



IC REORGANIZATION TO HARMONIZE POLICIES
The soon-to-depart IC president Ung Vai Meng said that its bureau successfully incorporated several departments

▲ P2



LEONG: MACAU TO REGAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH
The Secretary for Economy and Finance predicts the local economy will record modest growth rates

▲ P4



MIGRANTS CELEBRATE 'ONE BILLION RISING' CAMPAIGN

▲ P5 MDT REPORT



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



NORTH KOREA In an implicit challenge to President Donald Trump, North Korea appeared to fire a ballistic missile yesterday in what would be its first such test of the year. The reports of the launch came as Trump was hosting Abe and just days before the North is to mark the birthday of leader Kim Jong Un's late father, Kim Jong Il.
More on p13

TAIWAN A minor earthquake hit the southern part of Taiwan early Saturday, injuring four people. Authorities said the magnitude 5.6 earthquake struck near the coast of Tainan city at around 1:12 a.m., leaving as many as 50,000 households briefly in the dark before power was restored. No deaths were reported.

PHILIPPINES Officials yesterday warned survivors of a powerful earthquake that left at least eight people dead in the country's south to ensure their homes and buildings are sturdy enough before venturing back amid continuing aftershocks.

More on backpage

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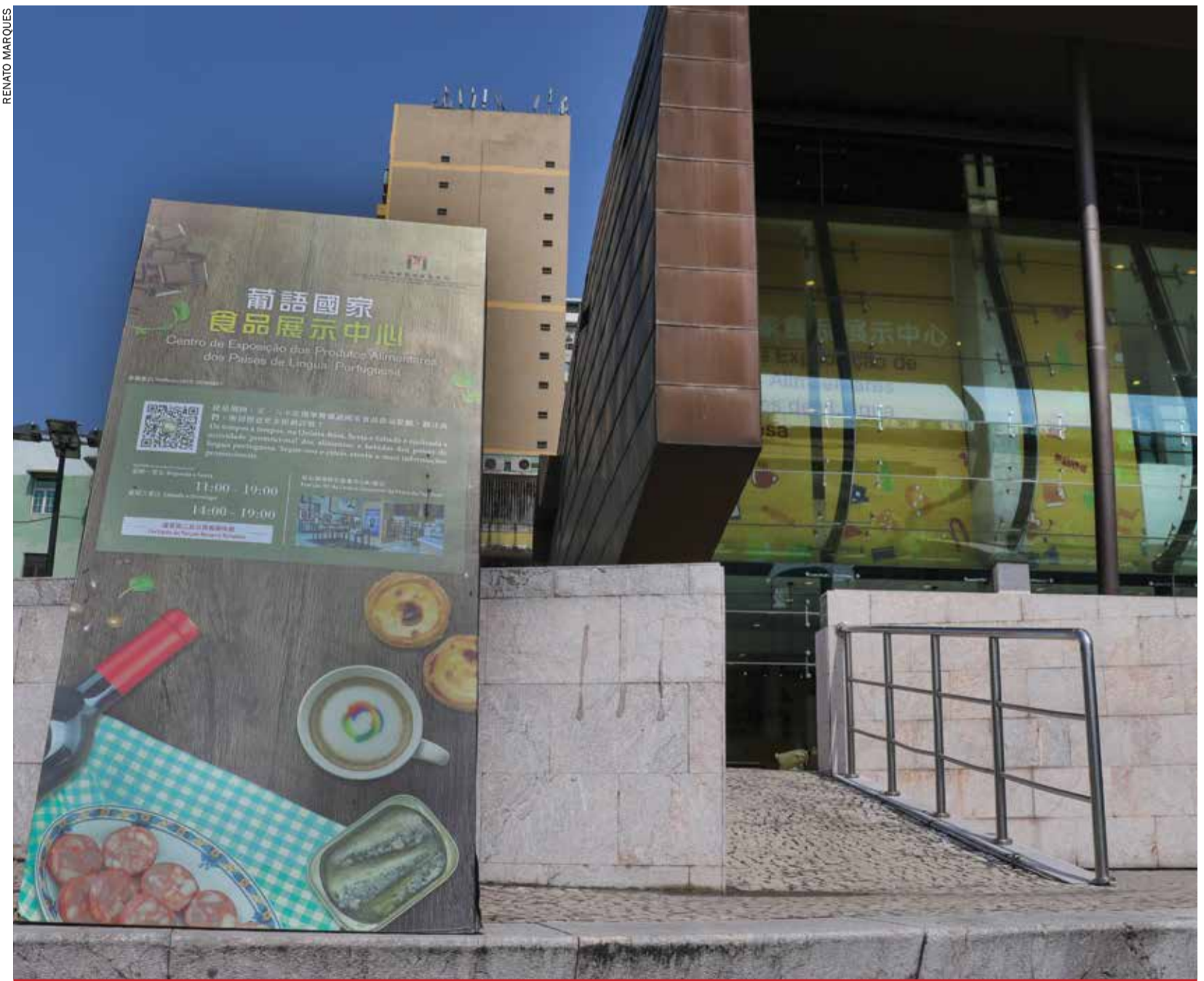
FINANCIAL TIMES
Defector on escaping North Korea

F1

FACILITY OPENED ALMOST A YEAR AGO

Food exhibition center records low direct sales

▲ P7



A quarter of the world's GDP is undergoing big experiments

▲ P9 FEATURE

Julie Zhu

UNG VAI MENG

IC head says demolished dockyards will have 'good result'

THE president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Ung Vai Meng, hopes that "there will be a good result" from the government's recent and controversial decision to demolish 11 dockyards located at Lai Chi Vun because they pose a risk to public safety. Ung voiced his hope last Friday, during a lunch with the media.

Ung said that the IC monitors the Lai Chi Vun area very closely, and noted that the area is one where the architectural development of the dockyards grew organically alongside the needs of the shipbuilding industry. He deemed the area "very special, valuable, and meaningful."

Moreover, Ung claimed that the IC has, many times, communicated their position on the area to related departments and believed those departments to be "rather aware" of the bureau's stance toward Coloane's Lai Chi Vun.

According to Ung, he made it clear to the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) that Lai Chi Vun is a relic holding great value, and that it should be well protected.

Following Ung's communication with DSAMA, the IC received confirmation from the department that one dockyard and two wooden houses will be taken over by the IC for further development plans. However, Ung maintains that the IC has not yet received the keys to the three properties.

Ung also confirmed to the media that the IC had received no consultation requests from the public prior to other governmental departments making the decision to demolish the 11 dockyards.

"The IC pays close attention

to the district, especially to the fact that it has a relationship with the water and the mountains," said Ung.

Regarding the properties handed over to the IC, Ung announced that his department will utilize them to demonstrate dockyard technology, one of the end results expected from the development of the sites.

Ung said that the IC is not seeking for the area to become a "souvenir street in the likes of Taipa's Rua do Cunha," or to become a yacht ferry terminal.

"We have expressed our suggestions to the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau. For instance, we don't want the area to be overdeveloped, but at this stage we haven't received any consultation request," revealed Ung.

The president claimed that, in the future, when the time comes for the government authority to make plans for the area's development, the IC will engage in discussions with nearby local communities.

Separately, with regards to the government's plan for a new Central Library, Ung said that he is confident that plans will soon be presented to the Legislative Assembly and also to the public. These plans will attempt to explain why governmental authorities have selected the Old Court Building as the location for the library.

He also pointed out that the

IC's plan for the new Central Library has received largely positive feedback from representatives of the academic and education sectors as well as the general public. The feedback was gathered at an exhibition held in the third and fourth quarters of 2016 in the building, which explained the concept of the Central Library.

The soon-to-depart president said during his official speech at the media luncheon that he hopes "[Macau's] cultural works and promotion activities reach a new stage" in the future.



Ung Vai Meng surrounded by both IC vice-presidents

IC reorganization to harmonize cultural policies

DURING the media luncheon hosted by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Friday, soon-to-depart IC president Ung Vai Meng said that the recent reorganization of governmental departments would help to harmonize the city's cultural policies in 2017.

Reviewing the bureau's recent reorganization, Ung stated that several government departments had been successfully incorporated into the IC after being separated from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau last year.

According to a statement published on Friday by the IC, Ung explained the reorganization as

a process "seamlessly joining cultural facilities and services" to create a "unified management system."

With respect to this, Ung said that the reorganization would help to move Macau towards its goal of establishing a "culturally sustainable city." This would be ultimately achieved through the other responsibilities of the bureau, namely the protection of cultural heritage, fostering the development of artistic talent, encouraging cultural exchanges and supporting existing cultural and creative industries.

The luncheon was attended by senior members of the IC, mem-

bers of the Cultural Consultative Committee, the Cultural Heritage Committee and also a cross section of journalists from Chinese, Portuguese and English media.

In addition to presenting the IC's plan for the upcoming year, the luncheon also featured several performances by the a-cappella group, "Water Singers."

Ung will step down as IC head later this month, citing a desire to return to his former life as an artist. Having served as the IC chief since 2010, the almost 60-year-old Ung will be replaced by current vice-president, Leung Hio Ming.

Macau Orchestra presents shows of Japanese drama



THE Macau Orchestra presented Japanese drama, "Nodame Cantabile Music Concert," at the Macau Tower Auditorium in two performances on Friday and Saturday.

The Japanese piece is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, the concerts highlighted the most popular aspect of the story, allowing audiences

to indulge themselves in the love story of Nodame Cantabile and Chiaki Shinichi.

Conductor Yao-Yu Wu, who won the prestigious International Besançon Competition for Young Conductors at the age of 24, along with Claire Huang Ci, the second prize winner at the Internationaler Musikwettbewerb der ARD in 2011,

presented the quintessential piece in the drama, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.2 in C minor, and concluded with Beethoven's romantic Symphony No.7 in A Major.

In addition, the Macau Orchestra will also present the master concert "Ning Feng Plays Elgar" on February 19 (Sunday) at 8 p.m. at St. Dominic's Church.

Renowned violinist Ning Feng will play Elgar's Violin Concerto, which is regarded as one of the greatest British romantic violin concertos.

Admission is free and tickets will be distributed at the venue one hour prior to the performance on a first-come, first-served basis. They are limited to a maximum of two tickets per person.

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CC concerned about cancelled flights

Macau's Consumer Council (CC) has iterated in a statement its concerns about the impact on consumers due to Air Macau's cancellation of Macau-Fukuoka flights during the period February 17 to March 15. According to the statement, the council met with representatives of Air Macau on Friday to discuss the impact of the cancellations on consumers. The CC claims to have received "quite a number of inquiries" following the announcement of the cancellations. The council recommended that the airline company respond to such requests and "make appropriate arrangements." Air Macau countered that it has put in place arrangements for the transfer of affected customers to and from other destinations. The council further suggested for Air Macau to announce more details as soon as possible to alleviate the worries of consumers.

Two cats suspected of being abused to death

Two cats living at the Jardim Municipal da Montanha Russa area were recently found dead with signs indicating that abuse may have been the cause of death, according to a report by Macau Concealers. The two cats were both older than five years. A woman, who had been feeding these cats, noticed their disappearance on February 4. On February 9, the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau informed the lady that it had completed the autopsy report, whereby it concluded that the cats might have been beaten to death. The bureau has already informed the Public Security Police Force.

ECONOMY

Leong predicts modest growth



Lionel Leong

MACAU'S economy will record modest rates of growth this year, Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong told reporters on Friday, echoing the earlier 2017 predictions made by government officials and economy analysts.

However, the government's projection was still

subject to a number of domestic and external factors, he said.

While no domestic factors were specified in a follow up statement released by the Government Information Bureau (GCS), one external factor was provided; there was a possibility of currency exchange rates fluctuating which might impact export markets around the world.

In reviewing the economic performance of the city in 2016, Leong summarized that the first half had continued a downward trend observed in the previous year, while the second half had recorded relatively stable performance, narrowing 2016's overall year-on-year decline.

According to the GCS statement, the secretary also praised the economic contribution of the

business sector and of the community as a whole, particularly during the 'adjustment period' of the gaming industry. The effort, he said, had helped enhance Macau's overall competitiveness and the city's ability to deal with adversities.

Asked to comment on the reported year-on-year decline in the number of gaming workers, Leong said that a change in human resource requirements in integrated resorts was a "normal phenomenon" and it was also a result of a shift from gaming to non-gaming elements in local resorts.

Meanwhile, the government has stepped up efforts to maintain the current high employment rate and to encourage casino operators to prioritize horizontal and vertical mobility in the careers of residents.

Taiwan simplifies visa procedure for SARs residents

TAIWAN'S National Immigration Agency has eased the administration burden for Macau and Hong Kong residents who intend to apply for a Taiwan visa, according to a statement released by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Macau.

Currently, residents from both SARs are required to apply for visas to Taiwan through the Office. The simplified procedure now allows residents to exclusively apply online, instead of having to visit the Office in person.

At the present moment, the system is in an experimental period, which will last until March 27.

According to the Office, on June 30 it will cease the in-office handling of travel visas to Taiwan for SARs' residents. Starting from July 1, all applications will be managed by the online system.

Applicants must possess a permanent Macau or Hong Kong citizenship, a Home Visit Permit or a passport from either one of the two SARs. Qualified applicants will be required to pay NTD600 as an application fee.

In the current stage, the provisional online system has been working from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday. It will become available for 24 hours a day after it has been officially put in operation.

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Migrants celebrate 'One Billion Rising' campaign

Lynzy Valles

MIGRANT workers in Macau celebrated the annual "One Billion Rising" (OBR) revolution campaign yesterday at Tap Seac Square, which this year focuses on the theme "Solidarity Against Exploitation of Women."

The global campaign, launched on Valentines Day in 2012, is aimed at ending violence against women.

The "billion" refers to the statistics of the United Nations that show 1 in 3 women will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. Thus the group aims to "to change the paradigm, demand accountability, justice and systematic change."

OBR has also focused on the issue of justice for all survivors of gender violence, and highlighted the impunity that lives at the inter-

section of poverty, racism, and war amongst others.

Held in the region for the fourth time, OBR Macau organizers Migrante Macau told the Times that it is significant for the group to raise awareness on domestic violence and abuse in Macau.

Sub-themed as "Rise! Disrupt! Connect!" the Filipino migrant group association has invited some 23 churches and migrant organization to join the movement in the territory.

The highlight of the event was the dance number the migrant workers performed. Co-organized by the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union, Filipino and Indonesian migrant workers danced the OBR dance.

Explicating the importance of the event, Migrante Macau chairperson said, "We, should stand against

harassment, abuse, and discrimination amongst women and children."

"We're holding this campaign [in Macau] to also help stop exploitation. I know that together we can overcome what we are fighting for," Emerlina de Lina added, hinting at the exploitation a particular group of domestic workers are facing.

De Lina could not resist but recall how a number of her compatriots are mistreated in the region, particular those who work in domestic households.

"Of course exploitation is still present amongst domestic helpers because there is no standard contract, in which salaries are not equal. [...] Some are underpaid, some are paid quite well," she lamented.

However, the association's chairperson is thankful that there are not many cases of

domestic violence in Macau.

Meanwhile, a member of the association Jovy Zabala stressed that the campaign does not particularly serve the migrants who participated in the event but rather local women – particularly to those who have been abused and maltreated.

"This isn't really for us but it's for the abused women that we care for. We're doing this because we want be a part of the women who are rising against all kinds of abuse," said Zabala.

The global campaign aims to show its local communities what one billion looks

like and shine a light on the rampant impunity and injustice that survivors often face.

"We rise through dance to express joy and community and celebrate the fact that we have not been defeated by this violence. We rise to show we are determined to create a new kind of consciousness – one where violence will be resisted until it is unthinkable," as cited on the OBR organization's website.

Brian Hall, assistant professor of psychology at the University of Macau (UM) – who also currently conducts a research on the region's migrant workers' physical and mental health – hoped that local women's associations would participate in next year's OBR campaign.

Although Hall commended the migrant workers for initiating an annual event that raises awareness in the local community, the professor offered his belief that significant changes could happen if local associations participated.

"It would be great if next year we could come to this event and see a very diverse group of people come together," he told the Times.

Hall explained that migrant associations could

reach out to local associations that focus on understanding domestic violence to be a more effective movement.

Commenting on the overtime hours of migrant workers, Hall noted that the preliminary data collected on such workers shows that there is a significant number of workers being overworked.

"They're working a lot of hours. Some of them are working seven days a week, upwards 60 to 70 hours a week. So the data that we're collecting is actually kind of showing that there is an excess in the number of working hours per week," said the scholar.

"So in terms of that exploitation, the next step is to understand what the negotiation is between the employer and domestic worker," he added.

Yet, the academic researcher argued that exploitation is a subjective determination, citing that there are house helpers who overwork yet are being treated like family by their employers.

"I think some of the subjectivity gets lost [on whether] it's exploitative or not. I think there's a grey zone here," he concluded.

PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS OFFICE

Avoiding public tenders continues beyond Ho

THE city's current top prosecutor, Ip Son Sang, was accused Friday of allegedly granting public service contracts without putting them to public tender. The accusation was made by a witness in the trial of former top prosecutor Ho Chio Meng, who is defending charges of the same nature.

In Friday's session of the trial, witness Man Hio U was called to the stand to testify. She was the head of the Public Prosecutions Office's (MP) Personnel and Finance Department between 2001 and 2010 and now works as a consultant for the MP.

Man accused current top prosecutor Ip of conti-

nuing the malpractice that led to Ho's arrest.

Ho is charged with granting public service contracts to shelf companies run by the former top prosecutor and his connections and of standing to profit from those arrangements. He managed to circumvent the legal requirements for public tenders by slicing large contracts into smaller deals that could be settled without due process.

According to a report by public broadcaster TDM, the witness on Friday claimed that one such contract, authorized by Ip, was worth over MOP2 million, but was split into two parts so that the process of a public

tender was not required.

The said contract was signed in July 2015, when Ip was already the top prosecutor.

As a result, Ip has now been called to testify at the Court of Final Instance, either through physical presence or in a written testimony.

Defending the allegations made, Ho's lawyers claimed on Friday that issues of safety and confidentiality had been the driver behind the decision to split contracts rather than put them to public tender. They said that the decision was not influenced by corruption or the potential for personal gain in either of the Ho or Ip cases.



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FACILITY OPENED ALMOST A YEAR AGO

Lusophone food exhibition center records low direct sales

RENATO MARQUES



White label products in the Portuguese showcase



Wine and other products on display

Renato Marques

To date, over 9,000 visitors (around 800 per month) and 38 groups have visited the Portuguese-Speaking Countries' Food Products Exhibition Centre, which opened its doors on March 31, 2016. Although the center's promoters claim that creating brand awareness is the main target, the center generated low direct sales during its first operational year. According to figures provided to the Times by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), only "12 companies have joined the promotion with the total revenue generated reaching [MOP]180,000."

However, almost a year after opening, the center's promoters made a positive assessment of the facility located at Tap Seac's Glass House, claiming that it has been displaying products from seven Portuguese-speaking countries and has held several related events.

As stated by an IPIM spokesperson in a written reply to the Times, "one of the aims [that led to the establishment of the center] was to provide a central location for local and [the] world's visitors to see and touch

the products, [in a way] to build direct communication between Portuguese Speaking Countries' products' suppliers and buyers worldwide, as well as to open up different marketing and business opportunities."

"Hence, building up the brand awareness is a main objective [of the] recent years' strategy, since we believe that building up brand awareness creates word of mouth as a basic starting point to bring business opportunities to Portuguese Speaking Countries' suppliers," the statement continued.

In addition to the facility, and targeting mainland China markets, IPIM has also set up Portuguese Speaking Countries' products display points in different cities and locations, including IPIM's Liaison or Representative Offices (Chengdu, Shenyang, Fuzhou, Hangzhou, Guangzhou, Wuhan)."

As for the products, it was said that the number of items on display has been growing "from 700 pieces at the opening to over 1,500 pieces [currently]."

As explained, such growth depends on the interest of the product manufacturers or distributors of the seven Portuguese-speaking countries represented

and conditions required to be a part of the program. "All kinds of food and beverage products, ranging from agricultural products, raw material to packaged products are welcome to join," IPIM claims. For the time being, a visit to the center allows the conclusion that there are some countries represented by a wider variety of products while others are underrepresented. The choice of products is also questionable. For example, there are some white label products in the Portuguese showcase.

During a visit to the center, staff told the Times, "for now Portugal and Brazil markets are the most mature ones in terms of export capacity," noting that "more work is being done for the others."

Questioned on the business volume generated through the center, IPIM reaffirmed that the center's main objective is creating brand awareness. Still, the spokesperson said that the center has received some feedback from their exhibitors that the B2B (Business-to-Business) and B2C (Business-to-Consumer) enquiries received have increased since joining the center.

Based on the experience ga-

thered with the operation of the center in Tap Seac Square and also from another similar projects done in coordination with the Cultural Affairs Bureau (a special exhibition for Portuguese Speaking Countries' food products held in the Creative House of Taipa Houses-Museum since October 2016), IPIM expects to "keep on reviewing other worthwhile locations to set up the exhibition points so as to help Portuguese Speaking Countries' food products penetrate further and wider," in 2017. "Also, we will keep inviting different business groups such as buyers and governments, among others, to visit the center as well as those exhibition points," the department added.

It was also noted that IPIM is happy with the results of the special exhibition in Taipa which "welcomed over 20,000 local and worldwide visitors to date."

Moreover, the plans for 2017 also include the organization of more promotional events, like wine tasting activities and others, which, according to IPIM, constitute a "direct way for customers, suppliers, wholesalers and potential suppliers to have opportunities to experience the products," bringing more business matching opportunities to the food suppliers.

As for budgeting, it was said that, "there is no dedicated budget allocated to the Portuguese Speaking Countries' Products Exhibition Centre because it is an offline version of 'a food product distribution center for PSCs,' [included] in the 'Three Centres.' Hence we planned the budget and allocated accordingly as a whole project."

HKZM bridge cost to exceed budget

The Secretary for Transport and Housing Bureau of Hong Kong, Cheung Bing-jeung, announced that the cost of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge might exceed its budget. Last week, during a visit to the bridge, Cheung said that the budget overrun is due to a shortage of human resources and to the nature of project itself. However, the size of the budget excess remains uncertain at this stage. Cheung further stated that the governments of the two SARs and of Zhuhai will negotiate expenditures and cover them according to a specific undisclosed ratio. Cheung expects the main part of the bridge to be completed by the end of December. In turn, the Hong Kong section is also expected to be completed by the end of this year. Cheung also said that the detailed schedule for the bridge's opening will depend on decisions yet to be made by the three governments.

Graffiti on Igreja de São Domingos

The walls of the Igreja de São Domingos, at the side of Travessa do Soriano, was carved with two Chinese words, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) found last week. The incident has been forwarded to the Judiciary Police (PJ) for further investigation. As of Friday, no one has been arrested. The IC claims that repairing the walls will cost MOP5,000. On February 2, a similar case was discovered at the Tap Seac Gallery, which was vandalized with illegal graffiti. According to the IC, repairing the walls will cost approximately MOP20,000. The PJ claimed that whoever was involved in the graffiti, causing the damage, will be charged with aggravated destruction of relics, and can be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison.

Tehran blocked U.S. residents based in HK

In response to Donald Trump's executive order on January 27 to ban entry of citizens from seven Islamic countries to the United States, Iran has denied the visa applications of two U.S. nationals. The U.S. nationals, who are based in Hong Kong, had their visas rejected because of Trump's policy, as clarified by Tehran's top envoy to the HKSAR. According to the envoy, one of those rejected was a Hong Kong "girl" holding a U.S. passport, while the other was a businessman traveling to Iran for work. He added that "reciprocity is the only arm we have in diplomatic relations," according to a South China Morning Post report. However, since the U.S. judiciary has temporarily halted Trump's order, Iranian officials have confirmed that they are resuming the issuing of visas for U.S. citizens. The executive order sought to prevent the entry of citizens of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen to the U.S. for a period of 90 days.

corporate bits

AIR MACAU LAUNCHES NEW OPERATIONS BUILDING



Air Macau has announced the official launch of the Air Macau Operation Building located at Avenida do Aeroporto.

An opening ceremony was held yesterday, signifying the commencement of the operations of the Airline Operation Control Center, Engineering and Maintenance Department and Flight Operations Department in the new operations building.

The event, which featured an eye-drawing ceremony, had more than 60 honorable guests present to witness the opening of the new building, according to a statement from the airlines.

With a total surface area of more than 23,200 square feet, the three-story Air Macau Operation Building consists of meeting rooms and multi-purpose rooms to facilitate better operations.

With the aim of enhancing better communication and improving operations by consolidating operational departments and allowing resources to be shared, the airline said it is committed to assuring safety management, effective coordination and passenger protection.

HK BAND SUPPER MOMENT TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN

Hong Kong band Supper Moment will bring their "Supper Moment 10th Anniversary Concert - Macau" to celebrate with fans at Cotai Arena at The Venetian Macao on March 11.

Supper Moment was formed in 2006 and signed to Hong Kong independent record label Redline Music shortly after, said Sands China in a statement.

The band has topped major charts in Hong Kong three times.

Supper Moment also recorded a song for 2016 Hong Kong movie "Weeds on Fire."

The Hong Kong group has received awards and recognition, including 2015 Jade Solid Gold Best Ten Music with "Best Performance Award - Gold,"



and "Best Band - Silver," and as "Ultimate Group - Gold" and "Ultimate My Favorite Group" by 2015 Ultimate Song Chart Awards.

Following sold-out concerts in Hong Kong, Supper Moment will celebrate 10 years of independent music with local fans at the Cotai Arena.

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

CTM LAUNCHES OFFER FOR BILL PAYMENT AT 7-ELEVEN

CTM has launched a special offer for customers conducting their bill payments at 7-Eleven stores.

From now till July 31, all service charges will be waived and up to 1,200 bonus points will be awarded to each personal account for customers paying their CTM bills at the chain stores.

A MOP100 cellphone purchasing coupon and 4G+ prepaid card will also be offered for any six months' consecutive bill payment at 7-Eleven, according to a press release issued by the telecommunications

company.

CTM joined convenience store chain 7-Eleven to provide payment services back in 2011; customer could pay by cash, presenting CTM bills with payment bar codes or QR codes in CTM Buddy APP at any 7-Eleven store in Macau.

Furthermore, customers were able to redeem gifts through CTM bonus points system in the CTM Buddy APP, through purchasing the latest 4G+ local data plan, and different kinds of health and living products.



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A quarter of the world's GDP is undergoing big experiments

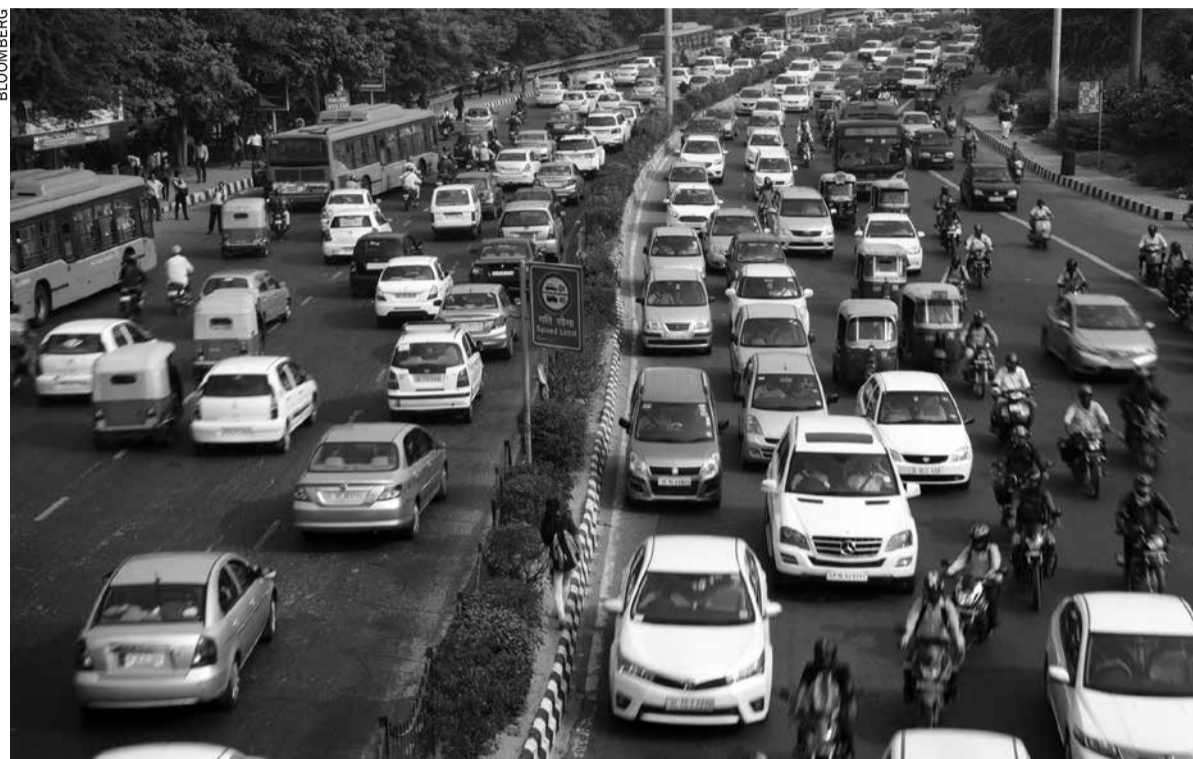
RADICAL. That's probably the single adjective that best covers the disparate economic policies being pursued in Asia's three largest economies. In Japan the government of Shinzo Abe is embarked on the 2.0 iteration of his program to break out of the country's deflationary slump. In China, President Xi Jinping's government is in the midst of a supertankerlike turn toward domestic consumption. In India, well... Modinomics. These three countries hardly make for isolated laboratories for such experiments. Together they're home to 40 percent of the planet's people and churn out 24 percent of the world's gross domestic product. Here's a roundup of how things are shaping up in these important economies:

INDIA Fully 27 percent of the 1.28 billion people who inhabit the world's fastest-growing major economy are under age 15. Many of that 350 million-strong cohort will be joining the country's workforce in the next decade. That's surely not lost on Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he continues to hammer away at the inefficiencies that plague the Indian economy.

Since taking power in 2014, Modi has pursued a set of policies that aims not only to revive the economy, but also to make it resilient to external shocks — and increasingly competitive with the developed world.

Reforms under Modi started off incrementally. In 2014 and 2015 he slowly massaged an economy that was showing signs of grinding to a halt. A first priority was to attract foreign investors to set up manufacturing hubs, and Modi made almost 40 trips overseas during his first two years as prime minister. The result: foreign direct investment commitments of more than USD75 billion in 2014 and 2015. Last year an additional \$33 billion of FDI flowed in. Clearing the way for these businesses to be set up, Modi took a slew of steps to ease entry barriers. Among them were instituting a one-stop shop for clearances, hastening the permit process, and relaxing government restrictions on a host of sectors.

Modi's other major focus has been to manage government finances better and plug leaks in the system that derail efforts to get benefits to the poorest Indians, the 22 percent of the population who fall below the official poverty line. To bring corruption out of the system, the government linked the unique biometric-based ID issued to Indians —



Traffic moves along a highway during morning rush hour in Delhi, India

Aadhaar — with individual bank accounts and mobile phones. It uses this channel to transfer benefits directly, an application of technology that has been among Modi's most successful projects.

Recent reforms have been even bolder. The demonetization of large-denomination rupee bills was meant to tackle tax avoidance and corruption and move India toward becoming a cashless society. In addition, a national goods-and-services tax, which would subsume 14 separate central and state taxes into one uniform structure, aims to broaden the tax base and reduce compliance costs and tax-induced inefficiencies in the transportation of goods across the country. Both initiatives have faced stiff opposition.

The results of Modinomics have been mixed. Economic growth picked up to 7.3 percent in the third quarter, up from 5.8 percent in the first quarter of 2014. Inflation cooled to 3.4 percent, a drop that was aided in part by softer prices of many commodities that India imports. The central bank has cut interest rates by 175 basis points since 2014, making credit cheaper for companies and bringing bond yields down to 6.4 percent.

On the other hand, starting or running businesses in India remains difficult. When the World Bank compiled data on the "ease of doing business" in 190 countries last year, it ranked pretty far down the list: No.130. Since Modi took office, India has moved up 10 places in the ranking, but it's still significantly below regional powerhouse China.

CHINA In the past two years the most populous country on earth has transformed from

being the world's factory to a maturing economy. President Xi's government has focused on steadying China — especially on controlling excessive leverage and the spillover onto foreign exchange, rates, and stocks.

Economic growth, which ran at a rate of more than 10 percent as recently as 2011, has leveled off. In 2016, GDP increased 6.7 percent. China's 13th five-year plan, which covers 2016-20, projected a base GDP growth rate of 6.5 percent.

Investment, once a key driver of China's growth, is dropping. Net monthly foreign direct investment, which had gradually declined after peaking in 2007, turned largely negative in 2016 as an outflow of funds weakened the currency. The yuan depreciated against the dollar by 6.5 percent last year. For most of 2016, the spread between onshore and offshore yuan pricing was remarkably stable and narrow.

Interest rate policies, meanwhile, have been cautious. While some market observers expected China to aggressively lower rates to kick-start the economy, the country's seven-day repo fixing ended the year higher—at 3.24 percent. The reason for applying the brakes: China wants to rein in leverage and asset inflation.

The country's equity market underperformed the world in 2016. The onshore benchmark CSI 300 Index lost 9.3 percent in total return. The offshore MSCI China Index gained 1.2 percent. Both lagged the MSCI World Index, which climbed 8.2 percent. For global investors, the main concerns are slowing growth and yuan-devaluation risk. Although China equity valuations don't look particularly lofty, investors

are underweighting China as they see downside earnings risk.

Faced with limited investment opportunities, dismal returns, and the prospect of a weaker yuan, onshore investors are looking overseas for opportunities. Chinese corporations are ramping up cross-border mergers and acquisitions. Individual investors are snapping up overseas assets including insurance products and real estate.

Beijing wants to promote the internationalization of China's financial markets but remains concerned about the potential impact on stability. The high volatility seen in the onshore equity market in 2014 and 2015 has made regulators more cautious. However, the general trend is toward more opening up of financial markets. A trading link between the Shenzhen and Hong Kong markets opened in November, joining the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect.

So China's agenda this year isn't exactly simple: It has to balance slower growth, interest rates, FX, global fund flows, and its pace of opening up markets. And that's before adding in a couple of wild cards that are out there. (Cough) trade wars (cough), anybody? Interesting times.

JAPAN Prime Minister Abe unveiled Abenomics 2.0 in September 2015. This iteration of his four-year-old reform agenda aims to break the vicious deflationary cycle that has afflicted the Japanese economy for two decades. To do that, it seeks to foster confidence and a sense of security, putting the country back on track to nominal GDP of 600 trillion yen (\$5.2 trillion) by 2020. That would require growth

of 3 percent a year. In the third quarter, Japan's economy grew at an annualized pace of 1.3 percent.

Despite unprecedented stimulus from the Bank of Japan aimed at supporting consumer confidence, the country isn't exactly looking up. Consider manufacturing. The diffusion index shows only a slow recovery in the sector, particularly among the small and medium-size enterprises that account for the largest part of Japanese employment.

In addition to boosting short-term economic activity, Abenomics seeks to finance long-term goals such as fixing pension systems and improving social security. Part of that involves raising taxes to trim Japan's mountain of debt. Consumption taxes and individual income taxes account for the largest portions of the nation's revenue, each representing almost 30 percent. Corporate taxes account for about 20 percent—relatively high compared with peer countries. Japan is easing corporate taxes while keeping income taxes untouched. Thus, without a substantial increase in economic activity, a consumption tax hike would be crucial to make up lost revenue.

However, the government last year deferred raising the consumption tax until 2019, taking into account the fragile economy and uncertain global environment in the first half of 2016. A challenge for Abe now is how to maintain the positive momentum until the introduction of the new consumption tax rate. In the next Party Convention, scheduled for March, the Liberal Democratic Party will likely approve the extension of its presidency tenure to nine years from six, enabling Abe to remain as leader of Japan until September 2021. Even given that time frame, Abe's task may be to provide "floors" to the economy, rather than pursuing the remarkable economic growth that he advocates — at least until the consumption tax rate hike.

The BOJ will likely continue to pay the costs of such floors. The central bank already holds almost 40 percent of Japanese government bonds. Through its buying of exchange-traded funds, the BOJ will become the largest shareholder of 25 percent of the companies in the Nikkei 225 Index by the end of this year, according to a Bloomberg estimate.

The biggest risk for the government and the central bank is yen appreciation. The "Trump shock" weakened the yen by almost 10 percent from the time of the U.S. election through the end of 2016. That pushed Japan's stock indexes into positive territory for the year — and helped Abenomics.

Abe may need more such luck. Saxena is a market specialist at Bloomberg in Mumbai. Li and Giang are market specialists in Shanghai. Uchida is a market specialist in Tokyo. **Bloomberg**

IN interviews after his election win, Donald Trump wondered why he shouldn't use the One-China policy as a bargaining chip with Beijing to get better trade terms.

Three weeks into his presidency, the threat to upend U.S. policy on Taiwan - a breakaway province in China's eyes - is off the table. The White House said Trump agreed in a phone call last week with China's President Xi Jinping to respect the policy, which has been the basis of ties since the 1970s.

The move instantly reduces tensions for a simple reason: Taiwan is the biggest flash point that could spark a military conflict between the world's largest economies, and suck in U.S. allies in the region. Now, the focus turns to avoiding a trade war that could deal a blow to global growth.

"It was in no one's interests to see conflict between China and the U.S.," said Michael Bell, global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management. "This was the one issue that was really difficult for China. If that has been put to one side, then they can negotiate in a much more level-headed way."

Trump drops Taiwan gambit, a relief for Xi and Asia

The One-China policy acknowledges that China and Taiwan are part of the same country. China considers the island a province and has made recognition of the policy the foundation for diplomatic ties with the U.S. and all other countries. The U.S. continues to sell weapons to Taiwan and is obligated to defend the island under a 1979 law.

The White House statement said Trump agreed to respect the policy at the request of Xi during the call, which it described as "lengthy" and "extremely cordial." In turn, Xi called for enhanced cooperation on a myriad of issues, from trade to investment to military affairs.

"Facing an extremely complicated global situation and rising challenges, there's a greater need for continuing to enhance coo-

peration between China and the U.S.," Xi said, according to state broadcaster China Central Television.

Signs of a detente had emerged recently. In Tokyo last week, Defense Secretary James Mattis said he didn't see any need for "dramatic military moves" in the South China Sea, and urged a diplomatic solution. Still, in China's eyes, Trump's move to back down on the One-China policy wasn't a win because Taiwan was never negotiable in the first place.

"It is tempting to say Beijing won Round One, but that would be misleading," said Steve Tsang, director of SOAS China Institute, University of London. "I should think that Xi is pleased with the outcome, but is still waiting to see what Trump really wants."

Bloomberg



People walk in Taipei, Taiwan

Hong Kong police arrest man after 18 injured in subway fire



Passengers receive medical treatment from firefighters in Tsim Sha Tsui subway station

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG Kong authorities have arrested a man for arson after a fire broke out in a subway car during rush hour Friday in a busy tourist district, injuring 18 people, two of them critically.

Police said there was no evidence to indicate the fire was a terror attack. Police District Commander Kwok Pak-chung said the 60-year-old man told rescuers as he was being taken to a hospital that he was the one who set the fire, and that he had done so for an unspecified personal reason.

"He was incoherent," Kwok said, adding that

police believe he used a flammable liquid.

Videos circulating on social media showed a chaotic scene of a fire inside the subway car and a man lying on the platform as people frantically used clothing to try to put out flames on his pants.

■ **Videos circulating online showed a chaotic scene of a fire inside the subway car**

In addition to the two in critical condition, six others were in serious condition, and 10 were stable, police said. The injured included seven males and 11 females, but the information provided by the government did not indicate whether it included the suspect.

Hundreds of police and firefighters responded at 7:14 p.m. to the fire, which shut down the busy Tsim Sha Tsui station in downtown Kowloon.

Such incidents are rare in Hong Kong, a wealthy Asian financial center that has a reputation for being safe and has relatively little violent crime. **AP**

ENVIRONMENT

Beijing widens wind power lead with another 23 GW

CHINA installed almost three times more wind power than the U.S. last year, continuing its clean-energy investment blitz to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase air quality.

China led new global wind-power installations with 23.3 gigawatts, compared with 8.2 gigawatts in second-place U.S., according to a report published Friday by the Global Wind Energy Council. About 54.6 gigawatts of new turbines were installed globally, raising total capacity to about 487 gigawatts worldwide.

Even as China races ahead of other countries in terms of installed wind capacity, its turbines aren't producing electricity at the same rate because of inadequate transmission infrastructure. Even with more than double the installed capacity as the U.S., China generated only 241 terawatt-hours of wind power compared with 224 terawatt-hours, according to data from China's National Energy Administration and the U.S. Energy Information Administration showing generation over 12-months ending in the fourth quarter.

"Chinese electricity demand growth is slackening, and the grid is unable to handle the volume of new wind capacity additions; although we expect the market to pick



up again in 2017," said Steve Sawyer, GWEC secretary general, in the statement. "Wind power continues to grow in double digits, but we can't expect the industry to set a new record every single year."

China saw the amount of idled wind power increase 47 percent in 2016 from a year earlier, according to the data from the NEA. About 17 percent of wind turbines in China weren't generating electricity last year.

China raised total installed capacity to 169 gigawatts, compared with 82 gigawatts in the U.S. They were followed by Germany, with 50 gigawatts, and India, with 29 gigawatts, as the world's largest wind markets. **Bloomberg**

Trapped China cash breathes life into HK yuan banking

Alfred Liu, Molly Wei

BANKS in Hong Kong are finding a new source of revenue in helping multinational companies deal with a growing headache: how to cope with tightening restrictions on transferring profits and dividends out of China.

As Beijing clamped down on outflows that threatened to destabilize its currency, companies are suddenly turning to lenders in Hong Kong to hedge their currency risks, bolster the yield on money trapped inside China and for new loans, according to bankers and analysts.

"Our dialogue with clients now is all about how to manage their trapped cash," said Carmen Ling, who oversees Standard Chartered Plc's global yuan business. "More multinationals are finding it difficult to move their money out of China."

The swelling pile of cash trapped in China is breathing life into Hong Kong's yuan banking business, which had been languishing since the mainland government accelerated its attempts to devalue the Chinese currency starting in August 2015. China-generated profits of foreign industrial companies, including those based in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, rose 12 percent last year to a combined 1.74 trillion yuan (USD253 billion), according to the statistics bureau.

While predominantly targeted at speculative outflows, China's clampdown has also caught up foreign firms. They are now required to provide materials including tax documents, financial statements and board resolutions to banks



if they plan to remit more than \$50,000 in profits from direct investments in China back to their countries, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said last month.

In one sign of the disruption caused by the new rules, the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said it expressed concerns at a January meeting with Chinese officials about the difficulty some companies were facing moving their profits out of the country. SAFE head Pan Gongsheng reassured the gathering that China doesn't restrict the remittance of profits by foreign companies and will support any outbound investment that complies with the rules, the regulator said in a statement after meeting the EU chamber.

SAFE didn't immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

With most analysts predicting further weakness in the yuan,

which fell 6.5 percent against the dollar last year, companies are moving to hedge their exposure. While there aren't any estimates for the value of hedging services, trading in over-the-counter currency options in the offshore yuan against the dollar have surged - a sign of rising demand for hedging tools, Hong Kong's stock exchange says. The average global daily turnover of options tied to the dollar and offshore yuan soared to \$18 billion last year from \$30 million in 2010, data provided by the bourse show.

Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. bought Australian dollars against the yuan to hedge the expected proceeds from the sale of its stake in Shanghai Rural Commercial Bank Co., a deal valued at AUD1.84 billion (\$1.4 billion), spokesman Stephen Ries said in early January. ANZ has no concerns about its ability to access the proceeds of the sale,

Ries added.

"Client demand for RMB hedging and structured deposits is increasing, and this is where foreign banks are much more active," said Kun Shan, Shanghai-based head of local market strategy at BNP Paribas (China) Ltd., using an abbreviation for the renminbi.

Jonathan Koh, a Singapore-based analyst at UOB-Kay Hian Holdings Ltd., said increased demand for hedging will provide "a good future source of income for the banks." Still, the impact on earnings so far has been limited, he said.

Companies are also turning to the banks for services that help them generate higher returns on trapped yuan, Standard Chartered's Ling said. One popular offering is structured deposits, which typically involve an investment component such as equities. Such products offer higher potential yields than traditional deposits while protecting the principal, ac-

ording to the bank.

Some companies, especially those with large operations in China, are also looking to banks or bond markets to ease any cash-flow problems stemming from having money stuck in the mainland, said Ryan Lam, Hong Kong-based head of research at Shanghai Commercial Bank Ltd. That helps explain why outstanding loans at banks in Hong Kong rose 6.5 percent in 2016, almost double the previous year's pace, he said.

More multinationals are finding it difficult to move their money out of China.

CARMEN LING
STANDARD CHARTERED

Companies' changing needs are helping banks cushion the declining profitability of their bread-and-butter yuan business. The net interest margin on offshore yuan lending in Hong Kong has dropped to about 1.6 percent from more than 2 percent, according to Jack Yang, the head of yuan business at BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Ltd.'s economics and strategic planning department.

The mainland government's "controls make money outflows not as easy, but people will look into Hong Kong, Singapore and other places" for financing, said Christine Ip, the Hong Kong-based Greater China chief executive officer at Singapore's United Overseas Bank Ltd. "When one place is tightened, we offer them another jurisdiction as a solution." **Bloomberg**

Pentagon says US, Chinese air encounter unintentional

Gillian Wong, Beijing

THE Pentagon said a close encounter between a Chinese early warning aircraft and a U.S. Navy patrol plane over the South China Sea appeared to be unintentional and both pilots maintained professional radio contact, in the first such incident known to have taken place under President Donald Trump's administration.

A Chinese KJ-200 flew within 305 meters of a U.S. Navy P-3C in international airspace over Scarborough Shoal near the Philippines last week, Pentagon spokesman Capt. Jeff Davis told reporters in Washing-

ton.

He said the Chinese aircraft "crossed the nose" of the P-3, forcing it to make an immediate turn.

"We don't see any evidence that it was intentional," he said, adding that the incident was a "one-off." He said both pilots were in "normal radio contact" and their communication "professional."

The Chinese Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

However, the website of the Communist Party newspaper Global Times quoted an unidentified ministry official as saying that the Chinese pilot had

responded in a "legal and professional manner."

"We hope the U.S. side will focus on the relationship between the two countries and two militaries in their entirety, adopt concrete measures and eliminate the root causes of accidental incidents between the two countries on sea and in the air," the unidentified official was quoted as saying.

Philippine Defense Department spokesman Arsenio Andolong also expressed concern because the incident happened near Scarborough Shoal, which is located within the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone but claimed by China, which seized it in

2012 after a tense standoff with Philippine vessels.

"We're worried of possible miscalculation and it's good to know that nothing untoward happened," Andolong said by telephone. If such foreign aircraft venture into Philippine airspace, "we deserved to be told out of courtesy."

Such incidents have occurred occasionally over and within the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety. Although China says it respects freedom of navigation in the strategically vital area, it objects to U.S. military activities, especially the collection of signals intelligence by U.S. craft



A KJ-200 airborne early warning and control plane (left), a Y-8J radar plane (center) and a Y-9JB radar plane (right) fly in formation

operating near the coast of its southern island province of Hainan, home to several military installations.

In recent years, the sides have signed a pair of agreements aimed at preventing such encounters from sparking an international

crisis, as happened in April 2001 when a Chinese jet fighter collided with a U.S. surveillance plane over the South China Sea, leading to the death of the Chinese pilot and China's detention of the 24 U.S. crew members for 10 days. **AP**

INDIA

7 killed in Kashmir gun battle



An Indian paramilitary soldier adjusts the bullet proof vest of his colleague near the site of gun battle in Bakura

FOUR suspected rebels, two Indian army soldiers and a civilian have been killed in a fierce gunbattle in Indian-controlled Kashmir, officials said yesterday.

The fighting began after police and soldiers cordoned off the southern village of Frisal overnight following a tip that militants were hiding in a house, said police Inspector-General Syed Javaid Mujtaba

Gillani.

He said the militants sprayed automatic gunfire to break the cordon, leading to an exchange of gunfire with police and soldiers that killed four militants and two soldiers.

The Indian army said three soldiers were injured. According to residents, government forces blasted the house with explosives.

Police also recovered the body of a civilian, reportedly the young son of the house owner, from the debris.

As the fighting raged, clashes erupted between government forces and neighboring villagers at several localities who tried to march to Frisal in solidarity with militants. Troops fired bullets, shotgun pellets and tear gas canisters to stop the rock-throwing protesters.

At least 30 civilians were injured in the clashes.

Militants fighting against Indian rule have wide support among Kashmir's Muslims, who often protest in the streets during security operations to help militants escape.

Kashmir is divided between nuclear rivals India and Pakistan. Both countries claim the disputed territory in its entirety.

Rebels have been fighting against Indian rule since 1989. More than 68,000 people have been killed in the uprising and Indian military crackdown. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Investigators to call Samsung heir again

SOUTH Korean prosecutors investigating the corruption scandal involving impeached President Park Geun-hye said yesterday that they plan to summon Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong again as they look into bribery allegations between Park and the country's largest business group.

Lee, the billionaire vice chairman of technology giant Samsung Electronics, is due to be summoned along with two other group officials this morning, said Lee Kyu-chul, the spokesman of the prosecution team.

Investigators had sought to arrest Lee when they summoned him last month, but a court ruled there wasn't enough evidence to justify Lee's arrest at that point.

Investigators will question Lee over new findings they made in the past few weeks and may consider requesting an arrest warrant for him again, said the prosecution spokesman. The investigators also want to question Park in person, but have yet to agree with her office on how and when to do it.

On Friday, prosecutors filed a lawsuit against the presidential Blue House to try to force Park's aides to stop blocking searches of her compound. They tried to enter the Blue



Lee Jae-yong

House with a court-issued warrant to collect evidence earlier this month, but Park's aides turned them away, citing a law that can block searches of sites containing state secrets.

Samsung is suspected of providing tens of millions of dollars in money and favors to Park and her jailed friend Choi Soon-sil in exchange for government support of a controversial merger deal between two Samsung affiliates in 2015. The merger helped Lee promote a father-to-son transfer of leadership and wealth at the group.

Moon Hyung-pyo, the country's former health minister, has been indicted on charges that he pressured the National Pension Service to support the merger even though the fund's stake in one of the companies lost an estimated hundreds of millions of dollars in value. **AP**

MYANMAR

Suu Kyi urges armed ethnic groups to sign cease-fire

MYANMAR leader Aung San Suu Kyi called on all armed ethnic groups to sign a cease-fire agreement during a speech yesterday in the same place where her father, an independence hero, signed a peace deal 70 years ago.

Speaking during annual Union Day celebrations, Suu Kyi said ethnic groups can still join the movement for peace.

"I want to ask those ethnic groups who haven't signed the nationwide cease-fire to trust yourself and sign it and please participate in our 21st Century Panglong Conference," Suu Kyi said.

Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party promised that peace would be the top priority when she came to power a year



ago. But she has come under fire for ignoring the plight of the oppressed Rohingya Muslims and failing to stop atrocities against other ethnic minorities.

Skirmishes, particularly in the northern zones where Kachin insurgents are fighting the army, have displaced more than 100,000 civilians since 2011 alone.

With military offensives on the rise, ethnic groups have recently expressed that their hopes for Suu Kyi leading the peace process are fading.

Union Day marks the

original Panglong agreement, brokered by Suu Kyi's father, Gen. Aung San. He, along with ethnic Shan, Kachin and Chin leaders, signed the deal to grant ethnic minorities autonomy and the right to secede if they worked with the federal government to break away from Britain.

But Aung San was assassinated five months after the agreement was reached and the deal fell apart. Since then, ethnic groups have accused successive, mostly military governments of failing to honor the 1947 pact. **AP**

MONGOLIA

Parliament votes to nationalize Erdenet copper mine



Dump trucks operate in an open pit at the Oyu Tolgoi copper-gold mine

Michael Kohn

MONGOLIA'S parliament approved a resolution to nationalize copper, gold and iron-ore assets in the country following a probe that found a USD400 million transaction with a closely held company was illegal.

Parliament's resolution invalidates a previous government decision that had authorized the sale of 49 percent stakes in both Erdenet Mining Corp. and Mongolrostsvetmet LLC to Mongolian Copper Corp. The resolution was approved by a vote of 49 in favor to 12 against, according to a broadcast carried on Bloomberg TV Mongolia.

Former Prime Minister Saikhanbileg Chimed announced the sales on the eve of elections in June, declaring the purchases from Russia's state-controlled Rostec a victory for a country that wanted to put greater control of its natural resources in the hands of Mongolians. Still, Saikhanbileg's Democratic Party lost the election to the Mongolian People's Party.

The purchases of the 49 percent holdings in the two mining stakes by Mongolian Copper used illegal loans and violated the constitution, according to the probe conducted by a parliamentary working group. Trade & Development Bank of Mongolia LLC spearheaded fi-

nancing for the deal.

"It appears that there were various legal, governance and transparency issues surrounding the transaction," Dale Choi, head of Mongolia Metals & Mining, said in an e-mail. "Moreover, it seems that public funding was used for private buyout and the government of Mongolia issued international bonds at an expensive 11 percent to supply FX for the transaction. While the privatization is desirable, the way it was done appears questionable and the rule of law should be applied."

TDBM Chief Executive Officer Orkhon Onon said the loans weren't illegal and didn't violate banking regulations, according to an e-mailed reply to queries Jan. 30.

The Erdenet Mining and Mongolrostsvetmet joint ventures were set up by the former Soviet Union and Mongolia in the 1970s. Erdenet is focused on copper, while Mongolrostsvetmet mines metals, including gold and iron ore. **Bloomberg**

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

North Korea reportedly test fires missile, challenging US

NORTH Korea reportedly fired a ballistic missile early yesterday in what would be its first such test of the year and an implicit challenge to President Donald Trump, who stood with the Japanese leader as Shinzo Abe called the move "absolutely intolerable."

There was no immediate confirmation from the North, which had recently warned it is ready to test its first intercontinental ballistic missile. The U.S. Strategic Command said it detected and tracked what it assessed to be a medium- or intermediate-range ballistic missile.

North Korean media are often slow to announce such launches, if they announce them at all. As of Sunday afternoon, there had been no official announcement and most North Koreans went about their day with no inkling that the launch was major international news.

The reports came as Trump was hosting Abe and just days before the North is to mark the birthday of leader Kim Jong Un's late father, Kim Jong Il.

Appearing with Trump at a news conference at the president's south Florida estate, Abe condemned the missile launch as "absolutely intolerable." Trump followed Abe with even fewer words, saying in part: "I



A PAC-3 Patriot missile unit is deployed by the Japan Self-Defense Force against the North Korea's rocket launch at the Defense Ministry in Tokyo

just want everybody to understand and fully know that the United States of America stands behind Japan, its great ally, 100 percent."

Abe read a brief statement in which he called on the North to comply fully with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. He said Trump has assured him of U.S. support and that Trump's presence showed the president's determination and commitment.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement the mis-

sile was fired from around Banghyon, North Pyongan Province, which is where South Korean officials have said the North test launched its powerful midrange Musudan missile on Oct. 15 and 20.

The military in Seoul said that the missile flew about 500 kilometers. But Yonhap reported that while determinations are still being made, it was not believed to be an ICBM.

The missile splashed down into the sea between the Korean Pe-

ninsula and Japan, according to the U.S. Strategic Command. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters the missile did not hit Japanese territorial seas. The North conducted two nuclear tests and a slew of rocket launches last year in continued efforts to expand its nuclear weapons and missile programs. Kim Jong Un said in his New Year's address that the country has reached the final stages of readiness to test an ICBM, which would be a major step forward in its efforts to build a credible nuclear threat to the United States.

Though Pyongyang has been relatively quiet about the transfer of power to the Trump administration, its state media has repeatedly called for Washington to abandon its "hostile policy" and vowed to continue its nuclear and missile development programs until the U.S. changes its diplomatic approach.

Just days ago, it also reaffirmed its plan to conduct more space launches, which it staunchly defends but which have been criti-

cized because they involve dual use technology that can be transferred to improve missiles.

Kim Dong-yeop, an analyst at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies in Seoul, speculated the missile could be a Musudan or a similar rocket designed to test engines for an intercontinental ballistic missile that could hit the U.S. mainland. Analysts are divided, however, over how close the North is to having a reliable long-range rocket that could be coupled with a nuclear warhead capable of striking U.S. targets.

South Korea's Acting President and Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn said that his country will punish North Korea for the missile launch. According to the Foreign Ministry, South Korea will continue to work with allies including the United States, Japan and the European Union to ensure a thorough implementation of sanctions against the North and make the country realize that it will "never be able to survive" without discarding all of its nuclear and missile programs. **AP**

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IKEA General Manager Hong Kong and Macau

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MGM, Macau
12.30: Registration
1 pm: Lunch
1.20 pm: Presentation by Patrick Lindvall
1.45: Q&A Session
2 pm: Close

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Nancy Benac, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump knows a guy. No matter what issue Trump is addressing, he seems either to know somebody with a relevant personal experience or he's got a firsthand tale to recount.

When he met airline CEOs last week, Trump said his own pilot — “who's a real expert” — had told him about problems with obsolete equipment.

When he met business and economic experts a week earlier, Trump cited the difficulties his friends in business were having borrowing money from banks as he spoke about the need to reduce financial regulations.

When he approvingly sized up Britain's vote to leave the European Union, Trump said last month that he'd had a “very bad experience” in his own businesses when dealing with the EU bureaucracy.

“Getting the approvals from Europe,” he said, “was very, very tough.”

Call him the anecdotal president: For good or ill, Trump processes policy proposals through his own personal frame of reference.

“It's all about him,” says Jeff Shesol, who wrote speeches for President Bill Clinton. “His frame for Europe, his frame for the airlines, his frame for the banking system... is himself.”

It's not necessarily a bad thing to draw on real-world experiences in developing or justifying policy.

Plenty of presidents and politicians have recognized the value of anecdotal storytelling in advancing their agendas.

President Barack Obama offered his own improbable life story as a metaphor for the wide-open possibilities available to all Americans. And he frequently drew on the concerns that came up in the 10 letters a day that he read from people who wrote to the White House.

Clinton was famous for sketching his encounters with ordi-

No matter the issue, Trump knows a guy



nary Americans.

President Lyndon Johnson drew on his early experiences teaching disadvantaged Mexican-Americans in stressing the importance of education and economic opportunity for all Americans.

“I think it was then that I made up my mind that this nation could never rest while the door to knowledge remained closed to any American,” Johnson said after signing the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“Great Communicator” Ronald Reagan related the story of a woman who falsely collected welfare payments — then parlayed it into a stereotype of “welfare queens” cheating the system.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a University of Pennsylvania professor specializing in political communication, says that in his first three weeks in office, Trump has

surpassed even Reagan in his reliance on the use of “argument by anecdote.”

“Given the extemporaneous nature of Trump's presidency,” she says, “we can reasonably assume that these individual moments are playing a more important role for him” in developing policy than they did for presidents past.

The risk, she adds, is that an overreliance on personal experiences “can lead to the assumption that something is typical when it's atypical.”

With Trump, it's hard to tell exactly what goes into his policymaking. But the billionaire businessman-turned-politician cites experiences from his own, very rarefied world that wouldn't necessarily track those of ordinary Americans.

When he complained about onerous EU regulations, Trump appear-

ed to be alluding to his failure to get approval for a sea wall at the Trump Organization's golf resort in Ireland.

When he talked during the campaign about crumbling airport infrastructure, he mentioned the potholes at New York's LaGuardia Airport — where Trump would have landed in his gilded private jet.

When he talked about the dangers of nuclear weaponry during

the campaign, he would often invoke the expertise of his “brilliant” late Uncle John, a scientist at MIT.

In some cases, Trump may be drawing lessons from somewhat scrambled tales.

In calling for an investigation into alleged wide-scale voter fraud, for example, Trump has privately related a story about a pro golfer who either told Trump he had trouble voting himself or who had a friend who wasn't allowed to vote even as others who somehow looked like they should be eligible to vote cast ballots, according to The New York Times.

Golfer Bernard Langer, a German citizen who is not eligible to vote in the U.S., later issued a statement to Golf Digest saying that elements of the story had gotten lost in translation. Langer said he'd told a friend the story of someone who couldn't vote, and that tale had made its way to someone with ties to the White House and “from there, this was misconstrued.”

As for Trump's difficulties with the EU, he did run into regulatory problems with the proposed sea wall at his Irish golf course, but he also encountered local opposition to that project.

In an interview in December, Trump said he'd also sought approval for a “massive, beautiful expansion” of the course but had dropped the idea after getting the OK from Ireland because it would have taken years to get EU clearance. However, there's no record of him seeking approval for such an expansion. **AP**

GOLF DIPLOMACY

TRUMP AND Abe, both frequent golfers, left Mar-a-Lago early Saturday morning and headed north to one of Trump's golf courses in Jupiter, Florida. Reporters and photographers from both countries did not catch a glimpse of the

pair as they played. But Trump later posted a photo of them giving each other a high-five on the golf course and tweeted, “Having a great time hosting Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the United States!”

Swiss reject tax reform, threatening country's competitive edge

Catherine Bosley

SWITZERLAND shot down the government's plan to reform corporate taxation, a decision that risks hurting its appeal as a place for multinational companies.

After opponents said the reform was a series of “complicated tax tricks,” voters opposed it by 60 percent to 40 percent, according to projections on broadcaster SRF. Polls had suggested the electorate was evenly split on the measure, which would

have given companies reductions for income from patents and research and development activities. Official results will be published today [Macau time].

Due to international pressure, Switzerland must give up special breaks for multinationals, which generate billions in tax revenue and employ some 150,000 people in the country of 8 million. To stay attractive, the plan included cantons cutting the rates they charge companies across the board.

Voters feared this would have strained the public purse and increased the burden on individual taxpayers.

“We've succeeded in showing citizens what negative effects this reform would've had - we calculated that it would have generated an additional tax burden of 1,000 francs per households and cuts to public services, such as schools,” said Vania Alleva, president of trade union Unia. The result was a “clear sign” to lawmakers that such pro-

posals needed a “social balance,” she said.

The plebiscite is the latest decision that risks damaging the economy in Switzerland, which is one of the world's most affluent countries and regularly tops the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index. Following an international crackdown on banking secrecy, stringent limits on executive pay were introduced in 2013 and, the following year, a referendum on immigration quotas threatened to undermine ties

with the European Union. Multinationals generated around 12 percent of economic output and 9 percent of employment in 2015, according to consultancy BAK Basel.

Opponents of the reform, notably the Social Democrats, the second-biggest party in parliament, argued the reform would mean more than 2.7 billion francs (USD2.7 billion) in lost tax revenue. While conceding it would pressure budgets, proponents of the reform, notably businesses and the government, had argued it was the least costly option to keep Switzerland internationally competitive.

Because the rates for domestically oriented companies can be as high as

24.2 percent, the ‘No’ vote will force the government to figure out a new set of tax measures to prevent companies from leaving as well as a new government savings program, according to Finance Minister Ueli Maurer. Yet that process could take years, and other countries are considering adjusting their corporate tax regimes to boost their appeal.

“It's not good news and it means the uncertainty will continue for the multinationals present in Switzerland,” said Charles Lassauce, member of the board of directors of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, which was in favor of the reform. “Parliament will have to come up with a new project.” **Bloomberg**

Turkish president says troops advancing in northern Syria



Fighters holding positions in the countryside around the northern Syrian town of al-Bab

Bassem Mroue, Beirut

TURKEY'S president says his troops and allied Syrian fighters have reached the heart of the Islamic State stronghold of al-Bab in northern Syria and will eventually march on the extremists' de facto capital, Raqqa.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan said IS fighters have begun deserting al-Bab, which has been under attack for weeks. But

the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists inside Syria, says Turkish troops have yet to enter the town's center, with the fighting still concentrated on its outskirts.

The Turkish-backed opposition forces advancing from the north are racing to seize al-Bab before Syrian government forces reach the town from the south. The Turkish-

backed forces are still a long way from Raqqa, which is largely surrounded by U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces.

Last week, the Kurdish-led Syria Democratic Forces launched a new phase in its Raqqa offensive, aiming to capture towns and villages east of Raqqa. The U.S.-led coalition has targeted several bridges across the Euphrates River in support of the operation.

Turkey is leading Syrian

opposition forces in a broad operation called "Euphrates Shield" against both IS and the SDF. Ankara views the Kurdish group that dominates the SDF as a terrorist organization because of its links to Kurdish insurgents in Turkey.

The Turkish-backed forces are still a long way from Raqqa

"After al-Bab is about to be over, the period following that will be Manbij and Raqqa," Erdogan said, referring to the northern town of Man-

bij, which was captured by the SDF last year after weeks of deadly fighting with IS.

"Right now al-Bab, whether by us or by the Free Syrian Army, is now besieged on all four sides and our forces along with the Free Syrian Army have entered the center," he said.

The Observatory reported intense clashes and Turkish airstrikes and shelling on the northern, western and southern edges of the town, which is 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of the Turkish border.

In Lebanon, the leader of the militant Hezbollah group, which is fighting alongside President Bashar Assad's forces, said it supports a Dec. 30 cease-fire between the government and the opposition that was brokered by Turkey and Russia.

"We are with every measure that stops the shedding of blood and paves the way for a political solution" in Syria, Hassan Nasrallah said in a speech aired in Beirut. He was responding to claims by opposition media that Hezbollah opposes the truce. **AP**

'FRIENDLY FIRE' KILLS 3 TURKISH SOLDIERS IN SYRIA

A **RUSSIAN** warplane yesterday accidentally hit a building in northern Syria with Turkish soldiers inside, killing at least three troops and wounding 11, Turkey's military said. Russia immediately apologized for the bombing near

the Islamic State-held town of al-Bab, which came amid warming ties between Turkey and Russia after they were strained by Turkey's downing of a Russian jet near the border with Syria two years ago.

SPAIN

Rajoy re-elected as Popular Party leader

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

SPANISH Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy was re-elected as the leader of the conservative Popular Party for a fourth term, sweeping 95 percent of the vote at a party congress in Madrid.

"It's an honor because I have spent all my life in this party," the 61-year-old Rajoy said Saturday night as he thanked party members. He ran unopposed.

Hours later yesterday, his political rival Pablo Iglesias likewise won a vote to maintain his leadership of the left-wing Podemos ("We Can") party at its congress in the Spanish capital. The pony-tailed former political science professor fended off a challenge by the party's No. 2 leader, Inigo Errejón, then called



Mariano Rajoy

for party "unity and humility."

"This is a party of the 21st century that advances alongside the people, while other parties are entrenched in the institutions," Iglesias said in a fiery speech.

Podemos erupted onto the political scene three years ago, harnessing the widespread discontent caused by the hard eco-

nomical times and major corruption cases involving Spain's traditional political parties. It became the third largest political force in the Spanish parliament last year.

Rajoy maintained most of the Popular Party's leadership, including Maria Dolores de Cospedal, Spain's minister of defense, as the party's second-in-command.

Rajoy has been Spanish prime minister since 2011, when he took power during a severe economic recession. He is credited with helping Spain avoid an international bailout. He has led a minority government since October when he won support from other parties to end 10 months of deadlock following two indecisive elections.

"Spain today doesn't re-

semble the Spain when we took charge, not in growth, general welfare, employment, and, above all, confidence," Rajoy said in a speech yesterday to close the party congress. "Some might think that our job is now easier because Spain is recovering, but it is also true that our [party's] strength has weakened. We don't have the majority. We must talk" with other parties in

parliament.

Rajoy also addressed efforts by the regional government of Catalonia to secede from the rest of the Spain, which is the biggest challenge facing his government besides his party's ongoing corruption scandals.

"We are not going to accept a referendum [on independence] that seeks to tear Spain apart," Rajoy said. **AP**



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	Grade 4 to 12	18 March 1pm-4pm

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what's ON



CONCERT

TIME: 8pm

DATE: February 13-14, 2017

VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

LANGUAGE: Mandarin

ENQUIRIES: (853) (853) 2856 8832

BJORN AGAIN – THE ULTIMATE ABBA

EXPERIENCE

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: The Venetian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP380, MOP480

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

'LUI CHUN KWONG THE DISTANT LINE'

EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 26, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery / Av. Conselheiro

Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95, Macao

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-6pm daily, (Except Thursdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 21, 2017

VENUE: Macau Science Centre, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre MOP25;

Planetarium MOP60-80

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

THE STAMP FESTIVAL

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (no admission after 5pm, closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: April 7, 2017

VENUE: Communication Museum of Macao / Estrada D. Maria II, No. 7

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

Offbeat

LITHUANIAN TOURISM BROUHAHA AFTER PHOTOS USED FROM ELSEWHERE

The head of Lithuania's state tourism agency has resigned after admitting her agency promoted the Baltic country in an international social media campaign by using landscape photos taken in other countries.

Jurgita Kazlauskienė resigned Friday after local media had blasted the State Tourism Department for its campaign "Real is Beautiful" for using stock images from Nordic and eastern European countries.

Kazlauskienė said she stepped down so "people who work here don't become objects of ongoing attacks."

When the 140,000-euro (\$149,000) campaign was launched in October, it sparked dozens of ironic entries on social media.

Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis posted a tongue-in-the-cheek Facebook comment on Thursday. Next to a photo of the European Union's headquarters in Brussels he wrote "we are moving government to this building tomorrow. Real is beautiful."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Criminal Minds S.8
17:50	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
18:40	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sport
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

9 FEB -13 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

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO

ROOM 2

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

Director: Chad Stahelski

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Ian McShane, Ruby Rose

Language: English (Chinese)



LA LA LAND

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone

Language: English

Duration: 128min

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Chris McKay

Starring: Jenny Slate, Will Arnett, Ralph Fiennes

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 104min

H2 HZ, I LOVE YOU

ROOM 3

9:30pm

Director: Wei Te-Sheng

Starring: Van Fan, Chic Tanaka, Min-Hsiung

Language: Mandarin (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



1991 US BOMBERS STRIKE CIVILIANS IN BAGHDAD

Hundreds of Iraqi civilians have been killed and wounded in Baghdad by American bombers.

Iraqi foreign minister Tariq Aziz said: "This was a criminal, pre-meditated, planned attack against civilians."

Local reports say two laser-guided precision bombs hit an air-raid shelter in the middle class district of Amiriya, five miles from the centre of the Iraqi capital. So far 235 bodies have been recovered, 12 hours after the attacks at 0445 GMT and 0450 GMT.

Continuing fires and intense heat in the bunker complex - which includes a school, mosque and supermarket - have hampered rescue efforts and 300 people are still thought to be trapped inside.

White House spokesperson Martin Fitzwater said the loss of civilian life was "truly tragic", but described the bunker as a well-known military target.

"We don't know why civilians were at this location. We do know that Saddam Hussein does not share our sanctity for human life," he continued.

One American intelligence officer said the bunker had been transmitting military signals until the moment the bombs hit.

Another US spokesperson in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, suggested Saddam had deliberately created a human shield - a tactic he has used before - to inflame international opinion against allied air strikes.

The Baghdad shelter manager said: We didn't have a single military man in the shelter. It is allocated to civilians."

According to intelligence sources the shelter was built during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s with a 10 to 15-foot thick concrete ceiling, reinforced with steel, designed to withstand electro-magnetic pulses from a thermo-nuclear blast.

Both sides are investigating the incident - caught on camera by US planes.

Tariq Aziz has called on the UN - meeting tonight - to condemn the "hideous crime". A spokesman for UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed dismay at such a large loss of civilian life.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final death toll was 314 including 130 children, after one of the 900kg bombs exploded in the middle of the largest upstairs room and the other blew up and blocked a ventilation shaft.

The incident was widely reported by the western media and brought the horror of modern, hi-technology warfare into people's homes across the world.

The row over whether the bunker had been a military installation was never properly settled.

Ten days later the allied ground attack against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait began.

Within three days Iraqi troops began to withdraw and Kuwait was liberated on 27 February 1991.

In March 2003, the United States led a new coalition force in a war against Iraq which succeeded in toppling Saddam Hussein's regime.

The former Iraqi leader was captured after several months in hiding in December 2003. He was tried by an Iraqi court which sentenced him to death. He was executed on 30 December 2006.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If you've been doing some personal improvement work lately you're now well on your way toward successful completion of this stage of the project.

Taurus April 20-May 20
Take care of any around-the-house chores before you leave for the day, because you're going to want to have the rest of the day worry-free to make room for a few fantastic, highly creative ideas.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
A sense of ease pervades your thoughts and feelings. A sense of ease also pervades your expressions of those thoughts and feelings.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
If there's one thing you're not lacking today it's patience. That's good - to a point. With patience, as with all things, you shouldn't overdo it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Some time after your coffee break before lunch, you could very well sense a mind-altering wave of creativity creeping over you.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You usually aren't shy about expressing your feelings. So why has the cat got your tongue? Maybe the nature of what you have to communicate is especially tricky.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
If there's a banjo, chances are you're going to be strumming it. If there's a synthesizer, you're going to be synthesizing.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You've come to a fork in the road, all right. Though this fork might look more like a starfish - with choices leading in nearly every direction.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You could start the day lending an ear to a friend who has a crisis on their hands. Then, after providing a strong shoulder and the emotional equivalent of a cup of tea.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You like to make butterflies out of origami paper. Yes, you're a mighty creative person, whether you express yourself in watercolors or heartfelt emails or by building computers from component parts.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Who'll step in to save the day by telling the boss that nobody's happy about the change in the office break room from caffeinated coffee to decaf? You will.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
When you feel sad, mad, bad or frustrated, you create. The same is true when you feel happy, pleased, ecstatic or content.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

CROSS: 1-Deli side; 5- Now, in Nogales; 10- Ancient Semitic for "Lord"; 14- "From ___ according to his abilities"; 15- More recent; 16- Kitchen addition?; 17- Jai ___; 18- Light up; 20- In a way, informally; 22- Energy; 23- Failed to; 24- Heron; 26- Large; 27- Intellectual; 30- Pride woman; 34- Travesty; 35- Separate by a sieve; 36- One circuit; 37- Blind part; 38- Numbers game; 40- Mother of Ares; 41- Brit. lexicon; 42- Actual; 43- Tropical American crocodilian; 45- Inflatable life jacket; 47- Ear ornament; 48- Pompous sort; 49- Ball girl; 50- "Bird on ___" (Gibson film); 53- Kid of jazz; 54- Mixed bags; 58- Service station; 61- Would ___ to you?; 62- Carpeting calculation; 63- Small beginning; 64- World's longest river; 65- Gush forth; 66- Inquired; 67- Struggle for air; DOWN: 1- Oceans; 2- "Le Roi d'Ys" composer; 3- Rent-___; 4- Extremely hot; 5- Black cuckoo; 6- Aided; 7- Little hooter; 8- Enlist again; 9- Upper limb; 10- Not malignant; 11- Somewhat; 12- Env. notation; 13- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 19- Fool; 21- Ripened; 25- Unlit; 26- Eyeglass having two portions; 27- ___ salts; 28- Hood-shaped anatomical part; 29- Class; 30- Three sheets to the wind; 31- Varnish resin; 32- It's a wrap; 33- Exactly; 35- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 39- Bran source; 40- Mercenary; 42- Bowler's button; 44- He sang about Alice; 46- Capital of Poland; 47- Pal of Pooh; 49- Clay block; 50- Turkish titles; 51- Twist; 52- Got it; 53- Singer Redding; 55- Bones found in the hip; 56- Painter's medium; 57- Leak slowly; 59- Doctors' org.; 60- Silent assent;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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For Rent

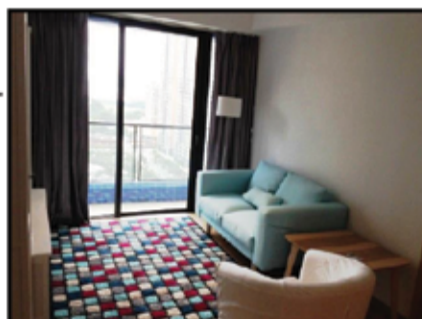


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Bright and spacious 3 bedroom furnished apartment, excellent location in the 5-star residence The Manhattan.

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(Ref: 15090537)
1,314sq. ft. HKD 18,000

Two bedroom apartment in Taipa's newest complex, both bedrooms are doubles. Master bedroom has an en suite and has been newly furnished. Second bedroom left unfurnished can be furnished to the tenants request (bed, desk wardrobe etc). Living / dining furnished by IKEA furniture with a small balcony over looking Central Park. Galley style well fitted modern kitchen.



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 16120629)
2,000sq. ft. HKD 23,000

LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. On the mezzanine floor two large double bedrooms with a lots of built in storage



One Central, Unit B, T2 Macau

(Ref: 16090616)
2,288sq. ft. HKD 29,800

Luxury lakefront 3 bedroom apartment on a high floor. 80sq. ft. balcony with uninterrupted views of Nam Van Lake, Macau Tower and city skyline. Quality finishes. Exclusive Clubhouse with 5 levels of indoor/outdoor leisure and recreational space. Best address in Macau. Directly linked to the shopping center. Walking distance to MGM, Wynn, Mandarin Oriental etc.



Hellene Gardens, Lot 4, D Unit

(Ref: 16100623)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 12,800

Furnished 3 bedroom apartment that is bright and spacious. Large living room/dining room with a small balcony facing towards the sea and mountain. Hellene Gardens is a wonderful place to live with beach and beautiful trail walks, children's park, football courts, swimming pools, BBQ areas and Fernados Restaurant. One car park space is included.



D Unit, Manhattan Taipa

(Ref: 16100627)
2,305sq. ft. HKD 29,800

4 bedrooms apartment in an excellent location, in the 5-star residence: The Manhattan. High quality finishes and furnishings. Club House facilities include gymnasium, outdoor swimming pool & sun deck, golf simulator, children door & outdoor play areas, bbq facilities, lounge/party room with private kitchen. Perfectly located, close to super markets, restaurants, cafes, shops and walking distance of the Cotai Strip. Car Park not included.



Office Space, Centro Commercial, Macau

(Ref: 16100626)

836sq. ft. HKD 12,200
Office Space available in central Macau, great location. This high floor office is light and bright with great views looking over the park towards Sanado Square. Unit F is currently one large open planned space with a small office and storage room. The office will be painted with a new ceiling and carpets throughout. Management fees of \$1,505 per month are paid by the tenant direct.



Edf. Coloane - Coloane Village

(Ref: 17010633)
747sq. ft. HKD 9,000

A furnished 2 bedroom apartment in the quiet village of Coloane. Double-glazed windows with open views, low floor walk-up, close to bus stop, the village square, cafes and post office.

Viewing by appointment.

For Sale



Manhattan E Unit

(Ref: 16105505)
1,626sq. ft. HKD11.382M
Rate: HKD7,000sq ft

Great apartment in 5 Star complex. Open plan bright and spacious living and dining area with large window over looking Taipa Hill. Two double bedrooms, one with en suite bathroom, the second double room shares a separate shower room with the third single bedroom, all rooms have a view over the Taipa Hill. Modern kitchen with built in appliances and small balcony. The apartment is in an excellent location, with the original high quality fixtures and finished throughout. The Manhattan complex is considered Taipa premier complex with stunning club house including amazing facilities: gym, outdoor swimming pool & sun deck, kids pool, golf simulator. children door & outdoor play areas.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



Taipa Village ShopHouse, Taipa

(Ref: 16105504)
1148sq. ft. HKD 38.88M
Rate: HKD34,105sq ft

Located in the pedestrian shopping area of Taipa village, this is a unique opportunity to rent a great space.

Recently upgraded by the owner the property had two toilets, one on each level. With little investment this property could be turned into a commercial enterprise or a home.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens Appealing Apartment

(Ref: 16045473)
1,633sq. ft. HKD 7.58M
Rate: HKD 4,6416sq ft

Three good size bedrooms. Master bedroom with ensuite. Open style kitchen, made larger by incorporating the original maids quarters and back balcony. Living and dining area has a great layout and built in balcony. Views from the living room across the Coloane mountains and from the kitchen over the swimming pool towards the South China Sea. With only 7 floors in this block this apartment can be considered a low rise building. Renovated 10 years ago the property could benefit from a face lift although with some TCL it could also be a great rental property.



Nam Long, Taipa

(Ref: 16095500)
515sq. ft. HKD 3.8M
Rate: HKD 7,378q ft

Taipa / Village apartment. Renovated and modernized apartment in Central Location, originally 2 bedrooms now changed to 1 large bedroom. Open kitchen, simple and modern interior, apartment sold as investment together with furniture and tenancy.

Easy access to shops, taxi's and Cotai strip. Extremely popular area where property is in high demand.

Contact Property Consultants Today.

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Liverpool's Sadio Mane (second left) celebrates scoring his side's first goal during the EPL match between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur

Steve Douglas, Liverpool

FOOTBALL

Spurs the latest EPL title challenger to trip up

ONE by one, Chelsea's closest challengers are falling away in the English Premier League title race. After implosions by Manchester City, Liverpool, and then Arsenal over the past month, it was second-place Tottenham's turn to trip up on Saturday.

With 13 rounds remaining, Chelsea could now canter to a second title in three years.

Sadio Mane scored both goals in a two-minute spell in the first half, as Liverpool rediscovered its form of the first half of the season to gain a first league win in six attempts in 2017.

It was only Tottenham's third loss in this campaign and instead of having faint hopes of catching Chelsea, the priori-

ty for Mauricio Pochettino's players will be preserving a top-four place to get back in the Champions League. In a potentially demoralizing defeat, they were outplayed and out-pressed by Liverpool.

Arsenal and Manchester United also won 2-0, against Hull and Watford respectively, as the race for a top-four finish intensified. Two points separate Tottenham and sixth-place United.

LIVERPOOL 2, TOTTENHAM 0

Mane scored in the 16th and 18th minutes to cap a first half in which Liverpool blew away Tottenham with its intensity and movement that had been lacking in recent games.

Liverpool's slump in form coincided with Mane's absence at the African Cup of Nations in January, and his return could be the catalyst the team needs to clinch a top-four place.

Mane raced through the middle to latch onto Georginio Wijnaldum's pass and lifted home a well-taken finish for his first, and was celebrating again after driving a rising shot into the net from close range.

Spurs were so overwhelmed, they should have lost by a bigger margin.

"It's difficult to fight for the Premier League if you show that performance," Pochettino said. "There was a lack of aggression and desire to play for a win."

MANCHESTER UNITED 2, WATFORD 0

Recalled to the team, Anthony Martial took his opportunity to impress United manager Jose Mourinho.

The France winger set up Juan Mata for a 31st-minute opener against Watford before scoring the second in the 60th in a comfortable win for United at Old Trafford

Martial — signed for 36 million pounds (USD55.5 million) in 2015 — has been in and out of the team under Mourinho, who has called on him to show improvement with so many other wide players competing for places.

United extended its unbeaten streak in the league to 16 games.

ARSENAL 2, HULL 0

It was a tale of two handballs at Emirates Stadium.

Alexis Sanchez bundled in his first goal from close range using his right hand, with officials deciding it was accidental as the ball deflected up off goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic.

In injury time, Hull midfielder Sam Clucas blocked a header from Lucas Perez on the goal-line using his hand and was sent off. Sanchez drove home a low penalty for a league-high 17th goal of the season.

OTHER RESULTS

A week after winning 4-0 at Crystal Palace, Sunderland lost by the same score at Southampton to stay bottom of the standings. January signing Manolo Gabbiadini scored twice, taking his tally to three in two games since his move from Napoli.

Palace is ahead of Sunderland only on goal difference after losing at Stoke 1-0, with Joe Allen grabbing the winner.

West Bromwich Albion scored deep in injury time to draw at West Ham 2-2, while Middlesbrough drew against Everton 0-0. AP

Usain Bolt All-Stars win Nitro Athletics meet in Melbourne

USAIN Bolt and his All Stars completed a clean sweep of the inaugural Nitro Athletics series on Saturday, with Bolt winning the 150-meter race in his only solo appearance of the three-night meet.

With Asafa Powell and Bolt — the former and current 100-meter world record holders — running the opening two legs of the deciding 4x100-meter mixed relay, the All Stars ensured

they made up a 38-point deficit on Australia to finish first overall in the team event that also included England, Japan, New Zealand and China.

Eight-time Olympic champion Bolt won the 150 in 15.28 seconds.

The Nitro meet featured mixed relays, sprints over non-traditional distances and elimination mile races where the last-placed runner at the end of each lap was eliminated.

"I'm happy, that was great," All Stars captain and coach Bolt said after the team win. "I said 'we were going to push, we were going to push' and that's what we did."

On Friday, IAAF president Sebastian Coe said he was a big fan of the Nitro concept.

"I saw engagement, I saw fun and laughter and that's what the sport has been missing for a long time," Coe said. "It was a terrific start. It's an

obvious thing to say but unless we innovate we're going to become less and less relevant and we can't afford to do that."

Nitro was developed by former Australian 400-meter runner John Steffensen and Athletics Australia, while Bolt is also a key figure and holds an equity stake in the concept.

The event — with Bolt headlining — is likely to return to Australia in 2018. AP



Jamaica's Usain Bolt (center) celebrates with teammates, Jenna Prandini (left) and Jeneba Tarmoh after winning the mixed 4 x 100 meter relay

opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



BANG ON A CAN

It looks like this Year of the Rooster will be a noisy one in Macau! But do not let yourself be mystified by transformative things that are usually associated with noise elsewhere... MSAR nurtures a very composed kind of ado, seldom beyond a scuffle. No color umbrellas are to be seen in the open.

Noise here is the channel to voice complaints, opposition, disregard or unhappiness with the operation of a system that does not give sufficient voice to grassroots inputs or the opinions of the average resident. The Basic Law provides the mechanisms to let off some steam, but for the convenience of the dominant class rather than from fear of imaginary localist winds. The dominant class seem to do better in swampy dead calm waters.

Actually, the more the Macau oligarchy insists on the same antics, the more people will feel disenfranchised and will soon tire of the actual operation of the system rather than challenge the system itself. In short... we could take the digression above to introduce a good noisy example of people getting fed up with an oligarchy lacking in social sensitivity: the Go-slow protest!

The revised fees of everything related to the Transport Bureau are an outrage to the average driver rolling and parking around, and not only to the scooter crowd. Apparently... somebody thought it was a good idea to ease the way into the hearts of the little people riding scooters in the form of a lai si to replace their motorcycles for greener ones. But this is another story sending damage control smoke signals.

The point is Pereira Coutinho, who led a demonstration of 5,000 in early January, is no longer just protesting against a hike he says is motivated by "colluding interests between the government and the businessmen, since after the regulations went into force (January 1), the prices of the parking fees and rentals rose"; he wants more, he wants the head of Secretary for Transportation Raimundo Rosário, whom he accuses of not giving any sound explanation for the fee increase.

OK. Rosário kept his head but authorities had to, or managed to, defuse the Go-slow action by simply proposing an alternative method which protesters could not accept as an equivalent adjustment.

Truly, this is not the first time legislator and leader of the Macau Civil Servants Association felt free from the strict constraints emanating from the MSAR executive-led model, and openly asked for the resignation of a policy Secretary. Sonia Chan, who assumedly asked ex-Prosecutor General Ho Chio Meng to facilitate a job for somebody, refused plainly to answer Coutinho's questions. No wonder the lawmaker asked for her resignation!

And the Year of the Rooster is just taking its first steps. More is to come... if the system keeps on dismissing any contribution of civil society merely to be checked at the Legislative Assembly, the erosion will go on and on, sometimes a tragedy, sometimes a comedy.

It is no use to pretend all problems in society proceed from a lack of public consultation or that any situation can be addressed by furthering or improving public consultation mechanisms, or by even going deeper to demand adequate consultation and representation mechanisms. It is of no use to reinvent the wheel... the ultimate consultation mechanism has long been invented: democracy.

A final note to another Deep Blue kind of nightmare, this one related to a casino game. According to The Economist, an artificial-intelligence machine won against 4 of the world's best Poker players. The machine, it goes by the name of LIBRATUS, collected almost 2 million in prize-money. "Libratus achievement is another big step forward for AI: Poker is a game of imperfect information, and it had to work out when its opponents were bluffing".

THE BUZZ GERMANY PICKS FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER TO BE PRESIDENT

A special assembly elected former German foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier by an overwhelming majority yesterday to be the country's new president.

Steinmeier was elected in Berlin by the assembly made up of the 630 members of parliament's lower house and an equal number of representatives from Germany's 16 states.

He received 931 of the 1,260 votes. Steinmeier succeeds Joachim Gauck, a

77-year-old former pastor and East German pro-democracy activist who did not seek a second five-year term because of his age.

The German president has little executive power, but is considered an important moral authority and symbol of the country as its host for visiting dignitaries.

"Let's be brave, because then we don't have to be afraid of the future," Steinmeier said in his acceptance speech.



Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	65-95 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	65-95 Moderate	☹️

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Tens of thousands of Indonesians gathered at the national mosque in the capital on Saturday for mass prayers urging people to vote for a Muslim governor of the city as the country prepares for regional elections next week. Jakarta police estimated the crowd at 60,000 to 70,000 people.

MYANMAR leader Aung San Suu Kyi called on all armed ethnic groups to sign a cease-fire agreement during a speech yesterday in the same place where her father, an independence hero, signed a peace deal 70 years ago. [More on p12](#)



SYRIA Turkey's president says his troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters have entered the center of the northern town of al-Bab that is a stronghold of the Islamic State group. The Turkish-backed forces are racing to seize al-Bab before rival Syrian government forces arrive. [More on p10](#)

POLAND A police spokeswoman in Poland says 13 people have been injured after a truck rammed into the bus carrying American band The Dillinger Escape Plan to a concert in Krakow.



GERMANY Firefighters yesterday evacuated hundreds of passengers at Hamburg Airport after 50 people were injured by an unknown toxin that likely spread through the airport's air conditioning system. All flights were halted for several hours due to the evacuation, an airport spokeswoman said.

COLOMBIA's president, Juan Manuel Santos, has asked for Donald Trump's support in approving U.S. funding to back the country's peace deal with leftist rebels.

Walt Disney increases park prices as much as 4.9 percent



Christopher Palmeri

WALT Disney Co. raised ticket prices at most of its domestic theme parks from 1.9 percent to 4.9 percent, more modest increases than last year when the company introduced higher fees on the most popular days.

The cost of a regular ticket to Disney's Magic Kingdom theme park in Orlando, Florida, will rise to USD115 from \$110, the company said Saturday in an e-mailed statement. The \$124 peak price at Magic Kingdom, which includes many summer days and holidays, is unchanged. Magic Kingdom is the world's most attended theme park.

At Disneyland, in Anaheim, California, the regular, single-day ticket price rose by \$5 to \$110. The peak price at the company's two parks there also reached \$124. All of the changes went into effect yesterday.

Disney, the world's largest theme-park operator, has been investing heavily in the business, opening a \$5.5 billion resort in Shanghai last June, for example. An attraction modeled after the film "Avatar" will debut at the company's Animal Kingdom park in Orlando in May. Two "Star Wars"-themed lands are planned in California and Florida for 2019.

The company introduced three tiers of pricing at its domestic parks last year, with the cost of a ticket on the busiest days rising as much as 20 percent. Disney offers discounts on tickets purchased for multiple days. It also offers annual passes.

Prices for two of the highest levels of annual passes at Disneyland, the \$849 Signature Passport, which excludes some days, and the \$1,049 Signature Plus, which provides access every day of the year, are unchanged.

Some multi-day options will decrease in price.

"Our pricing provides guests a range of options that allow us to better manage demand to maximize the guest experience and is reflective of the distinctly Disney offerings at all of our parks," Suzi Brown, a spokeswoman for the Burbank, California-based company, said in an e-mail.

Theme parks were the only one of Disney's four divisions to post an increase in profit last quarter. Operating income for the three-month period ending in December rose 13 percent to \$1.1 billion, even though domestic attendance fell and the Orlando properties were closed for a day because of Hurricane Matthew. Domestic attendance slipped 5 percent in the December quarter and was down 1 percent in the fiscal year that ended Oct. 1. **Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Zhang Guojun



Villagers push a cart carrying a sedan chair during a fire jump activity in Wuzi Village, southeast China's Fujian Province. Dozens of young men from the village rounded or jumped over fire during yesterday's traditional activity to pray for happiness and harvest.