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**SANDS CHINA ANNOUNCES EDWARD TRACY RETIREMENT**

P7



**GAMING OPERATORS TO BE REEVALUATED**  
The mid-term evaluation will take into consideration other elements besides gaming, Secretary Lionel Leong revealed yesterday

P7



**INDONESIA EXECUTES FOREIGNERS BY FIRING SQUAD**  
Indonesia brushed aside last-minute appeals by foreign leaders and executed by firing squad six people convicted of drug trafficking

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**

AP PHOTO



**HONG KONG** The teenage face of Hong Kong's democracy protests turned himself in Friday but was released by police. Joshua Wong (pictured), 18, and three other members of his Scholarism group were told by police that they were being investigated for taking part in, organizing and inciting an unauthorized assembly. But they were released without charge after refusing to be bound by police bail.

**N KOREA-USA** U.S. academics and former senior officials meet with North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator in Singapore to get a feel for each other's positions amid a yearslong standoff over the North's nuclear weapons buildup.

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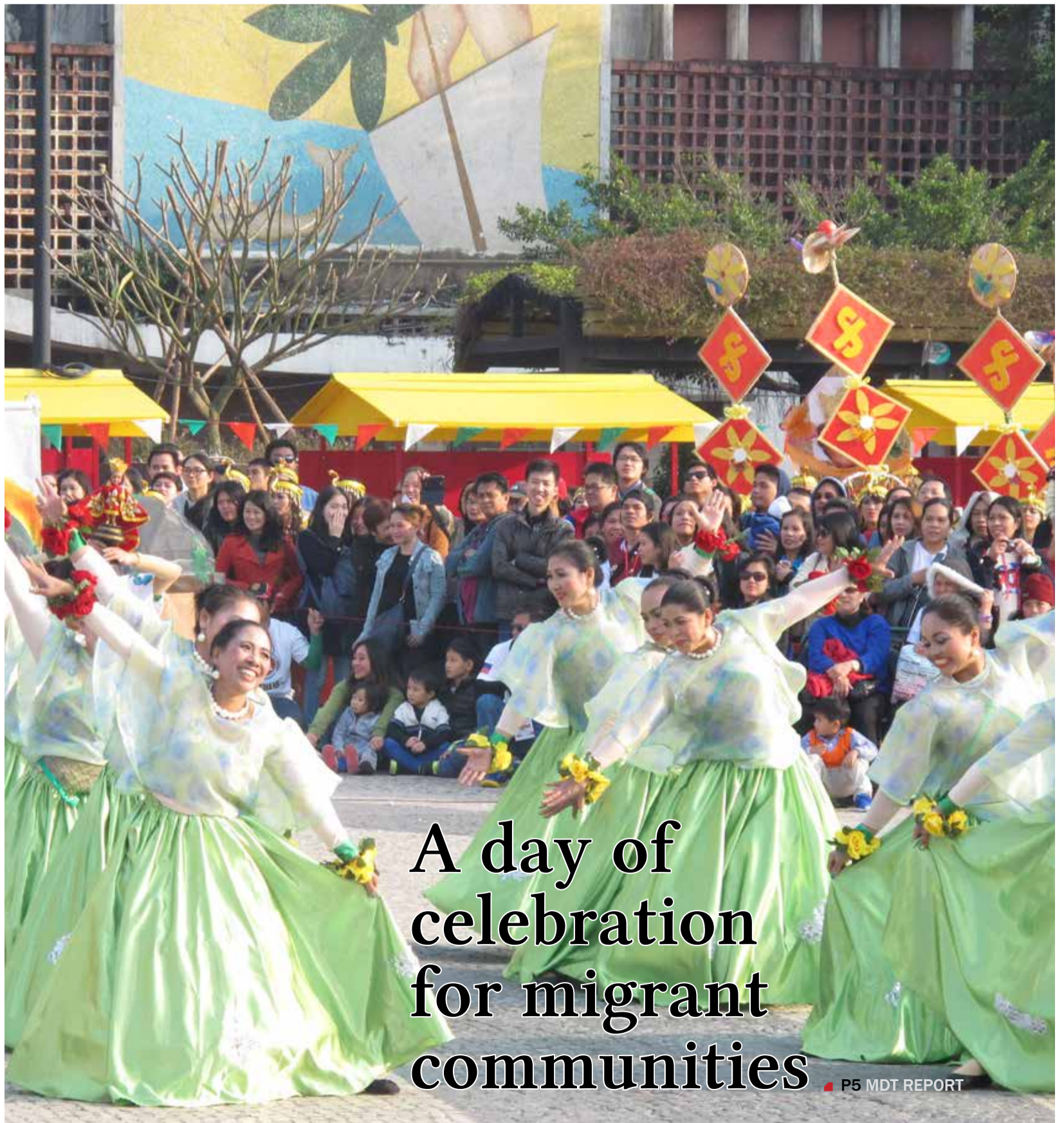
FINANCIAL TIMES

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Deflation isn't such a bonus after all

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**Record 6 million attend pope's mass in Manila**

P11



A day of celebration for migrant communities

P5 MDT REPORT

# Logistics industry calls for further transparency in trade negotiations

João Pedro Lau

**T**HE Executive Council (ExCo) has finished discussing the amendment to the Foreign Trade Law regarding the temporary importation of goods. The local logistics industry believes that the measure can further bring Macau in line with international practice. However, it suggested that the MSAR government should put more effort into negotiating trade facilitation with mainland authorities and be more transparent in disclosing the negotiation process.

ExCo spokesperson Leong Heng Teng explained in a press conference on Friday that the amendment seeks to facilitate external trade and foster the development of the meeting, incentives, conferencing and exhibitions (MICE) industry. "The development of the MICE industry is crucial [for Macau] and it has contributed to the surge of goods that are temporarily imported into Macau. Therefore, the [amendment] will include the importation activities with ATA Carnet into the foreign trading legislation regime. Through this measure,



ExCo spokesperson Leong Heng Teng

we hope to integrate different administrative procedures regarding temporary importation that mainly concern the MICE industry and thus help the growth of the industry," he

said.

Moreover, the amendment will introduce the "customs clearance prior to declaration" option, allowing the logistics industry, especially those who

employ container trucks to transport their goods, to have a simpler customs clearance procedure. The legislation will come into effect 30 days after the announcement.

The ATA Carnet is an international customs document that allows goods to be temporarily imported or exported tax-free and duty-free. Dr Victor Lei, president of the International Logistics and Forwarding Association of Macau welcomes the announcement. He told the Times the measure will be beneficial for exhibitors and logistics companies. "ATA Carnet is making [temporary importation] easier for exhibitors and even for car racing events," he said.

However, the president pointed out that more than 80 percent of the exhibitors participating in the exhibitions in Macau are from the mainland. Therefore, it is important for mainland authorities to keep up the pace as well.

He said that while the red tape is cut on the Macau side, exhibitors from the mainland may still experience problems when trying to temporarily export some of their goods or

equipment to Macau for exhibition.

Furthermore, in terms of negotiating some trade facilitating measures with mainland authorities, especially those from Guangdong Province, Lei said that Macau was relatively "passive", and that Macau has always been "one step behind" in the discussions with the mainland authorities. He said that while Hong Kong can always actively make requests regarding trade facilitation to the mainland and be approved immediately, it takes a longer time for Macau. "Macau has to be active in [the negotiation]," he said.

The president has called on the government to be more transparent and disclose more information about the ongoing trade facilitation negotiations with the mainland. "We have already heard that [the Macau government] has been working hard to figure out some benefits for us. But most of the times there was no news afterwards... It's alright that we have to wait. But you have to tell us what the obstacles are so that we can come up with the solutions," he said.

## Illegal ads removed from near Border Gate

**T**WO large-scale advertising banners were removed from the wall of a residential building near the Border Gate on Friday following the Macau Customs Service (SA)'s investigation.

The SA received a report on December 10 that stated the banners have copyright-violated trademarks and contents related to gambling printed on them. During the investigation, the SA said that the property manager of the building was uncooperative. The authorities then invited several parties, including the company that ordered the advertisement, the manager of the building's property managing company, the representative of the building's proprietors' committee and the advertising agency responsible to assist in their investigation.

The SA suspected that the two banners

not only breached several administrative laws, but that the logos printed on them were very similar to several trademarks registered to the Macau Economic Services and thus could be considered a criminal offence. Eventually, the company responsible for the advertisement removed the banners.

The SA told TDM that there are too many registered trademarks in Macau. Therefore, it is very difficult for the authorities to know whether a trademark was authorized to be put on an advertisement. In most cases, the authorities would have to rely on the trademark owner to report the case. However, he said that the number of reports involving copyright-breaching advertisement was not high and the copyright holder will usually stop pursuing the case as soon as the advertisement is removed.

## Chui urges speeding up of Zone A works



**T**HE Chief Executive has visited land reclamation Zone A and urged for works to be sped up. During Saturday's visit, Chui Sai On

asked the project builders to complete construction as soon as possible so that public housing can be constructed there in the future.

The CE attributed great relevance to the undergoing works, saying that Zone A is of great importance as it will help ease residents' demand for housing.

Chui Sai On was accompanied by Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, and other officials. The secretary said that the government plans to create an inter-departmental taskforce that will work on the road system that is going to be implemented in Zone A. During the visit, the director of the Infrastructure Development Office presented a report, according to which works and deadlines are on schedule.

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Brook Yang

# Hundreds celebrate World Day for Migrants and Refugees

**T**HE Diocese of Macau celebrated the 101st World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) yesterday with migrant communities of various nationalities and religions presenting their folk cultures.

“To promote the life of migrants and the itinerant people,” the diocesan celebration took place in Macau for the seventh year. This year, it was themed “The Church without frontiers, Mother to all,” which emphasizes a culture of acceptance and solidarity.

“I think the theme is for togetherness: with unity, we get stronger,” said Ms Ann Nuraeni, after performing an East Javan dance called “Reog Ponorogo” on the cultural presentation with her fellows from the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (IMWU Macau).

Besides sharing a legendary story through the traditional dance, the group also voiced a number of aspirations for Macau’s migration policies.

“Standard contract and protection, insurance, and minimum wage. These are our demands,” Ms Nuraeni told the Times “Also to shorten the six-month re-entry ban; and no more two-day visa that only allows us to stay for two days if our contract is terminated within six months.”

According to Ms Nuraeni, “a lot” of their fellow migrants are being detained due to overstaying, although there are some cases due to crimes like drug-dealing. She indicated that a lack of care and protection from both their home country and the local government has been a reason to those cases.

“We have friends staying in jail due to over-stay. But our government doesn’t give any care or protection. Of course they don’t have money, if the



Indonesian government helped them to buy plane tickets to get back home, or the Macau government gave them more time before leave, they wouldn’t have to overstay,” she explained.

These migrant workers believe that when they encounter problems such as being underpaid or abused, the Macau government isn’t likely to provide support. “We ask some help from other organizations to cooperate, like from the IMWU in HK,” said Ms Nuraeni.

A missionary who insisted on remaining anonymous also suggested it’s necessary to provide better welfare and protection to migrant workers in the territory, whereas the

migrants should collaborate in negotiating groups to fight for their rights, not only in shows and performances.

“The migrants are here to hope for a better future; they

“**Standard contract and protection, insurance, and minimum wage. These are our demands**

ANN NURAENI  
MIGRANT WORKER

are struggling,” he told the Times. “Workers with good working conditions can contribute more to the local community.”

The celebration started in the morning with a Mass at St. Augustine Church that was officiated by Bishop Lai, and was followed by an agape-fellowship lunch and a series of cultural presentations at the St. Joseph Seminary. Several speeches were given at the Seminary including one by Bishop John Ledesma.

The organizer stated that the event is a “testament of solidarity and unity amidst the great diversity in our community,” which aimed to establish an avenue for dialogue among migrants and also with the lo-

cal community.

“The local community is exhorted to be welcoming to the migrants and extend a caring hand to them. The celebration can build awareness, in the church community as well as in the public, regarding the needs and concerns of the migrants as well as their positive potentialities,” they stressed.

“This gathering can also be a reminder to migrants of the spiritual aspects of life, which is of great importance,” added the Diocese, revealing that currently in Macau, migrants constitute a large share of church-goers, particularly on Sundays, and more than half of active church-goers are migrants.

# Filipinos join Sinulog Festival at Tap Seac Square

**W**HILE millions of people poured out onto the streets of the Philippine capital Manila to celebrate an outdoor Mass with Pope Francis yesterday, the Filipino migrants in Macau likewise gathered together to celebrate Sinulog Festival in honor of Santo Niño, the Child Jesus.

According to Fr. Agustin Dajac Dutu, one of the three founders of the local event, the celebration has entered its 15th year. Over two thousand people attended the religious activities, including



a Mass held at St. Lazarus Church, a free lunch open to the public at Tap Seac Square, a procession of bands and dance troupes, as well as a thematic performance competition.

“We Filipinos are very spiritual people, so we have many celebrations like this back in the Philippines,” the Catholic missionary explained to the Times. “This is part of our culture. Especially for the people who can’t go back to the Philippines, they are very happy to have this celebration in Macau.”

Simulating a river current-like movement by stepping forward and backward, the ritual Sinulog dance showcased street dancers in bright colored costumes dancing to the rhythm of drums and gongs while carrying statuettes of the Child Jesus. The procession and performances gradually attracted a large crowd to gather and watch.

According to the organizer – Santo Niño de Cebu in Macao Association - the annual Sinulog Festival has become the biggest Filipino event in Macau to

commemorate the Filipino nation’s four hundred years of Christianity.

“About eighty percent of the participants are the Filipinos. This celebration brings us together in the community as a family, so this unites us not only as migrants, not only as Filipinos, but as children of God. So this is an expression of our love and faith in God,” said Fr. Dutu, adding that religious faith has been a pillar in the lives of Filipino migrants and supported them through times of difficulty. **BY**



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# Sands China announces Edward Tracy retirement

**S**ANDS China announced on Friday that its president and chief executive officer, Edward Tracy, will be retiring from his positions, effective March 6, 2015, after running Las Vegas Sands' most lucrative gaming operation for almost five years.

In an announcement filed to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Sands China said that Mr Tracy "will be engaged by the company as a consultant from March 7, 2015" and "will continue to work with the senior management team during the transition and consultancy". The announcement also suggested that Tracy has confirmed that "he has no disagreement with the board" and "there are no matters that need to be brought to the attention of the shareholders of the company in respect of his retirement," before expressing the board's gratitude towards Tracy for his service.

Although Mr Tracy was not available for comment, the Times received a statement from the chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands, Sheldon Adelson, after the retirement was announced. He said that Tracy has played an important part in the growth and success of Sands in Macau and "we will always be grateful for his many contributions."

"One of [Tracy's] many accomplishments was building a team of senior leaders who will help carry our momentum forward. As we conduct a search for [Tracy's] replacement, we have every confidence our existing team will be both innovative and efficient in managing our business, while at the same time continuing to support the Macau government and its efforts to become a world center of leisure and tourism through the development of additional non-gaming attractions and amenities. We remain deeply committed to the future of Macau and the more than 28,000 team members there who are a



part of the Sands family," said Mr Adelson. "We wish [Tracy] the very best as he returns to the United States to focus on his family and his health."

A gaming analyst quoted by Gaming Compliance, who requested anonymity, said Tracy's importance to the company extended beyond Macau. "In my view, Mr Tracy did a great job at repairing relationships with the government (both in Macau and Beijing) and that has been done quietly and without fan-

fare," the analyst said. "His shoes will be tough to fill." Ben Lee, managing partner of gaming consultancy IGamiX Management & Consulting, said Tracy stabilized the company after the turmoil of the Steve Jacobs' era, during which the company's relationship with Macau authorities hit rock bottom. Tracy was "instrumental in Sands China recovering their relationship with the Macau government," Lee told Gambling Compliance. "He came in at a time when they needed a diplomat to salvage what was left of their relationships with various tiers of local stakeholders, and he performed the statesman role exceptionally well," he said. "It will be a loss to Macau's gaming industry to see him go," Lee added.

The management change comes as Sands is preparing to open its fifth casino in Macau as early as this year, one of the first new projects to open after the city suffered its first annual drop in revenue, with China's anti-corruption crackdown crimping spending by high-end players. New properties are expected to help operators drive back traffic

and boost revenue.

"This was unexpected," said D.S. Kim, a Hong Kong-based analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. "We expect the transition to be smooth and do not expect this news to have any major impact on fundamentals, including the schedule for new projects."

Tracy has more than 20 years of experience in the gaming and hospitality industry. The executive was formerly a CEO of the Trump Organization, which included casino, hotel and entertainment entities.

One of his most notable achievements as the Sands China CEO was the diversification of the entertainment experience offered at the company's properties, especially at the Venetian Macau. Under his watch, the Cotai Arena and Venetian Theater have hosted big-scale shows with world-class stars, such as the Rolling Stones, Rihanna, Alicia Keys and Justin Bieber. He was also responsible for building Venetian Macau into the new boxing hub of Asia, bringing world-renowned boxers like Manny Pacquiao to town.

He was the Times' Person of the Year in 2013. **JPL**

## A career of impressive accomplishments

**E**DWARD Tracy began his career in the hotel industry in the United States back in the 1970s, when he took up several posts at the Hotel Investors Trust, serving in multiple executive hotel management positions, including director of operations. He later served as chief executive officer for famous businessman Donald Trump in Atlantic City.

Edward Tracy also served as vice presi-

dent and general manager of the Sands Hotel and Casino in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and as vice president and director of hotel operations for the New York-based company, Middex Hospitality.

Having arrived in Macau back in 2010, his accomplishments are impressive for someone who is new to the Chinese market, as pointed out by Inside Asian Gaming magazine.

Delivering shows of the scale of Las

Vegas, Edward Tracy has also been committed to turning Macau into "a big-time boxing" destination.

According to "The World of CEOs" website, outside work Edward Tracy "likes to travel with his wife throughout Asia, especially in China. He is a sports enthusiast, being a tennis player and works out." Mr Tracy is also an avid reader and is involved in many charitable organizations.

# Lionel Leong says the gaming industry will be reevaluated

**T**HE Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong has declared that any eventual change to the gaming tax system can only occur after a reevaluation that will happen this year.

"The mid-term evaluation will take into consideration other elements beside gaming, like social responsibility and training workers

for non-gaming related activities. We must see if they [the operators] fulfilled their commitments," the secretary said yesterday, during a meeting with journalists at Macau's World Trade Center. He said that the reevaluation "is one of the tasks [he faces] for this year." The reevaluation, Lionel Leong said, will serve as a basis to "renegotiate gaming



Lionel Leong during yesterday's meeting with the local press

contracts."

Lionel Leong denied that there are numerous cases of VIP rooms closing, but confirmed that one junket operator, that he didn't name (see report on page 8) is closing some of its venues. He also attributed the drop in gaming revenue to "external factors."

Still regarding gaming, the secretary said that the increase of gaming tables shouldn't grow above 3 percent, keeping in line with current policy. The government didn't receive any request by gaming operators to reassess the number of

tables allowed.

Talking about the prospects facing the local economy, he said that a new mentality is needed to face the challenges ahead. Mr Leong declared that he expects that his experience as a businessman could be useful to the public administration and to achieve further economic diversification.

During a lunch with representatives from the English and Portuguese press, the secretary stressed his desire to enhance communication with the public and journalists.

**T**HE arrest of a prominent Macau executive in the largest prostitution bust in the city's history shows China's President Xi Jinping is broadening his crackdown on corruption to restrict even long-tolerated vices, according to Bloomberg news agency.

Police arrested Alan Ho, handcuffing him and covering his head with a black hood, for allegedly operating a prostitution ring out of the casino complex of his uncle, Stanley Ho. The elder Ho held a monopoly on gambling in Macau for four decades and SJM Holdings Ltd., the company he founded, is still Asia's biggest casino operator.

Alan Ho was among the six people arrested. Last week's operation was the city's biggest forced prostitution case since its 1999 handover to China. As the Times reported previously, it involved 2,400 suspected sex workers and about MOP400 million (USD50 million) in illicit gains, according to the Judiciary Police. Alan Ho didn't respond to queries sent to his work e-mail address.

The vice ring collected fees from women in return for allowing them to solicit men in a hotel, according to a statement from the police. The ladies, some of them recruited on the Internet, paid 150,000 yuan as an "entry fee" and a monthly protection fee of more than 10,000 patacas, they said.

Macau has long tolerated the sex trade, a natural outgrowth of a casino-focused tourism city, said Carlos Siu, an associate professor at Macao Polytechnic Institute. "It's happened to my friends visiting Macau; sometimes pimps will approach men asking if they need such services," Siu said. "If it's night, the women might hide in some dark corner pretending to play

# Sex ring bust shows China expanding crackdown on graft



There is undoubtedly a new sheriff in town

STEVE VICKERS

and government support, said Yim, adding there are no concrete statistics on the size of the industry because of the hushed nature of the profession and lack of accurate surveys.

"Often these are young, female migrant workers with little local support," said Yim. "They are very much marginalized and may face all sorts of dangers; violence is one of them, and unsafe sex and exploitation from their employers is another."

The police sting on a high-profile location like the Hotel Lisboa, and the arrest of a member of the powerful Ho family, heralds of more clean-up operations to come, said Lok Wai Kin, vice president of Macau's Law Reform Consultative Committee which advises the government on legal matters.

"Macau's government wants to make the gaming industry a more regulated and lawful one," said Lok, a law professor at the University of Macau. "You can't have rampant and in-your-face prostitution in a world-class entertainment destination right?" **MDT/Bloomberg**

slot machines, come out and approach you."

Macau authorities conducted 34 sex trafficking investigations in 2013, compared with 15 a year earlier, the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report published last June showed. Victims, predominantly from mainland China, "are sometimes confined in massage parlors and illegal brothels, where they are closely monitored, forced to work

long hours, have their identity documents confiscated and are threatened with violence," it said.

The State Department ranks Macau Tier 2, for territories which do not fully comply with minimum standards in the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act "but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance".

Staff from Association for Reach Out (Macau) found little

evidence of the usually rampant sex trade when they visited Hotel Lisboa and another casino hotel to give out condoms and health information flyers on Wednesday, four days after the bust, said Kendy Yim, executive director of the non-governmental organization providing support for sex workers in Macau.

These sex workers usually ply their trade in places ranging from casinos to nightclubs and saunas, receiving little social

## GAMING

# Junket operator David Group to close some of its VIP Rooms

Stephanie Wong

**D**AVID Group, a Macau junket operator that serves higher-spending casino customers, is closing some rooms in the city and expanding into other Asian countries as China's anti-graft drive reduces customer traffic in the territory.

David Group is shutting three of its seven rooms that cater for high-end players at casinos, it said in a statement on Saturday. The company, which runs rooms at casinos including those operated by Sands China Ltd.

and Wynn Macau Ltd., is taking the action as part of a re-organization prompted by an industry

**We're adjusting our business strategy; this is a general trend in the industry**

FRANK NG

downturn, Frank Ng, the company's director of corporate communications, said by phone.

"We're adjusting our business strategy; this is a general trend in the industry," Ng said. "We're hibernating. Once we wake up, we can restart." The company can reopen the rooms when the market conditions improve, he said.

David Group joined other junket operators including Suncity Group and Hengsheng Group in expanding to markets beyond Macau as the city's casinos last year suffered

their first annual decline in revenue amid Chinese President Xi Jinping's continuing battle on corruption.

Junket operators arrange trips and provide credit for high rollers, who accounted for 60 percent of the city's USD44 billion casino revenue last year, to gamble in Macau's most luxurious private venues.

Nomura analysts led by Stella Xing wrote about the company's plan to close VIP rooms. David Group is one of the city's 10 biggest operators, with a 3-5 percent market share, she said, citing

unidentified people at industry information provider MGG. Ng declined to comment on the market-share figure on Jan. 15 or to disclose the company's casino revenue.

The Chinese government's clampdown on corruption and extravagance has cut David's high-end clients' spending on gambling tables, he said. The group expects the casino industry to recover from the fourth quarter as more resorts open, boosting customer traffic and revenue, Ng said.

Macau has tightened rules for the transit visas issued for Chinese visitors entering, closing a prior loophole used by many high-end players to go to the city more often and stay longer than normally allowed. The stricter visa rules have diverted more gamblers

away from Macau and caused them to go to places with easier access, Ng said.

David Group is taking more wealthy customers to Asian centers with more relaxed visa approval process, such as Manila, Vietnam and South Korea, Ng said. The company plans to enter the Australian market by the end of the year and later to expand to Europe, he said, without providing a timeframe.

David takes its VIPs shopping and sight-seeing, and allows them to gamble at its private rooms in local casinos, he said.

As part of its marketing strategies to draw gamblers, David Group publishes a lifestyle magazine in China to promote its brand. It also has a film company. **Bloomberg**



PROPERTY

# China Overseas Land plunges after sale of homes is blocked

**C**HINA Overseas Land & Investment Ltd. led property stocks lower in Hong Kong after authorities in the southern city of Shenzhen blocked unit sales by the company and other developers.

China Overseas Land tumbled as much 7 percent, the most since March 4, 2013, and traded down 3.8 percent at HK\$24.30 as of 1:17 p.m. local time Friday. Fantasia Holdings Group Co. fell 3.7 percent, while Guangzhou R&F dropped 4 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng Index slid 0.8 percent.

More than 2,800 apartments developed by China Overseas Land, along with homes by other homebuilders including China Merchants Property Development Co. in Shenzhen, would not be allowed for sale, the local land bureau said on its website, without citing a reason. China Overseas Land said all the blocked units have been sold and the move won't affect its business or finances, according to a company statement.

The Shenzhen authorities' expanding restriction of property sales is fueling investor concern that developers are getting caught up in a government anti-corruption drive. Kaisa Group Holdings Ltd., which this month missed a coupon payment on a USD500 million bond and also had units barred from sale in the city, is being investigated for alleged links to Jiang Zunyu, Shenzhen's



Cranes operate at a residential construction site in Beijing

former security chief who was taken into custody over a graft probe, according to two people familiar with the matter.

"Risk aversion among investors has increased noticeably," Alan Jin, Hong Kong-based analyst at Mizuho Securities Co., said by phone. "When people don't know what actually happened, they always fear something bigger may be coming."

The yield premium on China Overseas Land's \$300 million of 5.35 percent notes due 2042, sold at a spread of 255 basis points in November

2012, jumped 37 basis points to 363 basis points as of 11:55 a.m. in Hong Kong, the highest since February 2014, according to prices compiled by Bloomberg.

Shenzhen's land and resources commission said on its official microblog Friday that authorities block transactions if developers are found to have violated laws or rules. Transactions may also be temporarily suspended for "normal processing," it said.

The blocked China Overseas Land units belong to a social-housing project it built for the local government and

handed over in 2013, and the developer doesn't own them anymore, Hugo Hou, Hong Kong-based analyst at Haitong International Securities Co., wrote in an e-mailed note.

"Unlike some of the aggressive regional private developers, China Overseas Land is a prudent large national state-owned enterprise whose project acquisition and development activities have been standard," Hou said. "We believe this has little to do with the company's operations, and investors don't need to overreact."

Mizuho raised share-price

forecasts for China Overseas Land and China Resources Land Ltd. as their state-owned background has become "more valuable," Jin wrote in an e-mailed note dated Thursday.

"I still believe the state-owned developers, particularly the big ones, are relatively safe" because they face fewer risks from shareholder changes, he said Friday.

**■ Authorities' expanding restriction of property sales is fueling investor concern that developers are getting caught up in a gov't anti-corruption drive**

More than 2,300 units developed by China Merchants Property in Shenzhen are blocked from sale, according to the local land authority's website. Two calls to the company's branding department went unanswered.

"In the past, developers may have had projects blocked because they owed money to lenders or banks," said Andy Lee, chief executive for Southern China at realtor Centaline Property Agency Ltd. "But now the restrictions seem to be targeting specific developers rather than projects, which is quite rare. Everyone is looking at this government website, talking about who's next, but it's all guessing." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### THE VENETIAN BRINGING THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA BACK TO MACAU

Musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra will return to Macao Feb. 4 for a unique performance featuring "Ode to Humanity" – A Symphony Concert with Over 100 Choristers, featuring members of the Shenzhen, Philadelphia and Macao Orchestras in a first-of-its-kind collaboration at The Venetian Macao's Venetian Theatre. With Macau-native Lio Kuokman conducting the or-

chestra, the event is supported by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, and is part of The Philadelphia Orchestra's Pearl Delta China Residency Week. Presenting Sponsor of The Philadelphia Orchestra's China Residency Program 2015, The Venetian Macao is bringing more than 100 of the world's best musicians from the East and the West to perform together in Macau. Tickets are on sale now.



### CEM ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF ENERGIZING TOUR LUCKY DRAW AND MAKES DONATION TO THE MACAU DEAF ASSOCIATION



CEM's Energizing Tour was first launched in 2009, and since then has attracted more than 24,000 citizens to visit Coloane Power Station.

To encourage visitors to provide feedback on the Tour, a lucky draw was launched, with

an electrical appliances cash coupon of MOP3,888 to be offered to one lucky winner. Visitors were also encouraged to 'LIKE' CEM's fan page on Facebook with supermarket cash coupons of MOP500 to be offered to five fans from all

who liked the page. The lucky draw took place on 13 January at CEM's Headquarters with the supervision of Mr. Edgar Pedruco, representative of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. The winner of MOP3,888 electrical appliances cash coupon was Ms long Soi Meng, 75. The winners of the MOP500 supermarket cash coupons were Pan Steven, Joe Chan, Jose Li, Albert Lou and Sumner Ip.

Plus, for each LIKE received, CEM donated MOP10 to the Macau Deaf Association. During the campaign period, 800 LIKES were received and a total donation of MOP8,000 was offered.

### JAPANESE-MEETS-FRENCH CULINARY WIZARDRY AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL



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

Diners will be treated to a taste journey of a refined blend of two countries' culinary traditions with Chef Takagi's signature dishes such as spider crab with Sturia caviar and shiso flower, and Wagyu beef fillet with foie gras kinome dengaku.

# Home prices fall as trends diverge among cities



CHINA'S real estate market has extended its slump with new home prices in December registering month-on-month declines in a majority of surveyed cities.

Of 70 large and medium-sized cities surveyed, 66 saw new home prices drop in December from the previous month, according to data released yesterday by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Meanwhile, new home prices were flat in Zhengzhou, Wuhan, and Ganzhou last month, while Shenzhen saw prices rise 1.2 percent from November, the NBS data showed.

For existing homes, prices in 60 cities fell in December from the previous month, while eight cities recorded gains, with the first-tier cities of Beijing, Shanghai, and Guan-

zhou seeing prices gain 0.2 percent, 0.4 percent, and 0.2 percent, respectively. Nanjing and Urumqi were flat in price growth, the data showed.

On a year-on-year basis, 68 cities saw new home prices decline in December. Meanwhile, 67 cities reported price drops for existing homes.

Despite widespread price drops, the rates of decline have narrowed for both new

homes and existing homes on a monthly basis, according to analysts.

"On average, prices of new homes and existing homes in December in the 70 cities fell 0.2 percent and 0.3 percent respectively from a month ago," said NBS statistician Liu Jianwei.

The rate of price decline fell by 0.2 percentage point compared to November for both

new and existing homes, Liu said.

Kuang Xianming, director of the research center for economy under the China Institute For Reform and Development, said that downward pressure has remained in China's property sector based on December's figures. However, some changes, though minor, should not be ignored, he said.

"Analyzing the market based on price changes, the market has largely maintained a similar trend as seen in November. But if this situation continues, and especially when prices start to recover in some cities, we might be able to conclude that home prices in Chinese cities are bottoming out," Kuang said.

The NBS data showed that home price trends in first-tier cities and smaller cities diverged last month, with the nation's four biggest cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen seeing average prices rise by 0.1 percent and 0.4 percent from the previous month for new homes and existing homes, respectively.

China's property market began a downturn in 2014 after a years-long boom that catapulted home prices to record highs. The downturn has also weighed negatively on the economy, with third-quarter growth sliding to 7.3 percent, the lowest level since the 2008-09 financial crisis.

The NBS is scheduled to release major economic data, including gross domestic product and home sales, on Tuesday. **Xinhua**

## Senior spy official under investigation for graft

CHINA announced a formal investigation into a top spy chief for alleged corruption, confirmation of the highest-ranking intelligence officer nabbed in President Xi Jinping's battle against graft.

Ma Jian, deputy minister of the Ministry of State Security, is being probed for suspected "serious law and discipline violations," the party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said Friday in a brief statement on its website. It didn't provide more details, but that wording typically refers to investigations into corruption.

Ma headed the country's sprawling anti-espionage operation and

was reportedly detained last week.

Xi vowed to maintain "high pressure" and "zero tolerance" in the battle against graft in a Jan. 13 speech at a plenary session of the commission, the party's top disciplinary agency. His anti-graft campaign has already snared 100,000 officials of various levels.

"The probe of a senior security official means the ministry is deeply troubled," said Wang Yukai, a governance professor at the Beijing-based Chinese Academy of Governance. "The ministry is so important that the ministers should be politically more reliable than others. Ma's case might be related to the

investigation of Zhou Yongkang."

Zhou, a former member of the party's ruling Politburo Standing Committee who once oversaw China's vast security network, was expelled from the party last month, with prosecutors examining allegations of corruption and leaking state secrets. He was placed under investigation in July.

The South China Morning Post reported the probe of Ma on Jan. 12, citing unidentified people with knowledge of the matter. Ma had close ties to Ling Jihua, the former top aide of retired president Hu Jintao who is also under investigation, the paper reported. **Bloomberg**

## 22 confirmed dead in tugboat capsizing

AUTHORITIES confirmed 22 people dead in the capsizing of a tugboat with an international team on a test voyage in eastern China, after rescuers dragged the overturned vessel to shallow waters and scoured it Saturday.

Four Singaporeans, an Indian, an Indonesian, a Japanese and a Malaysian were among the dead in the accident on the Yangtze River, and the 14 other victims were Chinese, the state-run Xinhua News Agency said.

The newly built, 30-meter long Wanshenzhou 67 was on a test voyage Thursday in the river's Fubei Channel in Jiangsu province when it suddenly turned over.

The ship's owner, parts suppliers and engineers were among the 25 people aboard for the test.

Three people were rescued, all Chinese, including one man identified as an interpreter who was freed when rescuers cut through the bottom of the boat's hull early Friday — a full 14 hours after it went down.

An official at the Jiangsu maritime search and rescue center, who decli-



Rescuers approach the lifted wreckage of capsized tug boat "Wanshenzhou 67" on the Yangtze River near Jingjiang

ned to give his name, confirmed that 22 people were dead.

Swift currents had hampered the operation, and it was not until Saturday morning when rescue teams were able to pull the vessel to the surface and to shallow waters for a thorough search inside.

The 368-ton ship was built by Anhui Bengbu Shenzhou Machinery Co. Ltd. **AP**

Nicole Winfield and  
Teresa Cerojano, Manila

A crowd estimated at a record 6 million people by officials poured into Manila's rain-soaked streets and its biggest park yesterday as Pope Francis ended his Asian pilgrimage with an appeal for Filipinos to protect their young from sin and vice so they can instead become missionaries of the faith.

The crowd estimate, which could not be independently verified, included people who attended the pope's final Mass in Rizal Park and surrounding areas, and lined his motorcade route, said the chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Francis Tolentino.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the Vatican had received the figure officially from local authorities and that it was a record, surpassing the 5 million who turned out for St. John Paul II's final Mass in the same park in 1995.

Francis dedicated the final homily of his weeklong Asia trip, which began in Sri Lanka, to children, given that the Mass fell on an important feast day honoring the infant Jesus. His focus was a reflection of the importance that the Vatican places on Asia as the future of the church since it's one of the few places where Catholic numbers are growing — and on the Philippines as the largest Catholic nation in the region.

"We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected," Francis said in his homily. "And we need to care for our young people, not allowing them to be robbed of hope and condemned to a life on the streets."

Francis made a triumphant entry into Rizal Park, riding on a popemobile based on the design of a jeepney, the modified U.S. Army World War II jeep that is a common means of public transport here. He wore the same cheap, plastic yellow rain poncho handed out to the masses during his visit to the typhoon-hit eastern city of Tacloban a day earlier.

The crowd — a sea of humanity in colorful rain ponchos spread out across the 60 hectares (148 acres) of parkland and boulevards surrounding it — erupted in shrieks of joy when he drove by, a reflection of the incredible resonance Francis' message about caring for society's most marginal has had in a country where about a quarter of its 100 million people lives in poverty.

"It was a blessing that we saw him. Even if we were soaked by the rain, we feel fine," said Emmie Toreras, 38, who



Pope Francis waves to the faithful as he arrives at Rizal Park to celebrate his final Mass in Manila

PHILIPPINES

# Record 6 million turn out for pope's final day in Manila

■ The crowd — a sea of humanity spread out across the 60 hectares of parkland and boulevards surrounding it — erupted in shrieks of joy when [Francis] drove by

was wearing a garbage bag to guard against the rain. She said she had slept in the park since Friday to score a view of the pope.

"He loves the poor and people like us," said Toreras, whose husband, a rags vendor, stayed home to work.

Francis dedicated his four-day trip to the Philippines to the poor and marginal. He denounced the corruption that has robbed them of a dignified life, visited with street chil-

dren and traveled to Tacloban to offer prayers for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan, the deadly 2013 storm that devastated one of the Philippines' poorest regions.

Earlier yesterday, Francis drew a huge crowd to Manila's Catholic university, where he came close to tears himself hearing two rescued street children speak of their lives growing up poor and abandoned.

The pope ditched his prepared remarks and spoke off the cuff in his native Spanish to respond to 12-year-old Gyzelle Palomar, who wept as she asked Francis why children suffer so much. Palomar, a former street child rescued by a church-run foundation, told him of children who are abandoned or neglected by their parents and end up on the streets using drugs or in prostitution.

"Why is God allowing something like this to happen, even to innocent children?" Palomar asked through tears. "And why are there so few who are helping us?"

A visibly moved Francis said he had no answer. "Only when we are able to cry are we able to come close to responding to your question," he said.

"Those on the margins cry.

Those who have fallen by the wayside cry. Those who are discarded cry," the pope said. "But those who are living a life that is more or less without need, we don't know how to cry."

And he added: "There are some realities that you can only see through eyes that have been cleansed by tears."

A steady rain from the same tropical storm that forced Francis to cut short his visit to Tacloban on Saturday fell on the crowd, but it didn't seem to dampen spirits of Filipinos who streamed into the capital for his final day.

In his homily, Francis urged the crowd to protect their children from sin, alcohol and gambling, saying the devil "distracts us with the promise of ephemeral pleasures, superficial pastimes."

"Filipinos are called to be outstanding missionaries of the faith in Asia," he said.

Bracing for huge crowds, the government put out a public service announcement warning the elderly, pregnant women and children against coming to the event. They urged the crowd to carry their things in transparent plastic bags since they'd be easier to inspect. An appeal to use raincoats rather than umbrellas

went unheeded.

Rommel Monton, a 28-year-old call center agent, said he was struck by Francis' willingness to practice what he preaches, particularly as it concerns the poor.

"He doesn't want to be treated as someone special. Look at his vehicles, they are not bullet-proof: He wanted them to be open so that he can feel he is close to the people," he said. "How will you be able to protect your followers if you are not with them, if you are afraid to show yourself, to stand behind them or stand before them?"

Francis sought to stand with one Filipino family struck by tragedy during his visit: He spent 20 minutes yesterday meeting with the father of Kristel Padasas, a volunteer with Catholic Relief Services, who died Saturday in Tacloban when scaffolding fell on her. Witnesses said a sudden gust of wind toppled the structure, which had served as a platform for a large loudspeaker during the Mass.

The father was overwhelmed by the loss but was "consoled thinking that she had helped prepare the meeting of the people with the pope," said Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman. AP

Niniek Karmini, Jakarta

INDONESIA

INDONESIA brushed aside last-minute appeals by foreign leaders and executed by firing squad six people, including five foreigners, convicted of drug trafficking, sending a message that the new government will not compromise its tough approach to narcotics.

Four men from Brazil, Malawi, Nigeria and the Netherlands and an Indonesian woman were shot to death simultaneously in pairs just after midnight Saturday, several kilometers from a high security prison on Nusakambangan island. The other woman from Vietnam was executed in Boyolali, according to Attorney General Office's spokesman Tony Spontana. Both areas are in Central Java province.

Their bodies were brought from the island by ambulances early yesterday either for burial or cremation, as requested by relatives and representatives of their embassies.

President Joko Widodo in December rejected their clemency requests. He also refused a last-minute appeal by Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and the Dutch government to spare their countrymen — Brazilian Marco Archer Cardoso Moreira, 53, and Ang Kiem Soe, 52, who was born in Papua but whose nationality is Dutch.

Dutch Foreign Minister Bert

# Authorities reject foreign appeals, execute 6 drug convicts



Ambulances carrying the body of drug convicts Brazilian national Marco Archer Cardoso Moreira, left, and Dutch national Ang Kiem Soe leave upon arrival from Nusakambangan island where their executions were held

Koenders said in a statement late Saturday he had temporarily recalled the country's ambassador to Indonesia and summoned Indonesia's representative in The Hague to protest Ang's execution. He said it was carried out despite King Willem-Alexander and Prime Minister Mark Rutte personally contacting Widodo.

He called the execution "a cruel and inhumane punishment ... an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity."

Amnesty International said the first executions under the new president, who took office in November, were "a retrograde step"

for human rights.

Indonesia's Attorney General Muhammad Prasetyo has said there is no excuse for drug dealers and, "hopefully, this will have a deterrent effect."

Prasetyo said the new government had a firm commitment to fight against drugs. Widodo has said he would not grant clemency to 64 drug convicts on death row.

"What we do is merely aimed at protecting our nation from the danger of drugs," Prasetyo told reporters Thursday. He said figures from the National Anti-Narcotic Agency showed 40 to 50 people die each day from drugs

## Four men from Brazil, Malawi, Nigeria and the Netherlands and an Indonesian woman were shot to death

in Indonesia.

He said that drug trafficking rings have spread to many places, including remote villages where most victims are youngsters of productive age. Indonesia has become the largest drug market in Southeast Asia with 45 percent of the region's drugs in circulation.

A second batch of executions would be held later this year and also target drug smugglers, he warned.

Indonesia, a sprawling archipe-

lago of 250 million people, has extremely strict drug laws and often executes smugglers. More than 138 people are on death row, mostly for drug crimes. About a third of them are foreigners.

Brazilian Moreira was arrested in 2003, after police at Jakarta airport found 13.4 kilograms of cocaine hidden in his hang glider. A second Brazilian national, Rodrigo Muxfeldt Gularte, remains on death row in Indonesia, also convicted of drug trafficking.

Ang was arrested near Jakarta in 2003, after police found equipment which they estimated had been producing 15,000 ecstasy pills a day for three years. Police confiscated 8,000 pills and thousands of dollars.

The others who were executed were Namaona Denis, 48, from Malawi; Daniel Enemuo, 38, from Nigeria, and Indonesian Rani Andriani.

Tran Bich Hanh of Vietnam asked authorities to let her face the firing squad uncuffed as one of her last wishes, Spontana said. AP

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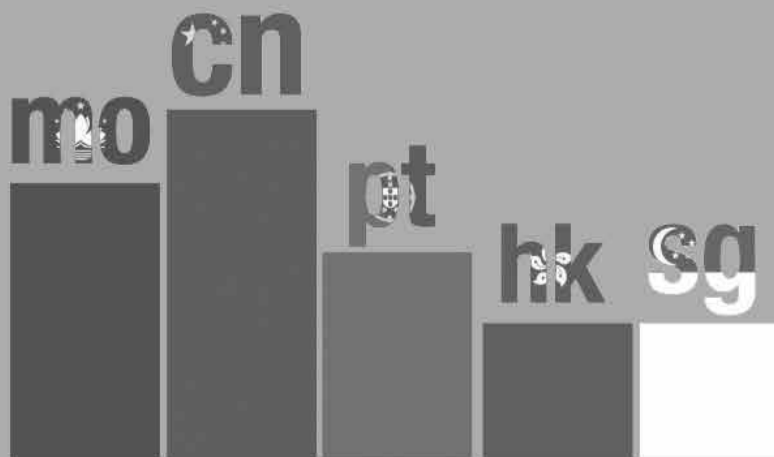
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PALESTINE

## International court opens probe into Israeli war crimes

Mike Corder, The Hague

**T**HE prosecutor of the International Criminal Court launched a preliminary probe Friday that could clear the way for a full-scale investigation into possible war crimes in Palestinian territories — plunging the court into the most politically charged conflict it has ever tackled.

Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said in a statement she will conduct the preliminary examination with “full independence and impartiality.”

Potential cases Bensouda could take on include allegations of war crimes by Israel during last summer’s Gaza war where the Palestinians suffered heavy civilian casualties. Israel’s settlement construction on occupied Palestinian lands could also be examined.

The cases could also include alleged war crimes by Hamas, which controls Gaza, including the firing of thousands of rockets at Israeli residential areas from crowded neighborhoods.

The prosecutor’s announcement comes after the Palestinian Authority acceded to The Hague-based court’s founding treaty and recognized its jurisdiction dating back to July, the eve of the last Gaza war. That move opened the door to an ICC investigation that could target possible crimes by both Israel, which is not a member of the court, and Palestinians.

A preliminary examination is not an investigation, but weighs information about possible crimes and jurisdiction issues to establish whether a full investigation is merited.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki welcomed the move and said the Palestinian Authority would cooperate.

“The Palestinian people called upon us to go to court and ask for an investigation and therefore we consider the announcement today as a historic event,” he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed the decision and its timing.

“It is scandalous that just a few days after terrorists slaughtered Jews in France, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court opens a probe against the state of Israel because we protected our citizens against Hamas, a terror organization that is in a covenant with the Palestinian Authority, and whose war criminals fired thousands of rockets at civilians in Israel,” Netanyahu said. “Unfortunately it turns the International Criminal Court into part of the problem and not part of the solution.” **AP**

CHARLIE HEBDO

# Protests leave at least 10 dead in Niger

AP PHOTO



A Yemeni man holds a poster, while chanting slogans during a protest against caricatures published in French magazine Charlie Hebdo in front of the French Embassy in Sanaa, Yemen

Ashraf Khalil, Cairo

**A**T least 10 people have been killed in violent protests in the West African nation of Niger over the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo’s depiction of the Prophet Muhammad, the country’s president said.

President Mahamadou Issoufou said that five deaths were reported after demonstrations in Niamey, the capital, on Saturday. Another five people died Friday in the town of Zinder following prayer services there. The victims were inside churches and bars that were set ablaze, he said.

The violence erupted after

Charlie Hebdo published its first issue since the Jan. 7 attack on its headquarters by Islamic extremists that left 12 people dead.

The magazine, which had long antagonized Muslims with its depictions of the prophet, carried a cover cartoon depicting Muhammad holding a “Je Suis Charlie” sign.

IRAQ

## Islamic State group releases 200 captive Yazidis

Vivian Salama, Baghdad

**T**HE Islamic State group released at least 200 Yazidis after five months of captivity in Iraq, Kurdish military officials said yesterday, mostly elderly, infirmed prisoners who likely slowed the extremists down.

Peshmerga Gen. Shirko Fatih, commander of Kurdish forces in the northern city of Kirkuk, told The Associated Press that almost all of the freed prisoners are in poor health and bore signs of abuse and neglect. Three were young children, he said.

The militants transported the captives from the northern town of Tal Afar, where they were being held for the past five months after the militants raided their towns last summer. The militants dropped them off Saturday at the Khazer Bridge, near the Kurdish regional capital of Irbil. Fatih

said. They were being held Sunday by Kurdish authorities for questioning, he said.

Fatih said that it appears the militants released the prisoners because they were too much of a burden.

“It probably became too expensive to feed them and care for them,” he said.

Tens of thousands of Yazidis fled in August when the Islamic State group captured the northern Iraqi town of Sinjar, near the Syrian border. But hundreds were taken captive by the group, particularly women. Iraqi and international authorities later said that some Yazidi women were sold into slavery.

About 50,000 Yazidis — half of them children, according to United Nations figures — fled to the mountains outside Sinjar during the onslaught. Some still remain there.

The Sunni militants of the Islamic State group view Yazidis and Shiite Muslims as

According to mainstream Islamic tradition, any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad — even a respectful one — is considered blasphemous.

While many Muslims have expressed disgust at the deadly assault on the magazine’s Paris office, many are also deeply offended by the magazine’s cartoons lampooning Muhammad.

In Iran, the government has publicly condemned both the attack on Charlie Hebdo and the magazine itself, calling the continued publishing of Muhammad caricatures “provocative” and an insult to Islam.

Iranian judicial authorities on Saturday banned a daily newspaper for publishing a front-page headline that allegedly indicated support for Charlie Hebdo.

Elsewhere in the Muslim world on Saturday, Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani condemned Charlie Hebdo, calling the newest cover image of Prophet Muhammad a blasphemous and irresponsible act.

“Freedom of expression should be used in a way to boost understanding between the religions,” he said in a statement issued by the presidential palace.

Iraq’s Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi also issued a statement of condemnation, warning that, “offensive words might lead to further bloodshed.”

He also reiterated his condemnation of the attacks on innocent victims in Paris, saying that terrorism, “has nothing to do with Islam in any way.”

Protesters also demonstrated in front of the French Embassy in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa, as well as in the Pakistani city of Karachi. **AP**

AP PHOTO



An elderly Yazidi fighter poses in front of the Sharaf al-Deen temple shrine, in Sinjar, northern Iraq

apostates, and have demanded Christians either convert to Islam or pay a special tax. The Islamic State group currently holds a third of both Iraq and Syria and is being targeted by U.S.-led airstrikes. **AP**

## BELGIUM

# Suspects held in Greece as European terror crackdown widens

Raf Casert and Demetris Nellas, Brussels

WITH Europe on edge, soldiers fanned out to guard possible terror targets in Belgium Saturday while police in Greece detained at least two suspects as part of a widening counterterrorism dragnet across the continent.

In France, one of the terrorists behind last week's attacks in Paris was given a secret burial as authorities sought to head off glorification of terrorism and civil unrest amid a groundswell of popular antagonism across Europe against radical Islam, and protests against caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad across the Muslim world that have underscored vast cultural differences.

For the first time in three decades, authorities used paratroopers to reinforce police in Belgium's cities, guarding buildings within the Jewish quarter of the port city of Antwerp and some Belgian embassies. The move came a day after anti-terror raids netted dozens of suspects across Western Europe and in-



Belgian para-commandos patrol near a synagogue in the center of Antwerp, Belgium

creased anxiety across big swathes of the region.

Belgium has increased its terror warning to 3, the second-highest, following the anti-terror raids of Thursday which left two suspects dead. Police believe the cell they largely dismantled was on the verge of a major attack.

Authorities said that even though they had broken up the alleged terror cell they were still looking for some suspects abroad and briefly hoped Greece could have clinched the breakthrough by detaining one remaining key suspect.

A Greek police official earlier Saturday said the men were

detained separately in Athens, some 2,500 kilometers from Brussels, and included an individual who at first sight matched the description of a key terror suspect in Belgium.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the ongoing investigation.

After careful vetting in Brussels of ID information, federal magistrate Eric Van der Syt said there was no positive match with any individual they sought and said "they had nothing to do with the Belgian case."

With some suspects still at large, it was an uneasy calm in Belgium, and paratroopers on the

street did not necessarily help.

"You know, when people see the soldiers on streets they will get scared. That could make more problems than solutions," said student Greg Verhoeven in Antwerp.

France tried to stave off unrest there when Said Kouachi, one of the gunmen who attacked the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, was quietly buried.

After an initial refusal to provide a burial place for Kouachi, the mayor of Reims, Arnaud Robinet, said he was forced to backtrack. Robinet said the government had insisted he allow the elder brother to be buried in Reims because according to French law residents of a town

have the right to be buried there.

"He was buried last night, in the most discrete, anonymous way possible," Robinet said.

Kouachi and his brother Cherif were killed by French counterterrorism police Jan. 9 after they killed 12 people at the offices of Charlie Hebdo. Cherif Kouachi is to be buried in Gennevilliers, a suburb of Paris where he lived.

Authorities said a third gunman, Amedy Coulibaly, killed five people including four hostages at a kosher market in Paris before he was killed by police. There has been no word of plans for his burial.


French authorities also banned an anti-Islamist demonstration in Paris, arguing it might incite civil unrest.

"We are one country, one people, one France — without distinction by religion, belief or sensibility," President Francois Hollande said Saturday in south-central France. "An ardent France against those who want to instill among us who-knows-what war of religion." AP

## POLICE RELEASE 3 SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN FRENCH TERROR PROBE


FRENCH POLICE have released three of the 12 suspects arrested Friday in an anti-terror sweep following the attacks in Paris by Islamic extremists that killed 17 people and put Europe on high alert. Paris prosecutor spokesman Denis Fauriat said nine other suspects detained Friday will have their interrogations prolonged by 48 hours, a step allowed under France's tough anti-terror laws.

AD



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## what's ON


**THE PROMOTION PROJECT OF MACAU ARTISTS,  
"ART EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS  
BY WONG KUONG CHOI"**

TIME: 10am-6pm

UNTIL: January 22, 2015

VENUE: Kam Pek Community Centre, 483

Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

**STARTING POINT – DENIS MURRELL  
AND HIS YOUNG ARTIST'S PAINTINGS**

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

3pm-7pm (Saturdays, closed on Sundays

and public holidays)

UNTIL: January 30, 2015

VENUE: Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery,

Avenida da Praia Grande, n° 749, r/c

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

**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

**"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

**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

**US MAN DELIVERS 1 PIZZA AND  
GETS USD2,084 TIP**

Now that's a special delivery! A group of real estate agents meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan, surprised a man by giving him a USD2,084 tip for delivering one pizza Thursday.

The man, identified only as Rob, was stunned and said on video, "All I did was deliver pizza." Agents from Keller Williams Realty all pitched in while attending the company's regional conference. Stacey McVey says they wanted to show their appreciation to someone from the service industry.

Besides cash, the man received a Visa gift card, lottery tickets and letters of encouragement. Brian LeFevre, delivery manager at Pizza House in Ann Arbor, says the lucky delivery man was "ecstatic." He says "that's a pretty good day's work" for just one pizza.

## TV canal macau

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated)                              |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast                    |
| 14:30 | RTPi Live  |
| 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 | TDM Sports                                       |
| 22:10 | Brazil Avenue                                    |
| 23:00 | TDM News   |
| 23:30 | Documentary Series                               |
| 00:40 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 01:10 | RTPi Live  |

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

15 JAN - 21 JAN


**INTO THE WOODS**

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Robert Marshall

Starring: James Corden, Emily Blunt, Meryl Dtreep

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 125min


**CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA**

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Oliver Assayas

Starring: Juliette Binoche, Kristen Stewart, Chloe

Grace Moretz

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 124min

**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


**1966 INDIRA GANDHI  
TAKES CHARGE IN INDIA**

Indira Gandhi, only daughter of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, is to become the country's next leader. She was chosen at the end of a bitter leadership battle with former finance minister Morarji Desai.

Following her win, Mrs Gandhi pledged herself to serve the Congress Party and the country, and said she would "strive to create what my father used to call a climate of peace."

Crowds had gathered outside Parliament House while the election was held, and cheered Mrs Gandhi wildly as she went to the President's House to report. She will not become prime minister until she submits her cabinet to the president.

Mrs Gandhi did not confirm she would be a candidate until four days ago, when chief ministers from 11 of India's 16 states let it be known they would support her to take over.

Another leading candidate, Gulzarilal Nanda, withdrew once it was clear Mrs Gandhi would be running. He has been acting as prime minister since the unexpected death of Mr Nehru's successor, Lal Bahadur Shastri, earlier this month.

Mr Desai was under extreme pressure to pull out as well and avoid a potentially damaging leadership contest, but he insisted on going to a vote. It was predicted he would get less than 100 of the 526 votes from Congress MPs, but he surprised many by winning 169 votes to Mrs Gandhi's 355.

Afterwards, Mr Desai pledged to cooperate fully with Mrs Gandhi. It is the second time running he has been defeated in a leadership contest: the first time, against Mr Shastri, he withdrew his candidacy without a vote.

Mrs Gandhi, 48, was educated at West Bengal and Oxford and has two sons, Rajiv and Sanjay, who are both studying in England. She gets her name not from Mahatma Gandhi, the legendary independence campaigner and founder of the Congress Party, but from her husband Feroze Gandhi, a lawyer who died in 1960.

The couple spent 13 months in prison for subversion after fighting against British rule in India during the 1940s. She has played a key part in the Congress Party since 1955, and served as information minister in Mr Shastri's government.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

**Morarji** Desai went on to form a right-wing faction opposed to Mrs Gandhi within the Congress Party. Nevertheless, she won general election victories in 1967 and 1971. She presided over the 1971 conflict with Pakistan which created Bangladesh, and then in 1975 she was convicted of corruption and banned from holding office for six years.

She responded by refusing to resign and declared a highly controversial national state of emergency which lasted for nearly two years.

She subsequently lost the 1977 general election to Morarji Desai, who headed Janata, part of an alliance of opposition parties. His coalition broke apart in 1979, however, and Mrs Gandhi returned to power.

In 1984 she ordered the storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar to flush out Sikh militants pursuing self-rule for Punjab.

Two months later, she was assassinated by her own Sikh bodyguards. About 1000 people, mostly Sikhs, died in the four days of rioting which followed her murder. Her eldest son, Rajiv, succeeded her as prime minister. He too was assassinated in 1991.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 This is the best time to get started in a new direction...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You may find that it's easier to just let things slide today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You have to take direct action today - otherwise, you may find that you are way behind the pack!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to take great care around the house, or you may find that little things pile up into huge projects.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You are having too much fun to sweat the small stuff today - and that is just how it should be!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Try something really different today - make a splash! If it involves romance, you can really impress someone...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your artistic side is dominant today, so create something beautiful or soak up some culture.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 This is not the time for bold action; instead, you need to sit tight and wait patiently for things to get better.

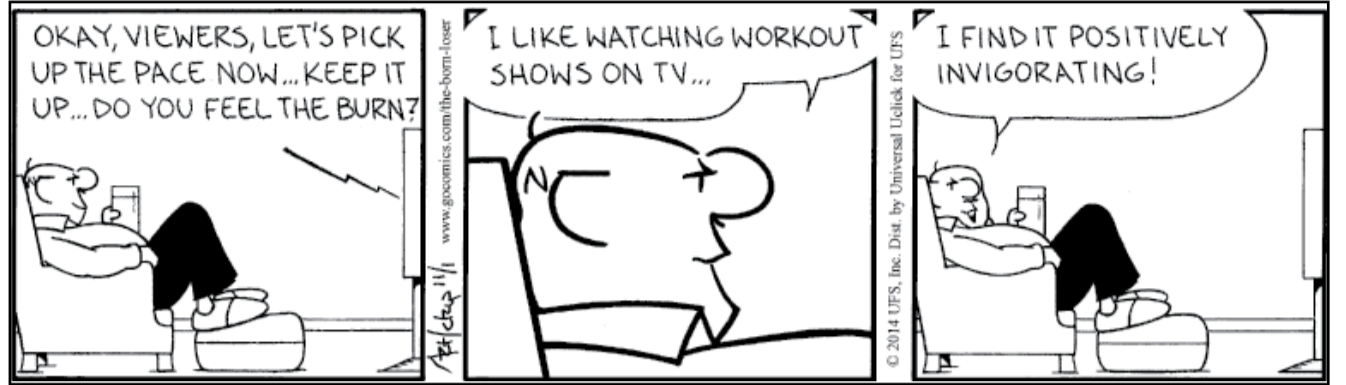
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You need to deal with someone whose sense of fairness is wildly different from your own.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to spark the fire today - things are looking good, but without your initiative, they may stay frozen in place.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Embrace a different culture today - you need to mix it up a little if you want to expand those horizons!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to be wary of your partner or partners today - not that they are set to betray you, just that their assumptions may be quite different from your own.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

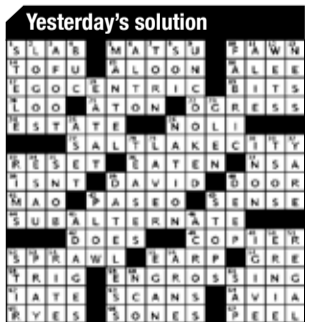
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Basil-based sauce; 6- Leguminous plants; 11- Adult male; 14- Greased; 15- Defamation; 16- Mine find; 17- Massage; 18- Group of musicians; 20- Extra-wide shoe size; 21- Fraternal org.; 23- Really bother; 24- Sacred song; 26- Circuitous; 28- Exclusively; 30- Live it up; 31- Clear as ...; 32- Shoe ties; 33- Paris possessive; 36- Actress Bonet; 37- Lute of India; 38- Rocket launcher; 39- Beast of burden; 40- Medium of exchange; 41- Tirades; 42- Whispered sweet nothings; 43- Sounds; 44- Quantities; 47- Portals; 48- Hawks; 49- Steals; 50- Golfer Ernie; 53- Evening of Oct. 31; 56- Wearies; 58- New Haven collegian; 59- Pizazz; 60- Prepares for publication or release; 61- Compass pt.; 62- Au contraire!; 63- Floating platforms;

DOWN: 1- Prod; 2- ...kleine Nachtmusik; 3- ...in Seattle; 4- Leaves in a bag; 5- Atypical; 6- Plant flower; 7- Cork's place; 8- 1970 Jackson 5 hit; 9- O.T. book; 10- Arm coverings; 11- Maxim; 12- Chilean pianist Claudio; 13- ...foot oil; 19- Travel on water; 22- Thickness; 25- Actress Ward; 26- Rot; 27- Always; 28- Room in a casa; 29- Kimono ties; 30- Like most movies; 32- Queues; 33- Like Arial and Helvetica, but not Courier; 34- Ferrara family; 35- Disrespectful back talk; 37- Chimney residue; 38- Neet rival; 40- Rainy season; 41- Cock; 42- Select; 43- San Francisco's ... Hill; 44- Remains of a fire; 45- Repasts; 46- Stan's pal; 47- "Tiny Bubbles" singer; 49- Workout count; 51- Riga resident; 52- Flat sound; 54- Court; 55- CPR specialist; 57- Mrs. McKinley



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XINHUA



Nasser Al-Attiyah celebrates his victory

# Al-Attiyah wins 2nd Dakar Rally, Coma wins 5th on bike

day, leaving the Atacama Desert inland to Calama, Chile.

On that day, Al-Attiyah more than doubled his lead to 28 minutes as his nearest rivals, 2009 champion Giniel de Villiers of South Africa, made a navigation mistake, and newcomer Yazeed Al Rajhi of Saudi Arabia, drove more than 200 kilometers, nearly half the stage, without brakes.

“It’s fantastic because we’ve dominated the race from the beginning and were able to control the rally throughout

AL-ATTIYAH

Al Rajhi dropped out the next day, while de Villiers finished second overall, more than 35 minutes behind Al-Attiyah. Krzysztof Holowczyc of Poland earned third, more than 1 1/2 hours back.

Al-Attiyah won the Dakar in 2011 in his seventh attempt and, after two aborts, was third last year.

“I’m delighted I’ve won,” he said. “It’s a really special moment for me. It’s fantastic because we’ve dominated the race from the beginning and were able to control the rally throughout.”

Asked what to expect next year, he replied: “Just continue to win more.”

He won the first stage out of Buenos Aires on Jan. 4, only to lose it when he was penalized two minutes for speeding on a link. As he won five stages through Argentina, Bolivia and Chile, he watched his rivals fall away. Defending champion and Mini teamma-

te Nani Roma suffered a mechanical problem just three kilometers in, lost hours, and lasted until the 10th stage. Stephane Peterhansel, the five-time car winner, lost hours on the second stage; 2010 champ Carlos Sainz went out in the fifth.

Marc Coma of Spain won a much more competitive bike race, also taking control like Al-Attiyah, on Tuesday when fellow front-runner Joan Barreda’s bike was damaged.

Coma returned to Buenos Aires nearly 17 minutes ahead of second-place Paulo Goncalves of Portugal. Toby Price of Australia was third on debut.

Coma’s fifth bike title tied him with Frenchmen Cyril Despres and Cyril Neveu, one shy of the bike record held by Peterhansel.

Despres, with whom Coma has tussled for the bike title for the last decade, swapped to a car this year and finished 34th, 15 1/2 hours off the pace. AP

# Ronaldo scores 2 as Madrid wins 3-0 at Getafe to keep lead

**CRISTIANO** Ronaldo scored twice in the second half of a 3-0 win at Getafe yesterday as Real Madrid stayed top of the Spanish league at the halfway point.

Madrid started slowly

three days after its defense of the Copa del Rey title was ended by Atletico Madrid, but its talented attack eventually came through.

Karim Benzema dribbled to set up Ronaldo

in the 63rd minute, and four minutes later Gareth Bale tapped in James Rodriguez’s cross to make it 2-0.

Ronaldo got his second in the game and league-leading 28th goal of the

season when he headed in another cross from Rodriguez in the 79th.

Madrid has a four-point lead over Barcelona which visits Deportivo La Coruna later. Madrid also has a game in hand. AP



AP PHOTO

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opinion

Insight  
Paulo Barbosa



ENHANCE MOBILITY, CURB TRAFFIC

The transportation system is a critical issue for Macau, given the region's limited size. There is a need to create a convenient public transport system that counters our over-dependence on private vehicles. Valuable steps in that direction, namely the setting up of the Light Rail Train (LRT) system, are being taken. But more can be done in order to preserve good traffic flow and reduce pervasive air pollution.

In the Chinese mainland some cities seem to be aware of the problem they are facing. The neighboring city of Shenzhen was the most recent Chinese city to announce a car purchasing restriction that requires prospective buyers to acquire new car plates by lottery or auction.

Since the scheme began at the beginning of the year, 100,000 new vehicle plates are being allocated annually for the city (including 20,000 electric cars). Half of those plates are distributed by auction, with the other half through a lottery.

Besides that, vehicles with non-Shenzhen plates will be forbidden during rush hours on weekdays if they are not from Hong Kong or Macau. Xinhua news agency cites a municipal government statement indicating that there are more than 3.1 million vehicles in Shenzhen with 4 million expected in 2016. This "will prolong the average evening traffic commute from 55 minutes in 2014 to 92 minutes in 2016."

Shenzhen became the eighth Chinese city to adopt purchase restrictions to tackle rising congestion and pollution, following Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Guiyang, Shijiazhuang and Hangzhou.

Cities worldwide are adopting similar measures to curb traffic and pollution. For example, in Lisbon, Portugal, municipal authorities introduced a scheme that specially targets older and more pollutant vehicles. Since January 15, cars with a license plate issued before 1996 are prohibited from entering some downtown areas every weekday between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. The affected districts are called "Low Emission Zones" and two of them have been established. The historical core of the city (or the parts of it that are not reserved for pedestrians already) is only accessible to cars with a license plate issued after 2000. The infractions will be punished with a MOP250 fine and the over-zealous Lisbon Municipal Police will be responsible for the scheme's enforcement.

In the German capital, Berlin, the rules are stricter and can only be implemented in a prosperous country: only the vehicles that abide by the Euro 4 rule (those made after 2010) are allowed to circulate downtown.

Each city must find its own solutions to create a reasonable and healthy transportation system. The examples I gave show several options: Shenzhen tries to limit the number of new cars by issuing a limited number of licenses, Lisbon tries to get the older cars out of the market by not allowing them in parts of the city. There are also parking solutions that can be implemented in order to limit car traffic but enhance mobility. These types of schemes may not even be harmful for car sellers. If authorities favor car renewal and the economy is strong, they will always have a market.

What seems evident to me is that Macau must do something to address the issue. Official data shows that the region – comprising an area of 29.5 square kilometers and approximately 450 kilometers of road – had 237,503 vehicles in circulation by the end of October 2014. That number is growing by the day and the time we all take to get from one place to another is increasing. The air we breathe near the roads where traffic is heavier has become unbearable, as pedestrians can feel whenever they pass Rua do Campo or Avenida da Praia Grande, only to give two examples. As many experts point out, given its size, Macau could become an example in terms of green transportation. To close our eyes on this issue, ignoring what's being done in other cities nearby and around the world, is not wise.

THE BUZZ NOTES, PHOTOS OF JACQUELINE ONASSIS AUCTIONED FOR \$28,400

A few dozen pieces of personal correspondence by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, along with photographs of the former first lady in Palm Beach, sold at a Florida auction Saturday for a total of USD28,400. The items up for bidding at Palm Beach Modern Auctions included Onassis' handwritten notes to interior designer Richard Keith Langham and Bill Hamilton, then

the design director at Carolina Herrera. Onassis corresponded with both men about clothes and furnishings she was buying from the mid-1980s through her death in 1994. Letters written by Onassis rarely appear at auction, and the auction house fielded "tremendous interest" in the roughly 20 lots available, said co-owner Wade Terwiller.

Wind-starved ocean racers crawl toward Malacca Strait



The four leading maxi yachts, Raggamuffin, left, Loyal, Wild Oats, second right, and Comanche, right, lead the fleet out of Sydney Harbour during the start of the Sydney Hobart yacht race

OFFSHORE sailors' biggest enemy – the lack of wind – stalled Volvo Ocean Race boats as they approached one of the most challenging parts of the nine-month event yesterday.

The six-strong fleet has been crawling along at speeds of around five knots or less for much of the past week as it edged through the Bay of Bengal toward the Malacca Strait, leading into the South China Sea on the third leg of the nine-month, 38,739 nautical mile race.

The boats, Volvo Ocean 65s, are capable of top speeds of around 40 knots (about 46 mph, 74 kph), and the lack of wind pressure has been frustrating for all 58 sailors making their way from Abu Dhabi to Sanya, Hainan Island, on the southern-most tip of China.

They are now forecast to arrive three or four days behind schedule on Jan. 27

or 28, having left the United Arab Emirates on Jan. 3. They were expected to enter the Malacca Strait late yesterday or early on Monday.

Dongfeng Race Team, aiming to become the first team from China to win a leg in the 41-year-old event, led by 65.9 nautical miles from Spanish boat MAPFRE at 0940 GMT yesterday. Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing was third, just under 5 nautical miles further adrift. The leaders have just under 1,700 nautical miles to sail in this third stage of nine.

Dongfeng, Abu Dhabi and Team Brunel (Netherlands) led the overall standings on four points apiece after the first two legs of the round-the-world odyssey, which started in Alicante, Spain on Oct. 4 and is scheduled to finish in Gothenburg, Sweden on June 27.

The fleet is missing one of the starting boats, Team

Vestas Wind (Denmark), which was forced to suspend racing midway through the second leg from Cape Town to Abu Dhabi, after running into a reef in the Indian Ocean on Nov. 29.

It was retrieved just before Christmas and is to be rebuilt by Persico boatyard in Bergamo, Italy, before a planned re-entry into the race's final two legs from early June.

The next four to five days of the race, in which the remaining fleet weaves through the notorious Malacca Strait, are likely to be some of the most hazardous of the race.

The 500 nautical mile long Strait is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world and apart from huge tankers and stationery fishing vessels, the race boats will have to dodge man-made debris deposited in the waters separating the Indonesian island of Sumatra and Malaysia.

To add to the navigators' challenges, the wind conditions can be extremely fickle.

Will Oxley, the Australian navigator on board fifth-placed Team Alvamedica, the joint Turkish and American entry, explained. "It's a tricky place to sail at the best of times and it pays to be prepared, even accepting there is always an element of randomness about success in the Strait," he told The Associated Press in a written message from his boat. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



A pedestrian wearing an Asian conical hat walks past signage for Apple Inc. outside a store in Zhuhai

| Station                       | Air quality      |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Roadside                      | 100-130 Moderate |
| High Density Residential Area | 100-130 Moderate |
| Ambient                       | 90-120 Moderate  |

WORLD BRIEFS



**YEMEN** Shiite Houthi rebels abduct the chief of staff to Yemen's president in the center of the capital, Sanaa, starkly highlighting the unrest plaguing the Arab world's poorest country. The rebels, who have taken over large swaths of Yemen, claim responsibility for kidnapping Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak.

**SYRIA** A Russian initiative to host peace talks this month between the Syrian government and its opponents appears to be unraveling as prominent Syrian opposition figures shun the prospective negotiations amid deep distrust of Moscow and concerns the talks hold no chance of success.

**AFGHANISTAN** Afghan security services arrest five men in connection with the massacre at a Pakistan military school last month that killed 150 people, most of them children. The men, all non-Afghans, helped support the Dec. 16 assault by the Taliban at the Army Public School and College in the city of Peshawar.

**INDONESIA** High waves and strong currents in the Java Sea again prevented Indonesian navy divers from accessing the fuselage and what is believed to be the cockpit from the AirAsia plane that crashed three weeks ago, officials said. A team of 15 navy divers tried to get to the wreckage to examine it and calculate its weight, but failed to reach it due to the unfavorable conditions, said Suryadi Bambang Supriyadi, director of operations for Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency.

**UK** Eurostar passenger services have resumed through the Channel Tunnel between England and France after a smoldering load on a truck triggered an alarm that shut down services and caused severe disruption for thousands of passengers.

**USA** A delegation of congressional Democrats began a three-day visit to Cuba on Saturday to discuss expectations for the normalization of relations between the United States and the island nation.