were accused of sexually abusing children, Furness said.

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, which is coordinating the Catholic Church's response to the inquiry, said the data reflected "a massive failure" by the church to protect children.

"These numbers are shocking, they are tragic and they are indefensible," a tearful Sullivan told the commission. "As Catholics, we hang our heads in shame."

The Vatican has watched the proceedings closely. Cardinal Geor-

AP PHOTO



Cardinal George Pell walks onto the stage for the opening mass for World Youth Day in Sydney

ge Pell, who was Australia's most senior Catholic before becoming Pope Francis' top financial adviser, has testified at previous hearings about how church authorities responded to allegations of child sex

abuse during his time in Australia.

Several senior Australian Catholics will be testifying over the next few weeks. The commission's final report is due by the end of this year. **AP**



# Far-right hopeful: French election 'choice of civilization'

AP PHOTO



Far-right leader presidential candidate Marine Le Pen waves to supporters as she stands among her party officials at the end of a conference in Lyon

Elaine Ganley, Lyon

**F**RENCH far-right candidate Marine Le Pen blasted the “two totalitarianisms” of globalization and Islamic fundamentalism Sunday in a speech formally launching her presidential campaign that hit all the right chords for her National Front party followers.

Looking to translate her high early poll numbers into votes, Le Pen evoked a frightening image of France's future during her much-anticipated speech. The country, enslaved to the European Union and unrecognizable as French, risks losing its identity

if the political status quo endures, she said.

“We are at a crossroad [...] This election is a choice of civilization,” she said, asking whether her three children and other young citizens would have the rights and cultural signposts of the current generation. “Will they even speak our French language?”

She issued a call for French voters on the left and right to join her, saying “You have a place at our side.”

The speech recalled the thundering and previously unpalatable pronouncements of her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National

Front's hard-liner founder. Marine Le Pen banished him from the party in an effort to clean up its image.

But her remarks made clear the elder Le Pen's anti-immigration message, targeting Muslims, remains a selling point in party ranks.

“We do not want to live under the rule or threat of Islamic fundamentalism. They are looking to impose on us gender discrimination in public places, full body veils or not, prayer rooms in the workplace, prayers in the streets, huge mosques [...] or the submission of women,” she said.

The estimated 5,000 people in the amphitheater and watching on big screens cheered and chanted “On est chez nous” (“We are in our land.”)

Le Pen reiterated some of the 144 “commitments” she has pledged to fulfill, if elected. It is a nationalist agenda laying out plans for France to leave the European Union, control its borders and readopt the old French franc as the national currency.

Running under the slogan, “In the Name of the People,” her platform also would create popular referendums on any issue that gathered at least 500,000 signatures. And it would put French people

first, with “national preference” enshrined in the Constitution.

“We've witnessed the impoverishment of France for some years now at a cultural, economic and social level,” Billy Winkens, a 41-year-old supporter from Toulouse, in eastern France, said. “Today, people are hungry for change and want to drain the swamp, but in an orderly fashion, with coherence.”

The National Front has taken heart in the French left's disarray amid the unpopularity of Socialist President Francois Hollande, who decided not to run for re-election.

The right's leading candidate, Francois Fillon, recently has been caught up in a corruption scandal and created an opening for maverick centrist Emmanuel Macron, who could end up facing Le Pen in the final round of the two-part election.

Le Pen has been a leader in early polls, which place her at the top in the April 23 first-round vote but not winning the May 7 runoff.

If elected, she envisions a “government of national unity” formed after June legislative elections.

Le Pen took control of the National Front in 2011 and largely rid it of the overt anti-Semitism that flourished under her father's leadership.

Since then, the party has drawn

supporters from the length of the political spectrum by tapping into disgust over France's 10 percent unemployment rate and political corruption scandals. But the portrait its presidential candidate paints is as stark as her prescriptions for change. The European Union, she said, “is a failure.”

“It hasn't upheld one of its promises especially in terms of prosperity and security,” Le Pen told the cheering crowd on Sunday.

If elected, she plans to call a referendum on EU membership within six months. She also predicted other European members will join her.

She said the EU is “historical parentheses and, hopefully, one day, just a bad memory.”

Along with leaving the EU, Le Pen would withdraw France from NATO's integrated command, crack down on illegal immigration and reduce regular immigration to 10,000 people a year.

No one living in France illegally would be issued residency documents or allowed to acquire French citizenship, she said.

She said she would arrange for foreigners convicted of crimes in France to serve their prison terms in their homelands.

“There will be no other laws and values in France but French,” she said.

Britain's vote to leave the European Union and U.S. President Donald Trump's election have revealed the “awakening of the people against oligarchies,” said Le Pen, praising Trump as a man who respects campaign promises and “acts quickly.” AP

## AFRICA

# English vs. French tensions in Cameroon turn deadly

Edwin Kindzeka Moki, Yaounde

**A** single student out of 4,000 showed up on the first day of the new term at one high school in Bamenda, the English-speaking city at the heart of a deadly conflict in Cameroon over language in this bilingual West African country.

Teachers have joined a strike led by lawyers resentful over the official use of French in the English-speaking part of the country. Recent protests have called for “ghost town” strikes in major cities. The government shut down the internet in the English-speaking region, digital advocacy group Access Now has said.

Tensions are so high that 10 people were killed in demonstrations over language discrimination in Bamenda in December, according to a coalition of human rights

groups based in the city. The government sent in 5,000 troops to stabilize the city.

Two officials with the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium have been charged with terrorism and rebellion against the state for their role in the recent protests and face the death penalty if convicted. The government has banned the consortium's activities. Another activist, Bibixy Mancho, faces the same charges.

Amnesty International has called for the release of Nkongho Felix Agbor-Balla and Fontem Aforteka'a Neba, saying that “this flagrant disregard for basic rights risks inflaming an already tense situation.”

Hundreds have been arrested, including protesters who stopped the singing of the Cameroonian national anthem, dismissing it as a foreign song. Some hoisted a new flag, declaring that they

are no longer part of French-speaking Cameroon.

Longtime President Paul Biya has said he is open to negotiations but will never accept any attempts to destabilize national unity.

Over the weekend, state media reported that teachers' union leaders had agreed to suspend the strike and that classes would resume yesterday, though opposition outlets said the report was incorrect.

As the strike continues, one student, 17-year-old Oben Ashu, said he's afraid his education — and his future — will be compromised. “They should give us the room to go back to school and be studying while the government and the teachers sit down in a table and discuss how the problem can be solved,” Ashu said.

Cameroon is made up of areas that were once colonies of France and Britain

until the early 1960s. English speakers constitute only 20 percent of Cameroon's population, though the constitution says English and French should be equally important. But most official documents are still available only in French, and teachers with little English ability are often sent to English-language areas of the country.

The protests began late last year when lawyers asked that French-speaking judges be transferred out of English-speaking regions, saying justice cannot be rendered when the judge, the lawyer and the suspect cannot communicate. When the lawyer's requests were not granted, they went to the streets and refused to defend clients in court.

Teachers also got involved, saying there is an overbearing influence of French in schools in the English-

speaking regions. The impasse is frustrating students and parents who feel caught in the middle.

## Teachers have joined a strike led by lawyers resentful over the official use of French in the English-speaking part of the country

“I am just pleading, government help us, so that our children, Cameroonians of

tomorrow, should go back to school so that this country should be stabilized and peaceful,” said parent Ndi Victor.

Bernard Okalia Bilai, governor of the southwest region, has warned the striking teachers that they will not receive their salaries unless they return to the classroom.

In response, Cameroon's government has ordered the recruitment of 1,000 bilingual teachers and the transferring of teachers out of the English-speaking region if they are not fluent in the language.

Still, the chairman of Cameroon's main opposition political party cautioned the president and his government against taking the situation too lightly, saying that “if this thing stretches out... it might be a little too dangerous for our country.” AP



Eric Tucker, Washington

**L**AWYERS for Washington state and Minnesota have told a federal appellate court that restoring President Donald Trump's ban on refugees and travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries would "unleash chaos again."

The filing with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco came yesterday after the White House said it expected the federal courts to reinstate the ban.

Washington and Minnesota said their underlying lawsuit was strong and a nationwide temporary restraining order was appropriate. If the appellate court reinstated Trump's ban the states said the "ruling would reinstitute those harms, separating families, stranding our university students and faculty, and barring travel."

The rapid-fire legal maneuvers by the two states were accompanied by briefs filed by the technology industry arguing that the travel ban would harm their companies by making it more difficult to recruit employees. Tech giants like Apple and Google, along with Uber, filed their arguments with the court late Sunday.

Trump's executive order was founded on a claim of national security, but lawyers for the two states told the appellate court the administration's move hurts residents, businesses and universities and is unconstitutional.

The next opportunity for Trump's team to argue in favor of the ban will come in the form of a response to the Washington state and Minnesota filings. The 9th Circuit ordered the U.S. Justice Department to file its briefs today [Macau time]. It had already turned down a Justice request to set aside immediately a Seattle judge's ruling that put a temporary hold on the ban nationwide.

In the latest filing, lawyers for Washington state and Minnesota said: "Defendants now ask this Court to unleash chaos again by staying the district court order. The Court should decline."

Bob Ferguson, Washington sta-

# Two states say allowing travel ban would 'unleash chaos again'



Members of International Migrants Alliance in Hong Kong hold placards during a protest against Trump's selective country travel ban outside of the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong

te's attorney general, said "we don't argue" that Trump has authority to act in the interest of national security. But in an interview on NBC's "Today" show, he also said "we have checks and balances" in the country, maintaining the president's order was "unconstitutional" and saying president's don't have "unfettered authorization" in these cases.

That ruling last Friday prompted an ongoing Twitter rant by Trump, who dismissed U.S. District Court Judge James Robart as a "so-called judge" and his decision "ridiculous."

Trump renewed his Twitter attacks against Robart on Sunday. "Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system. People pouring in. Bad!" He followed with another tweet saying he had instructed the Homeland Security Department to check people coming into the country but that "the courts are making the job very difficult!"

Vice President Mike Pence said

Sunday that "we don't appoint judges to our district courts to conduct foreign policy or to make decisions about the national security." Trump himself had offered an optimistic forecast the previous night, telling reporters during a weekend at his private club in Florida: "We'll win. For the safety of the country, we'll win."

The government had told the appeals court that the president alone has the power to decide who can enter or stay in the United States, an assertion that appeared to invoke the wider battle to come over illegal immigration.

Congress "vests complete discretion" in the president to impose conditions on entry of foreigners to the United States, and that power is "largely immune from judicial control," according to the court filing.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, predicted the appeals court would not have the last word. "I have no doubt that it will go to the Supreme Court, and probably some judgments will be made

whether this president has exceed his authority or not," she said.

In his ruling, Robart said it was not the court's job to "create policy or judge the wisdom of any particular policy promoted by the other two branches," but to make sure that an action taken by the government "comports with our country's laws."

**Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system.**

DONALD TRUMP

Whatever the outcome and however the case drags on, a president who was used to getting his way in private business is finding, weeks into his new job that obstacles exist to quickly fulfilling one of his chief campaign pledges.

"The president is not a dictator," said Feinstein, D-Calif. "He is the chief executive of our country. And there is a tension between the branches of government."

The Twitter attacks on Robart — appointed by President George W. Bush — prompted scolding from fellow Republicans as well as Democrats.

"We don't have so-called judges," said Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb. "We don't have so-called senators. We

don't have so-called presidents. We have people from three different branches of government who take an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution."

However, Pence defended the president, saying he "can criticize anybody he wants." The vice president added that he believes the American people "find it very refreshing that they not only understand this president's mind, but they understand how he feels about things."

Trump's order applied to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen — Muslim-majority countries that the administration said raise terrorism concerns. The order had caused unending confusion for many foreigners trying to reach the United States, prompting protests across the United States and leading to multiple court challenges.

The State Department said last week that as many as 60,000 foreigners from those seven countries had had their visas canceled. After Robart's decision, the department reversed course and said they could travel to the U.S. if they had a valid visa.

The department also advised refugee aid agencies that refugees set to travel before Trump signed his order would now be allowed in.

The Homeland Security Department no longer was directing airlines to prevent visa-holders affected by Trump's order from boarding U.S.-bound planes. The agency said it had "suspended any and all actions" related to putting in place Trump's order.

Pence appeared on ABC's "This Week," CBS' "Face the Nation," NBC's "Meet the Press" and "Fox News Sunday. McConnell was on CNN, Feinstein spoke on Fox and Sasse was interviewed by ABC. AP

## German conservatives unite behind Merkel for September vote

**C**HANCELLOR Angela Merkel's Bavarian conservative allies threw their weight yesterday behind her quest for a fourth term, putting aside a long-running argument over her migrant policies as Germany prepares for a national election in September.

The show of conservative unity at a meeting in Munich came as Merkel's rivals, the center-left Social Democrats, are enjoying a strong poll boost from their surprise nomina-

tion as her challenger of Martin Schulz, the former president of the European Parliament and a relatively fresh face in national politics.

Bavaria's Christian Social Union has dominated its southeastern state for decades and is traditionally an important source of national election votes for the conservative bloc led by Merkel's Christian Democratic Union.

Their sometimes-awkward alliance has been

frayed since late 2015, with CSU leader and Bavarian governor Horst Seehofer becoming one of the most prominent domestic critics of Merkel's welcoming approach to migrants.

A year ago, he was threatening Merkel's federal government with a lawsuit if it didn't take measures to further secure the German border and reduce the influx of asylum-seekers, a threat never carried through. More recently, the CSU raised doubts about whether the

parties would campaign together.

The conservatives have agreed to move past their dispute and focus on the Sept. 24 election, although they still disagree on a CSU demand for an annual cap of 200,000 on the number of refugees allowed into Germany.

Germany saw 890,000 asylum-seekers arrive in 2015 and 280,000 last year, many of those before the Balkan migrant route was effectively shut by border



Bavarian governor and head of the Christian Social Union party, Horst Seehofer (left) and German chancellor Angela Merkel

closures from other nations.

In practice, much has changed since the peak of the migrant influx in 2015.

While Merkel insists that Germany will continue to take in people who genuinely need protection, her government has toughened asylum rules and declared several countries "safe," meaning people from there

can't expect to get refuge.

Merkel was also a driving force behind an agreement between the European Union and Turkey to stem the flow of migrants and favors a similar deal with countries in North Africa. She has also called for a "national effort" to ensure that rejected asylum-seekers leave Germany. AP



what's ON



WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT? - WORKS BY TIFFANY TANG  
TIME: 12pm-7pm (closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)  
UNTIL: February 26, 2017  
VENUE: Ox Warehouse, intersection of Av. Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026  
ADMISSION: Free

EXHIBITION ON CHINESE PAINTINGS OF BEIJING SCENERY  
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: February 19, 2017  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
MUSEUM ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

LOCAL GINGER – CENOZOIC GRAFFITI ART EXHIBITION  
TIME: 11am-10pm  
UNTIL: February 20, 2017  
VENUE: Lakeside Gallery in the Anim'Arte NAM VAN  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAU  
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: July 16, 2017  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
MUSEUM ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

FRENCH CANDIDATE USES HOLOGRAM TO TRAVEL CAMPAIGN TRAIL



French presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon can't be in two places at once.  
But the 65-year-old hard-left hopeful is trying his hardest thanks to advances in technology.  
As Melenchon held a rally in Lyon on Sunday, a hologram of him was projected by satellite to crowds in Paris.  
Critics called it a headline-grabbing gimmick that obscures his firebrand politics.  
Meanwhile, supporters of conservative candidate Francois Fillon hit the streets Sunday to try to stem damage to his campaign. They distributed tracts entitled "Stop the Manhunt."  
Prosecutors are investigating the jobs that Fillon's wife and two of their five children had working as his parliamentary aides. The preliminary probe involves suspicions of embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds  
He denies wrongdoing and says he is the victim of a slander campaign.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
15:30	Nos League: Braga - Estoril (Repeated)
17:10	Happy Endings Sr.3
17:50	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Once Upon A Time S2
22:20	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

6 FEB -8 FEB

RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 1  
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm  
Director: Paul W. S. Anderson  
Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Shawn Roberts, Ruby Rose  
Language: English  
Duration: 103min

RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 1 (3D)  
7:30pm  
Director: Paul W. S. Anderson  
Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Shawn Roberts, Ruby Rose  
Language: English  
Duration: 103min

POKEMON: THE MOVIE 19

ROOM 2  
2:15, 5:45pm  
Director: Kunihiko Yuyama  
Starring: James Cathcart, Kiyotaka Furushima, Megumi Hayashibara  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

ROOM 2  
3:30pm  
Director: Chris McKay  
Starring: Jenny Slate, Will Arnett, Ralph Fiennes  
Language: Cantonese (English)  
Duration: 104min

LA LA LAND

ROOM 2  
7:30, 10:00pm  
Director: Damien Chazelle  
Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone  
Language: English  
Duration: 128min

MOANA

ROOM 3  
2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15pm  
Director: Ron Clements, John Musker  
Starring: Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Rachel House  
Language: Cantonese  
Duration: 103min

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

ROOM 3  
10:15pm  
Director: Chris McKay  
Starring: Jenny Slate, Will Arnett, Ralph Fiennes  
Language: Cantonese (English)  
Duration: 104min

MACAU TOWER

28 JAN - 15 FEB

JOURNEY TO THE WEST: THE DEMONS STRIKE BACK

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm  
Director: Hark Tsui  
Starring: Bei-Er Bao, Mengke Bateer, Kenny Lin  
Language: Cantonese  
Duration: 109min

this day in history



1964 BEATLEMANIA ARRIVES IN THE US

The four members of the British hit band, the Beatles, have arrived in New York at the start of their first tour of the United States.  
The young men, with their now infamous mop-head hairstyles, stepped onto the tarmac at Kennedy Airport just after 1300 local time.  
There were more than 3,000 screaming teenagers at the airport. Many had skipped school or work. Some were in tears and some were carrying placards with phrases such as "I love you, please stay".  
The Beatles' first scheduled appearance will be on American television on Sunday on the Ed Sullivan show. He apparently booked them to appear after seeing the huge crowds who greeted their return to Heathrow from Sweden last October.  
More than 5,000 fans applied for tickets to be part of the audience for the live show - only 750 were lucky enough to get them.  
The Beatles - Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, John Lennon and George Harrison - received maximum police protection, the kind of arrangement usually produced for kings and presidents.  
There were security barriers too, without which, the Beatles would almost certainly have been crushed by the throng of screaming women.  
Elsewhere in the United States, excitement over the Beatles' arrival has reached almost fever-pitch.  
Their songs are playing constantly on radio stations, in shops and other places of work.  
Millions of Beatle records have already been sold and a company called Puritan Fashions Incorporated, which describes itself as "the only exclusive official licensed manufacturer of Beatle wearing apparel" is marketing T-shirts, sweat shirts, turtle-neck sweaters, tight-legged trousers, night shirts, scarves and jewellery inspired by the Beatles.  
Beatle wigs are also for sale at \$2.99 each - or the equivalent of one guinea.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Beatles were the first British band to break into the American market. Their appearance on the Ed Sullivan show reportedly led to a dip in the crime rate to a 50-year low as 73 million people or 40% of Americans tuned into watch.  
They performed the songs All My Loving, Till There Was You, She Loves You, I Saw Her Standing There and I Want To Hold Your Hand.  
The band appeared twice on the Ed Sullivan show and their performances still rate as the second and third most-watched programmes in the history of US TV. Only the 1983 final episode of Korean war comedy MASH achieved more viewers  
In February 2004, the Beatles were given the President's Award at the Grammys to mark the 40th anniversary of what became known as "Beatlemania". It was accepted by the widows of John Lennon and George Harrison, Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

After days of moping around, you woke up this morning feeling like your old self again: charming, impulsive and ready to try anything at least once. So how can you celebrate? How about reconnecting with the gang?

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You know how you've been having the feeling lately that something big is coming along? Well, as usual, you're right. A group that you're quite active with is about to ask - if not outright beg - that you become more involved.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You're in the mood to get away from it all - to let loose and have some serious fun. Since you're you, the sign consistently voted 'least likely to be alone unless they want to be.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

This is going to be a time to remember for all the right reasons. The romantic stars will have already stormed their way into your house of one-to-one relationships when you wake up. Perfect timing, huh?

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Enough with the babysitting, care-taking and enabling. It's officially time to take care of yourself - especially when it comes to indulging in some much-needed playtime.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Some fun-loving companions are about to invite you to spend an unusual evening with them, probably doing something you've never done before. Kindred spirits, a new adventure and no worrying about staying up too late.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

The stars are making impulse the name of the game, and they've set up shop in your house of secret desires. Well, now. It's easy to see how you could get yourself into a bit of trouble if you're not careful.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You may need to divide your attention between family members and friends who've been whining about not seeing you in far too long, but it's just the price of being popular. Once you've arrived, your time is no longer your own.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You may be having company tonight - of the unexpected variety. Unlike other signs, you won't need to be reminded to keep your place neat and tidy in the event of a spontaneous visit.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You're so ready to relax that you're actually feeling torn between spending yet another evening with that delectable new admirer and taking the night off to get some sleep. Obviously, you must be really, really tired here.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

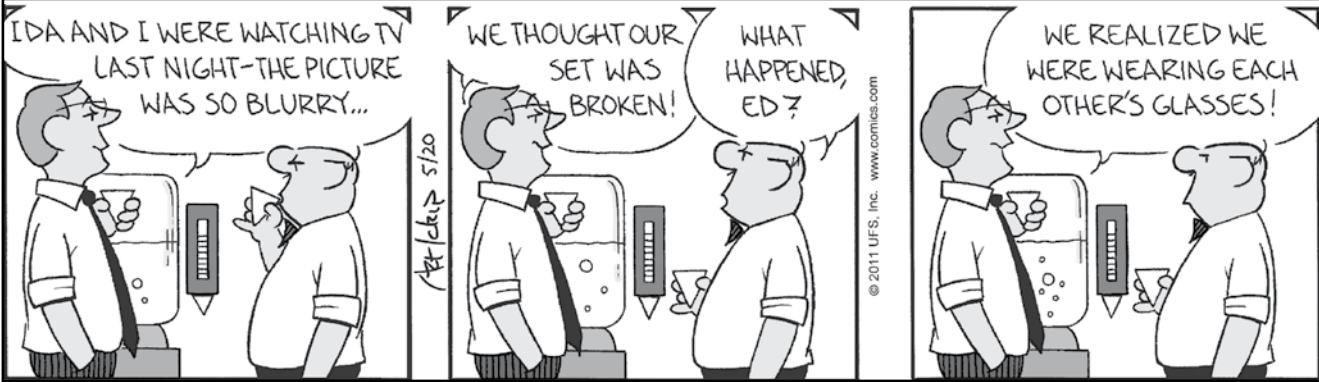
Ready to let loose and have some real fun? Good, because the universe is willing to help. Right now the stars are anything but short on creative ways to enjoy the company of others.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

It's officially time to toss the tissues, stop worrying about the past and put some distance between you and whoever or whatever has been making you feel so blue lately. Come on. Go ahead. Get out there and have some fun.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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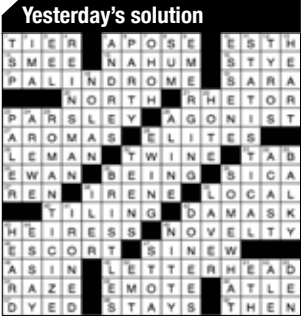
Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Monumental; 5- Addis \_\_\_\_; 10- Recedes; 14- Of like kind; 15- Agave fiber; 16- Low-lying region; 17- Ripe for drafting; 18- Triple; 19- Zeno of \_\_\_\_; 20- Like barber poles; 22- Skull; 24- Siesta; 25- Boob tubes; 26- Seize; 29- Chat room chuckle; 32- Bits; 36- I could \_\_\_\_ horse!; 37- Capital of the Philippines; 39- Therapists' org.; 40- In spite of; 43- Yes, to Yves; 44- Spuds; 45- Arrow poison; 46- Foil maker; 48- Suffix with meteor; 49- \_\_\_\_ Is Born; 50- Arafat's org.; 52- Cul-de-\_\_\_\_; 53- Fashionable; 57- Disordered; 61- Singer Braxton; 62- River of Tours; 64- Ballot choice; 65- Black-and-white treat; 66- Type of sanctum; 67- Footnote abbr.; 68- Predictive sign; 69- Lauder of cosmetics; 70- Drum sound;

DOWN: 1- Those, to Juan; 2- Football kick; 3- Cake decorator; 4- Portable power saw; 5- \_\_\_\_ in the right direction; 6- Feathered creature; 7- \_\_\_\_ live and breathe!; 8- Judge's seat; 9- Warn; 10- Be that as it may; 11- Indonesian resort island; 12- Chicken cordon \_\_\_\_; 13- Tailor's line; 21- Baby food; 23- Birdlike; 26- Columbus's birthplace; 27- Fauvist painter Dufy; 28- Room at the top; 29- Christine of "Chicago Hope"; 30- Get-go; 31- Brit's bottle measure; 33- Spoil; 34- Sleep issue; 35- More wise; 37- 1959 Kingston Trio hit; 38- \_\_\_\_ Vegas; 41- Pisa place; 42- Detect; 47- Choice; 49- Penlight battery; 51- Stan's pal; 52- Author Hite; 53- Langston Hughes poem; 54- "Cheers" regular; 55- Dagger; 56- Ages and ages; 57- Manitoba native; 58- Dorothy's dog; 59- Romance lang.; 60- Prison room; 63- CD earnings;



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## FOOTBALL

# Oscar and Tevez kickoff Shanghai's Asian challenge

AP PHOTO



Tevez (ex-Boca Juniors) and Oscar (right picture, ex-Chelsea)

John Duerden

**N**EW Chinese Super League recruits Carlos Tevez and Oscar get the chance to repay at least part of their massive salaries when they make their debuts in the 2017 Asian Champions League playoffs.

Shanghai SIPG and Shanghai Shenhua must win their home games today and tomorrow, against Sukhothai of Thailand and Australia's Brisbane Roar respecti-

vely, to move into the group stage of Asia's premier club competition, which kicks off on Feb. 22.

With the 2017 Chinese Super League season not due to start til next month, this will be the first time the country's clubs have been in action at home since going on a spending spree during the off-season.

As well as Oscar, signed from Chelsea in January for around USD60 million, SIPG also has fellow Brazilian international

Hulk, after buying the striker from Zenit St. Petersburg for a similar amount in June 2016.

Sukhothai faces a tough challenge. With a player budget reportedly 68 times small than Shanghai's, the Thai team only arrived in Shanghai less than 36 hours before kick-off after having problems getting visas.

"Shanghai is a strong team and have great players with World Cup experience," said chairman Somsak Thepsuthin. "We are a club

from Thailand but to play this level of opponent is a great chance for us, regardless of what happens. We have to give everything and perhaps there will be a surprise."

The players have been promised a sizable bonus if they beat Shanghai but Somsak said they already have enough motivation. "It is about the chance to create history and bring glory to Thai soccer and the country," he said.

Now led by former Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur coach Andre

Villas-Boas, Shanghai SIPG reached the quarterfinal of the Asian Champions League in its debut appearance in 2016, losing 5-0 to eventual champion Jeonbuk Motors of South Korea. The loss contributed to Sven Goran Eriksson leaving the club at the end of the season.

City rival Shanghai Shenhua is coached by former Chelsea midfielder Gustavo Poyet. The Blues defeated Sydney United, a semi-professional Australian club in a warm-up for the clash with Brisbane, with Tevez scoring a spectacular goal.

"We are looking forward to the challenge of playing in Asia," said Poyet. "Brisbane will be a tough opponent and we will have to be prepared in order to get the right result."

The Blues have appeared in the tournament on five previous occasions but progressed past the group stage just once, in 2006.

In the eastern zone's two other playoffs, South Korea's Ulsan Horangi faces Kitchee of Hong Kong.

Ulsan was added to the tournament after defending champion Jeonbuk Motors was ejected after being found guilty of bribing referees in 2013. Jeonbuk's appeal to be reinstated was rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Feb 3.

Elsewhere, Malaysian champion Johor Darul Ta'zim takes on Gamba Osaka in Japan. **AP**

AD

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Justin Palmer, London

FOOTBALL

**T**HE battle to secure a top four finish and a coveted Champions League place is warming up in the Premier League.

Leader Chelsea is nine points clear and seemingly set for the title in Antonio Conte's first season in charge, so it appears that five clubs are in contention to fill one of the three remaining spots in the continent's showpiece next season.

With 14 games left to play, just five points separate Tottenham in second and Manchester United in sixth.

Here's a look at the contenders to finish behind Chelsea.

**TOTTENHAM** (2nd place, 50 points)

Spurs fell away in last season's title race when many expected it to overhaul Leicester. If that was not painful enough, it managed yet again to finish behind bitter rivals Arsenal. Currently three points above Arsenal, Spurs will at least hope it can finally finish above the Gunners for the first time since 1995.

Spurs marked Mauricio Pochettino's 100th Premier League match in charge with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Middlesbrough Saturday.

While the Argentine says he needs "time to try to create a strong team", Spurs appear to be building momentum having gone unbeaten in 11 games in all competitions since defeat at Manchester United on December 11.

Still in the Europa League with a last-32 match with Belgium's Gent

AP PHOTO



Conte (Chelsea) and Mourinho (Man United)



to come, its remaining Premier League games include clashes with Arsenal and Manchester United at home and Liverpool away.

**MANCHESTER CITY** (3rd place, 49 points)

The signing of livewire Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus appears to have sparked City from its slumber, even if it has led to speculation over Sergio Aguero's future.

Jesus, who scored twice in the weekend win over Swansea, has

made a huge impact in his short time at the club, his hot form meaning no starting place for Aguero, who has scored more than 150 goals for City since joining in 2011.

A chastening 4-0 defeat at Everton in mid-January turned the spotlight on manager Pep Guardiola but since then City has drawn with Spurs, picked up league wins over West Ham and Swansea and beaten Crystal Palace in the FA Cup.

City avoided the big guns of the

Champions League when it was paired with Monaco in the last 16 but its domestic run-in is far from easy. It must play Manchester United and Liverpool at home and play away at Arsenal and Chelsea in the space of five days in April

**ARSENAL** (4th place, 47 points)

Arsenal has not won the title since 2004 and the fact that it appears out of the race again is the subject of much debate among its fans, some who feel manager Arsene Wenger should step aside.

The 3-1 defeat at Chelsea on Saturday highlighted that Wenger's side lacks the quality to mount a title challenge. If Wenger looked for a response from the surprise 2-1 home defeat by Watford in its previous game then he did not receive one.

Arsenal faces a difficult Champions League showdown with Bayern Munich but can shape its own destiny in securing a top four league finish with matches against Liverpool, Manchester City, Spurs and Manchester United to come.

**LIVERPOOL** (5th place, 46 points)

Without a league win this year

and only one victory in its last 10 matches in all competitions, manager Juergen Klopp is facing a tough challenge at Anfield.

Klopp said Liverpool "had to change" after the weekend defeat at strugglers Hull.

Its defensive frailties start at the goalkeeping position, with neither Simon Mignolet nor Loris Karius inspiring any confidence.

Liverpool faces big games over the next month and a half against Tottenham, Arsenal, Manchester City and seventh-placed Everton.

**MANCHESTER UNITED** (6th place, 45 points)

Having missed out on the Champions League twice in the last three years, United will not want to do so again in Jose Mourinho's first season in charge.

United, fifth last season after finishing behind Manchester City on goal difference, has momentum having gone 15 league games unbeaten.

But it faces a busy fixture list with its league schedule interrupted by Europa League matches with Saint-Etienne, an FA Cup clash with second-tier Blackburn and a League Cup final against Southampton. **AP**

FOOTBALL

# Cameroon champion of Africa again, denies Egypt 8th title



**C**AMEROON rose again after years of underachievement to win the African Cup of Nations title with a fabulous goal in the 89th minute of the final for a 2-1 come-from-behind victory against mighty Egypt.

As the final whistle got nearer, substitute Vincent Aboubakar controlled the ball just outside the area,

clipped it over a defender, and then shot past the goalkeeper to clinch Cameroon's fifth African title and first since 2002.

Egypt's 44-year-old 'keeper, Essam el-Hadary, watched the tournament-winning shot slide past him right at the end to deny the Egyptians a record-extending eighth title, and el-Hadary a fifth triumph an in-

credible 19 years after his first.

"I cannot describe it. I know it was a wonderful goal. It was a great goal. It was the goal that gave us victory," said Cameroon striker Robert Tambe, the player who was taken off to make way for Aboubakar. "We feel so much joy. We say thanks to Aboubakar."

Egypt led through Mohamed el-Neny's goal in the 22nd minute but Cameroon's substitutes came to the rescue at Stade de l'Amitie as defender Nicolas Nkoulou, off the bench early after an injury to Adolphe Teikeu, equalized with a header in the 60th minute.

Aboubakar, the halftime super sub, completed the rally. Cameroon, already chosen to host the next Cup of Nations, will be defending champion for the 2019 tournament. **AP**

SUPER BOWL

# Patriots fans take to streets of Boston to celebrate victory

AP PHOTO



**N**EW England Patriots fans have taken to the streets of Boston to celebrate their team's 34-28 dramatic overtime Super Bowl win over the Atlanta Falcons.

Hundreds of fans gathered yesterday [Macau time] in Boston Common, a downtown public park.

They were dancing, cheering and chanting "Brady." Police also were there to make sure the celebrations didn't get out of hand. The-

re were no immediate reports of any problems and fans were mostly described as being well-behaved.

Democratic Boston Mayor Marty Walsh took to Twitter to congratulate the Patriots and announce the victory parade, which is scheduled for today.

Boston police tweeted their thanks "to all the fans who acted like champions tonight" and wrote that they would see them again today.



opinion

OUR DESK

Renato Marques



WHO CARES FOR THE 'COMMON PEOPLE'?

It is common to hear that in all kinds of parliaments, legislative assemblies or councils across the planet, the "representatives of the people" are seated.

In some cases, these representatives are elected by universal suffrage. In others, they are elected, selected or appointed by councils or even directly by governments.

What I want to discuss here is not exactly what is the "best" or the "most democratic" system, as I am often reminded by experience that "the best system is the one that works."

Instead, what I wish to discuss is the composition of these legislative bodies, in particular the one whose decisions directly affect my daily life.

You might think it is a bit self-centered to put things like that, but if you think a little further, you might find it is not.

I consider myself a "common person"; a common citizen, I would say. I have a job, I work, I pay my bills, I rent an apartment, I take public as well as private transportation, I eat mostly at home but also in restaurants and, last but not least, I hold a Macau permanent resident Identification Card (BIR). As such, I'm a registered voter.

Like some other local voters, I want my voice to be heard in the upcoming elections for the Macau Legislative Assembly (AL) but the problem that I face is: for whom should I vote? It should be simple! Like anywhere else in the world, you should vote for the candidate who puts forward the best ideas for the country/territory, or at least the person who makes you feel that they will best protect your interests.

But the question for which I can't find an easy answer is: which candidate stands for the "common citizen" like myself?

Looking at the AL, I can see lawmakers that stand for the construction sector, the entrepreneurs, the SMEs, the civil servants, and even the security forces. I see some that clearly state they defend the "workers", but I am neither a casino employee nor a "worker" in the communist sense.

I keep searching the spectrum and I find some that say they stand for women, which does not fit me either. As for the others, well, they pretty much seem like they stand for no one but themselves and their personal and familial interests.

So my question persists: Is there anyone who can stand for the people like me?

Browsing the official statistics, I realize that the number of "common citizens" is in fact quite significant, with the number of employees in the retail sector alone reaching almost 35,000 in the third quarter of 2016. If we add this number to that of people working in hotels and restaurants, we get a figure of over 100,000 people, which is about threefold the number of civil servants and about 20 percent more than those employed in the gaming sector.

Even more confusing: if these "common people" are such an important share of the local workforce, why does nobody stand for them – by which I mean us?

These are the people getting 12 months' salary a year (not 13 or 14). These are the people performing the same level of tasks as many in the public sector for at least one-third less of the salary. These are the ones that struggle to pay rent and are not entitled to any housing subsidies. These are the ones doing unpaid overtime on a daily basis, all to support companies that give them nothing but a contract that stipulates a 15-day notice of termination.

THE BUZZ VIETNAM ALLOWS BETTING ON INTERNATIONAL SOCCER COMPETITIONS

Vietnamese gamblers will soon be allowed to place bets on international soccer competitions under a pilot project.

Under the decree signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc that takes effect by the end of March, Vietnamese over 21 years of age will be allowed to place bets of up to USD44 a day, with a minimum bet of 44 cents.

The government will allow only one company to do this business during the five-year trial period and that company must have an investment capital of at least 1 trillion dong (\$44 million).

After the five-year period, the government will decide whether to continue the arrangement. The decree also allows betting on local horse and dog races.

UN CASUALTY REPORT

Over 900 children killed in Afghanistan in 2016



United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Human Rights Director Danielle Bell (left) speaks during a press conference

MORE than 900 children were killed in Afghanistan's conflict last year, the United Nations said yesterday, calling it the most violent year for children since it started keeping records.

The U.N. mission said the nearly 25 percent increase in child deaths from the previous year was largely caused by mines and munitions left over from decades of conflict. It documented a 66 percent increase in such deaths in 2016.

"Conflict-related violence exacted a heavy toll on Afghanistan in 2016, with an overall deterioration in civilian protection and the highest-total civilian casualties recorded since 2009, when UNAMA began systematic documentation

of civilian casualties," the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in its annual report.

It said 3,498 people were killed in 2016, including 923 children, and that another 7,920 people were wounded. The overall casualty toll was slightly higher than the previous year.

"I am deeply saddened to report, for yet another year, another increase in civilian casualties, another all-time high figure," Tadamichi Yamamoto, the U.N. envoy to Afghanistan, told a press conference.

The aid group Save the Children said the latest figures were "extremely concerning," and called on all parties to do more to protect civilians.

The Taliban, who have been waging an insurgency against the U.S.-backed government in Kabul for more than 15 years, advanced on a number of fronts in 2016. Afghan forces have struggled to combat the militants since the U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014.

"The humanitarian situation across much of Afghanistan has deteriorated significantly in the past 12 months," Save the Children's country director, Ana Locsin, said in a statement.

"With the start of the traditional fighting season not far away with the end of winter, it could get even worse in the coming months," she said. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais



Bao-bye. The US National Zoo in Washington says 3-year-old panda Bao Bao will fly to China on Feb. 21. The zoo recently announced a celebration of Bao Bao starting Feb. 16 in anticipation of her departure.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	35-55 Good	
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Good	
Ambient	45-65 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



PAKISTAN An Afghan diplomat in the port city of Karachi is killed by his security guard who opened fire inside the diplomatic mission, officials said.



THAILAND An Australian woman dies when the personal watercraft she was operating collided with one operated by her companion off the Thai island of Phuket, officials say.

INDONESIA Asylum seekers who have been in Indonesia for years rally in the capital urging the U.N. refugee agency to speed up the process of resettling them in third countries.

NEPAL A commission investigating deaths and abuses during a decade-long communist insurgency in Nepal says it has requested an extension because it has not completed the task of giving justice to thousands of victims and their families.



QATAR Airways launches the world's longest scheduled commercial airline route with the arrival of its flight from Doha to Auckland, New Zealand.

GERMANY The head of the European Central Bank says that its monetary stimulus efforts are still very much needed despite the recent spike in inflation in the 19 countries that use the euro currency. Mario Draghi told members of the European Parliament's economic and monetary affairs committee that the uptick in annual inflation to 1.8 percent was mainly due to higher oil prices.