



### PROSPECTS UNPREDICTABLE AS COIN TOSS

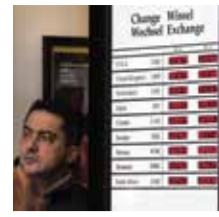
Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg were evenly split on whether revenue will shrink or grow in Macau this year

P2



### POLICE ACCUSED OF ABUSE WHEN BARRING VISITORS

P6



### EURO SLUMPS TO 2006 LOW

The euro weakened to an almost nine-year low amid concern Greece will exit the currency union

P7

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# Times

## MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

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



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

### WORLD BRIEFS

**TAIWAN** Former President Chen Shui-bian was granted a one-month medical parole yesterday for treatment of neural degeneration, more than four years into his 20-year prison sentence for corruption. *More on p11*

**CHINA** has eased controls on exports of rare earths, minerals used in mobile phones and other high-tech products, after losing a WTO case brought by Washington. Under the Ministry of Commerce's trade guidelines for 2015, rare earths will no longer be covered by export quotas. Beijing imposed those quotas in 2009 while it tried to develop its own industry that transforms the minerals into lightweight magnets and other products.

**SINGAPORE**'s prime office rents are set to post their biggest increase in at least four years in 2014, and may extend gains this year in a supply-constrained market. The office rent index for prime areas rose 8.7 percent in the first nine months of last year, heading for its largest gain since 2010, when it was up 12 percent, according to data from the Urban Redevelopment Authority. *More on p14*

**SCOTLAND** 8 crew members are presumed dead after a cargo ship capsized and sank north of Scotland. Rescuers have called off the search for the crew of the Cyprus-registered cement carrier Cemfjord, whose upturned hull was spotted by a passing ferry Saturday in the Pentland Firth. The vessel's management company says bad weather was likely a factor in its sinking. The ship, which carried 7 Polish crew members and 1 Filipino, did not send a distress signal.

More on backpage

# Macau bound AirAsia plane forced to return to Bangkok

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## 2015 OUTLOOK

## Prospects unpredictable as coin toss

Billy Chan and Lisa Pham

**W**HILE analysts last year correctly forecast Macau casinos would suffer a first-ever revenue drop, prospects for 2015 are looking as uncertain as a coin toss.

Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News were evenly split on whether revenue will shrink or grow in the world's largest gambling hub this year. Gaming revenue fell 2.6 percent in 2014, ending a golden age in which growth spiked more than eightfold over a decade and transformed the former Portuguese enclave into a gambling center larger than the Las Vegas Strip.

Conflicting signals are muddling the outlook for 2015. While Chinese President Xi Jinping's campaign against graft and extravagance is keeping high-rollers from the Bacarat tables, company steps to target mass-market tourists are making some analysts more bullish even as China's economy cools.

"We are at the peak of uncertainty right now," said Grant Govertsen, a Macau-based casino analyst at Union Gaming Group. While the company downgraded the sector in June on the view that "the anti-corruption campaign was a lot more fierce than people were giving it credit for," it now expects single-digit revenue growth in 2015, he said.

Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. fell 2.7 percent to HKD62.30 in Hong Kong trading, the lowest closing price since Dec. 23. The company said Jan. 2 after the market's close that it will delist from the city's stock exchange because of



## The next wave of customers is going to be lower-spending customers

AARON FISCHER

low trading volume, while keeping its Nasdaq listing.

Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. declined 2.8 percent, and Sands China Ltd. fell 1.2 percent, while the Hang Seng index slipped 0.6 percent.

The most optimistic analyst predicted casino revenue will rise 10 percent this year, while the most pessimistic expected a 9 percent slump, giving a median estimate of a 0.35 percent

year-on-year growth from eight analysts surveyed last Friday.

Most agree that there will be an eighth straight month of gaming losses in January, which would beat a record losing streak in 2008-2009 when revenue dropped seven straight months amid the global financial crisis.

The industry may fare even worse in February due to last year's record sales over the Lunar New Year, traditionally a peak season for gamblers, according to Credit Suisse Group AG analysts led by Kenneth Fong. The brokerage estimates revenue will drop 14 percent to 18 percent this month and the decline could widen in February, Fong wrote in a Jan. 2 note.

Casinos are also grappling with weakening economic growth in China, as well as more scrutiny over junkets and

stricter visa requirements that affect mainlanders going to Macau.

SJM Holdings Ltd., Asia's largest casino operator by revenue, said Macau's gaming industry will struggle to have a "breakthrough improvement," according to a Dec. 31 internal memo.

Macau is facing pressure from Beijing's tightening grip on money flows out of the mainland mostly by the high rollers who made up about two-thirds of its gaming revenue.

The local government has restricted the use of China UnionPay Co.'s debit cards at casinos. The gambling regulator is also tightening scrutiny of agents used by junket operators, which arrange trips and provide credit for Chinese high-stakes gamblers.

Analysts such as CLSA Ltd.'s Aaron Fischer and Union Ga-

ming's Govertsen see the new resorts opening from mid-2015 as one silver lining as companies target mass-market customers amid a continued increase in visitors to Macau. The number of Chinese going to the city jumped 27.8 percent in November compared with the previous year, following a 20.5 percent increase in October, boosting demand for hotel rooms and other tourist amenities.

Galaxy's second-phase expansion of its resort on the Cotai Strip will be followed by Melco Crown's Hollywood-themed Studio City and Sands China's Parisian resort featuring a replica of the Eiffel Tower.

In a visit to Macau last month, Chinese President Xi urged the newly re-elected leader Fernando Chui to develop a world tourism center and diversify an economy that relies on gambling for more than 80 percent of total government revenue.

Companies including Sands China and Galaxy are already shifting resources away from the high rollers to bet on vacationing Chinese or other mass-market gamblers by adding malls, theaters, restaurants and hotels.

"The next wave of customers is going to be lower-spending customers," Fischer of CLSA said. After the gaming downturn wiped out about \$73 billion in market value of casino companies last year, investors still need to exercise caution, according to Fischer.

"While we think that the sector is relatively inexpensive now on valuation ground, most investors will prefer to wait until they see the worst of the news flow," he said. **Bloomberg**

## PUBLIC HEALTH

## Gov't assures residents of poultry safety

**F**OLLOWING the recent incident in Hong Kong where samples from a licensed poultry farm in Huizhou, Guangdong tested positive for the H7 virus, the Macau government issued a statement re-

cently assuring local residents that the poultry on sale in Macau is safe for consumption.

The statement said that no poultry sold in Macau has been imported from the area in the mainland that was reported

to have the H7 avian influenza virus. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), the department responsible for poultry importation, also said that it would "keep in close contact with the neighboring regions and

continue to monitor the development of the bird flu and poultry here to safeguard public health."

All poultry imported to Macau was from accredited farms in the major supply sources in Doumen, Zhongshan,

Shunde and Gaoming, and they have all been tested for the virus," the bureau said.

IACM added that it has learnt that the Guangdong authorities have taken measures to prevent the poultry infec-

tion near the virus-hit farms in Huizhou.

Moreover, the government said it would continue the surveillance of poultry stalls in wet markets and implement measures to prevent the avian virus infection. It also reminded the public to observe strict personal and environmental hygiene and avoid direct contact with live poultry.

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# Doctors lambast local healthcare system, ask for more training

João Pedro Lau

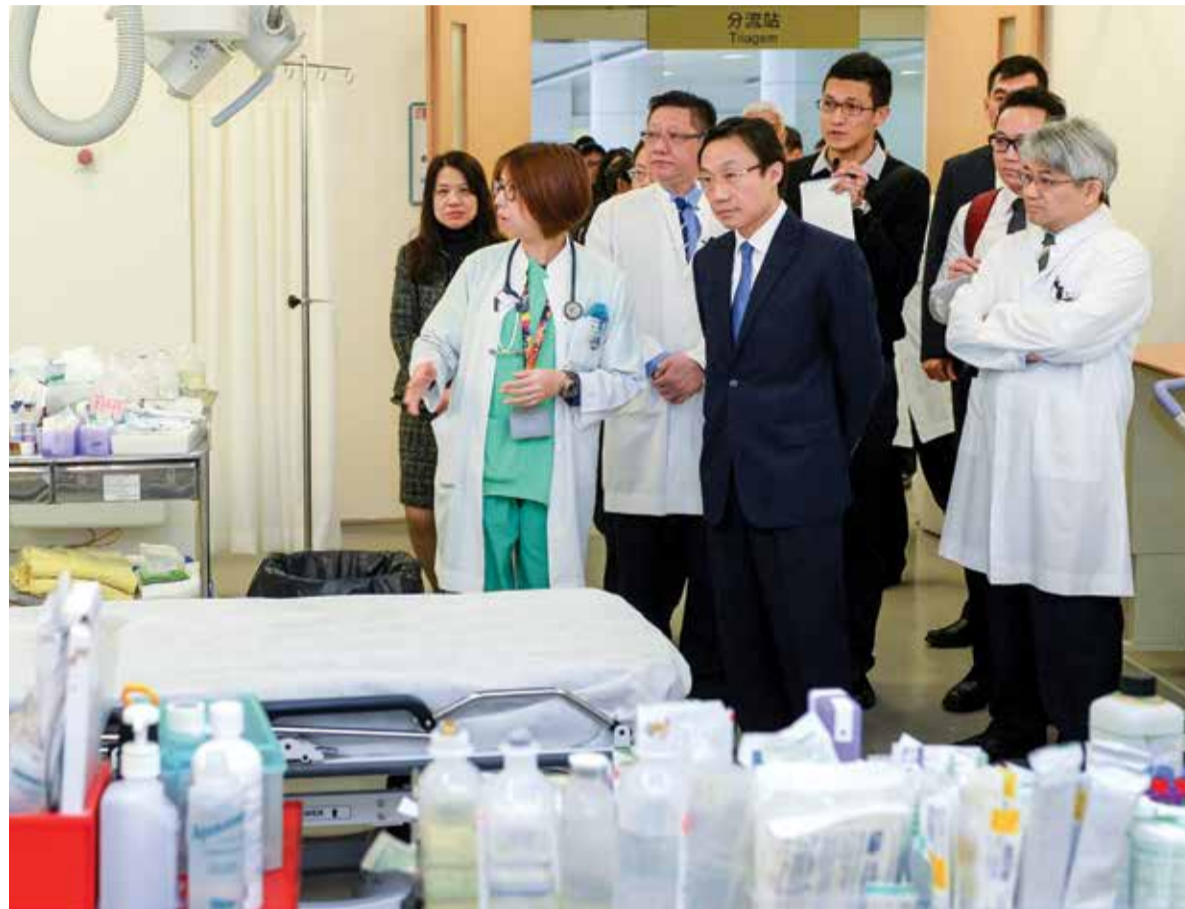
**D**URING his visit to the Conde de São Januário Central Hospital (CHCSJ) yesterday, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam listened to the opinions and complaints of medical staff who are dissatisfied with training and promotion procedures at the hospital. They also discussed some of the problems plaguing Macau's healthcare system, such as the long waiting list for government specialist clinics and the lack of education for some public clinic doctors and patients.

**Several doctors have mentioned the difficulties for specialists in handling an ever-growing number of patients referred to them by doctors in public health centers**

Accompanied by the directors of the Health Bureau (SSM) and CHCSJ, Alexis Tam inspected the 24-hour clinic of the hospital, the emergency department, the pharmacy and the cancer patient resource centre, before attending a two-hour meeting with medical staff of CHCSJ. More than 10 doctors and nurses spoke during the session.

Dr Pui Hing Wah, a consultant in the CHCSJ radiology department, spoke during the meeting and listed six issues she thinks the hospital should resolve in order to match international standards. Pui said she did not understand why CHCSJ does not require its doctors to participate in an annual license review, a lapse she believes is problematic.

Another problem she raised with the secretary was the lack of continuing professional development (CPD). She said that her department started providing a mandatory CPD program to its staff two years ago. However, the attendan-



ce record showed that, while non-local doctors with a CPD requirement achieved an attendance of 50 percent to 100 percent, local doctors' attendance was only 9 percent to 50 percent. "If we do not have a CPD program [for the whole hospital], a doctor could still be practicing medicine with the methods they learnt decades ago from the mainland. How can there be improvement then?" she said.

Moreover, Dr Pui was concerned with the specialist training program in CHCSJ. She ques-

tioned whether the standards of doctors trained locally can match that of specialists who receive training overseas, since Macau does not require specialist trainees to attend a specialist examination.

Another doctor, Dr Lei from the obstetrics and gynecology department, said that many of the complaints residents filed against medical staff were caused by misconceptions and a lack of understanding about the limits of public health service. She gave the example of a recent media report accu-

sing her department of not providing some specific services for patients. Lei claimed that the services named by the report were actually provided by private clinics and not necessarily by public hospitals. "It's like what I always explain to the patient: even if the government is providing a 15-year free education, it does not mean the government has to provide students with piano classes or mathematical Olympiad classes... I think the government is responsible for educating the students of [the

limits of public services]," she said.

Meanwhile, Dr Choi Nim, an attending doctor in CHCSJ and president of the Macau Health Bureau Physicians Association, said that the most important issues for doctors are their regime, duties, promotion, compensation and retirement. He said that CHCSJ can only attract talent and retain its staff with a good regime.

Dr Choi feels exploited by the current regime, explaining that while doctors work a nominal 36 hours every week, they end up working an extra nine hours per week paid in compensation. He claimed that these hours are not counted when calculating doctors' retirement pensions. "We feel like we are exploited... Those nine hours are not included into the calculation of experience and retirement pension. How can you attract others to join us? Even we the current employees think that this is unfair," he said.

Furthermore, several doctors have mentioned the difficulties for specialists in handling the ever-growing number of patients referred to them by doctors in public health centers. They asked the bureau to educate general practitioners to only refer patients to specialists after a period of follow up and observation. They also asked to allow specialists to refer patients, who did not need to see specialists anymore, back to the general practitioners in public clinics in order to reduce their workload.

## Alexis Tam blames problems on 'bad management'

**I**N response to the complaints and opinions of medical staff, Alexis Tam admitted that the healthcare system in Macau is falling behind the international standard. He has already requested the Health Bureau (SSM) to develop a mature healthcare system and resolve problems related to the training and promotion of medical personnel.

Tam told the media that "80 to 90 percent of the problems and opinions heard from doctors and nurses can be attributed to poor hospital management," something the secretary said "can be corrected".

Tam stressed that SSM and the healthcare system of MSAR has to gear to international standards. "The largest constraint for MSAR currently is the human resources shortage, especially for medical personnel. Fortunately, the government's revenue and Macau's economy can support the healthcare reform of MSAR", he said. "Therefore, I will tell everybody here that we have requested the CHCSJ and SSM management to...

create a mature healthcare system within a year." This improved healthcare system, he said, has to be geared to international standards and resolve various issues that are currently plaguing CHCSJ, such as the promotion and training issue. Tam reiterated that the call for reform

**80 to 90 percent of the problems and opinions heard from the doctors and nurses can be attributed to poor hospital management**

ALEXIS TAM

cannot merely be a slogan, which is why he has given a clear time limit for the bureau and the hospital.

Moreover, the secretary vowed to make improvements in the information system of the health authority. He said that SSM will, in collaboration with non-government organizations and clinics, roll out a mobile application that allows residents to receive information on the number of patients waiting to see a doctor in the hospitals and some public and private clinics in Macau.

Furthermore, Mr Tam revealed that SSM intends to hire 529 medical personnel in the upcoming year. Around 73 percent will be doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

Although he did not say what the consequences would be if SSM and CHCSJ failed to improve the health system within a year, Alexis Tam maintained that he is confident his departments will achieve the goal and claimed that as a government official, he is obliged to keep this promise.



## Tourists want Wanzai border opening hour to extend

Some tourists told Hou Kong Daily that they hope the local government will pay more attention to the Wanzai Border and extend the opening hours of the Inner Harbor checkpoint, in order to provide more choices for visitors. As of Saturday, the number of passengers crossing the Wanzai Border checkpoint during the New Year holiday period had surged by 72 percent to 6,541, according to Zhang Qingnian, manager of the Yuet Tung Shipping Company's department of passengers. A tourist from the mainland said that it only took 10 minutes for him and his family to cross the Wanzai checkpoint to Macau's Inner Harbor and another 10 minutes' walk to the city center. This means that they do not need to worry about transportation. He added that as most tourists would like to extend their stay in Macau, the opening hours of the Wanzai checkpoint from 8 a.m. to 4.15 p.m., with a two-hour break at midday, is too short. He recommended the Macau government extend the border-crossing hours so that visitors will have more checkpoints to choose from when entering and exiting Macau.

## Local production 'Macau Stories 3 - City Maze' premieres at Galaxy Cinema

**M**ACAU Stories 3 - City Maze, a CUT Audio-Visual Association production, is premiering at UA Galaxy Cinemas on January 29. The movie brings together three directors from Macau - Doug Chan, winner of the Golden Digital Award at the 27th Hong Kong International Film Festival, Portuguese-born António Caetano Faria and Chao Koi Wang.

'City Maze' is a suspense-thriller, a genre which local filmmakers believe could be further explored in Macau. It focuses on three individual stories, namely 'The Roar of a Mother Bear' (directed by Doug Chan), 'INA' (by António Caetano de Faria) and 'Come, the Light' (by Chao Koi Wang).

Portuguese filmmaker António Caetano Faria is a two-time winner of the Jury Award at Macau Indies at the Macau International Film and Video Festival. Chao Koi Wang, however, took out first prize in the international competition category of the Bangalore International Short Film Festival.

'The Roar of a Mother Bear'



A scene from "INA"

focuses on a mother's struggle to find the truth behind her daughter's mysterious death. 'INA' tells the story of a young girl born to a wealthy family, who later becomes a drug addict under the influence of her boyfriend. With her life turned upside down, she begins to hallucinate about being haunted by the spirit of death. Finally, 'Come, the Light' touches on a matter familiar to the people of Macau, by telling the story of Wei, a casino host who is forced to choose between money and love.

Speaking about the produc-

tion, a press release stated that "Against the backdrop of this ever-prospering city, 'Macau Stories 3 - City Maze' is an urban fable that unveils the dark secrets and desires that have long been buried in our hearts".

The film will also be released in cinemas in Hong Kong and Taiwan as an effort to foster opportunities for Macau's commercial film industry, while building "a solid foundation for local movies" to develop into feature films.

Other filmmaking professionals were involved in the project, including Tu Du-Chi, a sou-

nd-effects master and winner of the technology award at the Cannes Film Festival, as well as local actors and actresses, such as Kenji Wong, Eliz, Lao I Lum, Kate Leong, Jeong Pan, Hui Koc Kun and Chan Sai Peng.


The film will also be released at UA Galaxy Cinemas and Cinema Alegria following the premiere.

CUT Audio-Visual Association started working on the Macau Stories four years ago, encouraging local film directors to shoot short-films, which were later merged into a feature film. The first edition was launched in 2008 and the second in 2011.

The third edition of Macau Stories "City Maze" premieres on January 29 at Galaxy Cinemas. A cocktail event will also be held at the Grand Theatre of UA Galaxy Cinemas to mark the film's launch.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Macau Foundation provided financial support for the production of 'City Maze.' The production is sponsored by the Galaxy Entertainment Group. **CP**


AD



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# Unspecified technical failure forces Macau bound AirAsia plane to return to Bangkok

Paulo Barbosa

**A**FTER the fatal crash of a flight bound for Singapore, AirAsia continues to be affected by a string of unusual incidents. The latest occurred on Sunday, when a Bangkok-Macau flight was forced to return to Don Mueang Airport due to an unspecified technical failure.

The Times interviewed one of the passengers aboard Flight FD766, which left the Thai capital Sunday at 6.30 p.m. carrying 132 passengers and a total of 6 pilots and crew and was scheduled to arrive in Macau Airport at 9.55 p.m.

Technical problems were noticed as soon as the plane departed. According to Gonçalo Lobo Pinheiro, 35, the plane "seemed to lack power" from takeoff.

"At the same time, the plane made a funny noise and wasn't 100 percent stable. I got the impression that the plane didn't reach the altitude needed to continue with the

**The plane made a funny noise and wasn't 100 percent stable**

GONÇALO LOBO PINHEIRO



trip. One hour after the flight started the captain said that we should return to Bangkok due to a technical failure," Mr Pinheiro, a Macau-based photographer working for a local publishing company, told the Times.

After the captain's announcement, there was no panic amongst the passengers but "some tension was felt." The airplane returned to Bangkok and Mr Pinheiro continued to have the perception that the plane was flying "with shortage of power and with the motors stopping." The landing was "soft" and it seemed that the Airbus A 320-200 was "gliding," although our source says that he could hear the motors working.

After landing, passengers were swiftly directed to another plane (also an Airbus A 320-200, but a newer model) without major loss of time. They were not informed about the specific cause of the problems and the second flight took place without incident. Gonçalo Lobo Pinheiro claims that the time they spent going around between the "junk plane" [the first one,

that he deemed "old"] and the transfer for another plane amounted to a two-hour delay when landing in Macau.

Contacted by the Times, Air Asia confirmed the incident. According to a Thai AirAsia communications team statement, "a technical fault was detected" upon departure.

"In the interest of utmost safety, the pilot decided to return the aircraft to Don Mueang Airport for inspection by airport engineers. The airline provided a new aircraft to complete the flight to Macau, which departed Don Mueang Airport at 20.00 hrs and arrived in Macau Airport at 23.25 hrs (local time). The total delay of the flight has been calculated at 1 hour 30 minutes," the statement read. Thai AirAsia also apologized for any inconveniences caused.

The incident comes as rescue teams continue to fight bad weather while combing the Java Sea for bodies and wreckage of the Airbus A 320 that crashed Dec. 28, killing all 162 passengers and crew on board. The plane was traveling from Surabaya, Indo-

**In the interest of utmost safety, the pilot decided to return the aircraft to Don Mueang Airport for inspection by airport engineers**

THAI AIRASIA'S STATEMENT

nesia's second-largest city, and Singapore.

More recently, another incident halted an AirAsia flight departing from Surabaya. The Bandung-bound plane engine failed just before it was preparing to takeoff from Juanda International Airport in the Indonesian city, the Straits Times reported. The incident horrified passengers, many of whom refused to resume the flight, media reports indicated. AirAsia, began operations in 2001 and quickly became one of the region's leaders in low-cost air travel. The company has not experienced any other crashes before Dec. 28. The Associated Press reported recently that AirAsia is "widely considered a benchmark for safety and professionalism."

CRIME

## Car owners blackmailed in Gongbei, license plates stolen

A new extortion tactic has recently emerged in Gongbei in which criminals would steal license plates from vehicles of mainland Chinese and Macau origin and demand the car owners pay up to thousands to get their plates back.

Macau Daily reported that in one of these cases, a Macau businessman with the surname U had his plates taken away last Friday at an open-air parking lot in Gongbei. He also found a note on his car that had the account number of a mobile instant messaging application written on it.

After adding the account number to his contact list, U was asked to send his plate number before being told that he had to pay RMB1,000 for the return of his plates. While U successfully reduced the "ransom" to RMB500 after negotiation, the criminal eventually refused to seal the deal because U demanded to do the transaction in person. The businessman then decided to call the police.

U suspected that the criminals are aware of the series of procedures to which car owners are subjected to be re-issued mainland license plates. Therefore, some car owners would rather pay the criminals for their stolen plates.

U also revealed that, after sharing his experiences on the Internet, he received a lot of replies informing him of their own similar experiences; some of these replies even came from his own friends. He estimated that there are more than 10 cases that have happened to people he knows. In fact, some had to pay up to RMB3,000.

Meanwhile, the police authorities in Gongbei have advised people to leave their cars in secured parking lots. It also urged people to notify the police if they fell victim to crimes instead of paying the blackmailers.

In fact, a similar scheme had been reported in Zhuhai in July 2012. The authorities later arrested three men who were involved in 18 cases.

AD



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## EDUCATION

# GAES increases vacancies for summer language program in Portugal

Catarina Pinto

**T**HE Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) has increased the number of vacancies for a summer language school in Portugal from 56 to 100, Wong Yut Peng, the functional head of GAES, told a press conference yesterday.

She acknowledged that more students have shown an interest in enhancing their Portuguese language skills. Therefore, vacancies for a one-month summer school in Portugal have been progressively increased since 2012.

The program aims at encouraging students to perfect their Portuguese, while also learning about the country's culture. The program comes in line with the government's policy to reinforce the number of personnel speaking both the region's official languages: Chinese and Portuguese.

The intensive language program will be taking place between July and August at the University of Lisbon and - for the first time - at the University of Porto. Applications for the summer school are now open until March 29.

The program is open to students holding a valid Macau resident identity card and currently enrolled in bachelor or



licentiate degrees at local or foreign universities.

Last year, GAES opened 56

vacancies, the same as in 2013.

In 2012, 28 vacancies were

available.

Beginners or those who already have a basic knowledge of the language may apply for the

summer school. Out of 100 vacancies, 60 spots will be provided to beginners and 40 to students who have a basic knowledge of Portuguese.

Beginners are required to attend a 50-hour Portuguese language-training course at the Portuguese Orient Institute (IPOR) before heading to Portugal. There are 300 spots available for the course, but only the best 60 will be chosen to attend the summer school.

The other 40 students, who have at least an A1 level (basic user), will be required to pass a Portuguese language exam. IPOR will be responsible for choosing these students as well. Students will be required to pay a MOP3,000 tuition fee. The Macau government will then provide them with an accommodation and food allowance of about EUR420 (MOP3,993).

Wong Yut Peng did not unveil the overall budget for this year's summer school. GAES said that, since the training program is taking place during summer, it is still assessing budgetary issues. "At this stage we do not have a concrete figure of the overall budget for the whole project," the bureau said in a statement, adding that it strives "to achieve the best results with limited resources."

## UM appoints new vice rector

**T**HE University of Macau (UM) has appointed professor Lionel M. Ni as its new Vice Rector for academic affairs. The world-renowned computer scientist was formerly a chair professor, head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, and dean of the Fok Ying Tung Graduate School, at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

In his more than two decades of professional life in the United States, he served with distinction at Michigan State University, moving from assistant professor to full professor before assuming his role at HKUST.

The computer scientist has supervised 54 PhD students, while his research findings have been highly praised by his peers. He

received the Second Class Award in Natural Sciences for Research Excellence from the State Council of China in 2011.

Prof Ni expressed great excitement about his new career at UM. "I am excited to have the opportunity to work with an excellent senior management team to realize the vision and mission laid out by the University Council," said Prof Ni.

UM Rector Wei Zhao said that he was pleased with Prof Ni's decision to join the UM. "I am very confident that with Prof Ni's intellectual prowess and his rich administrative experience, he will intellectually and administratively strengthen all aspects of our academic programs, and set UM on the road to becoming a world-class university!" he said.

João Pedro Lau

## POLITICS

## ANM accuses police of abusing the law when barring visitors

**T**HE New Macau Association (ANM) has handed a letter to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), asking them to investigate the mismanagement of local police authorities in barring non-residents from entering Macau. Meanwhile, ANM president Sulu Sou Ka Hou is worried that the authorities may even limit the rights of residents to return to Macau in the future.

ANM said that it is not uncommon for the MSAR government to refuse travellers entry into Macau. However, the situation has worsened in the past month, with Hong Kong and mainland residents facing more scrutiny when trying to cross the border into Macau. Some were even deported immediately.

The association said that while the law has granted police authorities the power to refuse entry to any person perceived as

a threat to Macau from entering, the authorities may only implement this law when it is absolutely necessary. "When studying the refused entry cases in recent months, none of them has a strong indication that the individual who was barred from entering Macau shows any signs of 'not being welcomed or being a threat to the internal security and stability' or 'relating to transnational criminal activities including terrorism'". ANM said authorities are clearly barring people indiscriminately when their names match those on the "blacklist", which it said is in total disregard for the legality and rationality of administrative actions.

"Given that the authori-

ties have clearly misinterpreted the law and abused the power of preventive actions, which is openly challenging the basic principles of rule of law and human rights protection of Macau... ANM now reported the issue to the CCAC in order to ensure the protection of human rights and freedom, as well as the legality and rationality of the exercising of authority".

When speaking to the Times, Sulu Sou said he is certain that there is a so-called "blacklist" with names of people who are not allowed to enter Macau. He said that the blacklist in Macau might even be longer than that of the mainland. He also admitted that he is concerned with the authorities tight-

ening their grab on political activists in Macau.

"Although the current legislation is only to regulate non-residents entering Macau, these regulations seemed to be interpreted freely by the authorities. [It is not certain whether] one day there will be local residents who will face difficulties when returning to Macau," he said.

Sulu Sou pointed out that a member of the Hong Kong Federation of Students - one of the major organizers of the Occupy Movement - has faced some issues when trying to return to Hong Kong from Taiwan. "People are now talking about not being able to go to mainland. But the fact is, there will be issues for some to return home in the future.

This is a serious concern", he said.

In fact, the ANM president said that he has heard rumors suggesting

some Macau residents who are also Hong Kong ID holders and have actively participated in the Occupy Movement may have their Macau ID taken away when they attempted to enter Macau in the future. "If this situation really arises in the future, ANM will certainly be protesting against it immediately," he said.

### JASON CHAO WRITES LETTER TO SCMP

**LOCAL ACTIVIST** Jason Chao wrote a letter to the editor at South China Morning Post, raising criticism over the tightened security during president Xi Jinping's visit to Macau, as well as mainland China's press coverage of the MSAR's 15th anniversary. "For me, the best bit about the visit was his departure," Chao wrote, stressing that it put an end "to the over-sensitive security measures." "Major roads were sealed off for Xi's

visit, making Macau's traffic congestion even worse." The activist recalled that pro-establishment media dubbed the two pandas that Xi Jinping offered and the border checkpoints operating around the clock as "gifts," but in fact residents did not feel so grateful. "The gift of the pandas has little to do with citizens' day-to-day lives. And the new border arrangements will be of concern to people living near the checkpoints (...)" he wrote.



# Euro slumps to 2006 low on Greece as oil drops, stocks fluctuate

Richard Frost and Kevin Buckland

**T**HE euro weakened to an almost nine-year low amid concern Greece will exit the currency union. Chinese shares jumped, oil slumped to its lowest level since 2009, while European stocks fluctuated.

The euro depreciated 0.3 percent to USD1.1971 at 8:29 a.m. in London, after touching its lowest level since March 2006. The dollar gained against 12 of its 16 major peers. The ruble slid 4.1 percent. The Stoxx Europe 600 Index rose 0.3 percent, while Standard & Poor's 500 Index futures were little changed. The Shanghai Composite Index surged 3.6 percent to its highest level in five years. A gauge of global bond yields approached a record low. Crude slid 1.8 percent and gold rose 0.6 percent.

Greece's political parties have embarked on a campaign for elections this month that may determine the fate of the country's membership in the euro area, with Der Spiegel magazine reporting German Chancellor Angela Merkel is ready to accept a Greek exit. Data this week will probably show consumer prices in Europe fell for the first time in five years in December, adding to the argument for European Central Bank President Mario Draghi to extend stimulus.

"The reasons to be selling the euro were pretty clear over the weekend: Draghi being a step closer to QE and deepening concerns about the Greek political situation," Sean Callow, a currency strategist at Westpac



An employee restocks a display of oranges for sale beneath a price sign in both euros and Lithuanian litas inside a supermarket in Vilnius. Lithuania switched currencies to the euro on Jan. 1

**■ Greece's political parties have embarked on a campaign for elections this month that may determine the fate of the country's membership in the euro area**

Banking Corp. in Sydney, said by phone. "The euro was so close to such a keenly watched round number as \$1.20 that we

didn't need any fresh news to tip us over the cliff."

The euro reached a low of \$1.1864 yesterday, extending its loss over the past year to 12 percent as euro-region and U.S. monetary policy diverged. While the Federal Reserve has wound back its own bond-buying program and floated the prospect of raising interest rates from near zero, the ECB reduced rates and started asset purchases in a bid to stoke economic growth.

Draghi said in an interview with German newspaper Handelsblatt published last week that while deflation risks are "limited," policy makers "have to act against such risk." Asked how much the ECB might spend on government bonds, he answered that it's "difficult

to say."

European consumer prices probably dropped 0.1 percent in December from a year earlier, according to a Bloomberg survey. That would be the first decline since October 2009, when the economy was struggling to recover from a slump after the financial crisis. The pound declined to its weakest level since August 2013, while the Swiss franc lost 0.3 percent and the Australian dollar depreciated 0.5 percent. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index, which tracks the U.S. currency against 10 major counterparts, added 0.2 percent, heading for its highest close since March 2009.

Australian 15-year yields fell to an unprecedented 2.97 percent and Japan's five-year

yield dropped to a record 0.025 percent. Bonds in the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Broad Market Sovereign Plus Index had an effective yield of 1.30 percent on Jan. 2, approaching the low of 1.29 percent set in 2013, based on data going back to 1996.

Consumer staples and telecom stocks led declines on the MSCI Asia Pacific Index, which dropped 0.7 percent. The Kospi lost 0.6 percent in Seoul and Taiwan's Taiex Index retreated 0.4 percent. Japan's Topix fell 0.5 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index dropped 0.6 percent.

The Shanghai Composite extended its rally over the past six months to 63 percent. A gauge of Chinese energy shares rose 8.9 percent yesterday, the most in more than six years, with PetroChina Co. and China Shenhua Energy Co. soaring by the 10 percent daily limit.

West Texas Intermediate crude slipped to \$51.79 a barrel after capping a sixth straight weekly loss Jan. 2. Brent crude in London fell 1.7 percent to \$55.48 per barrel, with both blends headed for their lowest settlement levels since 2009.

WTI and Brent tumbled more than 40 percent last year as the highest U.S. oil output in about 30 years collided with slowing global demand and OPEC's reluctance to reduce its own production. Iraq plans to boost crude exports this month, according to the oil ministry.

Gold for immediate delivery gained to \$1,196.26 an ounce. Silver advanced 2.2 percent to \$16.0721 an ounce in the spot market, while platinum climbed 1.3 percent. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### AIRPORT TRAFFIC REACHED 5.5M IN 2014



To celebrate the festival season, a Portuguese Guitar and Fado band performed at the Macau International Airport (MIA) from Dec. 23 to 25. Santa Claus was at the airport giving Christmas sweets to all young travelers.

According to a press release issued by MIA, passenger traffic developed rapidly throughout the whole year. The single day aircraft movement and passenger traffic both recorded stable

growth. During 2014, MIA carried over 5,480,000 passengers and 53,000 aircraft movements, recording an increase of 9% and 7% respectively compared to 2013. The positive tendency had been maintained for four quarters. For the first quarter, MIA received over 1.28 million passengers and recorded 12,500 aircraft movements, both up 10% compared to the same quarter last year.

For the second quarter, MIA's passenger volume surpassed 1.32 million and aircraft movements over 12,900, representing a 7% increase respectively compared to the same period of last year, which indicates that the growth of the passenger market has stabilized, while the frequencies and the destinations added are becoming more diverse.

### GALAXY MACAU COUNTDOWN PARTY



Galaxy Macau and its guests celebrated the arrival of 2015 with a party at East Square, featuring an amazing giveaway of 15 pure gold ingots.

The "Golden Glitz Countdown Party" kicked off at 11pm for a fun-filled night of live entertainment by DJ Miss Yellow from Hong Kong, and Korean DJs and hip-hop dance group The FLIT. The party reached a climax with the grand countdown to the New Year as the glittering crowd cheered in joy and embraced new hopes and dreams for 2015.

### TWO-MICHELIN-STAR GUEST CHEF TAKAGI KAZUO AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL

From 22 to 24 January, Mandarin Oriental Macau's Vida Rica Restaurant presents guest chef Takagi Kazuo, a two-Michelin-star restaurant for five consecutive years in the city of Ashiya, located between Osaka and Kobe. At Vida Rica, he will showcase his special French-inspired Japanese creations.

Diners will be treated to a refined blend of the two countries' culinary traditions, with Chef Takagi's signature dishes, such as spider crab with Sturia caviar and shiso flower, and Wagyu beef fillet with foie gras kinome den-gaku. Both are featured in a six course degustation dinner menu that reflects the season and is presented in an artis-



tic style at MOP1,288 per person. Four and five course lunch sets highlighting the essence of his creations are also available at MOP398 and MOP498 per person, respectively.

Born to a culinary family, with his mother an instructor at a cooking school and his grandfather a chef, Takagi set his goal to be a Japanese chef from an early age. He received rigorous training on traditional kaiseki-style cooking when he worked at Kyoyamato in Kyoto, and was later promoted to Sous Chef at only 29 years old – making him one of the brightest rising stars on Japan's culinary scene. In 2005, he opened his own restaurant, Kyoryuri Takagi, which has won two Michelin stars consecutively since 2010. Takagi also opened a bento shop, Nichi Nichi, and a hot pot restaurant, Kozithu, in 2012, with the latter earning one Michelin star consecutively since 2013.



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- How your current financial arrangements affect your estate when you die –
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  - How where you are (*age and geographic location*) can affect tax liabilities –
  - How your children are affected if you don't write a Will for Guardianship –
  - How a mixed marriage can affect the estate when one or both parties die –
  - How Trusts can help Estate Planning.
- Knowledge is the key.**

**Speaker: Annette M Houlihan**  
Manager Director at Carey, Suen and Associates Limited

6.15 pm: Registration  
6.30 pm: Presentation  
7.15 PM: Q & A session  
7.3- 8.30 pm: Drinks  
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# Angola expected to return to budget surpluses in medium-term

**T**HE implementation of Angola's state budget for 2015 presents some uncertainty due to a drop in oil prices, according to Eaglestone Securities, which expects the country to return to budget surpluses only in the medium term.

The Angolan state budget for 2015 outlines an increase in public debt, of US\$37.9 billion to USD48.3 billion, or 35.5 percent of GDP, with the government having to resort to financing to bridge the revenue shortfall caused by the drop in oil prices on the international market.

"The Angolan government will continue to depend on a significant contribution from tax revenue, especially taxes on the oil sector, to finance its spending," at a time when it needs to spend money on infrastructure and social projects, said the Eaglestone analysts.

With a deficit of 7.6 percent of GDP expected in 2015, the next few months will require "special attention from the Angolan authorities regarding management of the country's public accounts," although prospects for Angola's economic growth, "remain favorable," Eaglestone said.

"As in the 2008/09 crisis, in which Angola had two consecutive record deficits and sought IMF help in 2009, we expect that the significant deterioration in the budget



Fruit seller, Angola

deficit forecast for 2015 is episodic and the country will quickly return to budget surpluses in the medium term," said the consultancy's report.

In 2015, despite an increase in oil production, Angola will have to manage on 16.3 percent lower tax revenues from oil, a sector

that accounts for almost two-thirds of total revenues.

The average price of a barrel of oil expected in the next year is US\$81, significantly below the US\$104 initially planned for 2015, but well above the current price of the barrel in international markets – between US\$50 and US\$60.

"This shows how Angolan accounts remain highly dependent on the oil sector and that the risks to the oil price scenario may affect revenue collection in the period," the report said.

By contrast, tax revenues from the non-oil sector are expected to rise 27.1 percent, reflecting "the structural reforms that the authorities are carrying out to increase tax collection outside the oil sector," it said.

On 1 January, 2015 new income, industrial and general tax codes started operating in Angola, concluding a restructuring process that began in 2011.

One of the Budget trends for this year is an increase in funding for the social sector – education, health and social security – in contrast to cuts in security and defense.

The largest share of the budget will go to current expenditure (74 percent of total), including salaries and goods and services, both with increases in excess of 20 percent over the previous year. **MDT/Macauhub**

## MOZAMBIQUE

### Work on the Sena Railroad completed in 1Q 2015

Work to boost the capacity of the Sena Railroad in Mozambique from 6.5 million tons to 20 million tons of cargo per year are in the final stages, said the director of the Sena Line Reconstruction (BR CL) Brigade, Elias Xai-Xai. The contract, costing approximately 163 million euros, has been carried out since June 2013 and should be completed in the first quarter of 2015 and cover the full extent of the line, or 575 kilometers between the coal town of Moatize, in Tete province and the port of Beira, in Sofala province. Xai-Xai told daily newspaper Noticias that at the Sena stations of Magagade, Caia, Inhamitanga and Mazamba in Sofala, work had been completed to expanding lines from 750 to 1,500 metres long, including laying track at the remaining 20 of a total 31 station along the railway line. Ongoing work includes laying ballast, rebuilding over 300 bridges, culverts and aqueducts, especially in the Lower Zambezi area, notably restoration of the Dona Ana bridge that connects the banks of the Zambezi between Sena in Caia, and Mutarara, a over approximately 5 kilometers.

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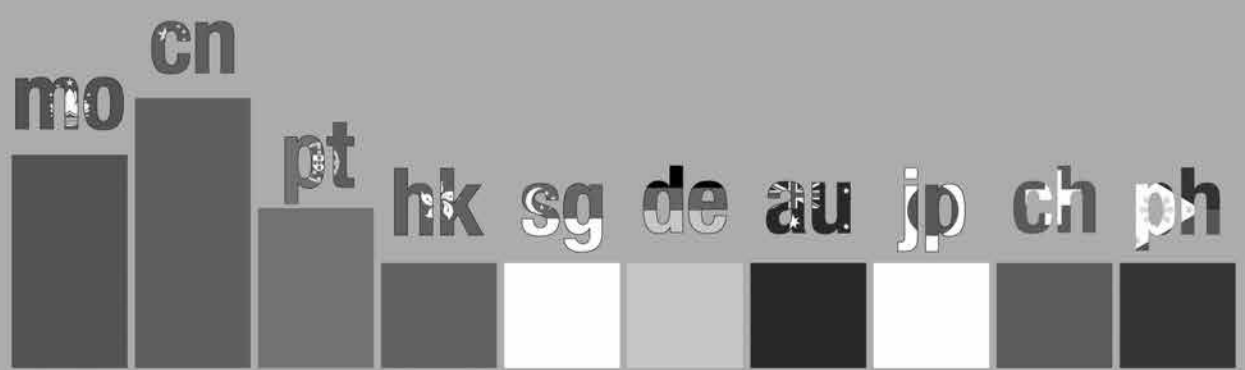
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## HONG KONG

# CY Leung cancels town hall meetings on Occupy

Ting Shi

HONG Kong's government canceled the chief executive's town hall meetings for the first time over concerns about potential public unrest spurred by pro-democracy protests that ended last month.

Leung Chun-ying's meet-the-people sessions were called off due to the situation and atmosphere in the city when they were scheduled, a spokesman

for Leung's office, who asked that his name not be used per office policy, said by phone. The meetings have been held at least three times annually over the previous five years to gauge public opinion ahead of the annual policy address and budget release. The canceled meetings were due to take place in the last quarter of 2014, before the policy speech in mid January and the budget announcement in late February.

It's a most disappointing decision, because it gives the impression that the gov't has no intention to directly engage the public communities in a meaningful political dialog

JOSEPH CHENG  
CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



The cancellation of the dialog between Hong Kong's top leader and the public indicates the Occupy Central movement, which ended on December 15 after 79 days of occupation of Hong Kong streets by pro-democracy protesters, is having far-reaching effects on the city's public affairs. The South China Morning Post reported the cancellation earlier yesterday.

"It's a most disappointing decision, because it gives the impression that the Hong Kong government has no intention to directly engage the public communities in a meaningful political dialog," said Joseph Cheng, a political science professor at

City University of Hong Kong and a convener of the pro-protest Alliance for True Democracy. "The Occupy movement has shown Hong Kong society has rapidly polarized, and the best way to reduce polarization is to address the entire community in

The government started consultations for the 2015 policy address and the 2015-16 budget in mid October, inviting the public to air their views via a website, or by e-mail, phone or fax. The consultation exercises were meant to "enable more comprehensive discussion with the community" and should allow the government to "collect views from members of the public ex-

tensively and thoroughly," according to a statement on the government's website.

Scuffles have broken out at public forums between pro-establishment and pan-democratic groups. In 2013, police arrested four people involved in clashes between pro- and anti-government groups at a public meeting with the chief executive, local media including the South China Morning Post have reported.

Leung will deliver his policy address on Jan. 14 and Financial Secretary John Tsang will present the 2015-16 budget to the Legislative Council on Feb. 25, according to a statement on the government's website. **Bloomberg**

## Venezuela's Maduro to visit Beijing to talk finance



VENEZUELA'S President Nicolas Maduro is traveling to China to discuss financing as the South American nation's economy sinks into a recession.

China is the socialist country's largest creditor. Maduro said yesterday that he would talk about Venezuela's oil-for-loans agreements with President Xi Jinping.

Venezuela is struggling with the world's highest inflation, a newly confirmed recession and a cash crunch brought about partly by a steep fall in the price of oil, which makes up 95 percent of the country's export earnings.

At the end of December, Maduro announced that he would make the economy his chief focus in 2015. **AP**

## BOC authorized for RMB clearing business in Kuala Lumpur

BANK of China, a major Chinese state-owned bank, has been authorized to conduct RMB clearing business in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, China's central bank said on yesterday, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The authorization came after a mutual cooperation memorandum was reached between the two nations' central banks, said the People's Bank of China, China's central bank.

RMB clearing business in overseas markets has become a major tool in promoting globalization of the RMB, the Chinese currency. So far, such business has been established in China's Hong Kong and Macao, as well as foreign cities including Singapore, London, Frankfurt, Seoul,



Paris, Luxembourg, Doha, Toronto and Sydney, according to the central bank.

Bank of China, which leads in RMB clearing business in overseas markets,

said that its cross-border RMB clearing transactions totaled 214.6 trillion yuan (USD35 trillion) during the Jan.-Nov. period in 2014, up 88.2 percent year on year.



**T**AIWAN'S former President Chen Shui-bian was granted a one-month medical parole yesterday for treatment of neural degeneration, more than four years into his 20-year prison sentence for corruption.

Chen, 64, rolled down a car window and waved to about 200 supporters while a police escort took him out of the main gate at Taichung prison on Monday afternoon.

Chen, whose election in 2000 ended a 50-year monopoly on power by the island's Nationalists, or Kuomintang, and who moved to expand Taiwan's de facto independence from mainland China, went on trial shortly after the end of his 2000-2008 tenure.

He was convicted in September 2009 of more than \$12 million in embezzlement and bribe-taking in what he denounced as a persecution driven by his political opponents.

Chen has reportedly suffered from depression, sleep apnea, heart ailments and neural degeneration while behind bars, and authorities say he has attempted suicide.

The one-month medical parole was granted for treatment of his neurodegeneration, which was worsening despite efforts to treat him while in prison, the Justice Ministry said in a statement.

"It is believed that only on

TAIWAN

# Imprisoned ex-President Chen given medical parole



Former Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian

medical parole can his life and health be ensured," the ministry said.

Neurodegeneration is an umbrella term for the loss of function of the neurons as ex-

perienced in diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and Huntington's. The ministry did

not specify what kind of neurodegeneration Chen was suffering from. AP

OBITUARY

## He Zhenliang, China's 'Mr. Olympics,' dies at 85



He Zhenliang

**H**E Zhenliang, a former International Olympic Committee vice president who was instrumental in Beijing winning the 2008 Summer Olympics, has died. He was 85.

He died at a hospital in Beijing of an unspecified illness on Sunday, according to the state-run Xinhua news service.

Known by the nickname "Mr. Olympics" in China, He was elected to the International Olympic Committee in 1981 and became vice president in 1989, remaining in the position for four years.

He was perhaps best known for his role in helping Beijing land the 2008 Olympics after the city unsuccessfully

bid for the games eight years earlier. He was part of the presentation team at the IOC session in Moscow in 2001 where Beijing was awarded the games and served on the organizing committee's executive board.

"Mr. He was a man of culture and art," said IOC President Thomas Bach. "He was a true advocate of the social values of sport and of our movement. ... He also helped our movement better understand his country, its people and outstanding culture. The Olympic movement has lost one of its most fervent ambassadors."

Wei Jizhong, former secretary-general of the Chinese Olympic Committee, told the China Daily newspaper that He wept after Beijing lost the vote for the 2000 Olympics to Sydney.

"He said he felt he had let his country and people down, while in fact he'd done what he could to the utmost (to help Beijing as a bid committee member)," Wei said. "His promotion for Beijing during the first bid and his valuable suggestions the second time played a big part in the success of 2008."

Beijing is one of two finalists for the 2022 Winter Olympics, and if it wins, it would become the first city to host both the summer and winter games. AP

WWII

## Japan's leader says he will express remorse

**J**APANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday that his government would express remorse for World War II on the 70th anniversary of its end in August.

Abe is known for his nationalist views, and many analysts have speculated that he may downplay Japan's responsibility for the war. At a year-opening news conference yesterday, he sought to reassure the world that he wouldn't veer from past official statements on Japan's wartime responsibility.

"The Abe Cabinet will uphold the general stance on history of successive prime ministers, including the Murayama statement," he said, referring to the 1995 apology made by then-Prime Minister



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, center, surrounded by guards, arrives at the Grand Shrine of Ise

Tomiichi Murayama on the 50th anniversary of the war's end.

He said the government would draft a new statement "that includes Japan's remorse for the war," though he stopped short of saying it would apologize.

What Abe will say is being closely watched not only in Japan but

also in neighboring China and South Korea, both victims of Japanese aggression in World War II. They would be angered by any backtracking by Japan.

The prospect also worries the United States, which fears it would add to tensions in the region. AP



FLIGHT 8501

# Indonesia cracks down on aviation sector after AirAsia crash

Tatan Syuflana, Pangkalan Bun

**H**IGHLIGHTING the depth of Indonesia's air safety problems, the transportation ministry announced harsh measures yesterday against everyone who allowed AirAsia Flight 8501 to take off without proper permits — including the suspension of the airport's operator and officials in the control tower.

The routing permits of all airlines flying in the country also will be examined to see if they are violating the rules, said Djoko Murjatmodjo, acting director general of air transportation.

"Who knows if other airlines are also doing the same thing," he said.

The crackdown comes as searchers continue to fight bad weather while combing the Java Sea for bodies and wreckage of the Airbus A320 that crashed Dec. 28, killing all 162 passengers and crew on board.

The plane was traveling between Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, and Singapore on a Sunday. Officials have since said its permit for the popular route was only for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and that AirAsia quietly switched three of those days. Officials in Singapore, however, have said the plane was authorized to fly on Sundays from its end.

While the airline is being investigated, Indonesia announced Saturday that it banned all AirAsia flights between Sur-

■ So far, no signals have been heard from the cockpit voice and flight data recorders, or black boxes

baya and Singapore.

AirAsia Indonesia President Director Sunu Widyatmoko said by text that the airline will cooperate with the government during the evaluation, but would not comment on the permit allegations until the process is complete.

Murjatmodjo said key individuals who allowed to plane to fly without permits would be suspended while the investigation is pending.

The ministry also issued a directive Dec. 31 ordering all airlines to provide pilots with up-to-date weather reports before they take off, he said. Currently, it's up to the captain and co-pilot to research and evaluate flying conditions before departing. In other countries, carriers' flight operations departments perform that task for them.

He also planned to meet Monday with the Corruption Eradication Commission to discuss whether to launch a graft probe into AirAsia's operations. Business in the country is commonly conducted using bribery,



Crew members of Indonesian Navy ship KRI Bung Tomo carry a piece of the airplane part from AirAsia Flight 8501

with payoffs often seen as the most efficient way to get things done.

After Indonesia deregulated its aviation industry in the 1990s, dozens of airlines emerged making air travel affordable for the first time for many in the world's fourth most populous nation. But a string of accidents in recent years has once again raised urgent questions about the safety of Indonesia's booming airline sector, with experts saying poor maintenance, rule-bending, and a shortage of trained professionals are partly to blame.

AirAsia, which began operations in 2001 and quickly became one of the region's leaders

in low-cost air travel, has not experienced any other crashes and is widely considered a benchmark for safety and professionalism.

It is not known what caused Flight 8501 to crash into the Java Sea 42 minutes after taking off on what was supposed to be a two-hour flight. Just 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. No distress signal was issued.

While it remains unclear what caused the disaster, bad weather appears to have been a factor, according to a report by In-

donesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency.

Since the plane's disappearance, a massive international hunt has been underway. So far, 37 bodies have been recovered, including three more yesterday, and sonar has identified five large pieces of what's believed to be chunks of the fuselage on the ocean floor. Divers have tried to get a visual on the objects, but strong currents, silt and mud have kept them from reaching it.

So far, no signals have been heard from the cockpit voice and flight data recorders, or black boxes. Poor weather has prevented ships from dragging ping locators.

Antonius Tonny Budiono, of the Transportation Ministry, said efforts were again thwarted Monday due to towering waves.

As bodies have been flown back to Surabaya, one by one, many victims' family members have struggled to deal with the slow process and fears that their loved ones may never be found.

On Monday, the relatives were offered a chance to visit the site where the plane crashed into the sea to say good-bye.

"I will facilitate the families of the victims who want to see the scene directly and how rescuers are battling high waves and bad weather to search for their loved ones and the plane," said Gen. Moeldoko, Indonesia's top military commander. "We'll prepare two aircraft and a warship for them to go there and throw flowers." AP

AFGHANISTAN

## Suicide bomber hits European police in Kabul, 1 dead

**A** suicide car bomber struck near the headquarters of the European police training mission in Kabul yesterday, killing one Afghan civilian and wounding five others nearby, police and EUPOL said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, the first against a foreign target in the Afghan capital in 2015.

According to a statement from the EUPOL mission, the driver of the car packed with explosives apparently targeted a convoy of mission vehi-



Afghanistan security forces inspect the site of a suicide car bomb attack in Kabul

cles near its headquarters on the eastern outskirts of Kabul in the early afternoon.

"The vehicle's occu-

pants were uninjured," EUPOL said on its Facebook page. The mission funds and trains Afghanistan's 157,000-strong

police force.

The spokesman for the Kabul police chief, Hashmat Stanekzai confirmed the casualties.

A separate explosion struck near Kabul's international airport earlier on Monday, leaving no casualties.

Kabul was hit by a high number of attacks in the last weeks of 2014, as the Taliban targeted government, military and foreign installations. A total of six foreigners were killed in a flurry of attacks in the capital in late 2014.

Meanwhile, in southern

Helmand province, an Afghan investigator said Monday that two soldiers had been arrested in connection with the deaths of at least 28 people at a wedding party on New Year's Eve when artillery shells hit the house where they were celebrating.

Din Mohammad, part of a presidential delegation sent to Sangin district to investigate the incident, said that their probe had determined there was a heavy firefight with insurgents at the time.

The two soldiers will face unspecified charges,

he said, adding that further investigations would determine whether they deliberately targeted the house.

The shells hit the house where a wedding party had gathered to welcome the bride. Along with the 28 killed, more than 50 people were wounded.

Afghan forces have taken over responsibility for nationwide security as of Jan. 1, following the drawdown of NATO and U.S. troops.

U.S. soldiers left Sangin, a major poppy-producing area along the Helmand River six months ago. Since then, Taliban attacks have increasingly been testing the ability of the Afghan army. AP





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## SINGAPORE

## Office rent to gain most in four years

Pooja Thakur

SINGAPORE'S prime office rents are set to post their biggest increase in at least four years in 2014, and may extend gains this year in a supply-constrained market.

The office rent index for prime areas rose 8.7 percent in the first nine months of last year, heading for its largest gain since 2010, when it was up 12 percent, according to data from the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

A limited supply of new prime office space over the past two years, compared with demand from companies seeking central office locations, may push 2014's rental increase as high as 14 percent, according to real estate broker Savills Plc. The same restricted supply will probably prevail this year and next, even if demand cools a little as the economy slows.

"Going into 2015, demand would almost match supply for prime office space, making the office market fundamentally sound," said Alan Cheong, a Singapore-based director at Savills. He said landlords are in a strong position to resist demands for lower rents due to the limited amount of new space available this year and next.

About 1.15 million square feet of new office space will come on stream in 2015, compared with 1.87 million square feet in 2014, said Alice Tan, the director of consultancy and research at real estate brokers



Commercial buildings stand in the central business district of Singapore

Knight Frank LLP. Marina Bay Financial Centre, which held its grand opening in May 2013, has about 3 million square feet of office space in three towers.

Some landlords are pushing tenants to accept unusually long leases amid concerns that the large amount of new office space due to be completed two years from now will cause the market to soften.

Marina One, a development taking shape on reclaimed land in the downtown Marina Bay area, will alone add 2.2 million square feet of office space in 2017, boosting supply in that year to about 4.7 million square feet, according to Knight Frank. The property is being developed by a joint venture of the

state-owned Temasek Holdings Pte and Malaysia's Khazanah Nasional Bhd.

Instead of the traditional three-year lease for office space, landlords have responded to the extra supply in 2017 by asking for five- to six-year lease agreements to lock in today's high prices, Tan said. Tenants are asking for discounts in exchange for agreeing to the longer leases, she said.

The rental index for office space in the central region rose to 192.3 at the end of September last year, up from 176.90 at the end of 2013 and the highest since the quarter ended December 2008, URA data showed. The index for the fourth quarter will be released later this month.

Going into 2015, demand would almost match supply for prime office space, making the office market fundamentally sound

ALAN CHEONG  
SAVILLS, SINGAPORE-BASED  
DIRECTOR

The buoyant rental market will continue to support the share prices of Singapore office real estate investment trusts this year, said Vikrant Pandey, an analyst with UOB Kay Hian Pte in Singapore.

Last year, Suntec Real Estate Investment Trust rose 27 percent, the second-best performer on the FTSE Strait Times Real Estate Invest Trust Index, which rose 9.2 percent, outpacing the 6.2 percent gain in the Singapore benchmark Straits Times Index. CapitaCommercial Trust, Mapletree Commercial Trust and Frasers Commercial Trust were among the 10 best performers on the REIT index last year.

The REIT index was little chan-

ged at the close of trading in Singapore today, while the Straits Times index fell 1.3 percent.

On the other hand, slower economic growth this year may cause prime office rental growth to slow to a range of 5 percent to 7 percent this year, Tan from Knight Frank said, as businesses become more cautious about taking on new space.

Singapore's economy expanded less than economists estimated last quarter after its manufacturing industry weakened with slowing growth in China and an uneven global recovery. Gross domestic product rose an annualized 1.6 percent in the three months to Dec. 31 from the previous quarter, when it expanded 3.1 percent, the trade ministry said on Jan. 2.

The major leases agreed in 2014 included Sanofi-Aventis Group taking up 40,000 square feet of space in the new South Beach development, vacating its current office space at 6 Raffles Quay, according to Knight Frank. Sanofi didn't respond to a request for comment on its new lease. South Beach is being developed by Singapore's City Developments Ltd. and Malaysia's IOI Group.

Companies operating in technology, media and telecommunications were especially active in renting prime space last year. LinkedIn Corp. doubled its office size by taking space at Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 2, DTZ said. LinkedIn declined to comment on the details of its new lease. **Bloomberg**

## MYANMAR

## Catholics pleased to welcome first local cardinal

CHURCH colleagues yesterday welcomed home Archbishop Charles Maung Bo, a day after his appointment by Pope Francis as Myanmar's first Roman Catholic cardinal.

Bo, the archbishop of Yangon, was one of 20 new cardinals whose appointments were announced Sunday. They are from 18 countries, including two others that never before had a cardinal: Cape Verde and Tonga. All will officially assume their new positions Feb. 14 at a ceremony at the Vatican.

The 66-year-old clergyman was smiling broadly as he returned from abroad to his residence in Myanmar largest city, exchanging pleasantries with friends and followers. Bouquets sent by well-wishers

sat outside his office.

Bishop Felix Lian Khen Thang said Bo's appointment was the crowning achievement of the church's mission activities in Myanmar. The bishop from Kalaymyo town is president of the country's Catholic Bishop Conference.

"It's time a Myanmar cardinal was selected because even Thailand, which has fewer Catholics, has had a cardinal," said the Rev. Maurice Daniel, the conference's general secretary.

About 1 percent of predominantly Buddhist Myanmar's 51 million people are Catholics. Neighboring Thailand has about half that number and also had a new cardinal appointed Sunday. The church has been active in Myanmar —



Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, left speaks with fellow-priests at Archbishop house in Yangon

also known as Burma — for five centuries.

Bo's appointment comes as Myanmar grapples with major problems of religious intolerance, particularly by

members of the Buddhist majority toward Muslims of the Rohingya ethnic minority. Related violence has taken several hundred lives in the past few years.

The archbishop was not immediately available to speak to reporters Monday. However, in a commentary for The Washington Post last year, he wrote: "If Burma is to be truly free, peaceful and prosperous, the rights of all ethnicities and religious faiths must be protected. A movement that has grown in volume and influence threatens this: extreme Buddhist nationalism."

Bo declared "there is a need for all of us — religious, civil and political leaders — to speak up to counter hate speech with good speech, as well as for the government to bring to justice those who incite discrimination and violence."

Bishop Felix attributed Bo's appointment in part to

his being cosmopolitan and outspoken. "He's daring enough to speak the truth, be it about tribal affairs, political affairs, church affairs," he said.

Benedict Rogers of the British-based religious freedom advocacy group Christian Solidarity Worldwide described Bo as "a man of enormous quality: courage, wisdom, compassion, humility, humor, hospitality and generosity."

"In particular, he has been one of the most outspoken religious leaders in Burma on issues of human rights, religious freedom, democracy, poverty, human trafficking and other injustices," said Rogers, who added that the archbishop inspired him personally to become a Catholic. **AP**



Katherine Corcoran, Mexico City

**A**S he heads to Washington to meet with Barack Obama, Enrique Pena Nieto leaves behind a year that was hardly what he had envisioned.

The Mexican president and his team started 2014 carrying out a slew of newly passed reforms, from breaking up telecommunications monopolies to opening the nation's energy sector, earning him international plaudits, including a Time magazine cover with his image above the caption "Saving Mexico."

Then came a 1-2-3 punch of scandals: Soldiers killing 22 civilians in a questionable "shootout"; the abduction and presumed murder of 43 college students, allegedly at the hands of local officials and police in league with a drug cartel; and revelations that Pena Nieto and his treasury secretary live in luxury homes built and financed by a favorite government contractor.

What was supposed to be "Mexico's moment," a new era of transparency and reform, felt a lot like the same old age of violence and corruption.

Tens of thousands have taken to the streets since the 43 college students disappeared Sept. 26. Even institutions normally cautious about criticizing the government, including the Roman Catholic Church, have spoken out, and a Mexican protester even disrupted the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, Norway, to draw attention to the tragedy.

"The protests are an expression of people fed up with impunity, and indignant at the complicity between some authorities and criminals," said Luis Raul Gonzalez, president of the normally politic Human Rights Commission, speaking directly to Pena Nieto at a recent public event.

When Pena Nieto took office two years ago, he promised Mexico would see a new Institutional Revolutionary Party, known as the PRI, which had ruled Mexico for 71 years, often through coercion and corruption. After losing the presidency in 2000, the party portrayed itself as repentant and reconstructed.

Disillusioned by 12 years of opposition party rule, many Mexican voters returned to the PRI on the theory it at least knows how to govern.

But the purported "new PRI" has turned out to be younger politicians operating with the old playbook. Though its leaders were lauded for passing reforms, they had nothing to fall back on when violence knocked them off their message of economic growth.

They sent police to crack



Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto

ANALYSIS

# Mexico scandals expose government without answers

down on protesters and called the unrest a plot to "destabilize" the government and undermine the reforms.

Pena Nieto told the country it was time to "move beyond" the case of the 43 students just weeks after their abduction, and he took a month to meet with their families.

The administration has tried to explain away the president's \$7 million mansion by saying it belonged to his wife, former soap opera actress Angelica Rivera, and it said Treasury Secretary Luis Videgaray's bought his house before he officially took office, although he was part of Pena Nieto's transition team.

Yet he is facing a Mexico much changed in the years since the PRI left office, when the country was still largely isolated, had very little investigative media and no citizen watchdogs armed with cell-phone cameras and social media.

Mexicans have responded irreverently to Pena Nieto's defenses, which they have seen as arrogance and disconnect. One protest sign declared that it isn't demonstrations that

are destabilizing Mexico but "your narco-government corruption."

Cabinet chief Aurelio Nuno admitted to the Spanish newspaper El Pais that the government didn't have an adequate plan to deal with insecurity

**■ As he heads to Washington to meet with Barack Obama, Enrique Pena Nieto leaves behind a year that was hardly what he had envisioned**

because it hadn't understood the dimensions of the problem. Nevertheless, he said the answer was in the economic reforms.

Pena Nieto maintained the strategy late Sunday when he delivered a New Year's messa-

ge acknowledging "a difficult year."

"The violence of organized crime hit the country once again," he said, adding that Mexico "can't continue the same." But his answer is that 2015 would be a year of lower gas, electricity and telephone bills, thanks to the reforms.

Pena Nieto's economic strategy has yet to pay off in investment or growth — one of the main reasons his approval ratings recently hit 38 percent, the lowest for any Mexican president since the peso crisis of 20 years ago. Oil prices are in the basement just as Mexico is opening its energy sector to foreign bidders, and job growth is stagnant.

Once-favorable coverage in media abroad has turned scathing.

Pressing Videgaray in an interview, CNBC correspondent Michelle Caruso-Cabrera said, "If Barbara Bush were living in a house built by Halliburton, her husband would have been impeached."

All levels of government have been sullied, with mayors and state police found to be in

cahoots with organized crime, and prosecutors more interested in solving political problems than crimes.

The military, which has spearheaded anti-drug efforts, was stained by allegations that soldiers shot suspects who had already surrendered, when the army initially said it killed them in a fierce shootout in June. Federal Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam didn't investigate until three months later, after news media found witnesses who contradicted the official version.

Mexico's major parties are all viewed negatively, leaving few options for those disappointed with Pena Nieto. The city officials directly implicated in the attack on the students and state officials who carried out the initial, floundering investigation were backed by the leftist Democratic Revolution Party that has long crusaded against PRI corruption.

In his Sunday address, Pena Nieto promised to be a better listener, and to "combat corruption and impunity and strengthen transparency."

But once again, he offered no specifics. **AP**



## what's ON



## VAFSA 2014 EXHIBITION

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

UNTIL: January 11, 2015

VENUE: Casa Garden, Orient Foundation / Praça de Luís de Camões 13

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

## THE PRODUCTION AND EXHIBITION OF CREATIVE CHRISTMAS TOY TREE

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: January 11, 2015

VENUE: Macau Design Centre, Travessa da Fabrica No. 5, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 0335

## "SEE AND TOUCH" - TOUCHABLE ARTS EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community Development Association / Rua Tomas Vieira 3A R/C

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

## MAKE YOUR OWN LEGEND - PAINTINGS BY JOEY HO CHONG I

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: January 25, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## RED SANDALWOOD ART EXHIBITION OF OLD BEIJING CITY GATES

TIME: 12pm-9pm (Tuesdays to Sundays, open on Mondays that fall on a public holiday)

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Level 2 MGM Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

## Offbeat

## AT MED SCHOOL, 'SEINFELD' ABOUT MORE THAN NOTHING

"Seinfeld" may have been a show about nothing, but a psychiatry professor is using it for much more than that.

Medical students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey are learning about psychiatric disorders through Dr. Anthony Tobia's "Psy-feld" teaching tool, NJ.com reports (<http://bit.ly/114iQJn>).

Tobia has created a database of teaching points from all the show's episodes. Third- and fourth-year medical students are assigned to watch two episodes a week and then gather to discuss the psychopathology demonstrated on each.

"You have a very diverse group of personality traits that are maladaptive on the individual level," Tobia said. "When you get these friends together the dynamic is such that it literally creates a plot: Jerry's obsessive compulsive traits combined with Kramer's schizoid traits, with Elaine's inability to forge meaningful relationships and with George being egocentric."

His diagnosis of Newman? "Very sick."

The students gathered around a conference table on a recent day, analyzing an episode from the night before. Third-year student Marlene Wang said that the exercise leads to having more practical and relatable examples than a textbook.

"In this way, it just gives you a more solid picture of the pathology rather than just giving you words," Wang said.

Tobia has also written an academic paper that analyzes five of Elaine's boyfriends from the show to explain delusional disorder. He also teaches a course where students tweet thoughts about characters' potential psychiatric disorders while watching films like "Fargo."

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:20	Kung Fu Masters of the Zodiac
17:45	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:40	Happy Endings S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
00:00	Miscellaneous
00:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## 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



## 1977 EMI FIRES SEX PISTOLS

The music publisher EMI has ended its contract with the Sex Pistols punk rock group because of their notorious behaviour in public.

In a statement, the company said: "EMI feels it is unable to promote this group's records in view of the adverse publicity generated over the past two months."

The move follows the group's appearance on ITV's Today programme six weeks ago in which they used strong language.

Reports that they had sworn at Heathrow Airport staff and spat at each other while waiting to board a plane for the Netherlands yesterday proved to be the final straw.

EMI broke the news to Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren by telephone this morning. But he denied the contract had been ended by mutual agreement.

In Amsterdam preparing for a series of concerts and recordings, he told the BBC: "That's rubbish. I haven't signed a single paper - as far as I'm concerned, we're still on EMI."

The four-man band - Johnny Rotten, Steve Jones, Paul Cook and Sid Vicious - had only served three months of the two-year contract, worth £40,000, and release one single - Anarchy in the UK.

EMI has also come under pressure to drop the group from the Conservative MP for Christchurch and Lynton, Robert Adley.

Last night, he wrote to the managing director, Sir John Read, saying: "Surely a group of your size and reputation could forgo the doubtful privilege of sponsoring trash like the Sex Pistols."

Asked whether he would sign up another punk rock group, Sir John told the BBC: "Certainly. I am told there is a demand for this style of music and provided we can have groups that don't attract the adverse publicity this group has had, we'll certainly want to be in it."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

In March 1977 the Sex Pistols signed up with A&M Records but were sacked soon afterwards.

By June they had joined Virgin and sold 150,000 copies of God Save the Queen in just one day. The single officially reached number two - despite a BBC Radio One ban and several high street chains refusing to stock it. It caused a national outrage in the year of the Queen's Jubilee.

On 12 October 1978 Sid Vicious was charged with murdering his girlfriend, Nancy Spungen. That same year the group disbanded.

Sid Vicious died of a drug overdose on 2 February 1979 while out on bail.

Virgin Records continued to release Sex Pistols music, including one compilation appropriately called Flogging a Dead Horse.

Then in 1986 former Sex Pistols won substantial damages against their ex-manager Malcolm McLaren.

Ten years later in 1996, the band reformed for their final worldwide tour - and live album Filthy Lucre - that lasted six months.

The band reformed again in 2002 and re-released God Save the Queen in response to the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations. They came together again in August 2003 for a short USA tour.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Be as clear as you can be today — otherwise, things are sure to get really weird.

Taurus April 20-May 20
Things are getting somewhat weird today, so make sure that you're stepping up and tackling the challenges as they arise.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
You may not even realize you're flirting until someone starts to step up their game and you have to make the call: Go or no go.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You may not want to pore over all those data tables or job listings, but now is the best time to handle the details.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You're blessed with friends, and should find that most of them are giving you what you need today.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Work is on your mind — maybe you need a new job, or maybe you need to close out an account so you can finally sleep well at night.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
Your great energy is perfect for any brainy activity — or just for having fun! See if you can sweet-talk a few close friends into an impromptu barbecue or something even bigger and more wild.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
This is not a good time to ignore the fine print — get in deep and really make sure you understand it all!

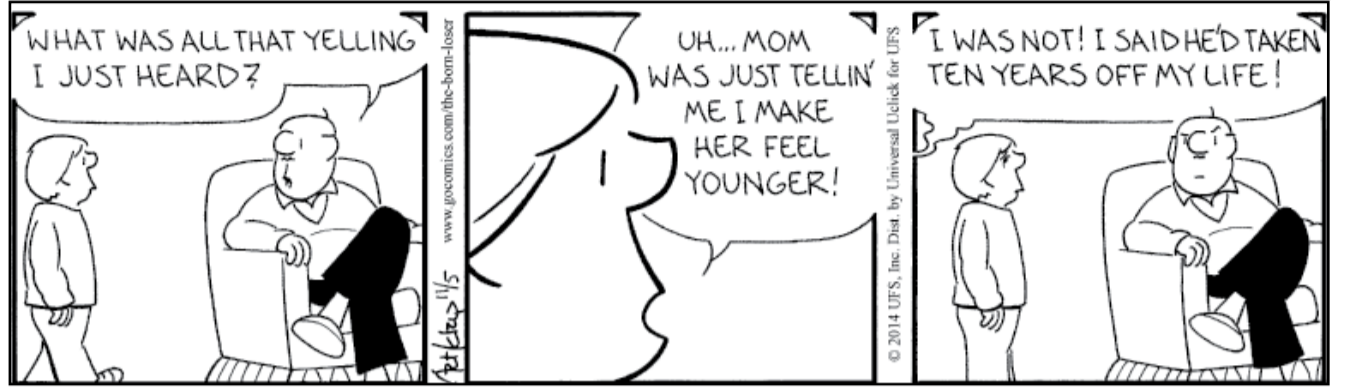
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
If you're worrying about what comes next, take it easy — things are looking up, really! You just need to take firm, decisive action.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You feel somewhat looser and more willing to wander today — so make the most of it and enjoy what you've got!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You've got creative energy to spare — and today, the whole world can see it! Don't hold back, because your biggest, boldest ideas are those that are likeliest to sway people and bring about change.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
You are feeling just a little busier than you would like, but that's okay — in fact, you kind of need the distraction.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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Hard

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1 9
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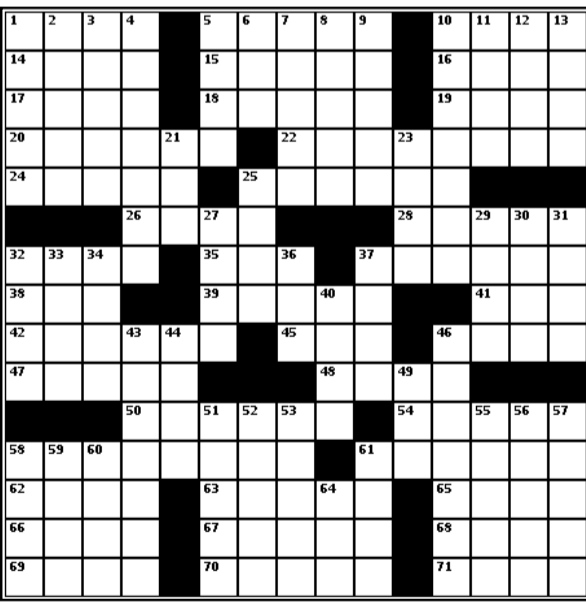
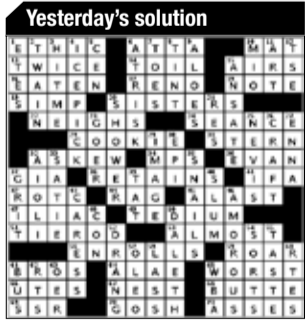
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Not of the cloth; 5- Simple seat; 10- Prepared to drive; 14- Bushy hairdo; 15- Intervening, in law; 16- Nui (Easter Island); 17- Needy; 18- Strictly accurate; 19- Brockovich; 20- Ice cream topped with syrup; 22- Leadership; 24- Noted spokescow; 25- Perceived to be; 26- Rights org.; 28- Corporate symbols; 32- Catchall abbr.; 35- Bordeaux buddy; 37- House in D.C.; 38- Horned viper; 39- Marisa of 'My Cousin Vinny'; 41- No-win situation; 42- Rough design; 45- Everything; 46- Writing table; 47- Blue book filler; 48- Sites; 50- African fly; 54- Customary; 58- Harlot; 61- Navy builder; 62- Like some orders; 63- Climbing vine; 65- Aboriginal rite site; 66- Stringed instrument; 67- Early computer; 68- Stretched out; 69- Skunk's defense; 70- Shoulder muscles, briefly; 71- French summers;

DOWN: 1- Pass into disuse; 2- In conflict with, with 'of'; 3- Removes wrinkles; 4- Courteous and gracious; 5- Hook's helper; 6- John Ritter's dad; 7- Missouri feeder; 8- When prompted; 9- Admit; 10- Federal crime; 11- Bring home; 12- Heroic; 13- Hamlet, for one; 21- Former nuclear agcy.; 23- Roy's 'singin' pardner'; 25- Japanese wrestling; 27- Plaster backing; 29- Movable barrier; 30- Elevator man; 31- Look for; 32- Leisure; 33- Sounds of disapproval; 34- Gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans; 36- 'Believer' (Monkees hit); 37- Structure for storing grain; 40- Vogue rival; 43- Narc; 44- Fluid-filled sac; 46- Cripple; 49- Theatrical hint; 51- Caught congers; 52- Triple; 53- Gastropod mollusk; 55- German submarine; 56- Eagle's home; 57- Inclines; 58- WWII battle site; 59- Extol; 60- Choir member; 61- Pouches; 64- Writer Hentoff;



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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
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FOOTBALL | EUROPEAN ROUNDUP

# Madrid loses, Manchester clubs through in FA Cup

**A**FTER a perfect end to 2014, Real Madrid opened the new year with its first loss since September.

Madrid slipped to a 2-1 defeat at Valencia to end a 22-game winning streak in all competitions. However, Barcelona failed to take advantage as it also lost at Real Sociedad to remain behind leader Madrid in the Spanish league.

In England, Manchester United and Manchester City were among a slew of big clubs that needed second-half recoveries against lower-league teams for victories in the FA Cup's third round.

**SPAIN.** Madrid took the lead at Valencia when Cristiano Ronaldo extended his season tally to 26 league goals in the 14th minute at Mestalla Stadium, stroking in a penalty kick following Alvaro Negredo's handball.

But the hosts rallied through a goal by Antonio Barragan in the 52nd before defender Nicolas Otamendi fended off Sergio Ramos to head home the 65th-minute winner.

"We have been training all week for this," Otamendi said. "This was a key game to start 2015."

Madrid had not lost or drawn a game in any competition since a 2-1 defeat to Atletico Madrid on Sept. 13, setting a Spanish record for consecutive wins.

Barcelona had the chance to provisionally climb above Madrid into first, but lost 1-0 at Sociedad following Jordi Alba's own goal in the second minute. Star forwards Lionel Messi and Neymar came on as substitutes in the second half, but failed to inspire a comeback.

Rayo Vallecano also came from behind for a 2-1 victory at crosstown rival Getafe. Eibar, meanwhile, continued its impressive topflight debut by holding on to win 2-1 at Espanyol and move into eighth place.



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo

**ENGLAND.** On the day England's top teams entered the FA Cup, world football's most famous domestic cup competition, there were a slew of close calls for Premier League sides. But only Queens Park Rangers fell at the first hurdle.

QPR lost 3-0 to Sheffield United, which is making a habit of producing so-called "giant-killings" in cup competitions. The team reached the semifinals of the FA Cup last season and has advanced to the same stage of the League Cup this

season, where it takes on Tottenham over two legs this month.

Man City looked like going the same way as QPR, only for James Milner — a midfielder playing as a makeshift striker — to score in the 66th minute and again in injury time in a 2-1 win over second-tier Sheffield Wednesday.

Man United was also unconvincing against Yeovil, which is bottom of the third tier, and needed goals in the final 26 minutes from midfielders Ander Herrera and Angel Di Maria for

a 2-0 win.

Stoke avoided what would have been one of the biggest shocks in the cup's 144-year history, scoring three times in the final 10 minutes to beat non-league Wrexham 3-1. Chelsea also relied on a second-half revival, scoring three goals in a 14-minute burst for a 3-0 win over Watford. Christian Benteke's 88th-minute strike earned Aston Villa a 1-0 victory over Blackpool, which plays in the second tier.

Arsenal had it more comforta-

ble, with the defending champions beating Hull 2-0 in a repeat of last season's final thanks to goals by Per Mertesacker and Alexis Sanchez.

**FRANCE.** Fourth-tier Grenoble came from behind three times before producing the first major upset in the French Cup with a 5-4 win on penalties over league leader Marseille.

Other top-flight favorites avoided falling at the first hurdle as Lyon, Monaco and Bordeaux all progressed to the round of 32.

Marseille and Grenoble were locked 3-3 after extra time after Grenoble captain Selim Bengriba headed home a last-second equalizer to take Marcelo Bielsa's side to a penalty shootout.

Former Grenoble player Florian Thauvin missed from the spot during the shootout and Nasrallah sent Brice Samba the wrong way to knock out Marseille.

After a strong first half to the season that saw it climb to second in the league standings, Lyon picked up where it left off before the Christmas break and quickly built a 3-0 lead against Lens before resisting a late charge to win 3-2.

Monaco was in control from the start against second-division side Nimes and won 2-0 with goals from Bernardo Silva and Valere Germain, while Bordeaux defeated Toulouse 2-1.

Guingamp began its title defense with a 3-0 victory at fifth-tier side Dinan Lehon, and Saint-Etienne scrapped to a 1-0 win over Nancy. **AP**

TENNIS

# Halep survives tough opening match in Shenzhen

**TOP-SEEDED** Simona Halep overcame 10 double faults and a tough challenge from Germany's Annika Beck to advance to the second round of the Shenzhen Open with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory on yesterday.

Halep, last year's French Open runner-up, was down a break in the deciding set before reeling off the final four games to clinch the match.

"It was my first match of the year, which is always difficult," Halep said. "After the first set I knew I had to be more aggressive, hit the



Simona Halep

balls and open the court more, and I think I did it well."

China's top player, third-seeded Peng Shuai, was upended by Russian Vera Zvonareva, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Zvonareva, a two-time Grand Slam finalist once ranked as high as No. 2, is back on tour after missing large parts of the last three seasons due to illness and surgery on her right shoulder.

The Russian, who hasn't played since a third-round exit at Wimbledon last year, is currently ranked No. 250

"I had a lot of troubles over the past two years, two and a half really. I tried to come back last year, but it was too early and I had too much pain, so I had to take a break again," she said.

"But I'm really happy with this win. I have no goals at the moment — I just want to be healthy and try my best in every match."

Other winners at the tune-up event for the Australian Open included Slovenia's Polona Hercog, a 6-1, 7-5 winner over No. 7 seed Monica Niculescu, and Serbia's Aleksandra Krunic. **AP**



opinion

**Our Desk**  
 João Pedro Lau



**SCHOOL OF DEMOCRACY**

I read a news article last month about a group called Citizens for Objective Public Education who lost a court case against the Kansas State Board of Education in the United States about the teaching of evolution in schools. The article said that the dispute was caused by an educational framework drawn up by 26 states of the US, in collaboration with the US National Research Council, on the teaching of science in schools. This article caught my attention because of a quote in it; the fundamental idea of the framework. It says "science—and therefore science education—is central to the lives of all Americans, preparing them to be informed citizens in a democracy and knowledgeable consumers".

I am not going to discuss the teaching of creationism vs. evolutionism here, as this is virtually a non-issue in Macau; nor am I going to talk about science education in general. What I want to talk about is how the quote seemed to reflect one of the goals of US education, which is to prepare students to be "informed citizens in a democracy". Looking back to Macau, sometimes I wonder how our schools have prepared us to become citizens in a democracy. My first "democratic experience" in school consisted of electing my class prefects and treasurer. Of course, the democratic election was somehow controlled. The candidates were either nominated by the teachers or were decided based on their academic achievement. It was just like Plato's Utopia, where "...those now called kings [must]... genuinely and adequately philosophize".

But apart from that, there was nothing in my school that prepared me for a democratic society. In fact, I feel like I can function better in an autocracy or a dictatorship after graduating from my school. Recently, I have heard an incident that has further destroyed the image of my alma mater in my heart and convinced me that a Macau school (at least mine) is absolutely not a good place to train citizens of democracy.

My school used to ask students to wear traditional school coats when attending important events. Several years ago, the management changed the design of the school coat. Nevertheless, students were still fonder of the old design, even if it had been heavier and not so trendy. In the beginning, the school allowed students to choose between them. But the school management changed its mind two months ago, suddenly requiring all students to buy and wear the new school coat. To make the decision even more ridiculous, students were told to wear the new coat at all times in school when the temperature is above 23 degrees.

Of course, adolescents are never cooperative, especially when they have these kinds of unreasonable instructions forced upon them. Eventually, most of the senior students in my school refused to comply with the new order and did not put on the coat during the daily appearance checkup. After a week of "civil disobedience", the school finally dropped the unpopular instruction.

Imagine if you were a student in my alma mater: what would you have learnt from this incident? For me, I think they have learnt the following: that authority is not always right, sometimes they make stupid rules; that you have to resist when authority imposes unreasonable rules on you; that the authority will back down when it faces enough resistance; and that you cannot trust the authority, because you do not know when they are going to come up with another stupid rule.

Well, I think my school is preparing students to be citizens of a democracy after all.

**THE BUZZ** **RAPPER JOEY BADA\$\$ CHARGED IN AUSTRALIA WITH CONCERT ASSAULT**

New York hip-hop artist Joey Bada\$\$ has been charged in an Australian court with assaulting a security guard before a performance last week, officials said yesterday.

The 19-year-old Brooklyn performer was headed for the stage at the Falls Music and Arts Festival near the tourist town of Byron Bay in New South Wales state on Friday when he was asked by a 20-year-old security guard to prove his identity, police said in a statement.

Bada\$\$ allegedly punched the guard, breaking

his nose, before continuing to the stage and performing his set. He was later charged with assault causing bodily harm and spent the night in police custody, the statement said. He could be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison if convicted.

He appeared in the Lismore Local Court on Saturday under the name Jo-Vaughn Virginie Scott and was released on unconditional bail, court official Melissa Everson said. She would not say whether he had entered a plea, citing privacy regulations.

**Las Vegas airport preps for tech-savvy travelers**



A charging station at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas

**W**HILE the gadgets of the future are only just arriving in Las Vegas for the annual International CES show, officials at the city's main airport are updating a decades-old terminal to cater to legions of tech-savvy travelers.

By Friday at McCarran International Airport, a couple of thousand outlets and USB ports under seats and inside bars and restaurants will be available for those looking for a power charge in Terminal 1 before heading home after the gadget convention.

The airport had already installed free airport-wide Wi-Fi ahead of the electronics show 10 years ago at a time when travelers had either a laptop or personal digital assistant, if that, and were at most checking e-mail or finishing up a PowerPoint presentation.

Now, there are movies to stream, virtual meetings to

conduct, Internet games to play and books to download. More than 160,000 people attended the 2014 show, which takes over the Las Vegas Convention Center, the Sands Expo and several nearby hotels with more than 190,000 square meters of exhibit space.

Hot trends this year include Internet connectivity in everyday products such as cars and appliances and the growth of online video as an alternative to traditional television channels. New TVs with sharper images and better colors are also expected. The four-day show begins today, though pre-show events take place Sunday and Monday.

Karen Chupka, senior vice president with CES and the Consumer Electronics Association, said her group is likely the biggest electricity and Internet user when it comes to town.

"We tend to push the limits of everything," she said adding that year after year, the city has beefed up its capabilities in response, such as relatively recent Internet upgrades to the convention center that show organizers are particularly excited about. The airport's addition of a couple of thousand more outlets and USB ports is, "great, that's absolutely wonderful," she said.

Travelers with gadgets often face a dilemma to grab a bite to eat in a restaurant or bar lacking outlets or slump against a wall, plug into a wall outlet near a boarding gate and watch as the battery is recharged.

"You don't have to make that choice," said Samuel Ingalls, assistant director of aviation information services at the airport.

The 500 under-seat power supplies with two outlets and two USB ports each and more power outlet upgrades to come are expected to cost the airport USD400,000.

The new Layover Bar in the airport's pre-security area, though, features outlets under the counter at each seat. Each table at the new neighboring Wendy's has them, too.

Walls of unused payphones in a terminal that got its start in 1963 and was expanded in the 1980s were replaced years ago with counters, stools and outlets for recharging zones but it hasn't gotten a true outlet boost until now. AP

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

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**MEXICO** As he heads to Washington to meet with Barack Obama, Enrique Pena Nieto leaves behind a year that was hardly what he had envisioned. The Mexican president and his team started 2014 carrying out a slew of newly passed reforms, from breaking up telecommunications monopolies to opening the nation's energy sector, earning him international plaudits, including a Time magazine cover with his image above the caption "Saving Mexico." More on p15



**UK** Buckingham Palace says Queen Elizabeth II will make a state visit to Germany in June — the fifth such engagement of her long reign. The monarch will be accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh in the June 24-26 visit, which comes following an invitation by Joachim Gauck, Germany's president.

**GERMANY** Police are investigating an attack on an Israeli who was beaten by a group of young men after he asked them to stop singing anti-Semitic songs on the Berlin subway on New Year's Eve. Police are still looking for the attackers. The victim, 26-year-old Shahak Shapira, who lives in Berlin, told AP that after he asked the seven men to stop chanting anti-Jewish songs, he recorded them on his cell phone.

**FRANCE** A Roma community is burying a dead infant in a Paris suburb after questions erupted over where she should be laid to rest, raising national concerns about discrimination. About 200 family members and townspeople attended a funeral Mass yesterday.

**LIBYA** An unidentified warplane has bombed a Greek-owned tanker ship at the eastern Libyan port of Darna, killing two crew members and injuring two more, Greek authorities said yesterday. The Liberian-flagged Araevo was chartered by Libya's state-run National Oil Corporation, Greece's Foreign Ministry said. The ministry strongly condemned the attack, calling for the identification and punishment of the perpetrators, and demanding compensation for the victims' families.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko



A single bluefin tuna has sold for 4.5 million yen (USD37,500) yesterday at the first auction of the year at Tokyo's famous fish market. Kiyoshi Kimura, the owner of a Japanese sushi restaurant chain, bought the 180-kilogram fish Monday at the re-opening of the Tsukiji market after the extended New Year's break. He was the top bidder for the fourth year in a row.