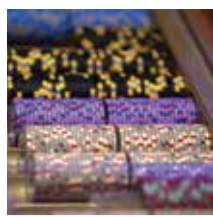




**SMOKING BAN IN BARS, NIGHTCLUBS IN FORCE**  
A joint operation by the Tobacco Control Office, Health Bureau and the police found 27 people smoking in prohibited areas

P2



**A DECADE OF GAMBLING EXPANSION ENDS**  
Casino revenue fell 2.6 percent to MOP351.5b in 2014, after a record 30.4 pct monthly drop in Dec

P3,4 FEATURE



**SEQUENCE OF ERRORS LED TO SHANGHAI STAMPEDE**

P12,FT



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# Times

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**INDONESIA** Divers were grappling with light rain and rolling waves yesterday as they tried to reach what is believed to be the fuselage of AirAsia Flight 8501, resting on the ocean floor near three other large objects. So far, only 30 bodies have been recovered. Meanwhile, The U.S. Embassy in Jakarta has issued a warning to Americans about a potential threat against U.S. associated banks and hotels in Surabaya. [More on p13](#)

**CHINA** A senior Chinese diplomat has been removed from his position and is being investigated for an unspecified disciplinary violation. A two-sentence statement from the Foreign Ministry did not offer more details last week about the removal of Assistant Foreign Minister Zhang Kunsheng. The China News Service reported that Zhang was the head of the ministry's protocol department.

[More on backpage](#)

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FINANCIAL TIMES

What could possibly go wrong

F1

# Barred HK lawmaker says Macau moving towards 'One Country, One System'

P5,INSIGHT



## AirAsia plane engine cuts out minutes before takeoff in Surabaya

BACKPAGE



## Smoking ban in bars, nightclubs in force

A smoking ban in bars, nightclubs, saunas and massage parlors came into force as the New Year began. By 6am on January 1, a total of 27 people were caught breaching the law, authorities revealed.

A joint operation by the Tobacco Control Office, Health Bureau and the Public Security Police Force found 27 people smoking in prohibited areas following inspections of 25 venues. 18 were Macau residents, six were tourists and three were

non-resident workers, the authorities stated.

The Tobacco Control Office has revealed that if it finds multiple violations within the same venue, the place will be added to a watch list and subject to close monitoring.

The new tobacco ban is aimed at bars, nightclubs, saunas and massage parlors where smoking is now banned. Offenders are required to pay a MOP400 fine.

The Health Bureau recalled that managers of bars, nightclubs and

other venues where smoking is now prohibited, should request clients smoking to put out their cigarettes. If they do not comply, managers should contact authorities. Meanwhile, venues should also post 'no smoking' signs to remind clients that smoking is now prohibited.

There are currently 50 tobacco control inspectors, TDM News reported. The office said that 40 new inspectors will join the team in the beginning of this year. **CP**

## CE acknowledges challenges ahead in New Year's message

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On has acknowledged that Macau will face "difficulties and challenges" in the near future. He pledged to address the city's major issues building "a brighter future for Macau," in a New Year's message issued last week.

The government will be addressing president Xi Jinping's four recommendations for Macau as priority guidelines when planning the territory's policies, said Chui Sai On.

Upon visiting Macau last month to attend MSAR's 15th anniversary celebrations, Mr Xi advised the government to improve the city's legal system, further adjusting it in accordance to the Basic Law. He also urged the government to closely follow Macau's population's well-being, helping them overcome challenges.

Chui Sai On stressed that his team will work to develop its "governance ability." In his 2015 Policy Address, to be delivered in March, Macau's leader will focus on long-term mechanisms, such as promoting "the adequate diversification of the economy," ensuring the development of Macau as a "World Center for Tourism and Leisure." The reinforcement of regional cooperation and the development of a more "livable" city, namely by improving population's living conditions, are among other priorities.

Meanwhile, the chief executive pledged to further develop the city's education sector, improve the public administration's efficiency and optimize Macau's public service quality.

Chui Sai On said the government will continue to hear the population's opinions and accept society's suggestions.

An editorial published in the overseas edition of the People's Daily last week highlighted Macau's virtues in what is seen as a "warning" to Hong Kong, the Wall Street Journal reported.

"The road is hard for Hong Kong as it is wearing the right shoe on its left foot," said the headline. The editorial portrayed Macau as having a "harmonious" and "stable" society, highlighting its "stunning" economic growth rate in recent years. **CP**

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### 'This is now a major issue in Macau'

Dear Editor,

Much was my surprise when I saw my daily copy of Macau Daily Times on the last day of 2014. "Person of the Year" - me?? Wow, that was totally unexpected...

I'm not often lost for words, but kind of am now. That's really nice to be acknowledged, it's kind of incredible. But this accolade really belongs to each and every one of the over 4,600 members of Macau Taxi Driver Shame. Well done to the people of Macau for having rallied around this cause originally sparked off by Mr Sloane Jorba's totally justified anti-fishing taxi rant on 30 June. After Sloane sparked the match, the taxi issue was



picked up by many more and ever since has burned brightly in the Macau media and as a talking point across all sections of Macau society. Macau citizens are of-

ten accused of self-interest and lethargy, but MTDS has shown that the people of Macau do care about their city and how it is perceived, and that they can rally around a worthy cause.

This is now a major issue in Macau. It won't be easy to fix, but I think in the last six months the Macau Taxi Driver Shame Facebook group and the Macau Taxi Passengers Association ([www.853taxi.org](http://www.853taxi.org)) has achieved a lot and through 2015 we will keep pushing more initiatives to hopefully get it resolved. It took us years to get into this mess, and it may take many more months, even a year or two more to get out of it, but the sooner we start the sooner it gets done.

Hopefully in 2015 the Macau Police and Macau Government (through the new Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Mr Raimundo do Rosario and DSAT) genuinely support us in this cause, which is really a cause for all of Macau, whether you use taxis or not. The taxi industry touches all who visit Macau, millions and millions of people, and it reflects on our great city of Macau. Do we want to be seen as a nation of scammers, cheaters and liars? Or do we want to be seen as a happy, welcoming place. That is the real issue here.

Respectfully,  
Andrew W Scott

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GAMING

# Melco Crown to delist from Hong Kong bourse on low trade volume

Jill Mao

MELCO Crown Entertainment Ltd., the Macau casino operator controlled by Lawrence Ho and Australian billionaire James Packer, said it will delist from the Hong Kong stock exchange because of low trading volume.

The company, which also trades on the Nasdaq Stock Market, hasn't found opportunities to raise additional funds in Hong Kong since listing there in 2011, it said in a statement on Friday. The casino operator plunged 35 percent in the city last year, while the benchmark Hang Seng Index rose 1.3 percent.

An average USD342,000 of Melco shares changed hands daily on the Hong Kong exchange since the company's debut there,



compared with \$98 million daily in the U.S. during the same period, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Melco said the move is subject to shareholder approval.

The planned delisting comes after Macau's casinos reported their first annual decline in revenue after a decade of expansion. The casinos' sales in the former Portuguese enclave fell amid a campaign by China President Xi

Jinping to rein in lavish spending by officials, which has discouraged gambling.

Xi's push to stamp out corruption has deterred high rollers, who account for two-thirds of Macau casino receipts, and wiped out about \$73 billion in market value of companies including Wynn Macau Ltd. and SJM Holdings Ltd. last year. Bloomberg

## Beijing's call to develop Hengqin is now an 'order'

GAMBLING revenue in Macau dropped by 2.6 percent to MOP351.5 billion, according to data released by the government on Friday. Beijing has made it clear: Macau needs to diversify its economy beyond gambling. Hengqin Island is seen as the "linchpin of the diversification plan" but the central government has been frustrated at the development pace there, an executive involved in discussions about Hengqin told the Wall Street Journal.

A Macau government adviser said that now Beijing is no longer just suggesting changes their call to develop non-gambling ventures in Hengqin has become "an order."

Several gaming operators have said they plan to expand their non-gaming offerings, which could also help them win casino table allotments. Chief executive of SJM Holdings Ltd., Ambrose So, told WSJ that casino companies can participate in the diversification of Macau's economy by offering more non-gaming activities on their premises. "Integrated resorts offer a diverse mix of activities for patrons - including lodging, dining, shopping, entertainment, meeting and convention facilities," he said, acknowledging that "this requires training local employees with a diverse set of skills."

China's crackdown on corruption and strict control over UnionPay cards used by some high-profile gamblers to avoid Chinese money transfer restrictions are said to have driven the city's gaming revenue into decline. However, political commentator and professor Eric Sautede said that many actually welcome the fresh direction that comes with Beijing policies.

"I don't think people see the central government as a threat. They see it much more as the last resort for things to change," he said.

Those familiar with the industry are unsure of when the economy will improve. But they believe Asia's casino hub, "will eventually right itself."

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

# A decade of gambling expansion ends

**M**ACAU'S casinos recorded their worst year, ending a decade of expansion that turned the former Portuguese enclave into the world's biggest gambling hub. More tough times are ahead.

Casino revenue in the city fell 2.6 percent to 351.5 billion patacas (USD44 billion) in 2014, after a record 30.4 percent monthly drop in December, according to figures from Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's bid to catch "tigers and flies" in an anti-corruption drive and weaker economic growth means Macau may face shrinking revenue until at least mid-2015, when new resorts open. The crackdown has deterred high rollers who account for two-thirds of Macau's casino receipts, and wiped out about \$73 billion in market value of companies including Wynn Macau Ltd. and SJM Holdings Ltd. last year.

"The VIP heyday is over," said Philip Tulk, an analyst at Standard Chartered Plc in Hong Kong. "The anti-corruption crackdown doesn't look to be a short-term phenomenon," with funds flows between the mainland and Macau being much more closely scrutinized, he said.

Xi has urged the city to diversify its economy and transform into a global tourism and leisure center. Macau's casino takings are seven times that of the Las Vegas Strip and contributed more than 80 percent of the government's annual revenue last year.

Casino revenue fell to 23.3 billion patacas in December for a seventh straight month of decline and the biggest drop since Macau began recording monthly figures in 2005. Macau had posted its smallest annual casino revenue gain of 9.7 percent in 2009, after it began yearly records in 2002.

As the only Chinese city where casino gambling is legal, Macau has seen the industry's revenue expand 8.5 times since the 2004 opening of its first foreign casino owned by billionaire Sheldon Adelson,



after the government ended local gambling mogul Stanley Ho's 40-year monopoly.

It will be difficult for the local casinos to see a "breakthrough improvement" in 2015 revenue as the industry experiences continued adjustments, according to a Dec. 31 memo from Ho's SJM Holdings Ltd. obtained by Bloomberg News. SJM would raise salaries by 5 percent, amid increasing protests by casino workers for better pay, according to the memo.

Slower and steadier growth should be expected as the market matures, Leong Man Ion, deputy director of Ma-

cau's gaming regulator, told China's state-run Xinhua News Agency last month. He predicted the revenue slump will continue until the middle of 2015.

"2010 and 2011 had exceptionally high growth rates; Macau will never see those growth rates again," said Aaron Fischer, a Hong Kong-based analyst at CLSA Ltd., via telephone. The city's gaming revenue jumped 58 percent and 42 percent respectively those two years, Macau government data shows.

Headwinds will persist into the third quarter of this year at least, Wells Fargo & Co. analysts led by Cameron McKnight wrote in a note last month. "With revenue trends still decelerating sequentially, it is now unlikely that the overall Macau market will grow in 2015," McKnight wrote.

Wells Fargo and Union Gaming Group both estimate a 20 percent year-on-year decline in the first quarter, while CLSA forecast a 29 percent drop.

At the inauguration of Macau's newly re-elected Chief Executive Chui Sai On in December, Chinese President Xi called for the city's leader to step up regulation and supervision of gambling. Chui said his administration will conduct a review in spring this year and encourage more non-gambling elements to balance the industry.

Macau's government has been curbing money flows to the territory over concern that illegal funds are being taken out of the mainland. It is restricting the use of China UnionPay Co.'s debit cards and its hand-held card swipers at casinos. Further clam-

pdowns are expected with the help of banks.

The gambling regulator is also tightening scrutiny of agents used by junket operators, which arrange trips and provide credit for high-stakes gamblers known as VIPs.

Casino companies including Sands China and Galaxy are shifting resources from high rollers to lure more vacationing Chinese and other mass-market gamblers by building malls, theaters, restaurants and hotels.

New project openings starting in mid-2015 with Galaxy's second-phase expansion of its resort on the Cotai Strip may help underscore a market revival, by targeting tourists who're seeking a broader holiday experience in addition to gambling, according to CLSA's Fischer.

"We will see stabilization in revenue in the second half of year, because the base becomes easier and also you've got new projects that will drive volume growth," he said.

Tulk from Standard Chartered is less optimistic. What led to Macau's slowing revenue growth last year wasn't casino supply and demand, but declining bets by high rollers, Tulk said. "Unless the top end recovers, the new capacity isn't going to drive gross gaming revenue significantly positively." **MDT/Bloomberg**

## The VIP heyday is over

PHILIP TULK

## SJM holds on to annual and monthly leadership

**S**OCIEDADE de Jogos de Macau (SJM), which was formed by Stanley Ho, ended 2014 at the top of the leaderboard of gaming operators with a share of just over 23 pct, according to data compiled by Lusa from the operators.

The data shows that SJM held on to the number one position and also has the most gaming spaces - 20 out of 35 casinos.

In second place came Las Vegas

Sands, owned by US magnate Sheldon Adelson, with a share of over 22.5 pct, but still half a percentage point behind SJM.

Although it has been very strong in the last months and fighting for second position, Galaxy Resorts, with Hong Kong interests led by Lui Che-woo, ended last year with a share of around 21 pct, but still trails well behind its competitors.

In the second half of the tables came

Melco Crown, where one of the shareholders is Lawrence Ho, son of Stanley Ho, maintaining the trend over the year with a share of a fraction over 13 pct, followed by Wynn Resorts, owned by magnate Steve Wynn, almost three points behind.

Trailing behind Wynn Resorts came MGM China with a market share slightly over 9.5 pct. MGM China is led by Pansy Ho, daughter of Stanley Ho. **MDT/Lusa**

**L**OCAL authorities barred the Hong Kong lawmaker Emily Lau Wai-hing from entering Macau on Saturday, in coherence with security reasons they claimed. She later expressed her “anger and sorrow” to the media, questioning the MSAR government’s decision and describing it as indicative of a “One Country, One System” model.

Emily Lau is a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council and the chairwoman of the neighboring SAR’s Democratic Party. She was planning to visit Macau with three friends on Saturday and to stay the night. However, after arriving at the Macau Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal, Lau was immediately brought to a room by immigration officials. The Public Security Police (PSP) officials told her that according to the Internal Security Law, she is seen as a threat to the internal security and stability of Macau, and hence refused her entry. Her three friends, on the other hand, were allowed to cross the border to continue their journey.

Lau later spoke to TDM, criticizing the Macau authorities’ decision. “I think Macau is sending a signal to the Hong Kong people, and

**I think Macau is sending a signal to the Hong Kong people, and also to the Macau people, that they are really moving towards ‘One Country, One System’**

EMILY LAU

## HK lawmaker barred from entering Macau



Emily Lau

also to the Macau people, that they are really moving towards ‘One Country, One System,’” she said. “It’s a sign that the Macau authority [is] being ordered by Beijing [and] is just tightening restrictions.”

Moreover, she revealed to other media that she was barred from entering Macau several times in the past when planning to carry out protests here. However, this

is the first time she was refused entry, even though she only travelled here for tourism. “We are only tourists. What [could] we have done? I had made absolutely no appointment [to meet] politicians and activists in Macau [during the trip]. I only went to Macau with three of my friends to have some fun and to enjoy the food but the thing still ended up this way. I feel really angry,” she ex-

pressed.

Lau reiterated that she did not carry any “sensitive objects” such as a yellow ribbon – the symbol of the Hong Kong Occupy Movement – with her during the Saturday trip. She said that Macau is starting to adopt the practices of the mainland authorities and she felt “sorrow” for it. Emily Lau also vowed never to set foot in Macau again and suspected that members of the

Hong Kong Democratic Party would not be able to enter Macau in the future.

In a reply to media enquiries, the Public Security Police said that while Emily Lau’s identity matched that in the authorities’ database, further investigations suggested that she did not meet the criteria to enter MSAR. The authorities thus issued her a “refusal notice” in accordance with the procedure. PSP claimed that the decision is based on the professional judgment of the police.

It is seen as an increasingly common practice for the Macau authorities to bar individuals like politicians, activists, scholars and journalists from entering the SAR during periods that are deemed sensitive. For example, several Hong Kong journalists and activists were refused entry during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping last month. It also made headlines when a one-year-old child from Hong Kong was not allowed to enter Macau because he was seen as “a threat to Macau’s internal stability.”

The Times sent an enquiry to the police regarding the specific motives why the HK lawmaker was considered a threat to security. We also asked PSP about who decides on the so called “blacklist” of persons barred from entering Macau for security reasons, and how someone included on that list can appeal or defend himself. The police had not replied by press time. **JPL**

## No entry for Taiwanese dentist

**A**PART from Emily Lau, a dentist from Taiwan was also refused entry by the Macau authorities last Friday. According to Taipei Times, Shih Shu-hua participated in Taiwan’s Sunflower Movement as a medical volunteer and made a speech in October during his visit to Hong Kong in support of the Occupy Movement there. The Macau immigration authorities again cited Macau’s internal security as the reason for rejecting Shih’s entry. Sharing his experience on Facebook,

Shih said that he had expected Macau’s rejection after he failed to register for a visa to Hong Kong on Thursday. Arriving at the Macau International Airport with his wife, Shih was taken to a room and was asked to wait and fill out forms.

He called the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Macau for assistance and the latter confirmed the existence of a blacklist. “[TECO] said I might run into trouble if my name is identical to one of those lis-

ted,” he said.

The Macau authorities later informed Shih that he would not be able to enter Macau and was asked to sign a “Refusal Notice,” which stated that he was barred from entry because he “[poses] a threat to... security and stability.”

A spokesperson from Taiwan’s Mainland Affairs Council confirmed that Shih did call TECO in Macau for assistance. She said that the Taiwanese authorities “would have TECO in Macau express our concerns to the government and call for its respect of our people’s rights of entry (...) for tourism and business.”

## Malaysian minister reportedly vouched for Paul Phua

**M**ALAYSIAN Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has written a letter to the deputy director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States, claiming that Paul Phua was not a triad member and has assisted the Malaysian government on occasions

relating to the country’s national security.

Mr Phua, a Malaysian national and a former junket operator in Macau, was arrested in Las Vegas in July on charges related to illegal bookmaking. He had been arrested in Macau on June 18 and posted bail on similar allegations of illegal wagering

on World Cup football games.

According to the South China Morning Post, the letter, dated December 18, was submitted by Phua’s defense team to the US District Court in Las Vegas last week. Minister Zahid wrote in the letter, marked “private and confidential”,

that Phua “is neither a member nor is he associated with the 14K Triad in Malaysia.”

“Mr Phua has, on numerous occasions, assisted the Government of Malaysia on projects affecting our national security and accordingly we continue to call upon him to assist us from time to time and

as such we are eager for him to return to Malaysia,” the minister wrote. However, he did not elaborate on how Phua has assisted Malaysia in terms of its national security.

A counsel of Paul Phua claimed to the media on Saturday that Zahid was not vouching for Phua and was only res-

ponding to requests by Phua’s lawyers in the US. “Zahid is in the best position to inquire with the Royal Malaysian Police to ascertain if Phua is a member and associated with Hong Kong’s 14K triad here in Malaysia,” he claimed. Paul Phua is scheduled to face the court again on February 9.



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# Public consultation on land reclamation zones to be launched in Q1

A public consultation on land reclamation zones A and B will be launched during this year's first quarter, the newly sworn-in head of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) said, quoted by Radio Macau.

Li Canfeng was sworn in on Friday, returning to public service six years after he resigned. Mr Canfeng served as deputy director of DSSOPT between 1998 and 2008. During former Secretary for Transport and Public Works Ao Man Long's trial in 2007, he stated that he could not remember details related to the case. One year later, Mr Canfeng resigned.

Ao Man Long was sentenced by the Court of Final Appeal to 28 and a half years in prison for corruption, money laundering and unexplained wealth.

Mr Canfeng's appointment raised controversy not only because of Ao Man Long's case, but also because it remains unclear who



Li Canfeng was sworn in on Friday

chose him to head the bureau.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On and the new Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosario have both stressed that Mr Canfeng's professional history and educational background are suitable for the position. In addition to having served as DSSOPT's deputy director, the bureau recalled that Mr Canfeng holds a doctoral degree and is familiar with

operational matters.

The new DSSOPT director said on Friday that the bureau deals with a comprehensive portfolio involving different tasks, such as urban planning, land management, infrastructure, construction or project supervision. "Each task is closely related to people's lives. Each task is related with the development of Macau. We will listen to social opinions and strengthen communication and exchanges with citizens to make our administration and information open and transparent," he said, quoted by TDM News.

Mr Canfeng acknowledged that one of DSSOPT's priorities is to launch public consultation in the first quarter of this year to assess and revise plans for land reclamation zones A and B, due to the LRT route. Recovering unused lands and fighting illegal construction were highlighted as other priorities too.

## Compensation bill needed but not priority, Sonia Chan says

LAST May, a bill granting outgoing top officials lavish compensation and pension schemes sparked some of Macau's biggest protests in recent years. The newly appointed Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan said that the legislation is needed in Macau's legal system, but stressed it is not a priority for her cabinet at the moment.

On the sidelines of the swearing-in ceremony of the new director of the Legal Affairs Bureau and the Identification Services Bureau last week, Ms Chan said this is not the right time to table the bill again, adding there isn't a specific calendar to submit this piece of legislation in a near future either.


Ms Chan acknowledged that the government needs to have a compensation regime for outgoing officials and for the Chief Executive. However, when the government resumes legislative work on this bill a public consultation will be launched, the Government Information Bureau revealed in a statement.

The compensation bill was withdrawn from the Legislative Assembly last year following two major protests.


Ms Chan said that her cabinet is currently drafting the 2015 Policy Address related to the recruitment of public servants. She revealed that they will be suggesting limitations on the overall number of public servants, thus simplifying the efficiency of Macau's administration.

The Secretary and her team are also currently following up on the portfolio's current matters.

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# Samsung takes Google software challenge to TVs after phone flop

Jungah Lee

**S**AMSUNG Electronics Co.'s challenger to Google Inc. software is moving from phones to big-screen TVs as the South Korean company tries to capitalize on the burgeoning interest in smart homes.

The world's biggest maker of TVs will unveil the first sets powered by Tizen software at the Consumer Electronics Show this week, and all the Web-connected models it sells this year will run the operating system. The company also may demonstrate at CES how the TVs communicate with its washing machines, refrigerators and vacuum cleaners.

The controlling Lee family is trying to reinvent Samsung as a purveyor of Internet-connected appliances to



grab share of a market that may be worth USD7.1 trillion by 2020. Samsung wants to generate revenue from Tizen applications and services just as Apple Inc. and Google do from their operating systems, and the Suwon-based company is emphasizing TVs and consumer electronics after falling a year behind schedule on a Tizen-based phone.

"In smartphones, there's no chance that Samsung's Tizen can edge out the two dominant operating systems," said

Claire Kim, a Seoul-based analyst at Daishin Securities Co. "But in TVs, Samsung may have a chance."

Samsung's rise to No. 1 in global phone sales depended on Google's Android. Nearly all of the 243 million smartphones Samsung shipped through Sept. 30 ran the software, which Google typically gives away in return for mobile advertising revenue and a share of app sales.

Samsung faces the strongest challenge to its phone

supremacy after posting the smallest quarterly earnings in more than two years. Operating profit at the mobile-phone unit, the company's biggest cash generator, slumped 74 percent in the September quarter and sales fell about 33 percent.

That's prompting the company to look for new sources of revenue. Tizen emerged after Samsung joined Intel Corp. and NTT Docomo Inc., among others, to develop an alternative to Android and build its software capabilities.

Helped by Samsung, LG Electronics Inc. and dozens of other producers, Android runs about 84 percent of smartphones. That splinters the pool of profits, with many vendors losing money in a crowded market, market researcher Strategy Analytics said in October. **Bloomberg**

## Portuguese group EDP sells 50 pct of EDP Asia to ACE Asia

**P**ORTUGUESE power group EDP – Energias de Portugal has sold 50 percent of its stake in EDP Asia – Investimento e Consultoria, Ltda. to ACE Asia, a subsidiary of CWEI Hong Kong Company Limited, a 100 percent-owned subsidiary of China Three Gorges, the group said.

In a statement filed with the Portuguese Securities Market Commission (CMVM), the group also said that the parties valued the 50 percent stake in EDP Asia at 94 million euros.

The deal was agreed as part of the strategic partnership with China Three Gorges, in December 2011 and came into force in May 2012. It is considered to be part of CTG's total 2 billion-euro investment in EDP.

EDP Asia holds a 21.2 percent stake in Macau electricity company CEM, which has been the exclusive power transmission, distribution and supply company in the Macau Special Administrative Region since 1985. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD



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# Huge New Year's Eve celebrations at Sands Resorts Cotai Strip



**THE NEW** Year's Eve celebrations at Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao welcomed thousands of visitors enthralled by the wealth of entertainment options that catered for every kind of reveler, from those who wanted to brave the elements to those who preferred to watch a live feed of the countdown with a glass of champagne in the Venetian's ballroom.

According to a press release issued by Sands China, "a huge crowd turned up at The Venetian Macao to enjoy the festivities and party atmosphere, saying goodbye to 2014 and ringing in 2015." The free outdoor "Winter in Venice New Year's Eve Countdown" event was well attended, with people enjoying live music, dancers and an acrobatic performance by Kinetix. Guests also interacted with street performers, actors and musicians who roamed about delighting children and adults alike.

The highlight for the assembled crowd in the Venetian's outdoor area was the "3-D Light and Sound New Year's Eve Countdown Spectacular" which transformed the façade of The Venetian Macao into a countdown clock for the final five minutes of 2014, allowing everyone to usher in 2015 with a midnight pyrotechnics display, after which the festivities continued.

Indoors, many revelers welcomed the new year at "The Venetian Macao's New Year's Eve Gala Light Up 2015." Dressed to the nines, around 1,000 people celebrated with a four-course feast in The Venetian Ballroom. Hit makers and Grammy winners KC and the Sunshine Band thrilled the audience with renditions of their hits "Get Down Tonight," "That's The Way (I Like It)" and "I'm Your Boogie Man," and conducted a countdown to the New Year with the guests.

Also entertaining the assembled guests was the "Voice of China" Season 3 champion Zhang Bichen as well as Mo Haijing, a contestant from the same season and singer of the show's theme song; with the 2013 Cotai Jazz & Blues festival finalists Andy Frasco and the UN also appearing.

"Our Dreams 2015 The Voice of China New Year's Eve Live Concert in Macao" was also held at the Cotai Arena. The pop fans danced 2014 away as contestants from hit reality TV shows "The Voice of China" and "Sing My Song" took part in a friendly singing competition judged by celebrity singers Yang Kung and Zheng Jun. The two also served as mentors to the 18 singers from "The Voice of China" Season 3 competing with the four singers from "Sing My Song" and brought the best voices of China to Macau. The show was broadcast as part of Dragon TV's New Year's Eve program. At midnight all the singers crowded on stage to celebrate the New Year with everyone in the arena.



## Macau and Taipa welcome 2015



New Year's Eve Countdown Concert held in the Sai Van Lake Square



People join the New Year's Eve Countdown Party in Taipa to welcome 2015



ONE OF the biggest countdown parties in town was the Macau Countdown Concert 2014 at the Sai Van Lake Plaza in front of Macau Tower. Organized by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), the event featured performances by Hong Kong-based singers Andy Hui and Fiona Sit, as well as several local singers. Following the countdown, a fireworks show was held at the Macau Tower area. Many people gathered around Sai Van and Nam Van lakes to welcome the New Year.

IACM also organized its famous Taipa Countdown Show at the Taipa Houses-Museum, with booths set up by expatriate communities. Several Hong Kong and Macau singing and dancing performances were also held.

Didi Tang, Shanghai

ON New Year's Eve of 2013, Shanghai authorities sent about 6,000 city police officers and requested help from military police to manage a 300,000-strong crowd that filled the city's famed riverfront for the annual midnight light show. According to state media, police choked off access to an elevated viewing platform reachable through staircases and closed the nearest subway station to rein in the crowd.

On Wednesday night, just as many revelers showed up to ring in 2015, but the venue was guarded by only 700 police officers with no traffic control, state media reported. People were free to walk up and down the staircases, and the closest subway station was left open.

The city had already canceled the light show on the Bund, as the riverfront area is known, and apparently downgraded police deployment and crowd control measures. When the authorities became alarmed by the huge crowd, they called in another 500 police officers — but by then it was too late.

Three dozen people ended up trampled or asphyxiated to death in a stampede at the bottom of a 17-step, 5-meter-wide concrete staircase, shocking a city proud of its professional urban management and a country eager to show off its most cosmopolitan city.

While investigations continue into the New Year's Eve tragedy, eyewitness accounts and state media reports point to a sequence of miscalculations by city officials that helped create the out-of-control conditions leading to the stampede.

"You canceled the light show, but did you properly notify the public?" asked a father who lost his daughter in the stampede but declined to give his name for fear of offending the authorities. "Once people started to show up in the

SHANGHAI STAMPEDE

# Witnesses: Sequence of errors led to accident



Residents lay flowers for victims of a deadly stampede in Shanghai

hundreds of thousands, did you have backup measures to ensure safety? What were you doing during the time the crowds were growing?"

"The government has been seriously derelict of its duties," he said sternly.

A landmark and top attraction of this financial hub, the Bund has been a high priority for local authorities, but the lack of police deployment on Wednesday shows an oversight by Shanghai's government, said Zhao Chu, a local resident and an independent commentator.

"It's been a tradition to see the lights on the Bund on New Year's Eve. Shanghai people know it, and the whole country knows it," Zhao said. "The government should have foreseen the crowds on that night. Such incidents could have been avoided."

Liu Tiemin, a researcher at the China Academy of Safety Science and Technology, told China's official Xinhua News Agency that ma-

naging such a huge crowd requires splitting the mass into smaller, less chaotic groups, and making sure crowds move in one direction through the space. Neither strategy was followed in Shanghai, Liu said.

The next day, authorities flooded the Bund and an adjacent commercial road with thousands of police and military personnel to control traffic. "The stampede would not have occurred if they had been here last night," a street vendor said, gesturing toward the uniformed police.

For three New Year's Eves in a row, Shanghai hosted the spectacular midnight show on the Bund, but authorities canceled it this year because of worries about overcrowding. China's major cities were already on edge after a series of knife, bombing and vehicular attacks blamed on terrorists left hundreds of people dead.

Instead, authorities opted for a smaller light show to be held at a nearby 2,000-person venue that

■ The lack of police deployment on Wednesday shows an oversight by Shanghai's government, said Zhao Chu

required admission tickets.

Local media in Shanghai reported on the plans for the scaled-down light show several days before the event, but did not give many details, according to the financial news magazine Caixin. Meanwhile, the media continued to hype a light show, the magazine said. The new venue also has a similar name to the Bund, which may have added to the public confusion.

Authorities say investigations into the tragedy are ongoing, but patrol officers have confirmed that the city downgraded police deployment on the Bund on Wednesday night.

"Because there was no scheduled event, there was no traffic control," patrol officer Wang Qiang told state media, adding that tourists kept asking him if there would be a light show.

Starting at around 8 p.m. Wednesday, revelers began showing up on the lightly patrolled riverfront.

At around 11:20 p.m., as huge crowds gathered, authorities re-

minded them that the annual light show on the riverfront had been canceled. Ten minutes later, surveillance video showed a massive jam of people on the steps at the end of a public square featuring a statue of the city's first Communist mayor, Chen Yi. Those steps lead to the best vantage point to view the Huangpu River and the skyscrapers across the water.

Authorities responded by dispatching 500 more police, but at around 11:35 p.m., people fell row by row on the steps under the crush of the crowd, which was trying to move both up and down the steps, survivors and eyewitnesses said.

"It was unstoppable. The force from above fell on us," recalled Zhao Weiwei, a survivor whose girlfriend, Pan Haiqin, died in the stampede. "There might have been two to three security people. That was virtually none."

Yu Ping, another survivor, said: "There was no security. Not at all."

Family members, survivors and witnesses also complained of a lack of emergency response in the wake of the disaster. Police vehicles and private cars were used to transport the victims, with little medical emergency service available, and the victims arrived in emergency rooms only to see few medical professionals, they said.

In one case, family members of a 25-year-old woman said that she had a stable pulse, opened her eyes twice and appeared conscious when she was put into a vehicle and taken to a hospital, but that there was no doctor on hand to treat her when she arrived.

"As one of the first to arrive at a hospital, she should have had the best chances of survival, but the delay cost her life," said a statement by her family, which requested anonymity because of fears of possible government reprisals.

"We are extremely angry," the woman's uncle told The Associated Press. "Her life should not have been ended like this." AP

SHANGHAI STAMPEDE

## China targets critics

Patti Waldmeir  
FT, Shanghai

THE Shanghai government took measures at the weekend to prevent public criticism of its role in the New Year's Eve stampede that left 36 people dead, including banning interviews with relatives of victims and allowing only photos cleared by censors into city papers.

The cause of the stampede on the city's historic waterfront known as the "Bund" — which claimed the lives of mostly young people, including a 12-year-old boy — remains unclear.

But online discussion of the event, including cri-



Residents gather near the spot of a deadly stampede where flowers are placed to commemorate the victims

ticism of local police for failing to staff the event adequately, has been shut down with critical posts deleted. According to the South China Morning Post, dozens of those who posted online criticisms have been interrogated by police.

The stampede happened at 11:35pm at a popular sightseeing spot on the Bund, one of the best vantage points to watch a light show at the Pearl Tower, icon of the Shanghai skyline, on the opposite bank of the Huangpu River.

Hundreds of thousands of revellers, many of them tourists from outside Shanghai, thronged to the waterfront, perhaps unaware that some of the events that traditionally take place there on New Year's Eve had been cancelled. At least 36 died and 49 were injured, 13 seriously.

Shanghai prides itself on being China's best managed and most advanced city. News of the tragedy has come as a shock to government officials trying to create an image of the city as a world class financial centre in the making.

Censors have carefully managed the scale of coverage in local media, with most allowed to report factually on what occurred. However, they cannot speculate on the reasons for the stampede or publish stories airing complaints from

relatives about failure to prevent the stampede, slow response by emergency services, or preventing access to victims in hospital.

At the scene of the stampede yesterday, police allowed groups of two or three people to lay flowers at the foot of a statue of Shanghai's first Communist party mayor, Chen Yi, who gave his name to the square near where the stampede happened.

Large crowds surveyed the impromptu memorial to the dead, gazing away from the waterfront view that normally enthralled Shanghai sightseers. Police blocked entrance to a Communist party compound elsewhere in the city, where relatives were taken to negotiate compensation with the government.

Local media were ordered not to "interview any rela-

tives of the injured and dead or interview those attending memorial meetings" and told to delete all copies of a story from last week's Beijing News entitled: "10 questions about the stampede at the Bund".

Local news websites are not allowed to use the stampede as their top item online, and "all information about attacking the party and government and attacking the social system of our country should be deleted", a directive to local media said.

China has long been criticised for censoring reporting of tragedies to cast the government's role in the best possible light and limit critical public discussion. Government officials say controls are needed to prevent rumours and maintain social order. **Financial Times/MDT Exclusive**

## INDONESIA

# Prayers held as divers thwarted from AirAsia site

Eileen Ng, Surabaya

**A**ROUND 100 family members of AirAsia Flight 8501 crash victims sought strength yesterday, one week after the disaster, while bad weather again prevented searchers from reaching a large object on the ocean floor that is believed to be the fuselage.

Emotionally exhausted relatives sang and cried at a tiny chapel in Surabaya, the city where the plane departed from last Sunday with 162 crew members and passengers. The Rev. Philip Mantofa, who heads the congregation at the city's Mawar Sharon Church — where more than a quarter of the crash victims were members — urged those gathered to find comfort in their faith while embracing the reality that no one survived the disaster.

"If God has called your child, allow me to say this: Your child is not to be pitied," Mantofa told one Indonesian man seated in the front row. "Your child is already in God's arms. One day, your family will be reunited in heaven."

It is not clear what caused the



Members of Mawar Sharon church attend a prayer service for the relatives of lost loved ones aboard the AirAsia Flight 8501

## US warns about threat against banks, hotels in Surabaya

**T**HE U.S. Embassy in Jakarta has issued a warning to Americans about a potential threat against U.S. associated banks and hotels in Indonesia's second-largest city, Surabaya.

An embassy spokesperson said yesterday there was nothing linking the warning with AirAsia Flight 8501. The plane crashed into the Java Sea a week ago after taking off from Surabaya, killing all 162 passengers and crew on board. The U.S. Navy is taking part in an international effort to recover bodies and locate the wreckage.

The alert was issued to U.S. citizens on Saturday without giving details.

Indonesia's national police spokesman Brig. Gen. Agus Riyanto said he was unaware of any terrorism

threat against banks and hotels in Surabaya, but promised that security would be increased.

The U.S. views Indonesia, the country with the highest population of Muslims, as a voice of moderation and important partner in countering Islamist militancy. Washington wants Jakarta to stop any flow of fighters from Indonesia to the Middle East and tighten controls on terrorist financing.

Indonesia has seen a spate of deadly attacks by Muslim militants, including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists. However, in recent years, smaller and less deadly strikes have been targeting mainly police and anti-terrorism forces.

Singapore-bound plane to crash into the Java Sea 42 minutes after taking off on what was supposed to be a two-hour flight. Minutes before losing contact, the pilot told air traffic control that he was approaching threatening clouds, but was denied permission to climb to a higher altitude because of heavy air traffic.

Despite an intensive international search-and-recovery operation, only 31 bodies have been found so far, in large part because of bad weather. But after detecting what appears to be a massive part of the fuselage on Saturday, officials said it was possible that many passengers and crew will be found inside the wreckage.

Divers waited for breaks in the weather yesterday to reach the site, but rolling seas stirred up silt and mud, leaving them with

zero visibility, said Henry Bambang Soelistyo, chief of Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency. They were forced to turn back because conditions were so bad.

"At this moment, it's impossible to send any divers," he said. "We'll wait until the weather gets better."

Twenty planes and helicopters were deployed Sunday together with 27 ships from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and the United States. All were desperately searching for any sign of the all-important black boxes and pieces of the Airbus A320.

The investigation got a huge boost this weekend when sonar equipment identified five large objects on the seabed in the search area, but no images have been captured confirming they are part of the AirAsia plane.

The biggest piece of debris, measuring 18 meters (59 feet) long and 5.4 meters (18 feet) wide, appeared to be part of the fuselage, Soelistyo said. Four other chunks were found in the same area, including one detected on Sunday.

Suspected plane parts also were seen scattered on beaches during an aerial survey.

Indonesian authorities have announced the grounding of AirAsia flights from Surabaya to Singapore, with the Transport Ministry saying the airline did not have a permit to fly on Sundays. However, Singapore's Civil Aviation Authority said Saturday that from its end, the airline had been approved to fly the route daily. **AP**

## VIETNAM

## Ship sinks off Vietnam, only 1 of 19 crew rescued

**A** Norwegian cargo ship with 19 Filipino crew members sank off the coast of southern Vietnam with only one man known to have survived, officials said yesterday.

Two bodies have been recovered since the Bulk Jupiter sank Friday en route from Malaysia to China, and Vietnamese rescuers aided by commercial ships passing through the area continued to search for the others, according to Vietnamese authorities and the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs.

The lone survivor was the chief cook on the ship, but he is refusing to cooperate with rescuers, making the search more difficult, a Vietnamese rescue official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media.

The man refused to say what happened with the ship, the official said. It wasn't clear why he wasn't talking.

The ship owner, Bergen-based Gearbulk, said the vessel was 155 nautical miles (287 kilometers) off Vietnam with a cargo of bauxite when it sent a distress signal that was picked up by the Japanese coast guard. The Philippine Foreign Affairs said the 190-meter (623-foot) long, 56,000-ton ship sank off the coast of Vung Tau, which is about 96 kilometers (59 miles) from the southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh City.

The rescue operation was hampered Saturday by hazy weather and high waves.

Vessels from Liberia, Oman, Singapore and China were helping in the search, the Philippine Foreign Affairs said. **AP**

## N. Korea blasts US for sanctions over Sony attack

**N**ORTH Korea yesterday criticized the United States for slapping sanctions on Pyongyang officials and organizations for a cyberattack on Sony Pictures — the latest fallout from a Hollywood movie depicting the fictional assassination of North Korea's leader.

An unnamed spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry, in rhetoric that closely mirrors past statements, denied any role in the breach of tens of thousands of confidential Sony emails and business files and accused the United States of "groundlessly" stirring up hostility toward Pyongyang. The spokesman said the new sanctions would not weaken the country's 1.2-million-strong military.

The spokesman told the North's official media mouthpiece, the Korean Central News Agency, that the sanctions show America's "inveterate repugnance and hostility toward the DPRK," referring to the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"The policy persistently pursued by the U.S. to stifle the DPRK, groundlessly stirring up bad blood toward it, would only harden its will and resolution to defend the sovereignty of the country," the spokesman said.

The United States on Friday sanctioned 10 North Korean government officials and three organizations, including Pyongyang's primary intelligence agency and state-run arms dealer, in what the White House described as an opening move in the response toward the Sony cyberattack.

The sanctions might have only a limited effect, as North Korea already is under tough U.S. and international sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs. President Barack Obama also warned Pyongyang that the United States was considering whether to put North Korea back on its list of state sponsors of terrorism, which could jeopardize aid to the country on a global scale.

American officials portrayed the sanctions as a swift, decisive response to North Korean behavior that they said had gone far over the line. Never before has the U.S. imposed sanctions on another nation in direct retaliation for a cyberattack on an American company.

There have been doubts in the cyber community, however, about the extent of North Korea's involvement. Many experts have said it's possible that hackers or even Sony insiders could be the culprits, and questioned how the FBI can

point the finger so conclusively.

The 10 North Koreans singled out for sanctions didn't necessarily have anything to do with the attack on Sony, senior U.S. officials said. Anyone who works for or helps North Korea's government is now fair game, especially North Korea's defense sector and spying operations, they said.

North Korea has expressed fury over "The Interview," an anti-Pyongyang Sony comedy. It has denied hacking Sony, but called the act a "righteous deed."

Sony initially decided to call off the film's release after movie theaters decided not to show the film. After Obama criticized that decision, Sony released the movie in limited theaters and online.

Questions remain about who was behind a nearly 10-hour recent shutdown of North Korean websites. The United States never said whether it was responsible, but North Korea's powerful National Defense Commission blamed the U.S. and hurled racial slurs at Obama, calling him a reckless "monkey in a tropical forest."

Such hateful comments are not new: Pyongyang has similarly attacked other U.S. officials and called South Korea's female president a prostitute. **AP**

Mike Balsamo, New York

USA

# Officers salute police boss, mayor at wake for slain officer

**M**AYOR Bill de Blasio drew salutes from some officers at the wake for a second slain New York Police Department officer after the city's police commissioner urged his ranks to refrain from making political statements.

The uniformed police officers showed respect rather than disdain for de Blasio when he arrived with Police Commissioner William Bratton, with some saluting as the men entered at the start of the daylong event for Officer Wenjian Liu. His funeral arrangements had been delayed so relatives from China could travel to New York.

Liu and his partner, Officer Rafael Ramos were fatally shot in their patrol car on a Brooklyn street two weeks ago by Ismaaiyl Brinsley, who killed himself as police closed in. Brinsley had made references online to the killings of unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers, vowing to put "wings on pigs."

Investigators say Brinsley was an emotionally disturbed loner who started off his rampage by shooting and wounding an ex-girlfriend in Baltimore.

The police killings ramped up emotions in the already-tense national debate over police conduct. Since Ramos and Liu were killed, police in New York have investigated at least 70 threats made against officers, and more than a dozen people have been arrested.

For de Blasio, the gesture of respect during the wake contrasted with the back-turning insults hundreds of officers displayed last week toward video screens showing the mayor speaking



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, center left

at Ramos' funeral. Bratton had urged rank-and-file officers not to make political statements at Liu's wake and funeral.

"A hero's funeral is about grieving, not grievance," Bratton said in a memo read to all commands at roll calls Friday and Saturday. "I issue no mandates, and I make no threats of discipline, but I remind you that when you don the uniform of this department, you are bound by the tradition, honor and decency that go with it."

Police union officials, who are negotiating a contract with the city, had accused de Blasio of helping foster an anti-police atmosphere by supporting demonstrations following the chokehold death of an unarmed black man in the New York City borough of Staten Island who resisted arrest. The back-turning at Ramos'

funeral mimicked what some police union officials did outside a hospital when the officers were killed two weeks ago.

Hundreds of uniformed police officers from around the U.S. streamed into the wake for Liu.

"This is a really tragic story," said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who attended the wake two days after the death of his father — former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo.

He noted that Liu and his wife were newlyweds who had just moved into a home months into their marriage.

"She's now a widow," he said. "This is really pointless. It had nothing to do with them. They did nothing wrong. It wasn't about them. It was pure and random hatred."

Cuomo also expressed his own

sorrow.

"Today is not the day for my dad, but I can say I miss him already. There's a hole in my heart," he said.

Liu's funeral was scheduled for Sunday (today, Macau time) with a Chinese ceremony led by Buddhist monks to be followed by a traditional police ceremony with eulogies led by a chaplain (see box).

Uniformed officers from across the U.S. were among the first in line Saturday at Liu's wake. About 20 officers from the Los Angeles Police Department traveled to Brooklyn to pay their

respects to the fallen policeman.

"When it happens here, it happens to us," LAPD Officer Hannu Tarjamo said. "It doesn't matter if it happens here, or in L.A., or in Louisiana. It's an act of savagery that should be condemned by society."

Luda Kaplan, 67, of Brooklyn, carried a handmade sign with a heart and "NYPD" on it as she stood across the street from the funeral home. She said her son-in-law was an NYPD officer for 20 years.

"When he left every morning at 4:30 a.m., we didn't know if he would come home," she said. **AP**

## BUDDHIST MONKS TO LEAD SECOND NYPD OFFICER FUNERAL

**BUDDHIST MONKS** will lead a Chinese ceremony for Officer Wenjian Liu, followed by a traditional police ceremony with eulogies led by a chaplain. The funeral follows a somber wake the day before as mourners lined up for blocks on a cold, rainy day to pay their respects. Liu, 32, had served as a policeman for seven years and was married just two months when he was killed with his partner, Officer Rafael Ramos, on Dec. 20. Ramos' funeral was held a week ago.

"This is a really tragic story," Gov. Andrew Cuomo told reporters following the wake, held just two days



after the death of his own father, former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo. "This is really pointless. It had nothing to do with them," he said of Liu and Ramos. "They did nothing wrong. ... It was pure and random hatred."

## Obama looks past Republicans in promoting his 2015 agenda

**P**RESIDENT Barack Obama plans new steps to help middle-income Americans, part of a 2015 agenda he hopes can build on the post-election momentum from high-profile moves on immigration and Cuba.

Obama is expected back in Washington today.

His approach for the new year appears to look straight past newly emboldened Republicans who take full control of Congress tomorrow.

Fresh from a two-week Hawaiian vacation, the president was readying executive actions and legislative proposals to start promoting right away while advisers and speechwriters flesh out the broad themes that Obama



wants to emphasize in his State of the Union policy address on Jan. 20. It will be his sixth since taking office, but his first before a Congress entirely in Republican hands.

In a sign of their divergent paths, Obama was heading out of Washington on Wednesday just

as the new Congress was settling in. He plans stops in Michigan, Arizona and Tennessee aimed at highlighting how his own economic policies were contributing to the country's recovery.

Obama has appeared energized by the end-of-the-year action on immigration policy and Cuban relations, suggesting continued presidential relevance despite a political landscape dramatically altered by deep Democratic losses in the November elections.

Since the November election setback, the key question has been whether Obama will lean in or away from compromise with Republicans in his final two years. Of the

issues the White House said Obama will emphasize in the coming weeks, none was among the few areas that both Democrats and Republicans have cited as ripe for deal-making — trade, taxes, and public works.

An Obama spokesman, Eric Schultz, said the president would announce proposals this coming week that focus on helping middle-class Americans benefit from the economic recovery.

"There are a number of issues we could make progress on, but the president is clear that he will not let this Congress undo important protections gained — particularly in areas of health care, Wall Street reform and the en-

vironment," Schultz said.

Obama has threatened to use his veto power to block Republican attacks this year.

In Detroit on Wednesday, Obama plans to cite the return of manufacturing jobs and his decision to bail out the auto industry. In Phoenix the next day, Obama intends to showcase gains in the housing sector since the real estate crash and come out with new steps to help Americans buy a home, the White House said.

On Friday, Vice President Joe Biden will join Obama in Tennessee to discuss new ways to help more people attend college or receive job-training.

With Obama's prime-time address to the nation less than three weeks away, the White House has reached out to Democratic groups such as the Center for American Progress to solicit input, without

making commitments.

Lacking a Democratic majority in the Senate to stop them, Republican lawmakers convening Tuesday intend to start chipping away on health care, immigration and the environment, displaying their power as Obama enters the last years of his presidency and the 2016 race starts to unfold.

Republican Rep. Rodney Davis said the House would start right away with jobs bills that have won the support of both parties before but never advanced in the Senate.

"If the president is willing to work with us, we'll have a real chance to address our nation's most pressing challenges," he said in the weekly Republican address.

During his vacation with his wife and daughters, Obama spent long afternoons on the beach with his girls and golfed nearly every day with friends. **AP**

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## what's ON



"DISCOVERING SOLID IDEAS: EXHIBITION OF COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK BY DERRY SIO & HIS STUDENTS"

TIME: 12pm-10pm (Mondays to Fridays, Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: January 25, 2015

VENUE: Educational Restaurant and Team Building, IFT

ENQUIRES: 2856 1252

HENGQIN TODAY PHOTOS AND VIDEOS CREATIVE EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: February 8, 2014

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do Coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

"ONE HUNDRED PHOTOGRAPHERS FOCUS ON MACAU" EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Level 2 Showcase, MGM Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

EXHIBITION "BETWEEN SCIENCE AND ART: THE MARVELS OF ASIA IN THE EYES OF POLISH JESUIT MICHAŁ PIOTR BOYM, SJ."

TIME: 10am-7pm (Mondays to Saturdays)  
11am-7pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: January 18, 2015

VENUE: Sir Robert Ho Tung Library

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2837 7117

ADMISSION: Free

PENGUINS UNDERCOVER ICE WORLD WITH THE DREAMWORKS GANG

TIME: 11am-8pm

UNTIL: March 8, 2015

VENUE: Cotai Expo

ADMISSION: MOP120

ENQUIRIES: 2882 8818

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

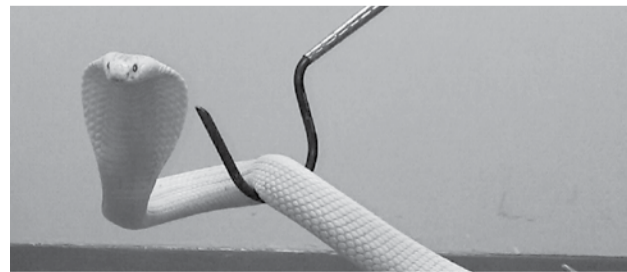
Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## Offbeat

## FAMOUS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WHITE COBRA GETS NAME: ADHIRA



A white monocled cobra that briefly became a national celebrity after it roamed a Southern California neighborhood for several days in September now has a new name.

The San Diego Zoo tells the Los Angeles Times that the cobra will be called Adhira, which in Hindi means "lightning."

The Times says Adhira came in first in an online poll to find a name for the venomous cobra that was captured in Thousand Oaks and, after a period of quarantine, joined the zoo's Reptile House.

Adhira received 4,612 votes, besting Sapheda (white), Krima (cream), Cini (Sugar), Moti (pearl) and Sundara (beautiful). Selected by the cobra's keepers, the names were meant to reflect the Southeast Asia region where cobras are native.

The Times says the snake went on exhibit Dec. 23.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
17:35	Brazil Avenue (Repeat)
18:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
00:00	Documentary Series
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

05 JAN - 07 JAN



## TAKEN 3\_

ROOM 1

2.00, 3.55, 5.50, 9.30 pm

Director: Olivier Megaton

Starring: Liam Neeson, Forest Whitaker, Franke Janssen

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

## NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB\_

ROOM 1

7.45 pm

Director: Shawn Levy

Starring: Ben Stiller, Robin Williams, Owen Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min



## SEVENTH SON\_

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Sergei Bodrov

Starring: Jeff Bridges, Julianne Moore, Ben Barnes

Language: Chinese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 102min



## WOMEN WHO FLIRT\_

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Pang Ho-Cheung

Starring: Zhou Xun, Huang Xiao Ming

Language: Chinese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 97min

## MACAU TOWER

01 JAN - 21 JAN

## TAKEN 3\_

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Olivier Megaton

Starring: Liam Neeson, Forest Whitaker, Franke Janssen

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

## this day in history



## 1985 ISRAEL ENDS MAJOR ETHIOPIAN RESCUE MISSION

Israel has airlifted thousands of Jewish Ethiopian refugees out of Sudan, it has emerged.

Operation Moses, which has been taking place in secret since 21 November 1984, has been suspended since news of the covert airlift became public.

Press leaks have forced the Israeli Government to admit that about 8,000 Ethiopians fleeing famine-struck Ethiopia have now arrived in Israel.

The Arab world has been angered by Khartoum's decision to co-operate with Israel and allow charter planes to fly from Sudan - which does not recognise the country.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, has insisted that Operation Moses will continue.

Jewish people from Ethiopia are said to be able to trace their lineage back almost 3,000 years and may be the descendants of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

They are a minority in Ethiopia where the major religions are Christianity and Islam.

The Jewish community has suffered discrimination, particularly in recent years under Marxist President Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam who prohibited the practice of Judaism and the teaching of Hebrew.

The operation began following reports last September that more Jewish refugees from Ethiopia were arriving in Sudan, and many were dying from malnutrition.

Some of them, who now live in Israel, claim that details of Operation Moses was leaked by Israelis who have been alarmed at the number of Jewish refugees from Ethiopia arriving in the country.

Until recently they were not given Jewish status and public opinion in Israel on the government's motives for launching Operation Moses are mixed.

Some believe its reasons are humanitarian, but others think the refugees from Ethiopia are simply the latest immigrants to settle in Israel and raise the numbers now living there.

There are now between 10,000 and 15,000 Jewish people from Ethiopia living in Israel.

Estimates suggest there is still a similar figure living in famine-hit villages in the Ethiopian province of Gondar and 1,000 in refugee camps in Sudan.

Jewish people from Ethiopia who live in Israel claim the publicity surrounding the operation has endangered the safety of refugees in Sudan.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

It is estimated that around 4,000 Jewish people from Ethiopia died making the journey by foot to Sudan.

The US completed the airlift when it launched Operation Joshua in the same year.

In 1991, Israel launched Operation Solomon and airlifted 15,000 Ethiopian Jewish people.

There are now around 80,000 Jewish people from Ethiopia living in Israel, but they have faced difficulties assimilating into society.

According to a government report in 1999, many cannot write Hebrew and the unemployment rate among the Ethiopian community in Israel is at least three times the national average.

Coming from a subsistence economy some found it hard to find work in an industrialised country.

But nearly all young Ethiopian males have been assimilated into the army during national service.

An independent report has said that Jewish people from Ethiopia were "no longer viewed as a curiosity, but as a familiar part of Israel's ethnic mosaic".

In January 2004, the Israeli government announced that it would speed up the removal of 18,000 Jewish people still living in Ethiopia. The Falasha Mura community, as they are known, say they are the last remaining Jewish community in Ethiopia and have long been persecuted for their beliefs.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to start something new today - it's in your blood. Try to dig deeply into your well of ideas, as there's a good one that's been dormant for far too long. Push forward and have fun!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today is all about communication, so make sure that you're keeping the flow moving with grace and speed. You should find that it's easier than ever to pass along the most important info.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You just aren't sure what to think - which is a rarity for you! It's a good time to let things proceed on their own while you try to make up your mind one way or the other. Let the process go on its own.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to deal with an important personal issue today. Don't panic - it's not the end of the world; in fact, you should find that you've got what it takes to turn it into a real asset!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're feeling a sense of power and control that may be new to you. It's a great time for you to get your people to rally around a new cause or to just cease fire long enough to celebrate something wonderful.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've got to get better organized - and yes, that is possible! See if you can get your people to rally around a cleaning effort, or maybe you could just tackle your filing system once and for all.

Libra Sep. 23-Oct. 22 The smaller things in life are more important than you realize today - so make sure that you're focused on the details! It may be hard with everything going on in your life, but it's a mental health break.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Control is a problem for you, and today you have a new opportunity to let go. See if you can find a good way to just ease into your new situation without having to know everything ahead of time.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You and your colleagues or family members are out of sync, but it's not the end of the world. You just need to step up and make sure that they don't see this rough patch as a symbol of anything bad.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to avoid the temptation to take offense today - someone lets fly with a comment that can be taken in many different ways. You are much better off assuming they mean it to be harmless.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to get out in the world and work your muscles! Some kind of exercise is vital - but don't overdo it, of course! You just need to make sure that you're on top of your fitness.

Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Try not to worry too much about your romantic situation today - you are in a good place, and whether you're single or seeing someone, you can expect things to get a lot better by the end of the day!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for Easy level with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for Easy+ level with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for Medium level with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for Hard level with some numbers pre-filled.

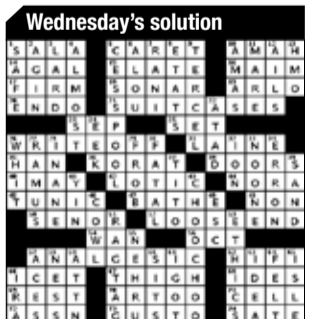
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Moral principle; 6- \_\_\_ boy; 10- Floor covering where the cat sat; 13- More than once; 14- Labor; 15- Broadcasts; 16- Consumed; 17- "All The Way To \_\_\_", song by REM; 18- Brief letter, paper money; 19- Fool; 20- Teachers in habits; 22- Equine sounds; 24- Medium setting; 28- Biscuit; 31- Severe; 32- Crooked; 34- AWOL chasers; 36- Author Hunter; 37- Actress Scala; 38- Keeps; 41- \_\_\_ tree falls...; 42- Campus mil. group; 44- Joplin song; 45- As \_\_\_ resort; 47- Of a pelvic bone; 49- Lack of variety; 51- Steering system component; 53- Nearly; 56- Registers; 59- Stadium din; 61- Warner \_\_\_; 64- Winglike parts; 65- Most unfavorable; 66- Salt Lake City hoopsters; 67- Resting place; 68- Montana city; 69- Georgia, once: Abbr.; 70- Gee whiz; 71- Beasts of burden;

DOWN: 1- French summers; 2- Two; 3- Blackjack request; 4- Tool to break solid water; 5- 100 yrs.; 6- In danger; 7- Some digits; 8- Hue; 9- Healing plants; 10- O Sole \_\_\_; 11- Singer Garfunkel; 12- Half a fly; 15- Having a handle; 20- Fall of rain; 21- Hi-\_\_\_ monitor; 23- Attendee; 25- One of the Leeward Islands; 26- Skill; 27- Sicilian resort; 29- Icon; 30- Center starter; 32- Garlic sauce; 33- French composer Erik; 35- Slowpokes; 37- Fortitude; 39- Make lace; 40- Run-down quarter; 43- Fondle; 46- Disposed to love; 48- Swindle; 50- 4th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 52- Sturm und \_\_\_; 54- Arranges in groups; 55- Sensation provided by buds on the tongue; 57- Bread spread; 58- Colleen; 60- Numbered rds.; 61- Student's conveyance; 62- ACLU concerns; 63- Not 'neath; 65- Ring org.;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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SKIING

# US Shiffrin leads WCup slalom after 1st run

Eric Willemsen, Zagreb

**A**MERICAN skier Mikaela Shiffrin continued her recent resurgence by building a commanding lead in the opening run of a World Cup slalom yesterday.

The Olympic champion timed 56.88 seconds on the Crveni Spust course to lead second-place Kathrin Zettel of Austria by 0.80. Sarka Strachova of the Czech Republic was 1.03 behind in third.

"I felt really good, I felt fast," said Shiffrin, who leaned backward and nearly skied out on the finish steep but quickly recovered. "I watched Zettel go out of the gate as she went just before me. I was watching her, thinking, 'She's really fast, I have to go fast, too.'"



Mikaela Shiffrin

Shiffrin won the slalom World Cup the past two seasons but failed to reach a podium in the first three races this season until winning in dominating style in Kuehtai, Austria, last week.

"With every single run that I take I get more confident," the American said. "My skiing is good right now, it's kind of back on track and my equipment feels really good."

The 19-year-old Shiffrin, who won the event two years ago, is aiming for her 11th career slalom victory to match a World Cup record set in 1980 by France's Perrine Pelen for most slalom wins as a teenager.

Frida Hansdotter of Sweden, who tops the slalom standings, trailed Shiffrin by 2.15 in eighth while overall leader Tina Maze of Slovenia came fifth and had 1.75 to make up in the second run.

Former overall champion Nicole Hosp of Austria, who won in Aspen in November, skied out.

There is one more slalom before next month's world championships in Vail and Beaver Creek — in Flachau, Austria, on Jan. 13. AP

FOOTBALL

## Russian player shot dead

A 20-year-old footballer for Russian club Anzhi Makhachkala has been shot dead near his home in Russia's volatile North Caucasus. Gasan Magomedov was driving into his home village Saturday night when his car was sprayed with machine-gun fire and he died from his wounds while being transported to hospital, Anzhi said in a statement. No arrests have been made and the motive is unclear, the club said. There were no reports of any other casualties. Magomedov was a regular in midfield for Anzhi's youth and reserve teams and the club expressed "the deepest condolences" on his death. "One thing can be said with confidence - Magomedov could not have provoked anything like this in any way," the club said. The Russian region of Dagestan, where the attack took place and where Anzhi is based, has a long-running Islamist insurgency. Gun battles between rebels and Russian security forces are not uncommon. AP

AD

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opinion

Insight  
 Paulo Barbosa



ONE FADING SYSTEM?

1. Unfortunately, a lawmakers' agenda doesn't always coincide with the citizens concerns. Directly elected Ho Ion Sang, one of the main figures of the influential Macau General Union of the Neighborhood Associations (known as "Kai Fong" in Cantonese) said in the 2012 elections campaign that the overheating property market was one of the three major aspects of public concern, the others being economic diversification and responsible gaming.

Being coherent with his previous statements, Ho Ion Sang reiterated the consequences of the housing problem for many residents. He said this weekend that most of the local tenants are in an "unfavorable situation" since most landlords, sometimes advised by estate agents that resort to unethical tactics, only agree to short-term contracts. "The contracts are signed for one year and then the rent will rise by a very high extent. What we heard from the market is that tenants are on the disadvantage side," he told TDM.

The fact that the rent increase ratio is not regulated (although the current law opens doors for such regulation) leads to irrational increases that families can't and shouldn't be asked to afford. The lawmaker is asking for new rules for the rental market. If that means setting a limit on rent increases, thumbs up for him. Such a measure is common in many countries and serves to protect tenants from arbitrary increases and ensure social stability. The matter was brought to the Legislative Assembly in a bill presented by Pereira Coutinho in 2013, who rightly spoke of "a social emergency situation." Meanwhile nothing was done to address the situation, which worsens by the day.

2. Emily Lau, who is a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council (Legco) and leader Democratic Party, came to Macau on Saturday accompanied by friends. After arriving at the Macau Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal, she was barred from entering the territory.

The HK legislator was told by immigration officials that she was not allowed to enter Macau due to security concerns.

"This is ridiculous," she commented to the South China Morning Post. "It sends a very wrong message to the people in both Macau and Hong Kong; that the 'one country, two systems' principle is fading."

It is not the first time that the first woman to be directly elected into the Legco (in 1991) has been prevented from entering the region. That was the case in 2008, when the former journalist and other Democratic Party members (like Albert Ho) intended to take part in a protest organized by the New Macau Association on the sidelines of MSAR's 9th anniversary, but were barred.

But this time Ms Lau states that she had no appointments with fellow politicians here and her visit was purely personal. "I only went to Macau with three of my friends to have some fun and to enjoy the food but the thing still ended up this way. I feel really angry," she said (see our coverage on page 3).

In recent times, there have been too many cases of people prohibited from entering Macau, with the police always citing the Internal Security Law and security concerns.

The details leading to Emily Lau's "blacklisting" are not clear. To explain other cases, the government said things like: "It's up to the police to, according to the law, refuse entry to non-residents that are considered inadmissible or constitute a threat to the region's peace, order and social stability." Or: "During their stay the tourists must respect the local laws, abstaining from enrolling in activities that are not suitable with their status as tourists."

But it's difficult to understand what danger to society Emily Lau could present if she was coming here to enjoy a dinner with friends. To bar someone from entering a territory by citing security reasons is a very serious matter and much more so when the person is a lawmaker. Let's imagine that Pereira Coutinho was prevented from entering Hong Kong for the same reasons - what would the local government think of that? To bar someone simply because he thinks differently is not healthy. In fact, it reminds me of totalitarianism.

The National Society of Film Critics has chosen the 3-D movie "Goodbye to Language" as the best picture of 2014 in their 49th annual awards meeting in New York City.

Society members gathered at Lincoln Center in Manhattan over the weekend to vote, choosing French director Jean-Luc Godard's 70-minute film collage as their top pick.

Director Richard Linklater won best director

for his drama "Boyhood," and Laura Poitras' "Citizenfour" documentary of the government's secret surveillance program exposed by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden was chosen as best non-fiction film.

British actor Timothy Spall was selected as best actor of 2014 for his portrayal of British painter J.M.W. Turner in "Mr. Turner."

# Plane engine dies just before takeoff from Surabaya

IN the latest incident to hit an AirAsia flight departing from Surabaya, the engine of a plane failed just before it took off from Juanda International Airport in the Indonesian city, the Straits Times reported, citing Indonesian news media.

The Bandung-bound plane had been taxiing for 2m to 3m before takeoff when the engine suddenly died. Indonesia's Metro TV said that the incident horrified passengers.

The plane made it back to the gate and the 120 passengers on board were then asked to disembark while the plane underwent repairs.

Passenger Yusuf Fitriadi told Metro TV that a man clad in pilots' uniform told passengers waiting at the terminal that

the starter monitor had malfunctioned.

"The plane was ready and moved, but suddenly a loud sound was heard, the sound of the engine disappeared and the plane moved backwards. We were shocked and panicked. The plane was then pulled back to where it parked and we were asked by the stewardess to leave the plane," the passenger told.

Mr Yusuf said that the airline later told passengers that the flight would be resumed after the issue had been attended to, but about 90 per cent of them refused to board the plane again, fearing that the fault would reoccur during the flight.

AirAsia then refunded the plane fare of those passengers who had declined to continue with the flight, Metro TV reported.

AUSTRALIA

## Wildfire threat eases as cool front moves in

COOLER conditions yesterday were helping hundreds of firefighters working to contain a massive wildfire that had forced thousands of people to flee their homes in southern Australia.

A dozen homes have been destroyed by the fire in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia, with another 20 also feared lost, state Premier Jay Weatherill said. Twenty-two people have been injured, though none seriously, Weatherill said.

Hot and windy conditions that had fanned the flames

since Friday eased yesterday, prompting officials to lower the fire's danger rating from the highest level. Firefighters were working to clear roads and police hoped to return some residents to their homes Sunday morning, Police Commissioner Gary Burns said.

"We will be reopening areas once it's safe to do so," Weatherill said. "However, there remains serious risks associated with falling trees and falling power lines."

Residents of 19 communities had been forced to flee their homes as the fire ra-

ged. A large number of cats and dogs were killed when a kennel was destroyed in the blaze.

Several firefighters were treated for minor conditions such as smoke inhalation, but no major injuries were reported, the Country Fire Service said.

In neighboring Victoria state, rain had helped firefighters bring another dangerous fire that destroyed one home under control. All fire warnings across the state had been downgraded on Sunday and residents were returning to their homes.

Destructive wildfires are common across much of Australia during the summer months. In 2009, wildfires killed 173 people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes in Victoria. AP



Heavy smoke billow in the Adelaide Hills

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**N KOREA** Pyongyang yesterday criticized the United States for slapping sanctions on N Korean officials and organizations for a cyberattack on Sony Pictures — the latest fallout from a Hollywood movie depicting the fictional assassination of North Korea's leader.

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**VATICAN** Pope Francis has named 15 new cardinals, selecting the "princes of the church" from 14 nations, including far-flung corners of the world such as Tonga, New Zealand and Myanmar. Other cardinals hail from Ethiopia, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam. Francis said yesterday the new cardinals reflect the church's diversity and will be formally installed on Feb. 14.

**ISRAEL** halted transfers of the tax revenue it collects on behalf of the Palestinians in retaliation for their move to join the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Israeli media reported. The Palestinians announced earlier this week that they are joining the International Criminal Court in the Hague to pursue war-crimes charges against Israel. The move is meant to pressure Israel into withdrawing from the territories that Palestinians demand for a future state.

**USA** Buddhist monks will lead a Chinese ceremony for Officer Wenjian Liu in NYC, followed by a traditional police ceremony with eulogies led by a chaplain. The funeral follows a somber wake the day before as mourners lined up for blocks on a cold, rainy day to pay their respects.

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**USA** Abu Anas al-Libi, a man accused by federal prosecutors of being an al-Qaida member involved in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, died in New York awaiting trial of complications from a recent liver surgery. He was 50.