



### RESIDENTS' TRUST IN GOV'T DROPPING

Residents' trust in both the Macau government and Beijing authorities is dropping, a survey shows

P2



### GAMING INDUSTRY ADJUSTMENT 'UNDER GOV'T'S CLOSE WATCH'

Lionel Leong sees the adjustment phase of gaming revenue as a "basis" for Macau to strive for adequate industrial diversification

P7



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

**NIGERIA** Hundreds of bodies — too many to count — remain strewn in the bush in Nigeria from an Islamic extremist attack that Amnesty International suggested Friday is the "deadliest massacre" in the history of Boko Haram. An Amnesty statement said there are reports the town was razed and as many as 2,000 people killed.

AP PHOTO



**PAKISTAN** A passenger bus crashed into an oil tanker in southern Pakistan early yesterday, killing 57 people with remains charred beyond recognition, officials said.

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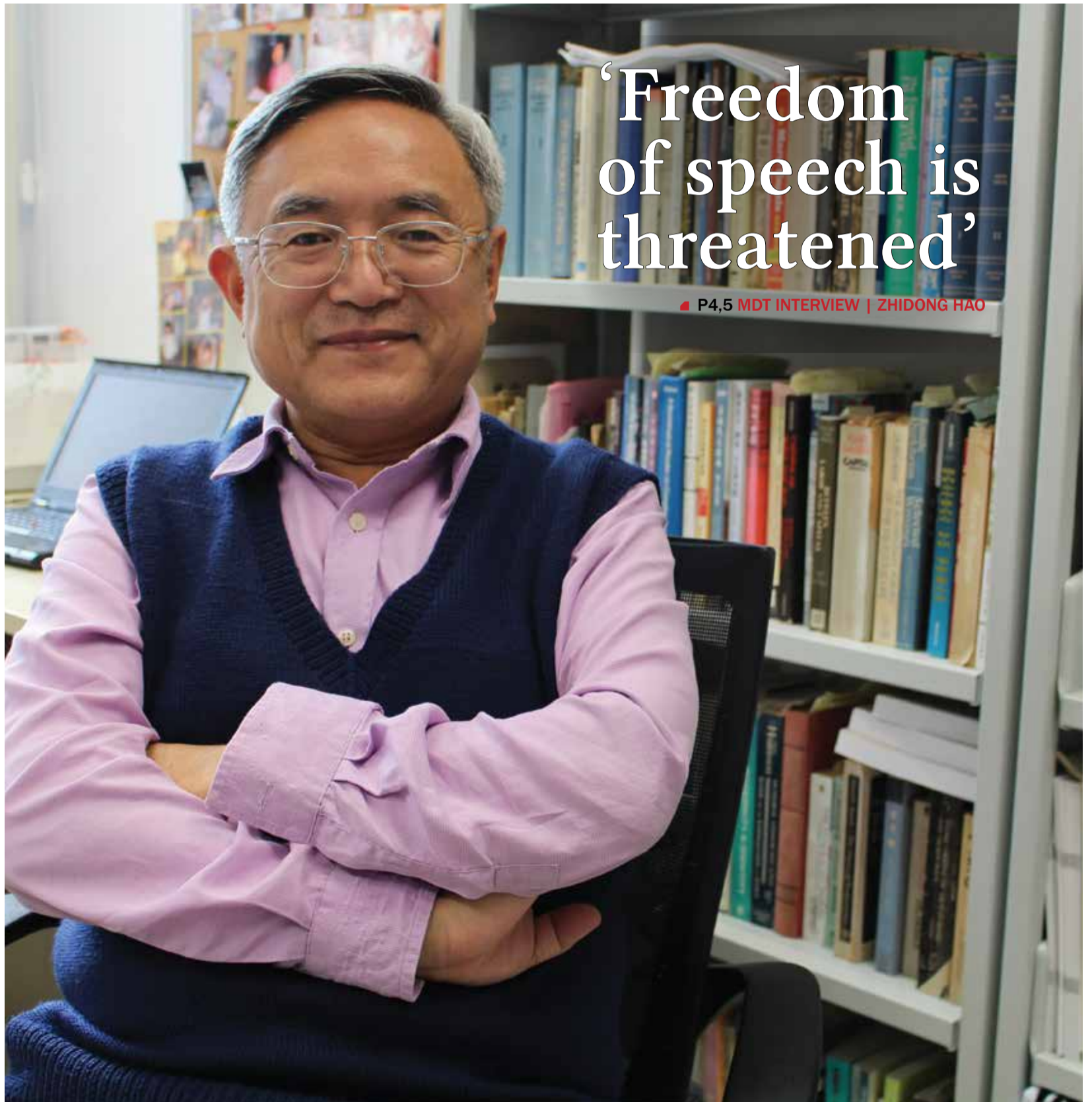
Caesars owners seek way out of gambling debt

F1

## 3 GUNMEN KILLED

# Charlie unites the world in Paris

P13,14,15, FT



'Freedom of speech is threatened'

P4,5 MDT INTERVIEW | ZHIDONG HAO

João Pedro Lau

# Survey shows residents' trust in gov't dropping

**T**HE latest findings from a Hong Kong academic institute, published on Thursday, suggested that Macau residents' net trust in both the Macau government and the central government have dropped by 7 percent. Political scientist Eric Sautede said that the drop is not surprising and described 2014 as "a bad year" for the government. Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong believes that the government can only win back residents' trust by stringently carrying out the policies that the public demand.

The survey was carried out by the University of Hong Kong Public Opinion Program between December 1 and 3. A total of 502 Macau residents were interviewed over the telephone. The results showed that Macau residents' net trust in the MSAR government and the central government has decreased compare to a year ago. The trust in the MSAR government decreased by 5 percent to 53 percent, and distrust rose 2 percent to reach 21 percent. This has led to a 7 percent net drop in trust. A similar trend was also shown in the net trust in Beijing. Macau residents' trust in the central government was 52 percent, having fallen 4 percent. The distrust of the central government was 19 percent, rising 3 percent. This has resulted in 33 percent net trust, down by 7 percent compared with figures for 2013.

Apart from their trust in the government, the Public Opinion Program also asked the residents to appraise society's conditions and found that 69 percent of the respondents are most concerned with issues surrounding livelihood. This is followed by economic pro-



blems (24 percent) and political problems (4 percent).

As for the four core social indicators, namely "prosperity", "freedom", "stability" and "democracy", the program found that two of them have decreased according to residents. The respondents suggested that, out of 10, the degrees of prosperity and freedom were 7.22 and 6.71, down 0.19 and 0.11 respectively. While the degree of stability remained unchanged at 7.20, the degree of democracy has increased slightly by 0.02 to 5.51. Nevertheless, it is still the lowest among the four indicators.

Moreover, respondents' confidence in Macau's future dropped from 76 percent in 2013 to 74 percent in 2014. The confidence in "One Country, Two Systems" also decreased, falling 5 percent to 70 percent this year.

Scholar Eric Sautede told the Times that he "would be sur-

prised if trust actually goes up". He said that 2014 was a bad year for the government, especially because of the con-

troversy surrounding the proposed compensation bill, which triggered one of the biggest protests in Macau since the 1999 handover. The political scientist also believes that the Hong Kong Occupy Movement has played a role in encouraging people to speak up about their dissatisfaction.

Furthermore, Sautede said that the drop of residents' trust in government does not necessarily translate into an increase in trust in the opposite, namely the pro-democratic camp in Macau. Nevertheless, he thinks that it might mean that people may support groups and individuals who can provide an alternative to

the current policies.

Meanwhile, lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong told the Times that if the government wants to regain the public's trust, the new Secretaries have to clearly lay out their future plans and policies in accordance with public demands. Moreover, he said that officials have to draw up a time-frame for their works and observe it strictly. Ng said that if the government does not solve the issues, such as the public's current distrust, while the economy still in good shape, it might face some serious problems in the future as the living conditions of residents start heading south.

## TRUST IN MSAR AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

	Dec 23-28 2012	Dec 6-12 2013	Dec 1-3 2014	Latest Change
<b>Trust in MSAR government</b>	65%	58%	53%	-5%
<b>Distrust in MSAR government</b>	11%	19%	21%	+2%
<b>Net trust</b>	54%	39%	32%	-7%
<b>Trust in central government</b>	60%	56%	52%	-4%
<b>Distrust in central government</b>	11%	16%	19%	+3%
<b>Net trust</b>	49%	40%	33%	-7%

## APPRAISAL OF SOCIETY'S CONDITIONS

	7.65	7.41	7.22	-0.19
<b>Degree of prosperity</b>	7.65	7.41	7.22	-0.19
<b>Degree of stability</b>	7.61	7.20	7.20	--
<b>Degree of freedom</b>	7.12	6.82	6.71	-0.11
<b>Degree of democracy</b>	5.97	5.49	5.51	+0.02

## GAMING

# FOAM calls for gov't to intervene in casinos' unpaid leave schemes

**A**MIDST the continuous plunge of Macau's gaming revenue, two casino operators have allegedly offered employees unpaid leave for as long as one year. According to a casino workers' union affiliated with the Macau Fed-

eration of Trade Unions (FOAM), the proposal received an enthusiastic response from the workers, as it has been difficult for them to apply for leave in the past.

The director-general of the Macau Gaming En-

terprises Staff's Association, Choi Kam Fu, urged that authorities should regulate the conditions offered by casino operators under such an agreement, so as to protect the rights and interests of employees.

"Although unpaid leave

is taken on a voluntary basis, the government should intervene and supervise. They should regulate the unpaid leave scheme to see whether it will affect the employees' welfare in the company, including their bonus and salary adjustment,"

he explained.

"What's happening now is that those casino workers who took unpaid leave during the financial crisis are now bearing a difference in the levels of their bonuses and salary increases compared to other

colleagues," he added.

Mr Choi further suggested that casino operators and the government should take the opportunity of a manpower surplus to facilitate the promotion of local employees.

"It is a good time for casinos to provide training to local employees and offer them the chances of promotion so that the proportion of local employees in middle and senior positions can gradually expand," he said.

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**Times**

**DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS** Eric Sautede, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela  
**CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR** Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com  
**DESIGN EDITOR** João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | **NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS** Albano Martins, António Espadinha Soares, Brook Yang, Catarina Pinto, Cyril Law, Emille Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Philips, João Pedro Lau, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Keith Ip, Renato Marques (photographer), Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Sum Choi, Viviana Segui | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | **SECRETARY** Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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**ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

**SECRETARY** Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

**ADDRESS** Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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# Crackdown on law-violating taxi drivers greeted by association

**T**HE Public Security Police (PSP) is issuing more tickets to law-violating taxi drivers, according to figures revealed on Friday. PSP revealed that it has already prosecuted 352 cases of taxi irregularities in the first seven days of 2015. The police vowed to launch a full-scale crackdown on illegal behavior by taxi drivers.

The Macau Taxi Passengers Association (MTPA) reacted by stating that it is "delighted" at the surge in police enforcement. "The figures show that the total number of tickets issued increased by exactly 1,000 percent from 1,666 for the entire 2014 year (an average of 32 tickets per week) to a total of 352 tickets in the first week of 2015," stressed the MTPA in a statement, adding that such an increase was not the result of an increase in illegal activity, but due to "a dramatic increase in enforcement."

"We have been pushing this issue for six months now, and this is the first example of a proactive response by the government. It's fantastic!" said



the group's president, Andrew Scott. "If this is an example of how the new Chui Sai On government intends to run Macau, I say, 'Bring it on!'"

Mr Scott added that the "necessary action" needs to be consistently applied, "for many months, so that these law-

breaking taxi drivers can realize that there is a 'new normal' in Macau's taxi industry."

"The bad drivers need to see the writing on the wall and either clean up their act or get out of the industry," he said, adding that the MTPA "eagerly looks forward to increased co-opera-

tion [with the PSP and Macau government] in the future."

The head of the PSP traffic commission, Ma Chio Hong said during an operation against taxi irregularities that there were around 1,000 cases of refusing fares or charging excessive fares in 2014, fourfold the number from two years ago. In the 300 cases prosecuted in the first seven days this year, 94 of them were for refusing a fare or charging an excessive fare.

Ma said that since the irregularities of taxi drivers have seriously affected local residents and have damaged the image of Macau, "The police authority will be vigorously tackling the taxi irregularities in a comprehensive manner in 2015." "Apart from the PSP department of traffic, other PSP departments will be participating in the crackdown 24 hours a day to cover the broader and deeper aspects [of the taxi problems]. We strive to correct the unhealthy trend of refusing fares and charging excessive fares in the taxi industry in a short period of time," he said. **JPL/BY**

## Multi-million prostitution ring busted

The Judiciary Police (PJ) cracked a large prostitution syndicate based in a hotel in NAPE area yesterday. Six local suspects were arrested and 96 women involved in prostitution were taken back to the police station to assist in the investigation. According to PJ spokesperson Choi Iat Peng, the busted ring is the biggest forced prostitution case in Macau since the city's handover. The ring's profit during last year was estimated to be more than MOP400 million.

## PJ investigates case of suspected suicide

Authorities are investigating a case where a 23-year-old local woman was found dead on the sidewalk of Avenida Doutor Sun Yat-Sen. Information suggested that the police first received a report at 3.14 p.m on Friday. PJ investigators then went to the residence of the deceased and contacted her family. The family disclosed that the woman had been battling depression and had been receiving treatment. It is suspected that she fell from the rooftop of the building she used to live in.

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Catarina Pinto

INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR ZHIDONG HAO

**R**EFUSING entry into Macau to Hong Kong activists or politicians might not be a new measure of local authorities. However, when two professors are dismissed because of their political activities or views, it means some of Macau's freedoms are being threatened, University of Macau professor of sociology, Zhidong Hao, stressed. He believes Macau's society will remain "fairly silent" and that social movement organizations need a strategy, as the city currently lacks a united front in terms of the democracy movement.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – Several Hong Kong activists and a lawmaker were recently refused entry to Macau. It happened before but is the situation getting worse?**

**Zhidong Hao (ZH)** – They were refused entry before; it's not new. But it didn't happen during the Portuguese administration; it was only after the handover. It's not good. I wrote an article for the Financial Times, and talked about the one country, two systems [policy], and whether or not



# 'There's not a united front in terms

**Freedom of speech is threatened, especially when you have two professors who were dismissed because of their political activities and political views**

we are becoming a 'one country with one system' because economically it's about one system. Politically, we have demonstrations and we enjoy freedom of speech to some extent. But now freedom of speech is threatened, especially when you have two professors who were dismissed because of their political activities

and political views. That's not good because it's becoming one country with one system and Macau is losing its features. It seems it's getting worse, because the two professors were fired... this has not happened before.

**MDT – A new government has just taken office. Are they capable of dealing with Macau's major issues?**

**ZH** – I am not sure, because when you talk about problems in Macau, there are not really isolated problems: they're all connected. So you can't really expect one person to change everything unless the chief executive wants to change it. I think there will be some changes because the new government needs to do something to show that they are capable. How much can they do? Of that I am not so sure. Efforts and contributions from all areas are necessary, including the civil society, the chief executive, the central government and the officials themselves.

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# of the democracy movement'



The central government is quite conservative and the chief executive has not changed, so I don't think there will be a great difference. Civil society is fairly silent unless there's discussion surrounding the retirement benefits for government officials, which is obviously problematic. I think society at large will keep silent and remain the same.

**MDT – Why do you think Macau's civil society was so eager to take to the streets over that bill in particular?**

**ZH** – It was not just that legislation; it was an accumulated feeling that the government was there just to work in their own interests, rather than working for the people. Negative feelings erupted and there were big demonstrations. These situations will be exceptions. So in that sense I think people will continue to be mainly reserved, conservative.

**MDT – Civil society will remain silent then?**

**ZH** – Yes, fairly silent. There are some democracy advocates in the legislature but there isn't much that they can do. There are also various social movements like Macau Conscience or New Macau Associa-

tion, but these only involve a limited amount of people and I don't think they have a big plan or strategy as to how they can achieve their goals. There are other groups like the Macau Gaming Industry Frontline Workers, but their focus is on economic issues. Political advocacy will not be very present until probably the next election cycle. In the next election cycle, there will surely be another surge of political activism.

**MDT – If people do speak out, will they be mainly motivated by economic issues?**

**ZH** – Regarding the economy, I don't think there will be any serious problems. Even if gambling revenue is down, a lot of money is still being made. The number of visitors has not decreased so there's always people with money coming in. I think the government will be able to go along pretty well and keep people happy to a great extent, so I don't think there's going to be much agitation.

**MDT – The government has been advocating for the diversification of the economy. Is this a good opportunity to achieve that goal, now that gaming**

**Civil society organizations need to have a strategy. They need to have a constant presence**

**revenue is declining?**

**ZH** – It's a matter of willingness, vision, and determination, and I am not sure whether they have it. Concerning casinos, they are doing something to diversify the industry by introducing sales and entertainment in order to mainly ensure that they keep their licenses. This has been done by companies like Sands China; they have retail and exhibitions... But SJM is not doing that much, it seems; I guess they will have to do something to keep their license, although of course they will continue to place gambling at the forefront of business, which is reasonable because they're a gambling company.

On the part of the Macau government, they've been trying (...) There are things they can do but they might not have the

vision. For example, do they have an idea of how much the gambling industry should diversify itself? Do they have an idea of how much they should diversify other sectors? For example, talking about retailers in Macau, how much tax do they collect from them? How much tax do they collect from real estate? While I'm not sure, we can think that if they collect more money from them, at least there would be an increase in the revenue from other economic sectors.

**MDT – What should the new government address first, in your opinion?**

**ZH** – Lawmaking, for instance. It's lagging behind considerably in addressing the needs of contemporary Macau society. They haven't done much there. For example, there's the law on collective bargaining and the domestic violence bill, although the latter will soon be submitted. But what about laws governing real estate and house renting? Since the prices have gone up so high. (...) Housing is a big issue. They can keep building public housing but will it address social conditions? Even if people buy economic housing flats, they're very small. Or if they're willing to buy a more decent place can they

afford it? If they can't afford it, there's this big gap between the rich and the poor. What kind of city do we have if most people can't afford a decent apartment?

**MDT – Citizens are now pondering living in Zhuhai or Hengqin. Is this a solution or a problem, given that it encourages people to live outside the city they work in?**

**ZH** – It is a problem, because it's an indication of the gap between the rich and the poor. Macau would become a tale of two cities: one city is of the rich and powerful and the other city is the poor people living in crowded housing, or other people having to move to Zhuhai to find a decent living. Both the middle and working classes are doing just that, so it's a divided city.

**MDT – Going back to politics, how could Macau have more young people engaging in politics?**

**ZH** – Civil society organizations need to have a strategy. They need to have a constant presence. In the groups that competed for the Legislative Assembly elections, there were quite a number of young people, but once the election was over, we no longer heard from them. We only hear from two or three groups, including the New Macau Association or Macau Conscience. Agnes Lam group has generally remained silent, although we could argue that she's part of the political structure already. José Pereira Coutinho, I don't know whether he has a plan or whether he's happy with what is doing now.

In terms of a democracy movement, I don't see a united front. If you don't have a united democracy movement, then very little will change.

**MDT – The Occupy Central movement in neighboring Hong Kong pushed for a genuine universal suffrage. Will Macau follow in their footsteps?**

**ZH** – I said in my article that we hope that Hong Kong can succeed. Even within the current framework, there's much they can do. But the democracy movement is not willing to make concessions and does not believe the government will make concessions either. So it's unfortunate because if they don't do it, we won't do it. That's one possibility. The other possibility is that the central government may view Hong Kong's inaction as an opportunity for Macau to set an example. That would be good for Macau. Even if we just follow the current framework, it's significant progress for Macau.



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## Leong: Adjustment in gaming industry 'under gov't's close watch'

**M**ACAU government is paying close attention to the impact of a drop in gaming revenue upon the city's overall economic environment, labor market, and the operational space for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), said the Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong on Friday.

Leong acknowledged that the gaming industry is entering a deep adjustment phase, while its revenue has been going down for seven straight months. "This reflects a new situation for Macau's overall economy. The government will closely observe its development," he stated to the media after a plenary session of the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs (CPCS).

According to the secretary, gaming revenues in the first two quarters this year are predicted to extend the decline as long as there are no major changes in external factors.

"As to whether the new tourism resorts' coming on

stream in the second half of the year will bring a positive turn to the gaming revenue and visitor volume, the government will make observations with a prudent attitude," he added.

Nevertheless, Leong said that the government has enough confidence to cope with the current situation, as in the last 15 years, "it has built a stable fiscal reserve."

On the other hand, the secretary sees the adjustment phase of gaming revenue as a "basis" for Macau to strive for adequate industrial diversification, which can help the casinos to reach diversified tourist sources and help the city reduce its dependence on gaming revenue.

"It also points out a new direction for enterprises' business concepts and for the workforce's career planning," Leong stressed, adding that such a moment allows Macau to better appreciate the Central Government's previous call for "preparing for the potential crisis."

## Number of fire hazards jumps 10 pct

**T**HE Fire Services Bureau (CB) has called on residents to be more aware of household fire hazards after revealing in a press conference on Friday that the number of call-outs for fire cases rose by 10.4 percent year-on-year in 2014. The bureau also revealed that discussions have been taking place with the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) regarding amendments to the current regulations on fire safety.

CB responded to a total of 43,079 call-outs last year, 5.7 percent higher than the 40,856 in 2013. Amongst these cases in 2014, the number of fire call-outs was 1,186, surging by 10.4 percent compared to the figure two years ago. Ambulance call-outs were still the majority of all CB operations last year, increasing by 6.8 percent y-o-y to 36,521. The number of rescue operations and special services call-outs have dropped by 4.14 percent and 1.49 percent to 1,203 and 4,169 respectively.

CB assisting principal chief Lam Io Fan said that the major factor contributing to the in-



Lam Io Fan (middle)


crease in fire cases is the soar in home fires, which were mainly caused by electrical overloading and unattended cooking. He called on residents to heighten their awareness of fire prevention.

During the press conference, CB was asked about the high number of ambulance call-outs and whether there were statistics for ambulance abuse. Assisting principal chief Lam claimed that the CB does not gather statistics on ambulance abuse because it is not up to the bureau to determine whether a

case is an abuse of the ambulance service. "It is very difficult to determine [a case] based on the available evidence... We have regular meetings with relevant departments such as the Health Bureau on the issue," he said.

Lam also said that it has been communicating with other government departments such as DSSOPT regarding amendments to the regulation on fire safety. Currently, DSSOPT is the institution responsible for monitoring the implementation of the regulation, not the CB. **JPL**

AD

  
 Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region  
**MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE**  
**NOTICE**

The Macau Government Tourist Office hereby announces an invitation to tender for the "Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan Service Provision", in accordance with the approval of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture dated 5<sup>th</sup> of December of 2014.

From the date of publication of the present notice, interested bidders may visit the Macau Government Tourist Office Reception Counter, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d' Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Macau, to view the Tender Program and Terms and Conditions of the Tender within the working hours, and pay MOP 500.00 (five hundred patacas) to obtain the copies.

For any further enquiries, please visit the Macau Government Tourist Office website (<http://industry.macaotourism.gov.mo>) to submit your enquiries starting from the day of publication of the present notice until 10 days before the tender submission deadline. All replies will be posted on the same website.

The maximum price limit for the tender is MOP 20,000,000.00 (twenty million patacas).

Criteria for tender evaluation and their respective percentages are as follow:

- Appreciation of the planning task (35%);
- Planning methods and programme of work of the phases (20%);
- Price (15%);
- Experience (30%).

Bidders must submit the tender written in Chinese, Portuguese or English, within the working hours by 17:45 hours on 2<sup>nd</sup> of March of 2015, to the Macau Government Tourist Office Reception Counter, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12<sup>th</sup> floor in Macau and shall submit the provisional guarantee fee of MOP 400,000.00 (four hundred thousand patacas). The provisional guarantee fee shall be paid by: 1) cash deposit to the account of "Tourism Fund" at Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau; 2) bank guarantee; 3) cash, cashier's order or mark good cheque deposit directly to the Macau Government Tourist Office, cashier's order or mark good cheque should be made payable to "Tourism Fund"; 4) wire transfer directly to the account of Tourism Fund, at Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau (account no. 8003911119).


The tender opening session will be held in the Auditorium of the Macau Government Tourist Office, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 14<sup>th</sup> floor in Macau, at 10:00 hours on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March of 2015.


In case of the services of the Macau Government Tourist Office are suspended owing to typhoon or force majeure, the scheduled closing date and time for submission of tender, as well as the date and time for opening the tender shall be extended to the next working day that follows immediately.

According to the article n.º 27 of Decree-Law n.º 63/85/M, of 6<sup>th</sup> July, the legal representatives of the Bidder should be present during the tender opening session for any complaints and/or to explain any doubts regarding their respective tender.

Macau Government Tourist Office, on 18<sup>th</sup> of December of 2014.

Director  
Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes


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## ANALYSIS

# US back at the helm of the global economy as employment rises

Rich Miller

**T**HE U.S. is back in the driver's seat of the global economy after 15 years of watching China and emerging markets take the lead.

The world's biggest economy will expand by 3.2 percent or more this year, its best performance since at least 2005, as an improving job market leads to stepped-up consumer spending, according to economists at JPMorgan Chase & Co., Deutsche Bank AG and BNP Paribas SA. That outcome would be about what each foresees for the world economy as a whole and would be the first time since 1999 that America hasn't lagged behind global growth, based on data from the International Monetary Fund.

"The U.S. is again the engine of global growth," said Allen Sinai, chief executive officer of Decision Economics in New York. "The economy is looking stellar and is in its best shape since the 1990s."

In the latest sign of America's resurgence, the Labor Department reported on Jan. 9 that payrolls rose 252,000 in December as the unemployment rate dropped to 5.6 percent, its lowest level since June 2008. Job growth last month was highlighted by the biggest gain in construction employment in almost a year. Factories, health-care providers and business services also kept adding to their payrolls.

About 3 million more Americans found work in 2014, the most in 15 years and a sign companies are optimistic U.S. demand will persist even as overseas markets struggle.

U.S. government securities rose after the report as investors focused on a surprise drop in hourly wages last month. Ten-year Treasury yields declined seven basis points to 1.95 percent at 5 p.m. in New York on Jan. 9.

"We are still waiting to see the kind of strengthening of wage numbers we would expect to be consistent with what we are seeing elsewhere in terms of growth and the absolute jobs numbers," Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Dennis Lockhart said in a Jan. 9 interview.

The U.S. is breaking away from the rest of the world partly because it has had more success working off the debt-driven excesses that helped precipitate the worst recession since the



A man carries balloons and flowers while crossing Powell Street on Black Friday in San Francisco, California

Great Depression.

"The progress has been far greater in the U.S.," Glenn Hubbard, dean of the Columbia Business School in New York and a former chief White House economist, told the American Economic Association annual conference in Boston on Jan. 3.

Delinquencies on consumer installment loans fell to a record-low 1.51 percent in the third quarter, the American Bankers Association said on Jan. 8. That's "well under" the 15-year average of 2.3 percent

## ■ The BRIC nations are facing tougher times after spending much of the past 15 years basking in the attention of global investors

on such loans, which include credit cards and borrowing for car purchases and home improvements, it said.

U.S. households have benefited from the strengthening job market and the collapse in oil prices. The nationwide average cost of a gallon of regular gasoline was USD2.17 on Jan. 8, the cheapest since May 2009, according to figures from motorist group AAA.

While wage gains have lagged - average hourly earnings fell 0.2 percent last month from November - they will accelerate as the labor market continues to tighten, according to Mohamed El-Erian, a Bloomberg View columnist and an adviser to Munich-based Allianz SE.

"It's just a matter of time before wage growth picks up," he told Bloomberg Television's "In The Loop" program on Jan. 9.

Spending is already strengthening. Households splurged on new cars, appliances, televisions and clothing as spending climbed 0.6 percent in November, double the gain in October, according to figures from the Commerce Department in Washington. Light-vehicle sales totaled 16.5 million in 2014, the most since 2006.

"The economy picked up a nice tailwind at the end of the year," Bill Fay, group vice president for Toyota Motor Corp.'s U.S. sales arm, said on a Jan. 5 conference call. "This strength will carry the auto industry to a sixth straight year of growth in 2015 with analyst projections ranging as high as 17 million."

At \$11.5 trillion in 2013, U.S. personal consumption expenditures were larger than the gross domestic product of any other country that year, including China, according to statistics from the IMF in Washington. The figures aren't adjusted to reflect price discrepancies for the same goods in different nations -- so-called purchasing power parity - which tends to inflate the output of developing nations where consumers pay less for everything from haircuts to coffee.

Deutsche Bank economists led by David Folkerts-Landau in London forecast U.S. GDP will expand 3.7 percent this year, after climbing 2.5 percent in 2014. The U.S. will contribute close to 18 percent to global growth of 3.6 percent in 2015, compared with 7 percent for all other industrial countries combined, they wrote in a Jan. 9 report.

While the U.S. is gathering strength, the BRIC nations - Brazil, Russia, India and China - are facing tougher times after spending much of the past 15 years basking in the attention of global investors.

Brazil's debt was downgraded last year for the first time in a decade while Russia is heading into recession, its economy pummeled by the collapse of oil prices and U.S. and European sanctions. Growth in China and India has slowed as both countries grapple with revamping their economies.

"Close the book on emerging markets driving global growth," Nancy Lazar, co-founder and a partner at Cornerstone Macro LP in New York, wrote in a Jan. 8 report to clients.

Even Jim O'Neill, the former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. chief economist who coined the BRIC acronym, has soured on some of its members, saying in an e-mail that he would be tempted to remove Brazil and Russia from the group if they fail to revive their flagging economies.

"It is tough for the BRIC countries to all repeat their remarkable growth rates" of the first decade of this century, said O'Neill, a Bloomberg View co-

lumnist and former chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management International.

He argued, though, that even at a slower growth rate, China will add more to the world economy this year than the U.S., when measuring their output on a purchasing power parity basis.

The U.S. has pulled ahead of other industrial nations partly because its policy-making has been better, according to Paul Mortimer-Lee, chief economist for North America at BNP Paribas in New York.

European Central Bank President Mario Draghi and his colleagues are still weighing whether they should buy government bonds to fight off the danger of deflation -- a step that the Federal Reserve first took back in 2009.

U.S. budget policy also has been more effective than the euro region's austerity strategy, which undercut the continent's economy, Mortimer-Lee added.

Even Alberto Alesina, a long-time proponent of government spending cuts, thinks the euro area should adopt a more expansionary fiscal stance. Alesina, who is a professor at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, told the AEA conference on Jan. 5 that he favors more "aggressive" tax cuts by the region's policy makers.

Japan, meanwhile, managed to throw its economy back into a recession by raising its consumption tax to 8 percent from 5 percent on April 1.

Looking across much of the rest of the world, "the U.S. continues to dominate," Hubbard said. **Bloomberg**



# Heineken says Timor Leste has good climate for foreign investment

**E**AST Timor offers “an excellent climate for foreign investment,” the president of Heineken Asia MTN Pte, Roland Pirmez, said in Dili, who explained that the statement was based on the “friendly environment” he found in the negotiations for the company to build a factory on the outskirts of Dili.

Pirmez was speaking to Portuguese news agency Lusa after signing an agreement in Dili with Veneranda Martins, Timorese Secretary of State for the Support and Promo-

■ The project is expected to create up to 1,000 jobs, 200 direct and 800 indirect

tion of the Private Sector, under which the beer maker will build a factory in Timor Leste as part of an investment of USD40 million.

The project, approved last



East Timor's deputy prime-minister Fernando La Sama Araújo (r), talks with the president of Heineken Asia Roland Pirmez during a ceremony to sign an agreement to build a beer factory in Dili

year by the Timorese government after only about a year of negotiations is expected to create up to 1,000 jobs; 200 direct and 800 indirect.

“We expect to start construction of the factory as soon as possible and have it running within two years,” he said noting that the investments “break-even” will be achieved before 2020.

Pirmez also confirmed that in addition to the brands already produced by Heineken, the Timor Leste unit is likely to have a Timorese own brand. MDT/Macauhub



## Trade between Brazil and China reached USD77.9b

**T**RADe between Brazil and China reached US\$77.9 billion in 2014, down 6 percent from the previous year,

according to the Brazilian Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade.

In 2014 Brazilian ex-

ports totaled US\$40.6 billion and imports from China were USD37.3 billion.

In 2013, trade between

the two countries reached a record – US\$83.3 billion – but the 2014 result is higher than the results in 2012 and 2011, according to the released data.

In 2014 China remained Brazil's main trading partner.

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# Travelers open emergency exits to protest flight delay

AP PHOTO



A carter drives past a China Eastern airliner parked at the Beijing International Airport in Beijing, China

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**U**PSET by a delayed flight, at least two Chinese passengers decided to open emergency exit doors in protest as the plane was taxiing, forcing it to abort takeoff and landing them in jail instead, police said yesterday.

The latest in a growing num-

ber of air rage cases involving Chinese travelers happened in the early hours of Saturday morning in the southwestern city of Chengdu, after the China Eastern flight was delayed by a snow storm.

Angry passengers complained about the delay and a lack of ventilation, and a man surnamed Zhou opened three

emergency exits to prevent the plane from taking off, forcing it to return to the gate, according to state broadcaster China Central Television. A total of 25 passengers — all part of a single tour group — were held for questioning while the rest continued on to Beijing aboard a separate flight.

Kunming police said in an on-

line statement that Zhou and a tour guide named Li have been placed under 15-day "administrative detention" for opening the doors and inciting passengers with false information.

The plane's ventilation system had been turned off for 30 minutes during de-icing work to prevent fumes from entering the cabin, China Eastern

maintenance engineer Zhu Yun told CCTV. Although the co-pilot had been dispatched to explain, passengers remained irate even after the plane left the gate, reports said.

"Opening those doors was extremely dangerous because there was nothing to protect passengers from the force of the engines," Zhu said.

China's fast growing air travel market is the world's second biggest, but heavy traffic and tight military control of airspace have given it the world's worst record for flight delays.

Cancellations, delays and service complaints spark frequent incidents of air rage at airports and aboard flights, including those to and from foreign destinations. Brawls between passengers and attacks on crew are often filmed and posted online.

Concerns over lengthy tarmac waits prompted U.S. aviation authorities to pass regulations in 2010 requiring planes to return to the gate after three hours.

China's National Tourism Administration said it fully supported the police action and said it had ordered its Beijing and Kunming offices to carry out further investigations, suggesting more passengers could be implicated.

The names of all those found to have been involved would be placed on a "national uncivilized traveler record," to be distributed to travel related businesses around the country, administration spokesman Zhang Jilin said in a statement. Names can remain on such lists for up to 18 months, during which travel agencies can decide whether or not to accept listed travelers.

Zhang said travel agencies were responsible for informing their clients about acceptable behavior. **AP**

## Chinese boat stretches lead in Volvo Ocean Race

**D**ONGFENG Race Team stretched its lead at the head of the Volvo Ocean Race fleet in the third leg to China yesterday.

Charles Caudrelier's crew are aiming to become the first Chinese boat to win a leg in offshore sailing's leading round-the-world race, which was first held in 1973.

There would be no better place to do it than Sanya, their home port on the southern tip of China, which is the destination of the 4,670-nautical mile leg three that began in Abu Dhabi on Jan. 3 and is likely to be completed around Jan. 24.

Yesterday, after nine days of sailing, they had increased their lead of just under 12 miles over closest challengers, Team Brunel of the Netherlands.

The boats were locked at the top of the standings before the start of the leg on four points with Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing.

The fleet still has just under 3,000 nautical miles to sail, including a hazardous stretch through the Malacca Strait, which is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world and separates the Indonesian island of Sumatra from Malaysia.

The racing boats will need to dodge slow-moving fishing vessels and all kinds of debris in the much-polluted waters.

Meanwhile, Team Vestas Wind, the Danish boat that was grounded during leg two from Cape Town and Abu Dhabi on Nov. 29, was heading for Italy for a rebuild.

The target is to return the badly damaged vessel to the race for the final two legs from Lisbon in June.

The 38,739 nautical mile, nine-month race is held every three years and visits 11 ports around the world and every continent. **AP**



AP PHOTO



Chinese paramilitary policemen and uniformed policemen form human chains to guide pedestrians crossing a major intersection near the site of a deadly stampede in Shanghai

**C**HINA'S financial hub of Shanghai said yesterday it was canceling its famed Lunar New Year lantern festival in the wake of a stampede that left 36 people dead.

The announcement illustrates the spreading effects of the Jan. 1 disaster, in which surging crowds trampled people along the city's legendary Bund riverfront walkway.

Events as far away as in Beijing have been canceled and security tightened in subway stations and other crowded public spaces.

The upcoming three-day festival in the city's Yuyuan Garden, a warren of narrow alleys and ancient buildings in the heart of the ancient walled Chinese city, drew more than 1.3 million people in 2013. The lantern festival comes on the 15th day of the Lunar New Year marking the close of the annual festivities.

The festivities typically draw massive, sometimes unruly crowds and in 2004, 37 people

# Shanghai nixes famed lantern festival after deadly stampede

were killed in a stampede in the Beijing suburb of Miyun.

The company that runs the Yuyan Garden and the Shanghai city government said in separate statements that the event was being canceled out of "safety concerns."

Neither directly mentioned the stampede, pointing to official worries over continuing public outrage over security lapses and a lack of government explanations.

Authorities allowed only one day of tightly-controlled public mourning at the site, which has since been fenced off on the pretext of making aesthetic improvements.

Some victims' family members and others have reported

being followed and harassed by security personnel, a typical tactic by authorities who tolerate little criticism and fear any chance of unrest coalescing around sympathy for those killed. For that, Chinese authorities have been criticized all over the world.

"Seven days after a stampede on New Year's Eve in Shanghai, the souls of the 36 people killed in the crush came back, according to traditional Chinese beliefs, for a brief visit to this world. For the return of the dead, city officials spared no effort in their preparations," wrote the Economist in an article last week.

In a critical tone, the London-based magazine, conti-

nued, "Had there been such extensive preparations for New Year's Eve, the stampede might never have happened. Instead, a light police presence was overwhelmed by the vast numbers who flocked to the Bund for the countdown to 2015. The local government cannot claim to have been taken totally by surprise. Concerns about overcrowding had led the city to cancel a firework-and-light show on the Bund, and the government had warned people to stay away for fear of packed streets."

Following tragedies of this kind, it is normal and indeed important to ask if the authorities could have done more

to ensure safety. But in Shanghai, such questions from the public have been seen as almost subversive. Dozens of people who dared to criticize the city in online blog posts were interrogated by the police, according to the South China Morning Post.

After wall-to-wall, often emotional, coverage of the stampede in its immediate aftermath, domestic media have also been reined in. They are now limited to republishing a handful of state-sanctioned reports. Yang Xiong, Shanghai's mayor, said that "lessons must be learned from blood". Covering up criticism is a poor way to start, said the Economist. **MDT/Agencies**

## China plan for unmanned moon landing, Earth return advances

**C**HINA'S bold plan to land an unmanned spaceship on the moon before returning to Earth has moved another step forward with a test craft shifting into lunar orbit to conduct further tests, state media repor-

ted yesterday.

The service module of a lunar orbiter that flew back to Earth in November had been sitting in a position that brought in into sync with Earth's orbit, known as the second Lagrange point. It

had separated from the orbiter in November.

The craft, loaded with support systems for operating a spaceship, will collect further data to aid planning of the 2017 Chang'e 5 mission, state broadcaster China Cen-

tral Television said.

Chang'e 5 is being designed to make a soft landing on the moon and collect at least 2 kilograms of rock and soil samples before returning to Earth.

If successful, that wou-

ld make China only the third country after the United States and Russia to meet such a challenge.

China's lunar exploration program has already launched a pair of orbiting lunar probes, and in 2013 landed a craft on the moon with a rover onboard. None of those were designed to return to Earth. China also has hinted at a possible crewed mission to the moon.

China sent its first as-

tronaut into space in 2003, the only other country after Russia and the U.S. to achieve manned space travel independently. It also has launched a temporarily crewed space station.

China's program has received Russian assistance, but has largely developed independently of America's, which is now in its sixth decade of putting people into space. **AP**

## SRI LANKA

# New government to probe alleged coup attempt by ex-president



then-Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa attends his final public rally for the presidential elections in Kesbewa

Bharatha Mallowareachi, Colombo

**S**RI Lanka's new government will investigate an alleged attempt by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa to stage a coup to try to stay in power when results showed he was losing last week's election, a spokesman for the country's new leader said yesterday.

A "special investigation" will be set up to probe the alleged coup soon after the new government is formed, said Mangala Samaraweera, the spokesman for President Maithripala Sirisena, who came to power after winning Thursday's election.

"Some say this was a very peaceful transition. But that's not the truth. People should know what happened behind the scenes," Samaraweera told reporters.

Until a few weeks ago, Rajapaksa was widely expected to easily win his third term in office. But Sirisena — his former friend and health minister — defected from the ruling party in November, and gathered the support of other defecting lawmakers, opposition parties and many of Sri Lanka's ethnic minorities, making the election a fierce political battle. Sirisena contested as the combined opposition candidate.

After conceding defeat, Raja-

paksa left his office and the official presidential residence on Friday, saying he respected the people's mandate.

Samaraweera, however, said Sunday that Rajapaksa had made an attempt to deploy the army and police to stop the counting of votes when initial results showed he was headed for defeat.

He said Rajapaksa convened the chiefs of the police and the army, as well as the attorney general, at midnight Thursday and asked them to come up with a plan to stop the vote counting. Samaraweera said the three officials opposed the move.

Calls to Rajapaksa's media secretary and officials from his United People's Freedom Alliance coalition were not answered on Sunday.

"People should know about the dangerous situation that existed and Rajapaksa's coup to bury the country's democracy," said Samaraweera, adding that the new government's first task would be "to probe this coup and reveal to the country what really took place."

Sirisena assumed his duties on Friday and the new government is expected to be formed on Monday, a day before Pope Francis arrives in the island nation for a much-anticipated visit. **AP**

Harry Suhartono  
and Anurag Kotoky

**S**EARCH teams found the black box from the crashed AirAsia Bhd. jetliner, which will help investigators unlock how QZ8501 plunged into the Java Sea with 162 people on board.

Divers identified the location of the black box and marked the area for retrieval, Transport Ministry spokesman J.A. Barata said yesterday, without specifying the exact location. The cockpit-voice recorder and flight-data recorder are together known as the black box.

The development should help answer why the Airbus Group NV A320 plane crashed en route to Singapore from Surabaya, Indonesia. Investigators use information from black boxes to reconstruct the final moments before a crash and sometimes come up with recommendations to prevent other disasters.

"The black box records critical aircraft flight parameters," said Mark D. Martin, chief executive officer of Dubai-based Martin Consulting

## FLIGHT 8501

## AirAsia flight's black box found by divers, marked for retrieval



Members of National Search And Rescue Agency carry the airplane parts found floating in the water near the site where AirAsia Flight 8501 disappeared at Kumai port in Pangkalan Bun

LLC. "This will be vital in understanding what happened during the last crucial moments of the flight."

Flying at 32,000 feet, the plane's pilot had asked to rise to a higher

altitude, citing clouds, officials have said. By the time air traffic controllers responded some two minutes later there was no reply from the plane. There were storms along the

plane's flight path, yet other planes managed to fly through the same area at the same time without incident.

Search teams looking for the black box deployed side-scan sonar,

pinger locators and divers after finding the tail on Jan. 7. The black boxes, which are encased in bright orange to facilitate their retrieval, are waterproof, fortified and designed to

emit an electronic signal underwater for 30 days to help searchers find them.

Safety advocates have been pushing for years to improve black boxes by enabling them to float and stream data to ground stations in real time. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board held a forum in October on the subject, and "is currently exploring what the next steps might be," including possible safety recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration, Peter Knudson, an NTSB spokesman, said in an e-mailed statement.

A spate of crashes in the past decade prompted Indonesia in 2008 to amend laws and boost plane-safety checks after the European Union imposed a ban on its carriers from flying to Europe. The ban has been partially lifted since then. **Bloomberg**

TERRORISM | 3 ATTACKERS KILLED

# Video: Paris grocery gunman claims allegiance to IS group

Lori Hinnat, Paris

A video emerged Sunday purporting to show the gunman who killed a French policewoman and four hostages at a kosher grocery, pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group and defending the attacks on the satirical newspaper and the Jewish store.

The SITE Intelligence Group said it had verified the video, which shows a man resembling Amedy Coulibaly with a gun, exercising and giving speeches in front of an Islamic State emblem. He defends the attacks carried out on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, police and the Jewish store.

"What we are doing is completely legitimate, given what they are doing," Coulibaly told the camera in fluent French. "You cannot attack and not expect retribution so you are playing the victim as if you don't understand what's happening."

## ■ Coulibaly's widow, who has been named as an accomplice, is believed to have traveled to a Turkish city near the Syrian border

Coulibaly took over the kosher grocery, demanding freedom for the brothers who carried out the massacre at newspaper Charlie Hebdo. At the time, the brothers were trapped in a printing house near Charles de Gaulle airport.

All three men were killed in nearly simultaneous raids by security forces.

Five people detained in connection with the three days of bloodshed in France were released from custody, the Paris prosecutor's spokeswoman



Amedy Coulibaly

man said earlier yesterday. Family members of the attackers have been given preliminary charges, but prosecutor's spokeswoman Agnes Thibault-Lecuire said no one remained in detention yesterday over the attacks that left 17 people dead.

Coulibaly's widow, who has been named as an accomplice, is believed to have traveled to a Turkish city near the Syrian border and then all traces of her were lost, according to a Turkish intelligence official, who was not authorized to speak on the record.

Brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi methodically massacred 12 people at the Charlie Hebdo offices, led police on a chase for two days and were then cornered Friday at a printing house near Charles de Gaulle Airport. Separately, Coulibaly shot a policewoman to death and attacked the Paris kosher market, threatening more violence unless police let the Kouachis go. Four hostages died.

At the end of the video Coulibaly calls for others to carry out similar attacks.

In Germany, arsonists early Sunday attacked a newspaper that republished Charlie Hebdo's cartoons. Two men were detained. No one was hurt in the fire, but the newspaper Hamburger Morgenpost said several files in its archives were destroyed. AP

### PROSECUTOR: GROCERY GUNMAN LINKED TO 3RD SHOOTING

A PROSECUTOR says the shooting of a jogger in a Paris suburb on the same day as the Charlie Hebdo massacre has been linked to the gunman who killed a policewoman and four hostages at a kosher grocery. In a brief statement yesterday, the

prosecutor said ballistics tests on shell cases from the shooting Wednesday in Fontenay aux Roses linked them to the automatic weapon at the kosher store stormed two days later. The prosecutor said the jogger was seriously wounded.

# Al-Qaida in Yemen urges local and international jihad

Associated Press, Cairo

THE al-Qaida offshoot that claimed to have masterminded the bloody rampage in France has been the most active of the terror network's branches in trying to strike in the West.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula said it directed the attack against the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris "as revenge for the honor" of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

The strike would be the Yemen-based branch's first successful strike outside its home territory — and a triumph for its trademark double-strategy of waging jihad in Yemen to build its strength to strike abroad.

At least one of the two brothers involved in the attack on the weekly traveled to Yemen in 2011 and either received training from or fought alongside the group, authorities say. A U.S. intelligence assessment described to the Associated Press shows that 34-year-old Said Kouachi was trained in preparation to return home and carry out an attack.

Formed in 2009 as a merger between the terror group's Yemeni and Saudi branches, AQAP has been blamed for a string of unsuccessful bomb plots against American targets.

These include a foiled plan to down a Detroit-bound airliner in 2009 using a new type of explosive hidden in the bomber's underwear,



Soldiers inspect the wreckage of a vehicle destroyed during fighting with al-Qaida militants in Majala of the southern province of Abyan

and another attempt a year later to send mail bombs hidden in toner cartridges on planes bound to the U.S. from the Gulf.

The group's lead bomb maker, Ibrahim al-Asiri, is believed to have created the explosives used in both foiled plots.

Bill Roggio, editor of the Long War Journal, which chronicles militant activities, said Yemen's branch of al-Qaida has managed to seize territory inside Yemen, provide training and support for extremist groups operating in Syria, Iraq and other regions, and promote "lone wolf" attacks in the West.

"They are active in the heart of the Middle East. They threaten the Yemeni government and they are directing their activities externally as well," he said. "And they are serving to train and support in other theaters."

The group's leader, Nasser al-Wahishi, spent years as Osama bin Laden's personal assistant before returning to his native Yemen. His close ties to bin

Laden gave him influence within the group's various branches and led to him assuming leadership of the core group after the al-Qaida leader's death.

His focus on networking with other militant groups in Africa, Iraq and Syria gave the Yemen branch particular prominence in the network.

The group was the first to use English publications to reach out to supporters in the West, with the launch in 2010 of its English-language magazine, Inspire. It featured commentary by a radical U.S.-born cleric, Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Yemen in 2011, but whose words are still influential in cyberspace.

The group has repeatedly threatened Charlie Hebdo and other cartoonists who have satirized the Prophet Muhammad. Charlie Hebdo editor Stephane Charbonnier, one of the 12 people slain in Wednesday's attack on the magazine, was on a hit list published in a 2013 edition of Inspire. AP



A suspected Yemeni al-Qaida militant, center, holds an Islamist banner as he stands behind bars during a court hearing in state security court in Sanaa

TERRORISM | BULLETS NOT BOMBS

# Paris gunmen arsenal: Kalashnikovs, rocket launcher, grenade

Gregory Katz, London

**K**ALASHNIKOV assault rifles. Plenty of ammunition. Molotov cocktails, a grenade, a death-dealing Skorpion machine pistol and a few handguns. Plus a revolving light that could be placed on a car roof to make it look like an undercover police car.

The list of weapons— along with a jihadi flag — carried by the French Muslim terrorists who launched the Charlie Hebdo attacks is frightening, especially given al-Qaida's warning of further such assaults. And it also represents a striking change for western Europe, where gun crime is far more rare than in the United States.

The relatively heavy weaponry — a staple of recent attacks — seems to indicate that terrorist networks are moving away from bombs in favor of military-grade assault rifles and machine guns backed by smaller automatic pistols.

Gun attacks spread a different

**[Terrorists] are using complex multiple armed assaults that are just as effective and much easier to do than explosive device**

MAGNUS RANSTORP  
SWEDISH NATIONAL DEFENSE  
COLLEGE



Masked gunman fire their weapons outside the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo's office in Paris

kind of terror than bombings: more personal, more focused, and able to be drawn out into the kind of protracted urban drama that seizes a society's attention for days. Even in Europe, guns can be easier to acquire, transport and conceal than explosives.

The mini-arsenal police found after the final shootout with brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi even included an advanced rocket launcher — with a loaded rocket ready for firing.

The movement toward use of heavy weaponry instead of bombs was evident with the 2012 attack that killed three Jewish schoolchildren, a rabbi, and three paratroopers in Toulouse, France — as well as the 2014 killing of four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels by an extremist with a Kalashnikov.

"The violence is becoming more focused at specific groups, Jewish targets, military targets, police targets, and they are using complex multiple armed assaults that are just as effective and much easier to do than explosive devices," said Magnus Ranstorp, a terrorism specialist

with the Swedish National Defense College.

He said the trend started when terrorist strategists saw the relative success of the 2008 raid in Mumbai. A small group of well-armed, well-trained commandos was able to paralyze a major city for several days, leaving more than 160 dead. Counter-terrorism officials warned at the time that the successful tactics would catch the eye of other plotters looking for a more reliable alternative to homemade explosive devices.

Western intelligence agencies fear terrorists may now be plotting still more attacks using relatively simple, low-tech tools.

Denmark's Security and Intelligence Service had acknowledged in its latest terror assessment that plotters can find "easily accessible weapons" including knives, small arms and small bombs, inside Denmark for use in attacks.

The use of bombs has become more problematic in recent years as European law enforcement officials have greatly increased tracking of precursor chemicals that can be used to

make explosives. Bombs carry a high risk of detection when the components are being assembled, and they are inherently unstable and often malfunction, with deadly results for the hapless bomb makers.

In contrast, it is relatively easy for terrorists with underworld connections to obtain heavy weapons on the black market, particularly in the Balkan countries of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, hundreds of thousands of heavy weapons became available at black market arms bazaars in Hungary and other former Soviet bloc countries. Those weapons helped fuel the Balkan wars, and are still available today for buyers with good connections and ample cash. More than 500,000 weapons were also stolen from Albanian arms depots in 1997, adding to the black market flow.

European Commission documents indicate that nearly 500,000 other weapons lost or stolen within the European Union remain unaccounted for, and cite an increase in the number of civilian and military weapons stolen in France.

A 2013 report states that "large amounts of powerful military grade weapons" have reached the European Union since the collapse of the Soviet bloc and the fighting in the Balkans. The weapons are often smuggled in cars or buses in small quantities to avoid detection. It also says upheavals in the Middle East and North Africa may make more stolen or surplus military weapons available to Europe's criminal gangs.

Still, it takes planning and care to transport weapons from

the Balkans or eastern Europe into western Europe and particularly into Britain, which as an island can more easily monitor points of entry.

Britain, which has warned police officers they are likely targets of terror plotters, recently broke up a scheme to get weaponry to terrorists plotters.

Italy, with its strong Mafia tradition, is seen as a likely conduit for heavy weapons heading toward France and other points in western Europe even though assault weapons use there is very rare.

Ranieri de Maria, a legal expert for the National Association of Arms and Munitions producers in Italy, said he believes Italy is used by weapons traffickers as "a transit country between the Balkans and Europe." Even so, he noted, "it has been a number of years since there has been any attack with an assault weapon."

Morten Storm, a Dane who claims to have infiltrated al-Qaida in Yemen on behalf of western intelligence agencies, said he believes the Charlie Hebdo plotters had been laying low inside France while "waiting for the arms and weapons for the attack."

It was evident from video of the initial assault that the attackers were well trained in weapons use. They did not make emotional "rookie" mistakes like spraying the premises with automatic weapons fire but instead carried out the killings quickly and efficiently.

The concern, for Europeans, is that a pattern might emerge: hundreds of jihadis have returned to their home countries on the continent after receiving weapons training in Syria and other conflict zones. **AP**

## Arsonists attack German paper that published French cartoons

Kirsten Grieshaber, Berlin

**P**OLICE in Germany have detained two men suspected of an arson attack early yesterday against a newspaper that republished the cartoons of French weekly Charlie Hebdo.

The newspaper Ham-

burger Morgenpost said on its website the overnight arson attack destroyed several files in its archive, but didn't injure anyone.

Hamburg police said it had detained the two young men near the newspaper building.

Police spokeswoman

Karina Sadowsky told The Associated Press several stones and a Molotov cocktail were found in the newspaper's archive in the basement of the building.

She didn't identify or give any further details about the suspects.

A spokesman for the



A fire truck sits outside the building of the 'Hamburger Morgenpost' in Hamburg, northern Germany

Hamburg fire department said they were first alerted when a security company called them after

the building's fire alarms went off, shortly after 2 a.m.

"We quickly managed

to extinguish the fire," spokesman Joern Bartsch said.

The Hamburg tabloid newspaper published the Charlie Hebdo cartoons the day after the attack against the newspaper in Paris to express its solidarity with the slain journalists.

Several other national and local German newspapers also published the cartoons. They are now getting police protection.

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere called on all citizens to be vigilant in their everyday lives. **AP**

**T**HOUSANDS of people began a march at Paris's Place de la Republique, led by world leaders including Benjamin Netanyahu and Mahmoud Abbas, to mark France's worst terror attack in more than half a century.

"Paris is the capital of the world today," President Francois Hollande said as he received dignitaries from around the world at the Elysee Palace.

Three distinct yet connected terror attacks in the city, including in the offices of Charlie Hebdo magazine and a kosher grocery, claimed 17 victims last week. Three attackers were killed, with Prime Minister Manuel Valls saying France was at "war against terrorists, Jihadists, Islamic fundamentalism."

Thousands of police and soldiers have been deployed for the march, which features 56 world leaders. Among them are Prime Minister David Cameron of the U.K., German Chancellor Angela Merkel, King Abdullah of Jordan, Palestinian President Abbas and Israel's Netanyahu, along with leaders of Spain, Italy, the European Union, Turkey and Tunisia. The U.S. will be represented by the ambassador to France, Jane Hartley.

"Usually when you have these kind of events with very, very important people, they are

# People join rallies worldwide to honor Paris victims



People watch from their roof-top apartment as some thousands of people gather at Republique square in Paris, France

planned months in advance," said Martin Innes, the head of the Police Science Institute at Cardiff University in Wales. "They know that the folks that they're opposed to would see this as a great target."

The march starting at Place de la Republique, finishing at the Place de la Nation - less than a mile from the kosher grocery where four hostages perished. It will comprise two routes:

one, three kilometers along the Boulevard Voltaire, and a second winding further to the north along the Boulevard de Menilmontant, and along the Avenue Philippe-Auguste. The Interior Ministry declined to specify which route the heads of state would follow.

France will deploy 4,300 police, including 150 in plain clothes to protect the leaders, as well as 1,350 soldiers across

## Today, Paris is the capital of the world

FRANCOIS HOLLANDE

Paris for the demonstration, in which the Interior Ministry expects "several hundred thousand" people to take part. Each leader probably will have their own detail as well.

"The fight against terrorism is a global cause," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Europe 1 radio yesterday. "There will be representatives of all countries of the world because this is a global cause."

The European Union plans to tighten borders and improve the exchange of intelligence within the bloc to combat the threat of Islamist terrorism, Cazeneuve said after EU interior ministers meeting in Paris today. They agreed to do more to address the flow of so-called foreign fighters between Euro-

pe and Syria and Iraq, including through sharing intelligence to better identify them at the 28-nation EU's borders.

Briefing reporters after the gathering that included representatives of the U.S. and Canadian government, he said the EU also needed better exchange of information on air passengers within Europe, tighter controls on weapons trafficking and called for more help from Internet companies to counter terrorist propaganda. "We are determined to fight against terrorism together," Cazeneuve said.

An estimated 700,000 people demonstrated across France on Saturday, including Toulouse, Lyon, Rennes, Nice and Marseille. Rallies were also planned in London, Madrid and New York — all attacked by al-Qaida-linked extremists — as well as Cairo, Sydney, Stockholm, Tokyo and elsewhere.

"We will come out of this stronger," Hollande said in a televised address on Jan. 9. "We are a free people that won't give in to pressure, that isn't afraid." **MDT/Agencies**

AD

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## what's ON

EXHIBITION OF OIL PAINTINGS & COLLAGES  
BY MARCO SZETO

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: February 18, 2015

VENUE: Dare to Dream flagship store  
and art gallery, Calçada da Barra No.16 A,  
Edifício San Chak, Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2830 2012

THE PROMOTION PROJECT OF MACAU ARTISTS,  
"EXHIBITION OF PHOTOS BY TAM KAI HON"

TIME: 10am-7pm (open in public holidays)

UNTIL: January 18, 2015

VENUE: UNESCO Centre of Macau,  
Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

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

TIME: 12pm-10pm

(Mondays to Fridays, Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: January 25, 2015

VENUE: Educational Restaurant  
and Team Building, IFT  
ENQUIRES: 2856 1252

HENGQIN TODAY PHOTOS AND VIDEOS  
CREATIVE EXHIBITION

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

UNTIL: February 8, 2015

VENUE: Ox Warehouse,  
corner of Avenida Do Coronel Mesquita  
and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

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

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

11am-7pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: January 18, 2015

VENUE: Sir Robert Ho Tung Library  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2837 7117  
ADMISSION: Free

## MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## Offbeat

BUCHAREST METRO OFFICIALS VOW  
TO FIGHT 'NO PANTS' STUNT

Romanian subway officials have gotten their knickers in a twist over a planned stunt in which people will ride the Bucharest subway without their pants.

Briefed about plans, the Metrorex subway managers said Friday that those "who disturb public order or are indecent will be fined," and reported to the police.

The No Pants Subway Ride began in 2002 in New York as a stunt and has taken place around the world since then. Organizers call it "an international celebration of silliness" and staged it in dozens of cities yesterday.

Sub-zero temperatures are forecast for Sunday (yesterday) in Bucharest, when participants are expected to turn up at a downtown subway station wearing coats, hats, scarves and gloves — but no pants.

## TV canal macau

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

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

08 JAN - 14 JAN



**TAKEN 3**  
ROOM 1  
2.00, 3.55, 5.50, 9.30 pm  
Director: Olivier Megaton  
Starring: Liam Neeson, Forest Whitaker, Framke 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  
(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm  
(3D) 7.30 pm  
Director: Sergei Bodrov  
Starring: Jeff Bridges, Julianne Moore, Ben Barnes  
Language: English (Chinese)  
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: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)  
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, Framke Janssen  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 109min

## this day in history

1991 US CONGRESS VOTES  
FOR WAR IN IRAQ

The United States Congress has voted to authorise the use of military force against Iraq to end its occupation of neighbouring Kuwait.

The vote seals the United Nations' 15 January deadline for the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, to order his troops out of Kuwait, or face military action.

After three days of sometimes heated debate, the House of Representatives passed the motion authorising use of force by 250 votes to 183.

The Democrat-controlled Senate vote was far closer, at 52 to 47, but was not as narrow as had been feared.

It is the first time Congress has approved military action since the Gulf of Tonkin resolution in 1964 at the start of the Vietnam War, and it was by no means a foregone conclusion.

At times the Senate vote was too close to call, and some were predicting the president would be forced to go to war without Congressional backing.

The House of Representatives added one condition to the motion: that all diplomatic and peaceful means of averting war should be exhausted.

It has also made it clear it will withdraw its support if the war becomes prolonged or results in heavy casualties.

President Bush welcomed the votes, saying they represented the "last best chance for peace" and sent "the clearest message to Iraq that it cannot scorn the January 15 deadline".

He said he had not yet made a final decision to launch an attack on Iraq, but warned it would be "sooner rather than later" if Saddam Hussein did not withdraw.

Senior Washington sources said the president had obtained permission from the British, Saudi Arabian and Egyptian governments to launch an attack at only a few minutes' notice.

The tough line was reinforced by the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, in Abu Dhabi on a trip to the Gulf. "He [Saddam] will be forced out," he said. "We are coming to a decision on this. There is no reason for a long delay."

In a last-minute effort to avert war with diplomacy, the UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, arrived in the Iraqi capital Baghdad yesterday with his latest five-point peace plan endorsed by EC foreign ministers.

He met Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, this evening and is due to meet Saddam Hussein tomorrow. However, although Washington publicly supports his efforts, all preparations are for imminent war.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The last-minute diplomacy by Perez de Cuellar and others came to nothing.

Iraq continued to refuse to comply with the UN ultimatum for its troops to withdraw from Kuwait, and at 2330 GMT on 16 January 1991, Operation Desert Storm began with a devastating aerial bombardment of Baghdad.

After more than a month of intensive air attacks, the Allies began a land offensive on 24 February. One day later, the Iraqi army began retreating.

On 28 February, President George Bush declared victory.

Kuwait was liberated, but the Gulf War left Saddam Hussein in power.

The US and Britain launched a second war against Iraq in 2003.

Saddam Hussein was overthrown and captured. He was later tried for war crimes by an Iraqi court, sentenced to death and executed. A democratically-elected government was sworn in after elections in 2005.

However, it has proved very difficult to find an acceptable balance of power between Iraq's national groups, and the country continues to be destabilised by violent extremists.

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



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Avoid the impulse to critique every little thing today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Are you ready for romance? It's a good day to scope out new prospects...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It's a good time for you to deal with life on your terms - but that does involve a little extra work...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You don't ordinarily relish detail-oriented tasks, but on a day like today, you can see the advantages...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You feel a bit quieter and more reserved than usual - and that may extend to all sorts of aspects of life...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Cleanliness is next to godliness - so you're that much closer to divinity today...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It's one of those days when you are better off staying put - in every sense. Moving forward is likely to cause more problems...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your thirst for knowledge makes itself known early today - so drink up! You should find that things start to get a lot more interesting...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's all about the details right now - and that means you've got to pay closer attention! It's not a good time to pass the buck...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Some new information comes your way that changes almost everything you thought you knew about a person or topic of interest...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Try to take extra care with your work dealings - you have got to make sure that you're being treated right. At the same time, you need to make sure that you're treating everyone else with respect!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Do you understand who you're really dealing with? That question may be hard to answer on a day like today, but the very fact that you're asking it should help point you in the right direction.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Strike breaker; 5- Fountain treats; 10- Kind of radio; 14- Unit of loudness; 15- More aloof; 16- Raised platform; 17- In spite of; 20- Sedate; 21- RR stop; 22- As resort; 23- Director Browning; 25- Jack of 'The Great Dictator'; 27- Signal that danger is over; 31- Firstborn; 35- Ark builder; 36- Seam where two bones are fused; 38- RR stop; 39- bin ein Berliner; 40- Debussy subject; 41- Wrap up; 42- Univ. aides; 43- Back muscle, briefly; 44- Fit for cultivation; 46- Mickey's creator; 47- Bring out; 49- Dependable; 51- 'Who's there?' reply; 53- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 54- Manila hemp plant; 57- Small battery size; 59- Gumbo pods; 63- Direct; 66- Look after; 67- Oohed and \_\_\_; 68- Juan's water; 69- Draft classification; 70- Oodles; 71- Pull abruptly;

DOWN: 1- IRS IDs; 2- Codger; 3- Organization to promote theater; 4- Fascinate; 5- Take a load off; 6- Folk singer Phil; 7- Contort; 8- Big name in insurance; 9- Madrid Mrs.; 10- Confused; 11- Mother of Hermes; 12- Fish appendages; 13- High-ranking NCO; 18- Image of a deity; 19- Arrested; 24- Arid areas; 26- Edible seed parts; 27- Old-womanish; 28- Not express; 29- Actress Christine; 30- Distinctive quality; 32- Cornerstone abbr.; 33- Stable compartment; 34- Flavor; 37- River to the Ubangi; 40- Rum cocktail; 45- Respire; 46- Passage for walking; 48- Large homopterous insect; 50- Like \_\_\_ not; 52- Taj \_\_\_; 54- About; 55- Bingo call; 56- 'Judith' composer; 58- Not many; 60- Hindu music; 61- Make \_\_\_ for it; 62- Minn. neighbor; 64- Xenon, e.g.; 65- Takes too much



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Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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FOOTBALL | ASIAN CUP

# Iran beats Bahrain, UAE downs Qatar

Neil Frankland  
Sports Writer, Melbourne

**E**HSAN Hajsafi and Masoud Shojaei scored late in each half to give Iran a 2-0 win over a determined Bahrain in their opening match of the Asian Cup yesterday.

In a contest that started at a frenetic pace with plenty of chances for each side, Hajsafi finally made the breakthrough for Iran in the second minute of first-half stoppage time.

Hajsafi gathered an attempted clearance from an Andranik Teymourian corner to fire the ball from just outside the area over the Bahrain defense and the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Sayed Mohamed Abbas.

Iran doubled its lead in the 71st minute when Masoud collected a Teymourian cross and guided the ball past the near post.

Iran takes a share of first place in Group C with the United Arab Emirates with one win each.

Earlier, Ahmed Khalil and Ali Mabkhout scored two goals each as the UAE took advantage of a series of goalkeeping errors to beat Qatar 4-1 in the Group C opener in Canberra.

The Melbourne match was virtually a home game for the Iranians with most of the 17,700-strong crowd at the Rectangular Stadium made up of chanting Iran fans dressed in



UAE's Omar Abdulrahman, left, and Qatar's Ahmed Mohamed Elsayed battle for the ball during the first round soccer match of the AFC Asia Cup between the United Arab Emirates and Qatar in Canberra, Australia

the team's white, red and green. The Bahrainis were determined not to be awed by their higher-ranked opponents and took advantage of every opportunity to threaten the Iran goal.

Iran had three goals called back for offside, while Reza Ghoochannejhad came close to scoring early in the second half when he forced a scrambling

save from Abbas with a slow shot from inside the box toward the left corner of the goal.

Bahrain's best chance of the second half came when Teymourian was called for tripping Faouzi Aaish, but Husain Baba Mohamed's free kick cleared the wall only to be easily saved by Iran 'keeper Alireza Haghighi.

In Canberra, Qatar goalkeeper

Qasem Burhan was at least partially responsible for three goals in a blundering opener for the 2014 Gulf Cup champions.

"He made two mistakes but this is football," said Qatar coach Djamel Belmadi. "In the previous competition, he was the best goalkeeper of the tournament. Today, was not his day ... but the defenders also did not

help him."

Despite the Qatar errors, the UAE fully deserved the win and started well with Khalil and Mabkhout both shooting wide from close range in the opening 10 minutes.

It was Qatar, however, which took the lead midway through the first half. Majed Naser blocked an initial shot from Mohammed Muntari but Khalil Ibrahim, positioned on the edge of the area, chested the ball down and lobbed it back beautifully over the head of the retreating UAE goalkeeper.

The UAE equalized nine minutes before the break when Qasem spilled a cross and, after a scramble in a crowded area, a defensive goal-line clearance from a Khalil header bounced off the striker's chest and into the net.

Khalil's free kick early in the second half deceived Qasem and bounced into the far corner of the Qatari goal.

Khamis Esmaeel's well-struck free kick was parried by the Qatari goalkeeper into the path of Mabkhout, who scored into an empty net from close range. The striker added another goal in the 89th, ensuring the UAE scored four goals in an Asian Cup game for the first time.

The UAE squad remains in Canberra to take on Bahrain on Thursday, when Qatar plays Iran in Sydney. **AP**

SKIING

## Germany's Dopfer leads World Cup slalom; Hirscher 3rd



Germany's Fritz Dopfer

**F**RITZ Dopfer of Germany made his No. 1 start bib count to lead the first run of a World Cup slalom yesterday.

Dopfer used the best conditions to clock 56.21 seconds in steady snow

on a rain-softened course, 0.10 ahead of Italy's Patrick Thaler.

Marcel Hirscher of Austria was third, with 0.75 to make up on Dopfer in the afternoon second run. The top three were among

the first four starters. "It was the key," said Dopfer, who will be last to race in the afternoon. "I had an advantage for the first run but kind of a disadvantage for the second run because I have

a high (start) number." Hirscher can take the season-long slalom standings lead from Felix Neureuther of Germany, who started sixth but failed to finish. After winning the giant

slalom Saturday, Hirscher should again extend his overall standings lead. The 25-year-old Austrian has won this race the past three years on his way to taking the overall title.

Olympic champion Mario Matt, who edged his teammate Hirscher for gold in Sochi, also failed to complete his run.

Ted Ligety of the United States was 14th-fastest, 1.98 back, after racing through fog at the top of

the course. "I had a pretty mediocre run," said Ligety. "Now I'm stuck in my usual slalom second-run purgatory position between 10 and 20."

Host nation Switzerland had another difficult run after failing to place a GS racer in the top 20 on Saturday.

The only Swiss racer in the top 30 qualifying for a second run was 24th-placed Luca Aerni, 2.73 behind Dopfer. **AP**

## Takanashi wins 2nd ski jumping

**J**APANESE teenager Sara Takanashi won her second straight ski jumping World Cup event yesterday.

The 18-year-old Takanashi had jumps of 87 and 97 meters at the Miyanomori hill for a total of 236.3 points.

Takanashi, who won her first World Cup event Saturday at the same venue, is bidding for her third straight overall World Cup title.

Olympic champion Carina Vogt

of Germany was second with 230.7 points after jumps of 93.5 and 94 meters. Chiara Hoelzl of Austria was third with 230.4 points.

The win allowed Takanashi to move into first place in the overall World Cup standings with 260 points, 50 ahead of Daniela Iraschko-Stolz of Austria who was fourth in Sunday's competition.

Slovenia's Spela Rogelj is in third place with 186 points.



AP PHOTO

THE POPE BAPTIZES 33 BABIES  
BUZZ IN SISTINE CHAPEL

Pope Francis has baptized 33 babies in the Sistine Chapel as part of an annual tradition, this year repeating an invitation to mothers to nurse their babies if crying out of hunger.

Francis pronounced each baby's name and poured water from a golden shell-shaped cup on to their foreheads during the ceremony yesterday, welcoming them into the faith.

The event marked the end of the Christmas

season. The 13 infant boys and 20 infant girls, including a set of twins, were all the children of Vatican employees.

During his homily, Francis repeated an invitation extended to mothers on the same occasion last year to feed their children, "also now, if they are crying for hunger, nurse them."

The annual ceremony is held the first Sunday after the Jan. 6 Epiphany.

opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



ON WINNING QUIETLY

Running against the unspoken rule, Chui Sai On's second term began immediately after the Chief Executive was inaugurated on the SAR's 15th anniversary. Usually, things go smoothly until sometime deep in the coming January, giving the political agenda time to sharpen and the political agents a few more days to prepare for the new cycle. That used to be protocol, indeed.

One can attribute the past deferments to a conservative pace, further slowed down by the holiday season, or to any other inconvenient tradition, but that is not relevant to our purpose, which is to find out why the government Secretaries seem to be running full throttle. And pardon me the exaggeration.

We believe that one has to look for an explanation for the Secretaries' sudden urgency to intervene publicly about their portfolios in Chui Sai On's refined political strategy, which brought him to a second solid term.

Back in 2014, social and economic problems, like housing, transportation and labor, were piling up to the point of being voiced loudly. MSAR citizens were aiming criticism directly at the Chief Executive – if it is not fair, it is at least common in politics to hold the top official accountable.

Instead of blaming it all on the political Secretaries, Chui acknowledged insufficiencies and errors, allowing the idea that he was assuming serious problems arising in each and every portfolio of his entire government to settle quietly in the hearts and minds of the people.

Later the strategy paid off – twice. First, Chui won the "right" to a second term to correct the wrongdoings of others, for which he was taking the blame, and secondly the right to have a completely refurbished government to do that. What had a much more decisive impact upon his political fate was the handling of the May demonstrations, as well as the quiet defusing of the civic consultation on democracy. The May 25 and 27 actions proved Chui to be the man for the job to keep social and political activism under the NPC reading of the Macau Basic Law.

Secondly, Chui won again by means of refractive politics, or rather the correct reading of the so-called Macau second system. In spite of the "mute" admission of the errors of others, the Chief Executive was not to blame for the ineffective handling of portfolios, since if he actually was, the Central Government and President Xi himself would not have endorsed a second five-year term. However, there were errors, and they had faces: Florinda Chan, Lao Sio Io, Francis Tam, Cheong Kuoc Va and Chong U.

But now there are new faces in place. Macau people and the CE expect better performances in order to address and effectively correct errors. The new faces will answer for their portfolios – immediately. That is why the new government Secretaries rushed to duty from the starting block on December 20, 2014, although they're running differently. From Secretary Alexis Tam, who took the lead and opted for an overexposed media style, to the more defensive approach of Sonia Chan and Wong Sio Chak, going to Secretary for Transportation and Public Works rusty local political praxis, and ending with smart and savvy Lionel Leong's performance.

Leong, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, gave priority to meet AGOM, Kai Fong and other organizations, and wisely kept himself from putting the cart before the horse. Given the complexity of his portfolio, Leong did not dare to compromise with hasty statements. But things are changing – with no blind optimism, and with a watchful eye on Macau's "laissez faire."

In fact, there are no instant formulas for the majority of the problems. Alexis Tam, Sonia Chan, Raimundo Rosário, Wong Sio Chak and Lionel Leong all benefit from an alleged 365-day honeymoon period, the same 365 days they attribute to the directors of the departments under their portfolios.

365 days from now, both Secretaries and Directors are liable to become the CE's political gambit.

US: Iowa State student's death ruled a homicide



Tong Shao

THE death of an Iowa State University student who was found in the trunk of her car outside an Iowa City apartment building last year has been ruled a homicide.

The Johnson County medical examiner issued a death certificate last week for 20-year-old Tong Shao, listing the immediate cause of death as asphyxia and the manner of death as homicide, the Des Moines Register reported (dmreg.co/1A2YWdr).

Shao was a junior chemical engineering student from China. Her body was found Sept. 26 in the trunk of her car. The medical ex-

aminer's office completed her autopsy report months ago, but declined at the time to publicly release it at the request of the Iowa City Police Department.

Authorities have said they're looking for Xiangnan Li, a friend of Shao's who was a registered student at the University of Iowa around the time Shao went missing in September. Authorities have said they believe he may have information about Shao's death.

A police search of Li's apartment on the day Shao's body was found seemed to show he left the apartment in a hurry. A

police report says a black suitcase filled with clothing was found in the apartment, and groceries that had recently been purchased also had not been put away, including spoiled milk left on a counter.

Ames police say Li took a flight from Cedar Rapids on Sept. 8 and arrived in China on Sept. 10. A report by Ames police says none of Li's friends or family in China have reported seeing him.

Iowa City police said earlier this week that they have finished their investigation and have turned the case over to the Johnson County Attorney's Office. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Jason DeCrow



New York, Washington Square Park. A demonstrator wears a sign reading "I am Ahmed", which refers to Muslim policeman Ahmed Merabet, who was shot dead outside the office of Charlie Hebdo. All over the world people are gathering in solidarity with victims of the two terrorist attacks in Paris, one at the office of weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo and another at a kosher market.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	80-110 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	80-110 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**INDIA-USA** U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is in India to attend an international investment conference and push trade ties with the giant South Asian nation ahead of visit by President Barack Obama later this month.

**IRAQ** An Iraqi military spokesman says 30 members of the Kurdish peshmerga have been killed during a battle with Islamic State group militants in the country's north. The spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdish force in Irbil, Halgurd Hekmat, told AP yesterday that the clashes erupted Saturday when the extremists approached the town of Gwer outside the northern city of Mosul, held by the Islamic State group.

**CROATIA** A liberal incumbent faces a tough challenge from a conservative rival in Croatia's presidential runoff election that is held amid deep discontent over economic woes in the European Union's newest member. Yesterday vote is seen as a major test for Croatia's center-left government, which is facing parliamentary elections this year under a cloud of criticism over its handling of the crisis. A conservative triumph could shift Croatia back to right-wing nationalism.

**GERMANY** Chancellor Angela Merkel has told Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko she's ready to take part in four-way summit over the Ukraine conflict only if there's a chance of real progress. The leaders of Germany, Russia, Ukraine and France are working on setting up a possible meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan.

**RUGBY** England No. 8 Ben Morgan will miss the Six Nations, starting Feb 6, after breaking his left leg in club rugby action with Gloucester on Friday. Morgan was hurt in the second half of a Premiership win over Saracens, and the club offered no timetable when he might return.

**TENNIS** Roger Federer notched his 1,000th career victory and collected his 83rd title with a seesawing 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-4 win over Milos Raonic in the Brisbane International final yesterday. Only retired greats Jimmy Connors (1,253) and Ivan Lendl (1,071) have won more than 1,000 matches on the men's tour.