



### SOCIAL SERVICES FACE LABOR SHORTAGE

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Macau Conscience is collecting signatures from residents demanding an apology from Fong Chi Keong over his remarks on domestic violence

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**INDONESIA** An AirAsia plane that crashed last month with 162 people on board was climbing at an abnormally high rate, then plunged and suddenly disappeared from radar, Indonesia's transport minister said yesterday. Ignasius Jonan told Parliament that radar data showed the Airbus A320 was climbing at about 6,000 feet a minute before it disappeared on Dec. 28.

**CHINA's** leadership has issued guidelines requiring universities to strengthen ideological controls in classrooms and telling professors to champion Marxism, traditional culture and socialist core values. The orders come as President Xi Jinping tightens his grip on political power and cracks down on the encroachment of supposed Western values such as press freedom and civil society groups.

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AD

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ALEXIS TAM | SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR

# Human resources shortage to be countered with overseas specialists

Brook Yang

IN response to the human resources shortage plaguing Macau's social service sector, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said that Macau has the resources to import specialists from overseas to resolve short-term needs.

After visiting two civic-run centers for children and adults with intellectual disabilities yesterday, the secretary acknowledged that "all aspects of Macau's social services need to be improved." He also drew attention to the lack of human resources, which he claimed "shouldn't be an obstacle."

"The [lack of] human resources is not an excuse or even a reason for our social services to remain insufficient and stagnant. It is unacceptable to let that affect our provision of social services," he stressed. "We must provide scholarships to develop local specialists and of course, if there are not enough local practitioners existing, we must introduce them from outside."

During his visit to a daycare center for mentally disabled children operated by the Parents Association of Families of the Mentally Disabled, the secretary was told that the available services for those in need is far from sufficient due to a shortage in specialized caretakers.

The parents stressed that children with special needs receive an insufficient number of hours in special education, while regular schools refused to accept them. Moreover, for the group's focus on artistic, recreational and sports activities – regarded as crucial to their intellectual and emotional development – demand is always surpassing supply.

"If these children are not provided enough help to develop, society will eventually have to pay double to triple the costs and efforts," one of the parents, Tang Kwok Kwong, indicated. "Society's attitude and acceptance towards them is very important."

Mr Tang said that the family has knocked on many doors of



local schools, but they remain closed to special needs children. "Some advanced countries have carried out integrative education for the mentally disabled students, where they can engage and socialize with normal children," he explained, further mentioning that he expects the local education system to adopt the same concept.

The association's executive manager, Ms Liu Sio Wa, added that their services are always interrupted when specialists from Hong Kong or Taiwan need to

return home after a period of time. "We suggested that local universities launch specialized majors to develop local practitioners who can cater to different needs, ranging from physical rehabilitation and caring for autism, to special education," she said.

Ms Liu further stressed that in order to stabilize the service supply, the government should help provide better conditions and welfare to personnel employed in the disability services field so that the service institu-

tions can attract – and, more importantly, retain – a greater number of employees. "It also needs to give space to build an artistic development center for the disabled; this is a very important concept," she stressed.

A lack of social enterprises and vocational positions for special needs individuals to engage with is another concern among families. "My son doesn't want to rely on our family to offer him a job position; he said he wants to test his abilities in society," said another parent, Ms

Ho. "Also there are no opportunities for further education which would mean he could develop working skills."

The parents also complain that the families' burdens are aggravated when the mentally disabled adults grow older. "The government will pay special attention to 'double-aging families' where both a mentally-disabled grownup and their parents are living into advanced age," noted Alexis Tam, adding that "the government is stepping up to make a ten-year plan for developing social service facilities" and "will not forget disadvantaged groups."

With the new government having held office for precisely one month, the Secretary has visited various service facilities and organizations. Tam said these organizations are "all facing a similar severe shortage in human resources."

When inspecting the public hospital, he announced a recruitment plan of over 500 new staff for the public medical system. This immediately aroused concern from private clinics, as that they may see a staff turnover and will therefore have to compete for human resources with public hospitals.

Alexis Tam vowed that the government will provide better conditions for special education teachers, and suggested that recruiting from neighboring regions is a necessary solution to extending various special services in order to meet society's growing demands.

## Funding pattern for social service providers needs adjustment

MACAU'S government needs to adjust the pattern of how it has supported the social service sector, as current models might no longer be helpful, said the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam.

He revealed that "significant changes" may be made in the government's subvention models to the social service sector, and discussions to draft a new scheme will take place over the next two months.

"Macau's economic and social condi-

tions now are very different from a decade ago. Facing the increasing costs in human resources and rental price, the government may need to adjust [its subvention] in these aspects accordingly," he explained.

After visiting a training factory operated by the Fuhong Society of Macau for mentally disabled adults yesterday, Tam told the media that the government can consider investing in or purchasing existing industrial buildings in order to pro-

vide venues for social enterprises.

The non-profit organization provides vocational training and job positions in its social enterprises to those with mild or moderate mental handicaps. As managers reflected that the organization's labor force is always stable but its professional team is suffering from a staff turnover, Tam reiterated that professionals need to be imported from outside, but establishing an exit mechanism for them is a precondition.

"All the problems I've heard from the sectors are attributed to two major issues, which are the shortages of land and human resources," he stressed, concluding a series of visits to medical, educational and social service institutions recently.

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Vanessa Moore

**S**ITUATED on almost opposite sides of the world, at first glance it might not seem like there's much in common between Macau and Ireland. But actually you'd be wrong. As two small places with colonial pasts located on the edge of Europe and China respectively, both see themselves as gateways to larger markets and their own continents. Aside from this, each is making a concerted effort to promote their individual tourism industries, with prospects ripe for increased cooperation.

With this in mind, yesterday the Irish Minister of State for Finance Simon Harris, together with newly inaugurated Irish Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau Peter Ryan, plus a delegation including Irish Chamber of Commerce of Macau Chairman Niall Murray, made their first ever visit to the city. Following a meeting with the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, and prior to a lunch with some members of the Irish Chamber of Commerce of Macau at the Military Club, both took some time out to meet the press and explain more about their hopes for further integration with the city as well as China. "I'm delighted to be the first Irish minister to visit Macau. I'm here as part of my visit to both HK and Macau", Mr Harris stated.

According to the minister, three areas where Ireland and Macau can mutually benefit are trade and financial services, education, and of course, tourism. Combining both the education and tourism sectors, Ireland is especially looking to promote hospitality, management and tourism courses in Macau due to its strong tertiary educational system as well as student exchanges. "I outlined to the Secretary [of Administration and Justice] that there may be opportunities that we could learn from each other in relation to education and

**In Ireland we very much pride ourselves on our hospitality sector and that is something that in Macau there is a great pride in as well**

SIMON HARRIS

# Irish minister and new consul arrive on first ever visit



New Irish Consul General to HK and Macau Peter Ryan, left, Minister of State for Finance Simon Harris, center, and Irish Chamber of Commerce Chairman Niall Murray, right

tourism", he explained. "Ireland prides itself on having a number of excellent third level courses in hospitality, management, tourism; a lot of areas that the administration in Macau have a keen interest in exploring here".

Likewise, just as the city is doing, Ireland is also hoping to enhance its tourism offering by promoting itself as a tourist destination to Macau. "I think we both have a similar determination to increase our tourism sector. In Ireland we very much pride ourselves on our hospitality sector and that is something that in Macau there is a great pride in as well", Mr Harris commented.

Having just spoken at this year's Asian Financial Forum, as the first minister appointed in 20 years who is responsible for international financial services, he is also eager to outline Ireland's new financial services strategy following the Celtic Tiger's economic recovery after the Eurozone's economic crisis. According to his figures, Ireland now has the fastest growing economy in Europe and has more than 200 companies working in IFS employing more than 35,000 people. Mr Harris wants to show Asian investors that the country is open for business by creating an environment for them to diversify and enter the European market. "We believe there are opportunities for Asian funds to invest in Ireland. We believe we can be a gateway for Asia to access the Eurozone, the EU, and as the

only English-speaking country in the Eurozone we think that's an environment that many Asian investors will feel comfortable in", he explained.

Following Irish President Michael Higgins' visit to Beijing in December, in the words of Irish Chamber of Commerce Chairman Niall Murray, the country is currently experiencing a "sweet spot" in its relations with China and the government is particularly keen on building relationships with Macau next. This was the reason behind the creation of new HK-Macau Consul General Peter Ryan's full-time post. According to Mr Harris, "I hope that my visit today together with the creation of a [...] Consulate is a real sign of our commitment and eagerness to improve both economic and cultural links with China, and I think we can certainly offer China and indeed Macau the opportunity as a gateway to Europe and we look forward to exploring those links".

Working together with the consul, the chamber aims to help Irish businesses compete here and increase awareness of the city for the Irish market back home especially in terms of hospitality and goods and services. According to the minister, Ireland has a notable agricultural industry and a competitive advantage in its family-owned farms producing "high-end, high quality goods" and food and dairy products. "I think there's massive opportunities for Ireland in relation to food and drink", he stated. "I

think the whole area of agriculture and agricultural produce has a lot to offer".

Similarly, Consul General Mr Ryan also stated that in both Macau and China there's a strong demand for foodstuffs like milk as evidenced by the fact that 10-15% of all China's infant milk formula comes from Ireland. Consequently, the chamber is now aiming to get Irish companies to branch out and look east toward these markets, as well as to promote other Irish products like crystal and linen. "I think there's a huge potential for our people in Ireland to develop a foot-

**We've been very passionate... to increase awareness of Macau to Irish companies and let them know this is a potentially wonderful market for quality goods and services**

NIALL MURRAY

hold in Macau. We have a lot of entrepreneurial talent", Mr Harris remarked. "Whilst we have a small in number Irish community here in Macau, it's clear that they are influential and passionate about both Macau and Ireland".

Many of the local Irish community also work in the casino industry. "We created the Irish Chamber because we realized that when there's a lot of bids for casino contracts and goods and services being offered in the market, there are huge numbers of representatives from other European countries, very few from Ireland", Chamber Chairman Niall Murray stated. "We've been very passionate in trying to get together this small group to create the Irish Chamber to increase awareness of Macau to Irish companies and let them know this is a potentially wonderful market for quality goods and services... with regards to hospitality products which are gourmet foods. Gourmet foods are huge".

Lastly, the Emerald Isle has its own distinctive culture and Mr Murray is also keen on introducing it to Macau. For the upcoming annual St Patrick's Day celebrations this March 17, he is hoping to bring Irish music and dance to the city by inviting a group to participate at an event embedded into the Venetian's Carnevale festivities. With the prospect of a glass or two of Guinness and some Gaelic song and dance, Macau's residents are sure to welcome the Irish with open arms.

## EDUCATION | REGIONAL COOPERATION

## Language center expands to China

**T**he Portuguese Language Teaching and Research Centre, established at the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM), will start providing training to teachers in mainland universities. With several publications and activities to be launched, this year is expected to be a "turning point" for the center.

The institute's president, Carlos André, revealed that resources are being directed to mainland China, where around 50

professors will be allocated to several universities.

"In Macau we will train Portuguese teachers working for the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, but we are working mainly in China. We started to provide training to Chinese universities in March, he said.

Carlos André, who headed the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra before coming to Macau in 2013, argues that teaching Portuguese in China demands a



strong educational background.

"They [the teachers] report concrete obstacles. How should the structural difference between the languages be negotiated? How do you transition from oral speech to writing? Only specialized personnel can answer these questions," he said.

To address these issues, the Portuguese Language Teaching and Research Centre is preparing short-term training programs in the Chinese cities of Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Hainan,

Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Dalian, Xian and Tianjin.

Carlos André revealed that the center is the result of the government's perceived need to establish a "strategic option" in order to enhance the region's role as a platform between China and Portuguese speaking countries.

Other training courses are being finalised for Chinese diplomats and IPM workers. According to Carlos André, the number of Portuguese teaching programs is expected to increase: "We should bear in mind that ten years ago there were six tertiary institutions in China teaching Portuguese, now there are 26. There's a growing interest." **MDT/Lusa**

## CRIME

## Man breaks into 12 cars in 11 days

The Public Security Police (PSP) have detained a man alleged to have broken into 12 cars in Taipa since January 9. Information suggests that PSP officers were patrolling near the Altira resort in Taipa yesterday morning when they spotted the man. He appeared to be acting suspiciously and was peeking into the windows of several vehicles. The officers then decided to follow him and finally intercepted him at Rua de Seng Tou, where he was caught committing the crime. After taking him into custody, the authorities found a 28-centimeter long knife, a screwdriver and some cash in his possession. The man admitted that he was from the mainland and entered Macau illegally last October, only to then lose money gambling.

## Property developer calls for regulation of rental properties

**U**ng Choi Kun, president of the Association of Property Agents and Realty Developers of Macau, said on a TDM radio show yesterday that the Macau government needs to regulate the domestic rentals market through legislation while establishing an entity to handle rental disputes.

Ung said that Macau is

currently handling lease-related issues with the relevant articles in the Civil Code. Those articles have not been amended since the establishment of the MSAR and, according to him, are outdated. There is also no public entity to monitor the issue.

"It has been a long time since the [real estate] industry started advocating

for the legislation of rental regulation. As for whether it should be legislated independently or to simply amend the Civil Code, both opinions have their supporters. [But] it would be better if it is legislated independently," he said.

The president suggested that there are two major issues on which the legislation should focus. One is

the need to verify the handwriting of both parties in a leasing contract so that it is legally effective. The other is, he believes, the need to establish a public entity to handle disputes between landlords and tenants.

Moreover, Ung said that, owing to the downturn in gaming revenue growth and the implementation of 24-hour border crossing, the apartment rental market has cooled down a little bit. The rental of commercial units, however, has not been affected.

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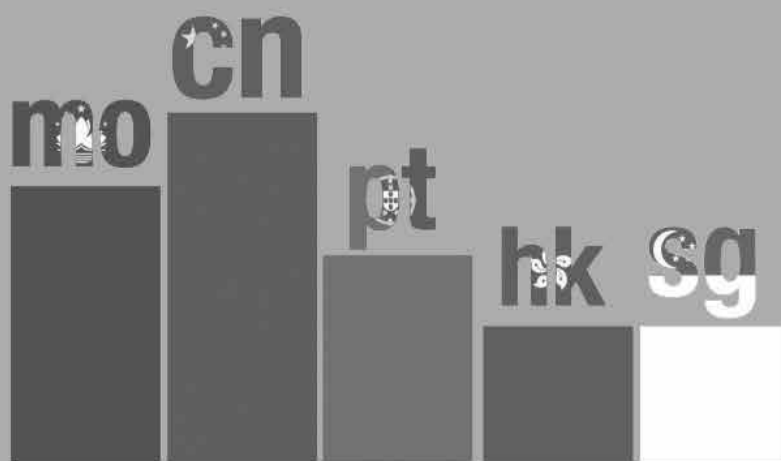
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João Pedro Lau

CEILIDH NIGHT

# School fosters traditional Scottish music and dance

**S**PINNING and dancing with a group of primary six (P6) students in Gaelic music, it would be easy to think you're in Scotland when you're actually in the hall of the Macau Anglican College (MAC), taking part in the Ceilidh Night on Friday.

"Originally the word Ceilidh descended from the Gaelic word for 'gathering' or 'party'. It could be anything, incorporating singing, dancing, stories and poetry. However, these days when people think of a Ceilidh they think of a fun filled night of dancing and music. In Scotland they are a popular choice for weddings and other social gatherings. Most people do not know the dances anymore however, so a 'caller' is usually provided to guide people through the dances and make sure everyone participates," MAC explained to the Times.

After a week of learning and practicing, the P6 Ceilidh Night was an opportunity for MAC's P6 students to share with the school community what they had acquired from a weeklong workshop prepared by several Scottish teachers. Both primary 5 and primary 6 students in MAC have joined the workshops, taking place between January 5 and 16. The workshops, co-sponsored by MAC and the Macau Foundation, were run by two professional musicians and experienced workshop leaders, Kate Badcock and Roddy

Johnston from Scotland, and were organized by Fearon Education (Macao). During the workshops, the instructors integrated the learning of geography, history, literature and culture into the music and dancing.

Around a hundred MAC students, teachers and parents joined the Ceilidh Night on Friday. The students sang several folk songs and took part in the folk dancing. They also invited their parents, teachers

and their principal to participate in two dances.

After the event, the Times spoke to Kate Badcock and Roddy Johnston. They said that, around a year ago, they received the invitation to share their music and dancing with the MAC children and to be able to teach the students a new culture.

They have worked with both the primary five and six students and said that they have enjoyed the experience. "What we want is to put the music and dancing in some sort of cultural context. We give the children songs to sing and dances to dance. So we try to put a bit of history and a bit of singing into it... We actually talked quite a lot about what life was like when the songs were written. [We also] talked about work: what works there were and what industries there were in Scotland," said Ms Badcock.

"The reaction has been great from the children. It's been very humbling to see that they picked up the songs. We have been doing songs in English but also songs that have been partially in the Scots language as well. The [students] went with it.

They picked up the words and I think they enjoyed it," said Mr Johnston.

Moreover, the two musicians reflected that the students were very engaged in learning facts about Scotland and many discussions on issues related to the region were organized.

They also said that they noticed an interesting fact in that Scottish and Chinese music share some similarities in terms of their melodic structure. In fact, when they played a piece of Scottish music to the students as a tone and did not tell them what song it was, they said that at least half of the students were convinced that it was the tune of Chinese music. Badcock said that it is because both Scottish and Chinese music use the pentatonic musical scale.

In terms of the conception of the project, the Times also spoke to Zhang Lijia from Fearon Education. Being a former staff member of the school, Ms Zhang said that MAC has the reputation of bringing interesting and unique projects to its students. "I know quite a few people in Europe doing music and I know they are very experienced in running these kinds of workshops in England. And

I think something like this can happen in Macau as well. I also know that the Macau government is trying to bring in different kinds of workshops into schools, so I thought this would be a good idea," she said. "It's just to diversify the kind of education experience Macau students have... It could be a growing thing in Macau too."

From her observation, she believes that the MAC students have really enjoyed their time spent engaging in something they feel relaxed about. "In the discussion time when they explained the history [of Scotland], there were a lot of kids asking questions. I was surprised by some of the kids asking sophisticated questions, especially on the topic of war," she said.

Furthermore, Ms Zhang believes that the workshop is an experience that can also be brought to other local schools so that students can have an intercultural experience. She also thinks that children can benefit from learning in a way that they enjoy, which is what she saw in the Ceilidh workshops in MAC. "Personally, I would love to see more of that in Macau," she said.

**The Macau government is trying to bring in different kinds of workshops into schools. So I thought this would be a good idea**

ZHANG LIJIA

# Protesters to demand an apology from Fong Chi Keong

João Pedro Lau

**M**ACAU Conscience is planning a march on January 24 at 3pm to demand the abolition of government appointed seats in the Legislative Assembly (AL) after the speech made last week by lawmaker Fong Chi Keong on domestic violence which caused outrage in the local community.

The group established a booth yesterday outside the Red Market to collect signatures from residents demanding an apology from Fong Chi Keong. Sulu Sou, a member of Macau Conscience, said that the “ab-



Sulu Sou (center)

surd comments” made by Fong have led to the co-signing of more than 6,000 residents to an open letter, which reflects the seriousness of the issue.

He said that during the January 24 march, expected to begin at Tap Seac Square, participants will be demanding Fong’s apology for his comments on domestic violence. He also hopes that the MSAR government will implement constitutional reform and abolish government appointed seats in the AL. These constitutional reforms are regarded as crucial in ensuring that lawmakers are held fully accountable to residents.

“We call on all residents who are concerned with domestic violence, who are demanding

**Fong’s comment was an attempt to bring back to Macau some feudalistic concepts**

SULU SOU

zero-tolerance against domestic violence or who are dissatisfied with the comments made by government appointed lawmakers, to come forward to give a clear message that [they] want to abolish the appointed seats”, he said.

Mr Sou said that even though Fong is entitled to enjoy freedom of speech, it does not include the freedom to incite hatred or to promote violence. “Fong’s comment was an attempt to bring back to Macau some feudalistic concepts. As a public figure and a lawmaker, regardless of what he is representing, he should clarify whether these comments reflect his personal beliefs, come from his experience, or if it was

simply just a slip of the tongue,” he said, adding that the Chief Executive Chui Sai On, who originally appointed Fong, is also responsible for the incident.

During the protest on Saturday, participants will first gather at Tap Seac Square and then march to the office of Fong Chi Keong before arriving at the Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre. There may also be an assembly at the Nautical Centre, but Sou said that it depends on the number of participants.

When debating domestic violence legislation in the AL last week, Fong made several controversial comments, like: “You cannot clap with only one hand. It always takes two hands. [In cases where] the wife is chewing the husband’s ear off, if the wife did not talk back when the husband reprimanded her, the husband would not have beaten her.” He also said: “I do not understand what sexual assault is between husband and wife. There is no sexual assault in marriage.”

## FONG CHI KEONG ADMITS EXAGGERATION

**LAWMAKER FONG** Chi Keong admitted yesterday that his comment “love you more, beat you more” is “exaggerating a little bit”. According to All About Macau, the government-appointed lawmaker stressed that he is against domestic violence, but insisted his opposition to the zero-tolerance attitude towards domestic violence.

## PASSERS-BY SHOW SUPPORT FOR PROTEST

**SEVERAL RESIDENTS** walking past the Macau Conscience booth yesterday told the media they were angry about lawmaker Fong Chi Keong’s comments on domestic violence. Ms Leong, a local in her 40s, said that it is a shame for Macau to have a lawmaker like him. “[Fong], as a lawmaker, should not make comments like this. What if it is the

wife that abuses the husband? How do you think the husband will feel? It is not only about us ladies; men should also come forward [to participate in the protest] if they have a sense of righteousness,” she said. Another resident, Mr Leong, also said that he was unsettled by the comments due to his belief that “it is wrong to beat one’s wife”.

# Works suspended at City of Dreams after fatal accident

**A** 29-year-old local worker died yesterday around 11 a.m., after falling 10 meters with a lifting machine he was operating at the City of Dreams construction site.

Information suggests that the man was pinned under the machine on the ground following the acci-

dent and had to be rescued by firefighters. He was found dead at the scene.

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) released a statement yesterday afternoon, saying that it has investigated the accident and suspects that the lifting machine was overloaded, causing it to tip to its



side before falling to the ground.

The bureau has already instructed the contractor

to cease all operations involving lifting machines on the site and to conduct a thorough review of the equipment and relevant procedures. It has also recommended that workers be educated on industrial safety practices. It will continue to investigate the accident and will lawfully

pursue the responsible individual.

Cheong Man Fun, president of the Macau Construction Industry General Union, told TDM that there is still no official training for workers using construction vehicles. He hopes that the government can invest more effort into

promoting the issue. “Currently, the government is providing some certifications [regarding construction vehicles]. However, these are only for locals. For non-resident workers, [the certifications] are still not available,” he said.

The Times contacted the City of Dreams for comment but was unable to obtain a reply before publication. **JPL**

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## ROBOTICS

## Japan to sell talking robots that won't try to make sense



Japanese android expert Hiroshi Ishiguro, left, talks with new talking robot Sota, right, Android robot Otonaroid, second left, and other talking robots CommU, center and second right

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

**T**HE scientist behind a new talking robot in Japan says people should stop expecting robots to understand them, and instead try to chime in with robotic conversations.

Hiroshi Ishiguro's 28-centimeter tall button-eyed Sota, which stands for "social talker," is programmed to mainly talk with a fellow robot, and won't be trying too hard to understand human speech — the major, and often frustrating, drawback of companion robots.

Sota, shown to reporters at a Tokyo museum yesterday, goes on sale in July at under 100,000 yen (USD850) each. To fully enjoy its features, one would have to buy at least two of them, although people can buy just one.

"Don't stop at just two. Please buy three or four," said Ishiguro, a professor at Osaka University, who has previously shown a variety of robots that look eerily human, including one that's his double.

Ishiguro also demonstrated a more elaborate robot CommU, which stands for communication unity. It will cost five times as much as Sota.

The news conference to introduce Sota and CommU was led by two other humanoids, which appeared to talk with the two newest additions to Japan's robot pantheon.

Robot maker Vstone, which simplified Ishiguro's research to come up with commercial products, expects to sell 3,000 Sota robots in the first year, mostly to businesses. They could be used for tasks such as drawing attention to products on display.

Japan is a leading maker of robots, and its repertoire has ranged from industrial robots to whimsical toys.

Internet and telecommunications company Softbank Corp. will start selling Pepper, a humanoid it claims is designed to read human emotions, in Japan next month for 198,000 yen (\$1,700), possibly heralding the era of everyday robots here. **AP**

## PHARMACEUTICALS

## Glaxo, Pfizer blamed for high prices on vaccines in poor nations

Makiko Kitamura

**G**LAXOSMITHKLINE Plc and Pfizer Inc. are overcharging for vaccines in developing countries, Doctors Without Borders said, leaving some nations unable to afford shots that reduce child mortality.

Lack of transparency and scant competition has led to "wildly different" pricing by country that doesn't always reflect ability to pay, the medical aid charity also known as Medecins Sans Frontieres said in a report yesterday. The group called on Glaxo and Pfizer to cut the price of the pneumococcal vaccine, which guards against a disease that kills about 1 million children a year, to USD5 a shot.

"We have an irrational situation where some developing countries like Morocco and Tunisia are paying more for the pneumococcal vaccine than France does," said Kate Elder, vaccines policy adviser for MSF's Access Campaign. "We need to put public health before profit: life-saving vaccines for children shouldn't be big business in poor countries."

About four-fifths of Glaxo's vaccines, including the pneumococcal medicine, are provided to developing countries at a "substantial discount" to prices in developed nations, Glaxo said in a statement yesterday. Many of the drugs require large upfront investment and the pneumococcal vaccine is "one of the most complex we've ever manufactured," the London-based drugmaker said.

The report was timed in advance



of a meeting in Berlin next week where donors will be asked to pledge more money to the Geneva-based GAVI Alliance, the biggest provider of money for vaccines sent to developing countries. Countries such as Angola will start losing donor support because their economies have improved somewhat, meaning their vaccine costs will skyrocket, according to MSF.

Glaxo offers its lowest prices to GAVI and Unicef, meaning that some vaccines are provided for as little as one-tenth of the charges in developed countries, the company said. The drugmaker has large research projects for maladies such as malaria and Ebola, and is trying to reduce vaccine production costs to pass savings on to poor nations, it said.

A spokesman for New York-based Pfizer in the U.K. wasn't immediately available for comment.

MSF also said the vaccine industry is "secretive" and often unwilling to reveal prices, with drugmakers saying disclosure would weaken their negotiating position with governments and other purchasers, and perhaps drive up prices to poor countries.

Of the nine companies contacted by MSF, four shared their prices: Bio Farma, Biological E, Panacea and Serum Institute of India. Glaxo, Pfizer, Merck & Co. and Johnson & Johnson shared information on pricing strategy or vision, and Sanofi didn't reply by MSF's deadline.

Since 2000, GAVI has contributed to the immunization of 440 million children and the prevention of an estimated 6 million deaths, according to the organization, which is funded by governments and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

## TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR THE SHOWDOWN AT SANDS

Chinese Olympic champion Zou Shiming is stepping back into the ring to put on an exciting show for his legions of fans, as he attempts to win his first-ever world title. Zou, celebrated amateur boxer and three-time Olympic medalist, is putting his impeccable professional record on the line to challenge the undefeated International Boxing Federation (IBF) flyweight world champion, Amnat Ruenroeng. This will take place on March 7 at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena. Tickets for "The Showdown at Sands: Zou Shiming vs. Amnat Ruenroeng" are on sale now via Cotai Ticketing™.

The exciting matchup comes less than two years after Zou's professional debut, marking his seventh professional fight. This



milestone fight for Zou (6-0, 1 KO) pits him against an opponent faced three times in his amateur career — losing in their first contest, but winning in their next two.

Now they meet in the ring for their first matchup since entering the professional arena. In addition

to the main event, boxing fans will also be able to see undercard bouts, including an IBF light welterweight title eliminator between unbeaten Chinese puncher Ik Yang (18-0-0-1, 13 KOs) and Thailand's Patomsuk Pathompothong (30-2-1, 18 KOs), as well as a NABO junior middleweight title contest between Australian fighter Daniel Dawson (40-4-1, 26 KOs) and American boxer Glen Tapia (22-1, 14 KOs). Also fighting in separate bouts is the duo of local favorites — the undefeated super welterweight prospect dubbed "The Macao Kid", Ng Kuok Kun (6-0, 2 KOs), and Hong Kong's undefeated Top-Five super flyweight contender Rex "The Wonder Kid" Tso (15-0, 9 KOs), fighting for the vacant WBA international super flyweight title.

## CONRAD MACAO DOORMAN WINS TRIP TO THE GRAMMY AWARDS

The doorman of the Conrad Macao, Peter Cao, is off to the 2015 Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on February 8, after winning the Hilton Worldwide Rock Star competition. Hilton has been the official hotel partner of the Grammy Awards for 27 years, and, in recognition of their successful and ongoing relationship, Hilton offered team members around the world the opportunity to become their very own rock stars by entering a singing competition.

Peter Cao was one of four staff members worldwide who received the prize, winning over judges with his rendition of the Chinese ballad 'Peach Blossom in That Place.' His prize includes two airline tickets to Los Angeles, tickets to the Grammy Awards, four nights' accommodation at The Beverly Hil-



ton and a USD500 Visa Gift Card. This is not the first time that Peter has gained prominence for his singing abilities; he is a regular performer at in-house talent shows.

The glittering event will be packed with A-list celebrities from

the international entertainment industry; Peter has expressed his desire to meet Lady Gaga. Those interested in Peter's adventures in Los Angeles may keep up-to-date via the Conrad Macao Facebook page.



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Advertisement for 'One night in MONTE CARLO' gala dinner. Features a central illustration of a couple dancing. Text includes: 'One night in MONTE CARLO', 'FMBA Charity Gala Dinner 法國澳門商會慈善晚宴', 'An enchanting & glamorous night...', 'Friday 23/01/2015', 'Grand Ballroom, MGM Macau', '6:30 pm • Cocktail 雞尾酒會', '7:30 pm • Dinner 晚宴', 'Great singers, musicians and artistic performances, exciting lucky-draw with all proceeds to charity, dancing and laughter till midnight...'. Includes QR code, website 'www.francemacau.com', and logos for 'FRANCE MACAU BUSINESS ASSOCIATION' and 'LOCO Creative Works LTD'.



# Chinese financing model in Africa seen as an example in Brazil

**B**RAZIL plans to expand its exports to Africa beyond the Portuguese-speaking countries, where it is already well established, but needs a more attractive financing model, somewhat similar to China's model, according to a recent Brazilian study.



In the study entitled "The Defense Industry and Brazil-Africa Relations: Achievements and Challenges," recently published by the Brazilian Centre for International Relations (CEBRI), three researchers note that, according to official figures, Africa's weight in the Brazilian balance of trade "is still modest" and that growth in recent years is not "stable."

"There are several challenges to significant growth in the sector: competition from other countries, the shortage in some cases of adequate funding for

exports and financial, technical and governance constraints in Africa," said researchers Keith Martin, Beatriz Martins Carreta and Rafaella Yumi Terrano.

"It is well known that Brazilian companies from various sectors - including defense - have lost sales in Africa for lack of competitive funding," they added.

China is seen as a successful example that offers attractive solutions in which, "companies, usually owned or clo-

sely linked to the government, put themselves forward with a previously-arranged financing package."

"It is vital for the Brazilian government, particularly through the BNDES (National Bank for Economic and Social Development), to strengthen its ability to provide African governments with financing solutions that are competitive," the study noted.

According to recent estimates, China's loans to Angola since 2002 reached USD14.5 billion to fund the country's re-

construction projects, typically carried out by Chinese companies, with competitive costs and lead times.

Previous studies point to lines of credit to Angola open since 2006 by BNDES totaling 6.4 billion reais (US\$2.4 billion, at current exchange rates).

Among the main beneficiaries are Brazilian company Odebrecht (49 percent of total funding from credit lines), a conglomerate that is the largest private employer in the Angolan market, and Andrade Gutierrez (about 20 percent of the total).

Currently, amongst Brazil's main export destinations in Africa are Angola and Mozambique, countries with which Brazil has signed bilateral cooperation agreements, but also others in North and sub-Saharan Africa, such as Nigeria and Ghana. **MDT/Macauhub**

## Vista Alegre Atlantis opens store in São Paulo

**P**ORTUGUESE ceramics and glass company Vista Alegre Atlantis (VAA) has spent over 3 million reais (USD1.1 million) on its first store in Brazil, which opened last December, said the company's marketing & external design director, Nuno Barra.

The company's first point of sale in Brazil opened on 11 December, in São Paulo, and is expected to be "the first of several, since the brand's aim is to open new stores in several state capitals, and the next ones will be in Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte and Brasília," said the VAA director.

Currently, Vista Alegre Atlantis sells its products in over 150 quality, multi-brand stores in Brazil, and also has 10 independent sales representatives who work with the hospitality and retail sectors.

Barra also told Portuguese news agency Lusa that the company would launch an online store in Brazil, which "should happen in the first quarter," and these two new points of sale are expected to increase turnover this year by "70% compared to 2014." **MDT/Macauhub**

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Kelvin Chan, Business Writer,  
Hong Kong

# 2014 economic growth slowest

**C**HINA'S economic growth slowed to 7.4 percent in 2014, the weakest expansion in nearly a quarter century, and is forecast to slip further over the next two years, adding to headwinds for the global economy.

The numbers released yesterday are still miles ahead of growth rates in major industrialized economies, but represent a sharp decline from China's sizzling double digit expansion in previous years. That adds to pressure on the country's communist leaders as they try to prevent a sharper slowdown and job losses while overhauling the economy.

The 2014 performance was the slowest for the world's second-biggest economy since 1990, when growth tumbled to 3.8 percent after China faced economic sanctions because of the Tiananmen Square crackdown. It undershot the official

full-year target of 7.5 percent, the first miss since 1998, according to analysts.

Economists expect the slowdown to deepen, clouding the outlook for the world economy as China downshifts from an era of supercharged growth that fueled demand for everything from Australian iron ore to European luxury goods.

In a report yesterday, the International Monetary Fund trimmed its global growth forecasts for this year and next year, citing China's weakness as a key factor. It said China's growth rate would fall to 6.3 percent in 2016. China's weakness will inhibit growth in nations it imports from, especially in Asia, the report said.

Chinese businesses were bracing for a more painful year.

"The economic outlook is not so optimistic I'm afraid. Competition will be even more difficult," said Han Yi, a sales manager at Tianjin Yihsin Packing Plastic Co., which employs 700 people making plastic cups and cookie packaging in Tianjin, about an hour southeast of Beijing.

Han complained that sales in 2014 dipped about 5 percent from the year before and the company had to improve product quality and reliability to compete for new clients. Even then, it was able to win only one new account from a rapidly expanding customer.

AP PHOTO



A woman walks past a construction site in Beijing's Central Business District

## 7.4%

China's economic growth slowed to 7.4 percent in 2014

## Winners and losers in the deepening economic slowdown

Joe McDonald,  
Business Writer, Beijing

**C**HINA'S economy, the world's second largest, grew 7.4 percent last year, its slowest expansion in nearly a quarter century. Forecasters expect growth to wane further in the next several years as China emphasizes consumption over polluting heavy industry and manufacturing, which suffer from overinvestment and overcapacity. The IMF predicts growth of 6.3 percent in 2016, a dramatic shift from double-digit rates in previous years that is creating winners and losers.

**LOSERS** — Industries that profited from China's building boom are being battered by the ruling Communist Party's effort to reduce reliance on investment and nurture more sustainable growth

based on domestic consumption. Developers are losing access to credit and building permissions. Suppliers of steel, copper, cement and other building materials have seen orders dry up. That has wiped out jobs in construction and real estate sales and sent shockwaves abroad, hitting countries as far away as Australia and Brazil that export iron ore and other commodities. One developer, Kaisa Group, just missed a USD23 million interest payment on a bond abroad, alarming investors. Export-driven manufacturing industries that employ millions of people have been hurt by weak global demand. As explosive growth in auto sales cools, China's domestic brands are losing market share to global rivals and their state-owned manufacturing partners.

AP PHOTO



Chinese government propaganda words which read "Prosperity and Powerful" are displayed on a wall near a construction site in Beijing

# in more than 2 decades

“The situation would be much worse if we could not win this new client,” he said.

China’s slowdown is partly a function of Beijing’s efforts to transform the economy by weaning it off over-reliance on heavy industry and trade in favor of domestic consumption. But the transition has been buffeted by a range of problems, including a slumping property market and uneven exports.

Some analysts expect China to gradually dole out stimulus in 2015 to prevent growth from fading too fast. But they don’t expect a major spending splurge as debt is already at worrying levels after the credit-fueled response to the 2008 global crisis.

“Credit risks will likely continue to prevent policymakers from using monetary policy too aggressively in order to shore up growth,” said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics, who forecasts 7.0 percent growth this year.

Consumption should receive a boost from the slump in global oil prices but is unlikely to fully offset the slowdown of investment in areas already suffering from over-capacity such as property and heavy industry, he said.

Chinese officials have tried to lower expectations by saying growth below the official target would be acceptable.

President Xi Jinping said last year that the economy has entered a “new normal.” But a surprise interest rate cut by policymakers in November indicated they were worried about a politically dangerous spike in job losses.

## ■ The numbers released yesterday are still miles ahead of growth rates in major industrialized economies

Growth in the fourth quarter of last year was 7.3 percent, unchanged from the previous quarter, which was the slowest quarterly expansion in five years. China’s economy grew 7.7 percent in 2013.

At a news conference, Ma Jiantang, the director of the National Bureau of Statistics, said that last year’s growth “was within a reasonable range” while growth in 2015 is expected to be “stable.”

“However, we should also be aware that the domestic and international

situations are still complicated and economic development is facing difficulties and challenges,” he said.

Sales staff at the Wanjiang Xiufang garment company in Dongguan, southern Guangdong province, said they were battling competition from an increasing number of rival factories even as consumer spending on the women’s and children’s clothing they make weakened.

Average profit on a hoodie, for example, fell to 8 yuan (\$1.29) last year, down from 10 yuan (\$1.60) previously, said Lin Rongguang.

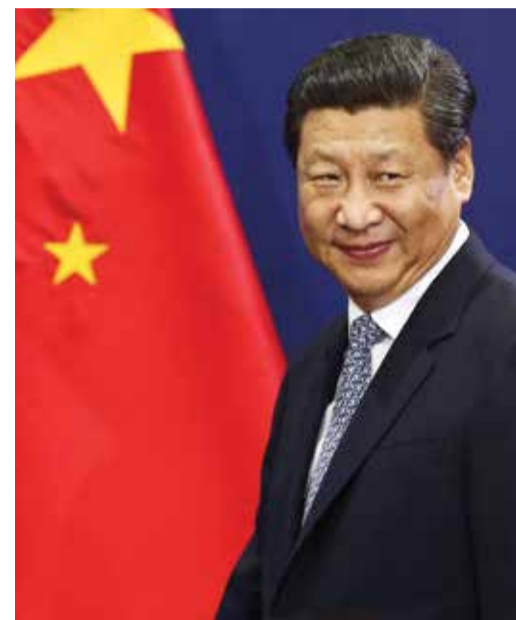
“We need to produce new products with better quality but a lower price,” said Lin. “I know it will decrease our profit, but we have to survive first,” he said.

International agencies have trimmed their global growth forecasts partly in response to the slowdown in China, a significant driver of world economic growth.

The International Monetary Fund yesterday lowered its forecasts by 0.3 percentage point for each of the next two years, warning about persistent weakness in most major economies.

“Slower growth in China will also have important regional effects, which partly explains the downward revisions to growth in much of emerging Asia,” the IMF’s report said. **AP**

# Xi gets raise in base pay to USD22,300 a year



**CHINESE** President Xi Jinping’s base salary is rising from about USD13,600 to \$22,300 a year under a recent general pay increase for public employees, state media reported yesterday.

The reports gave Chinese citizens a rare glimpse into how much their leaders make, though it was far from the whole picture because it excludes extra allowances and other perquisites of power. And, officials later declined to confirm even the base salary figures and dampened online discussion. Comments sections following online news reports about the matter were closed.

The China Daily said the base salaries of Xi and six other members of the Communist Party’s powerful Standing Committee were rising from 7,020 yuan (\$1,140) to 11,385 yuan (\$1,850) a month — a 62 percent increase. It said the pay of lowest-ranking officials would double to \$2,580 per year, that these were the first such raises since 2006, and that many lower-level civil servants have been quitting because of low pay.

Liu Bangxiu, a car assessor, reacted with sarcasm on his microblog, suggesting that government officials have plenty of other ways of enriching themselves.

“Congratulations! Haven’t got a pay rise for 10 years? How could you feed your families during that period?” Liu wrote on his verified Sina Weibo blog. “Everyone knows that public servants have low pay, so why are there still so many people trying to become a public servant? Isn’t that contradictory?!”

Higher salaries could also be a defense against corruption, a problem Xi has attacked since taking charge of the ruling Communist Party more than two years ago. Chinese leaders have expressed admiration for Singapore and other countries where the salaries of public servants are similar to those in the private sector as a guard against graft.

The state media reports cited a Jan. 12 notice from the Human Resources Ministry that was circulated online. However, Vice Minister Hu Xiaoyi denied that the ministry had published the notice and declined to confirm its figures.

By comparison to Xi, U.S. President Barack Obama earns a base salary of \$400,000 a year. **AP**

Sales of cognac, Swiss watches, designer clothing and other luxury goods have been hurt by a ruling party campaign to rein in corruption and official extravagance. So has revenue at upscale restaurants and casinos.

**WINNERS** — Big winners straddle the

Modern Dairy Ltd.’s revenue rose 86 percent in the six months ending in June. Novice entrepreneurs in some areas are benefiting from rule changes meant to make it easier to set up barber shops, restaurants and other small businesses. Energy-intensi-

1 brand by number of handsets sold. A stock market boom has brought a surge of revenue and profit to brokerages and finance firms.

**COAST vs HINTERLAND** — The slowdown is squeezing China’s prosperous east cities but inland the impact is even bigger. Regions that relied on coal mining, steel and other businesses tied to heavy industry and investment are struggling. Growth rates in areas such as Heilongjiang province in the northeast have fallen close to zero. Local authorities in coal country in China’s north have orders to nurture clean energy and other new industries but their efforts are slow to gain traction. Even prosperous areas have suffered: In the southeastern provinces of Guangdong and Zhejiang, home to export-driven producers of furniture, clothing and toys, weak foreign demand has forced hundreds of

small factories to close.

**STATE INDUSTRY** — Government-owned companies in oil, steel, banking, telecoms and other industries still enjoy monopolies and other privileges, but the ruling party’s plans, if carried out, will force them to compete. State companies still would be guaranteed control of an array of industries but the party says “market forces” will play a bigger role in allocating credit and other resources. In banking, regulators are gradually shifting the state-owned industry, which until now served to subsidize government companies, toward a market-oriented model with more lending to private business. State-owned steel and aluminum mills are under pressure to make their operations cleaner and more efficient. Oil giant Sinopec Ltd. is looking at ways to use its thousands of filling stations to sell groceries and other goods. **AP**

## ■ Forecasters expect growth to wane further in the next several years as China emphasizes consumption over polluting heavy industry and manufacturing

worlds of technology, private business and consumer brands — areas communist leaders want to promote as new sources of growth. E-commerce giant Alibaba Group’s revenue rose 54 percent in the quarter that ended in September. Revenue for rival JD.com jumped 61 percent. Milk producer

ve industries including trucking benefit from the slump in global crude prices. E-commerce has produced unusual winners, including fledgling smartphone maker Xiaomi, which used Internet-based sales and marketing to slash costs and passed Samsung last year to become China’s No.

Jon Gambrell and  
Mari Yamaguchi, Cairo

## TERRORISM

# Japanese premier vows to save Islamic State group hostages

**T**HE Islamic State group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages yesterday unless they receive USD200 million in 72 hours, directly demanding the ransom from Japan's premier during his visit to the Middle East. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed to save the men, saying: "Their lives are the top priority."

However, Abe and other Japanese officials declined to say whether they'd make the payment to save the men, identified in an extremist video released yesterday as Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa.

The video, identified as being made by the Islamic State group's al-Furqan media arm and posted on militant websites associated with the extremist group, mirrored other hostage threats it has made. Japanese officials said they would analyze the tape to verify its authenticity, though Abe offered no hesitation as he pledged to free the men while speaking to journalists in Jerusalem.

"It is unforgivable," said Abe, now on a six-day visit to the Middle East with more than 100 government officials and presidents of Japanese companies. He added: "Extremism and Islam are completely different things."

In the video, the two men appear in orange jumpsuits like other hostages previously killed by the Islamic State group, which controls a third of Iraq and Syria.

"To the prime minister of Japan: Although you are more than 8,000 and 500 kilometers from the Islamic State, you willingly have volunteered to take part in this crusade," says the knife-brandishing militant in the video, who resembles and sounds like a British militant involved in other filmed beheadings. "You have proudly donated \$100 million to kill our women and children, to destroy the homes of the Muslims."

Abe said he would send Yasuhide Nakayama, a deputy foreign minister, to Amman, Jordan, to seek the country's

AP PHOTO



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

support and to resolve the hostage crisis.

Speaking in Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga also declined to say whether Japan would pay the ransom.

"If true, the act of threat in exchange of people's lives is unforgivable and we feel strong indignation," Suga told journalists. "We will make our utmost effort to win their release as soon as possible."

In August, a Japanese citizen believed to be Yukawa, a private military company operator in his early 40s, was kidnapped in Syria after going

**■** Their lives are the top priority

SHINZO ABE

there to train with militants, according to a post on a blog kept. Pictures on his Facebook page show him in Iraq and Syria in July. One video on his page showed him holding a Kalashnikov assault rifle with the caption: "Syria war in Aleppo 2014."

"I cannot identify the destination," Yukawa wrote in his last blog post. "But the next one could be the most dangerous." He added: "I hope to film my fighting scenes during an upcoming visit."

Nobuo Kimoto, an adviser to Yukawa's company and a former prefectural assemblyman in Ibaraki, north of Tokyo, told Japanese public television station NHK that he had worried "something like this could happen sooner or later."

"I was afraid that they could use Yukawa as a card," Kimoto

said.

Goto is a respected Japanese freelance journalist who went to report on Syria's civil war last year and knew of Yukawa.

"I'm in Syria for reporting," Goto wrote in an email to an Associated Press journalist in October. "I hope I can convey the atmosphere from where I am and share it."

The Islamic State group has beheaded and shot dead hundreds of captives — mainly Syrian and Iraqi soldiers — during its sweep across the two countries, and has celebrated its mass killings in extremely graphic videos. A British-accented jihadi also has appeared in the beheading videos of slain American hostages James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and with British hostages David Haines and Alan Henning.

The group also holds British photojournalist John Cantlie, who has appeared in other extremist propaganda videos, and a 26-year-old American woman captured last year in Syria while working for aid groups. U.S. officials have asked that the woman not be identified out of fears for her safety.

**■** Yesterday's video marks the first time the Islamic State group specifically has demanded cash for hostages

Yesterday's video marks the first time the Islamic State group specifically has demanded cash for hostages. Though the militant in the video links it to the Japanese funding efforts to counter the Islamic State group, it comes amid recent losses for the extremists targeted in airstrikes by a U.S.-led coalition. Its militants also recently released some 200 mostly elderly Yazidi hostages in Iraq, fueling speculation by Iraqi officials that the group couldn't support them.

This is Abe's second Mideast hostage crisis since becoming prime minister. Two years ago, al-Qaida-affiliated militants attacked an Algerian natural gas plant and the ensuing four-day hostage crisis killed 29 insurgents and 37 foreigners, including 10 Japanese who were working for a Yokohama-based engineering company, JCG Corp. Seven Japanese survived.

## Hostage crisis hijacks agenda of Abe's Mideast tour

**T**HE release of yesterday's online video purporting to show an Islamic State figure demanding USD200 million in ransom for two Japanese hostages ambushed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as he was wrapping up a six-day tour of the Middle East.

The news brought into sharp, urgent focus in Tokyo terrorism issues that are usually only a distant concern for most Japanese.

**JAPAN'S MIDEAST INVOLVEMENT** — Japan relies on the Middle East for most of the cru-

de oil it needs to run the world's third-largest economy. Japan has been stepping up its efforts to build wider economic ties and has increased exports as Abe has crisscrossed the region peddling Japanese technology and investment. Abe's Midd-

le East mission included more than 100 government officials and presidents of Japanese companies.

**ABE'S AGENDA** — Japan's government spokesman, Yasuhide Suga, said yesterday that Tokyo remains commi-

tted to working for stability in the region and providing non-military, humanitarian aid. Abe and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed Sunday during Abe's visit to Jerusalem to cooperate on counter-terrorism.

**SWITCHINGGEARS** — Abe was participating in planned official talks yesterday with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas but cancelled other events on his schedule to focus on the hostage crisis, Suga said. He was due to return to Japan today. **AP**



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USA

# Obama aims to influence debate in State of the Union speech

**P**RESIDENT Barack Obama planned to use his second-to-last State of the Union address to Congress to maintain his influence in American politics as the unofficial campaign to choose his successor has already begun.

Obama will be utilizing one of his biggest platforms, a speech nationally televised to tens of millions of Americans yesterday evening (this morning, Macau time). He will outline a plan to raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans while offering broad economic benefits to the middle class. By highlighting the issue of economic inequality, Obama aims to drive a debate over middle-class economics that could be critical for the 2016 presidential campaign.

With Republicans in control of both houses of Congress for the first time in eight years, the White House has no hope of the tax proposal becoming law. But Obama's proposal could put tax-averse congressional Republicans in the unappealing spot of blocking measures that would offer broad economic benefits to the middle class.

Potential Republican candidates Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney have been talking openly about income inequality and the need to give lower-earning Americans more opportunities.

With the 2016 presidential race heating up, the intense



In this Jan. 28, 2014, file photo, President Barack Obama delivers the State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress in the House chamber in Washington

partisan battle that has dominated Obama's first six years in office is only growing fiercer. In the early days of the new session of Congress, Obama already has threatened to veto five pieces of legislation from emboldened Republi-

cans who want to undo many of the key accomplishments of his presidency. Targets include Obama's executive actions on immigration, his health care reform law and post-financial crisis regulations.

The president's advisers ar-

gue that the debate over income equality is one that Democrats have won previously, including in Obama's victory over Romney in the 2012 presidential campaign and a fight with Congress that led to the raising of George W. Bush-era income tax rates

for the wealthiest Americans.

Obama's plan would increase the capital gains tax rate on couples making more than USD500,000 per year to 28 percent, the same level as under President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. The top capital gains rate has already been raised from 15 percent to 23.8 percent during Obama's presidency.

Administration officials said much of the \$320 billion in new taxes and fees generated over a decade would be used for measures aimed at helping the middle class, including a \$500 tax credit for some families with two spouses working and a \$60 billion program to make community college free.

Obama is also asking lawmakers to increase paid leave for workers.

White House chief of staff Denis McDonough said Obama is determined to improve the lives of middle-class Americans. "His mindset is to keep doing everything he can for the middle class," McDonough said on "CBS This Morning."

McDonough said that Obama will not hesitate to veto legislation that doesn't improve the lives of the middle class.

The effort to control Ebola is expected to be among the foreign policy matters Obama addresses in the speech. While the president is not likely to make any major foreign policy announcements, he is expected to tout the formal end of the Afghan war, update Americans on the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, and urge lawmakers not to enact new sanctions on Iran while the U.S. and its partners are in the midst of nuclear negotiations with the Islamic republic. **AP**

YEMEN COUP

# Shiite rebels shell president's home, take over palace

Ahmed al-Haj, Sana'a

**Y**EMEN'S powerful Shiite Houthi rebels shelled the residence of the country's embattled president yesterday and simultaneously swept into the presidential palace in the capital, Sana'a, as a top military commander warned that a full-fledged "coup" was underway.

President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi was inside the residence as it came under "heavy shelling" for half an hour but he was unharmed and protected by guards, officials said.

The dramatic development put the U.S.-backed Hadi into a precarious position and represented



Houthi Shiite Yemenis gather while guarding a street leading to the presidential palace in Sana'a

the starkest challenge to his authority since the Houthis swept into Sana'a from their northern stronghold and seized the capital in September.

Information Minister Nadia al-Sakkaf posted on her Twitter account

that the shelling started at 3 p.m. local time "by armed forces positioned over rooftops facing" the president's house.

At the same time, Houthi rebels also raided the president's offices, sweeping into the presidential

palace and looting the grounds' arms depots, according to Col. Saleh al-Jamalani, the commander of the Presidential Protection Force that guards the palace.

"This is a coup. There is no other word to describe what is happening but a coup," al-Jamalani told The Associated Press, adding that the rebels were likely aided by insiders.

The escalation shattered a tense ceasefire that had held overnight and throughout the morning, following Monday's heavy clashes that engulfed the city, leaving ordinary Yemenis stunned and fearing for their country.

The latest spasm of violence followed apparently unsuccessful negotiations

earlier in the day between Hadi and a representative of the Houthis at his residence.

Also earlier yesterday, Houthi rebels roamed the streets on foot and in pickup trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns, manned checkpoints across Sana'a and near the prime minister's residence, and beefed up their presence around other key building, including the intelligence headquarters.

The show of force came after they seized control of state media in Sana'a and clashed with Yemeni soldiers near the presidential palace on Monday. Heavy machine gun fire and artillery shells struck around the presi-

dential palace and sent civilians fleeing as columns of black smoke rose and sirens wailed throughout the city.

Monday's violence left at least nine people dead and 67 were wounded, Yemen's deputy health minister, Nasser Baoum, said, while both Houthis and Hadi's forces blamed each other for the outbreak.

Houthis' power grab has been long anticipated and analysts say they are only "finishing the job" they began in September.

"What is happening now is just one more step toward (the Houthis') consolidation of power," said Abdel-Bari Taher, a veteran Yemeni journalist and writer. **AP**

Nicole Winfield

RELIGION AND CONTRACEPTION

**P**OPE Francis is firmly upholding church teaching banning contraception, but said Monday that Catholics don't have to breed "like rabbits" and should instead practice "responsible parenting."

Speaking to reporters en route home from the Philippines, Francis said there are plenty of church-approved ways to regulate births. But he said most importantly, no outside institution should impose its views on regulating family size, blasting what he called the "ideological colonization" of the developing world.

African bishops, in particular, have long complained about how progressive, Western ideas about birth control and gay rights are increasingly being imposed on the developing world by groups, institutions or individual nations, often as a condition for development aid.

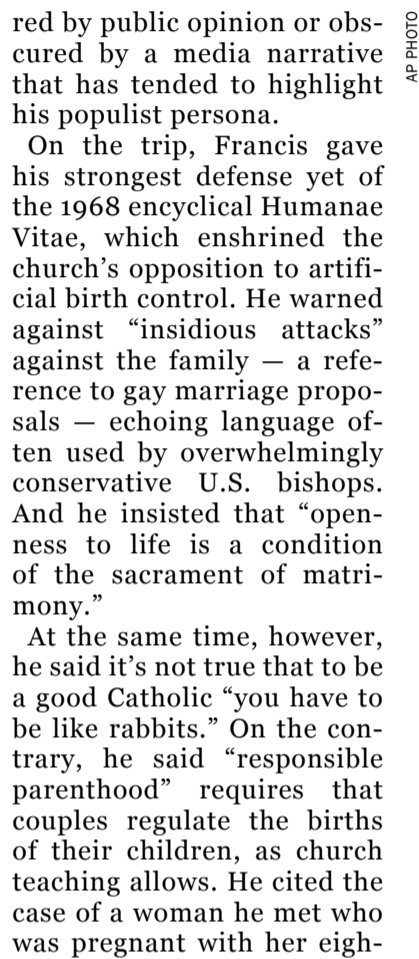
"Every people deserves to conserve its identity without being ideologically colonized," Francis said.

The pope's comments, taken together with his defense of the Catholic Church's ban on artificial contraception during the trip, signal that he is increasingly showing his more conservative bent, which has largely been igno-

red by public opinion or obscured by a media narrative that has tended to highlight his populist persona.

On the trip, Francis gave his strongest defense yet of the 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which enshrined the church's opposition to artificial birth control. He warned against "insidious attacks" against the family — a reference to gay marriage proposals — echoing language often used by overwhelmingly conservative U.S. bishops. And he insisted that "openness to life is a condition of the sacrament of matrimony."

At the same time, however, he said it's not true that to be a good Catholic "you have to be like rabbits." On the contrary, he said "responsible parenthood" requires that couples regulate the births of their children, as church teaching allows. He cited the case of a woman he met who was pregnant with her eighth child after seven Cesarean sections.



AP PHOTO

St. Peter's Basilica is seen behind a hand of a demonstrator holding a condom, on the edge of the Vatican's St. Peter's Square, in Rome

# Pope: Catholics don't have to breed 'like rabbits'

"That is an irresponsibility!" he said. The woman might argue that she should trust in God. "But God gives you methods to be responsible," he said.

He said there are many "licit" ways of regulating births that are approved by the church, an apparent reference to the Natural Family Planning method of monitoring a woman's cycle to avoid intercourse when she is ovulating.

During the Vatican's recent meeting on the family, African bishops denounced how aid groups and lending institutions often condition their assistance on a country's compliance with their ideals: allowing health care workers to distribute condoms, or withdrawing assistance if legislation discriminating against gays is passed.

"When imposed conditions come from imperial colonizers, they search to make people lose their own identity and make a sameness," he said. "This is ideological colonization." AP

## IMF cuts growth forecasts, citing sluggish EU, Japan, BRICS

Elaine Kurtenbach, Business Writer, Tokyo

**T**HE International Monetary Fund lowered its forecasts for global growth over the next two years, warning yesterday that weakness in most major economies will trump gains from lower oil prices. The IMF's report was released as China reported its slowest growth in 24 years.

The IMF downgraded projections it issued in October by 0.3 percentage point each, predicting global growth at 3.5 percent this year and 3.7 percent in 2016.

But even with those reductions, the world economy will be growing faster than in 2014, when the IMF estimates it expanded 3.3 percent. Much of the momentum is coming from an accelerating recovery in the U.S., the world's largest economy.



The IMF's Research Department Director Olivier Blanchard speaks during a press briefing at a hotel in Beijing

Europe, Japan and Russia are logging slower growth, while the U.S. is a rare bright spot.

"The recovery in the U.S. is quite strong and therefore it will continue, despite the appreciation of the dollar," Olivier Blanchard, the IMF's director of research, told reporters in Beijing in a briefing broadcast online.

The advanced economies are forecast to expand by 2.4 percent in 2015, a smidgen higher than earlier

thought, and at the same rate in 2016. Growth in developing economies is forecast to slip to 4.3 percent from an estimated 4.4 percent in 2014, but then recover to 4.7 percent in 2016.

"New factors supporting growth — lower oil prices, but also depreciation of the euro and yen — are more than offset by persistent negative forces, including the lingering legacies of the crisis and lower potential growth in many coun-

tries," Blanchard said.

Diminished expectations for many economies are discouraging investment, which in turn is undermining potential future growth, the report said. Blanchard described Russia's outlook as "quite bleak" and said the slower growth in China would hurt nations it imports from, especially in Asia.

"The most obvious risks involve stagnation in the eurozone, or Japan, or both," Blanchard said.

Massive monetary and fiscal stimulus have yet to trigger strong corporate spending in Japan, where companies are pessimistic about a rebound in consumer demand because of the country's shrinking and aging population.

Still, the 55 percent plunge in oil prices in U.S. dollar terms since September is raising the purchasing power of consumers and businesses in Japan and

many countries, while also raising demand among oil importers. It also reduces pressure on central banks to raise interest rates to cool inflation.

That presents a "complicated mosaic" of implications, Blanchard said, with some countries reaping windfalls in energy savings while others face smaller tax and export revenue.

Overall, weaker prices for oil and other commodities are sapping growth prospects for countries in the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa — especially Nigeria and South Africa — and Latin America. China's slowdown will stunt growth throughout developing Asia.

Among the key trends and possibilities it outlines:

— World trade will accelerate in advanced economies, growing 3.7 percent in 2015 and 4.8 percent in 2016, up from 3.0 percent last year. But growth in trade volume will fall this year in emerging markets such as China before rebounding to expand 6.1 percent in 2016.

— Weaker oil prices will

drag on inflation, with consumer prices rising only 1.0 percent in the advanced economies and 5.7 percent in emerging markets.

— Volatility in prices for oil and other resources has raised risks in global financial markets, with a potential for destabilizing outflows of money from emerging markets.

— Geopolitical risks such as turmoil in the Middle East and war in Ukraine remain high, though ample supplies have reduced the likelihood of serious supply disruptions.

— Lower oil prices could give both producing and consuming countries the leeway to enact energy reforms. Eliminating subsidies may free up resources for helping the poor or building needed infrastructure. AP

# 3.5%

Global growth stands at 3.5 percent this year

## what's ON

## COOKIN' NANTA

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)  
5pm & 8pm (Saturdays & Sunday)  
8pm (March 22, 2015)

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Sands Theatre at the Sands Macau/

No.203, Largo de Monte Carlo, Macau

ADMISSION: MOP280 up

## EXHIBITION "FOAM TIP BY ARLINDA FROTA AND TRANSMUTATION BY CAROL KWOK"

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: SIGNUM Living Store,

Rua do Almirante Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8925

## APAIXONADO PASSIONATE CUBA - MARCO SZETO &amp; 10 CUBAN ARTISTS JOINT EXHIBITION

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

## "ONE HUNDRED PHOTOGRAPHERS FOCUS ON MACAU" EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Level 2 Showcase, MGM Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

## PENGUINS UNDERCOVER ICE WORLD WITH THE DREAMWORKS GANG

TIME: 11am-8pm

UNTIL: March 8, 2015

VENUE: Cotai Expo

ADMISSION: MOP120

ENQUIRIES: 2882 8818

## MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM &amp; WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

## Offbeat

## LONDON: DAD GETS 'NO-SHOW' BILL AFTER SON, 5, MISSES BIRTHDAY PARTY

It was not what Derek Nash expected to find in his 5-year-old's school bag: A bill demanding a "no-show fee" for another child's birthday party.

Nash said the bill from another parent sought 15.95 pounds (USD24.00) because his son Alex had not attended the party at a ski center in Plymouth, southwest England.

Nash told the BBC he had initially accepted the party invitation, but later realized Alex was supposed to visit his grandparents that day. He said he did not have contact details to let the other family know.

The birthday boy's mother, Julie Lawrence, told the BBC that her contact details were on the party invitation.

Nash says Lawrence has threatened him with small claims court but he has no plans so far to pay.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Series
23:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## 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 Streep

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 125min



## CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Olivier 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, Franke

Janssen

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

## this day in history



Lamem Khalifa Fhimah (left) and Abdel Basset Ali Al Megrahi (right)

## 1992 UN THREATENS LIBYA WITH SANCTIONS

The United Nations has ordered Libya to surrender intelligence agents accused of the Lockerbie and French airliner bombings.

The 15-nation Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution urging Libya "immediately to provide a full and effective response" to the British and American demand that the two men - Lamem Khalifa Fhimah and Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi - be surrendered to stand trial.

The resolution also ordered Libya to co-operate with France's investigation into the bombing of a French-owned UTA airliner over Nigeria in 1989, in which 171 people lost their lives.

Western diplomats said that they would seek selective UN sanctions against Libya "in a matter of weeks" if the two Lockerbie suspects are not handed over.

The pair are accused of conspiring to place a bomb concealed in a radio cassette recorder in a suitcase on board an Air Malta flight that connected to Pan Am 103 in Frankfurt.

The bomb exploded over Lockerbie on 21 December, 1988, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground.

Police in Scotland and the US originally suspected the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command (PFLP-GC) of having a role in the bombing.

But further evidence led the authorities to conclude that Libya ordered and carried out the attack in retaliation for the downing of an Iranian airliner by a US missile in 1988.

The resolution marks the first occasion the Security Council has told a country to extradite any of its citizens.

It is also the first time the UN has implicitly accused a fellow member state of being involved in state terrorism.

Despite the move, families of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing criticised the United Nations resolution for being weak and inadequate.

"There is ample evidence that both Syria and Iran were involved," said Daniel Cohen whose 20-year-old daughter, Theodora, died in the crash.

"But, because of political reasons the United States and Great Britain have drawn the Pan Am 103 case very narrowly, accusing only two Libyans."

A senior Libyan official said that Tripoli had no intention of extraditing the men.

Jadualah Azuz Talhi, a former foreign minister who led a Libyan delegation, told the security council that the suspects were innocent until proven guilty.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Shortly after the resolution Libya agreed to hand over the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing providing they were tried in a neutral country.

But Britain rejected their terms and the UN eventually imposed sanctions to try to force Libya to hand over the suspects.

It took another nine years of legal wrangling before Colonel Gaddafi finally handed Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamem Khalifa Fhimah over on the basis that they would be tried in a neutral court under Scottish law.

Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi was jailed for life when the trial went ahead at Camp Zeist in Holland.

But his alleged accomplice was freed after he was found not guilty.

Relatives of the 170 victims who died in the French airliner bombing eventually agreed to a \$170m (£88m) pay out offered by Libya in January 2004.

Despite the move, Tripoli has never accepted responsibility for the bombing - even though six Libyan officials were tried and convicted in absentia by a French court in 1999.

Libya refused to extradite the six - who include Colonel Gaddafi's brother-in-law - and has always maintained their innocence



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've got to slow down! You may be moving too quickly on something new and exciting, but once you start to ease up, you should see all sorts of ways to make things work better

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your great energy manifests itself as intuition - and you should be able to get yourself back on track with an old social situation thanks to this burst. Make sure you're as focused as you can be.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your thinking is a little fuzzy today, but that doesn't mean that you can't get any work done. Things just need to proceed at their own pace, and you can catch up with them later.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A work-related problem gets bigger today - but that inspires greater action on your part. You may finally face it down or end up with a much better job entirely. Don't give up hope!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It's especially important to listen carefully today - the signal can easily get lost in noise! Try not to take action until you're sure that you know exactly what's going on. Wait 'til tomorrow if necessary.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Though your energy is terrific, you may miss out on some creative opportunities if you spend too much time beating yourself (or others) up over minor infractions. Let the small stuff slide.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your authority is being undermined by someone who's totally clueless today - so try to pull them aside for a gentle reminder. It shouldn't be too tough for you, but they may not like it.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your social energy is almost flawless today - so it's easy to meet new people and mend fences that have been causing problems for ages. You should be on the right side of all arguments, too!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 This is not the right time to go shopping - or even to spend money! If you can get away with spending nothing all day long, go for it, but keep everything else limited to bare essentials.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Try not to toot your own horn too much, but you may not be able to help yourself when you get your results or answer back today. Things are looking up, and it's okay to celebrate. A little.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Try not to fight it - the situation isn't going your way, but you should come out of this stronger than ever. The only thing that could go wrong is launching a battle you cannot win.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've got a friend who can help you overcome today's worst problem - which isn't actually all that big a deal, once you really take a close look. It should be behind you soon.

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.

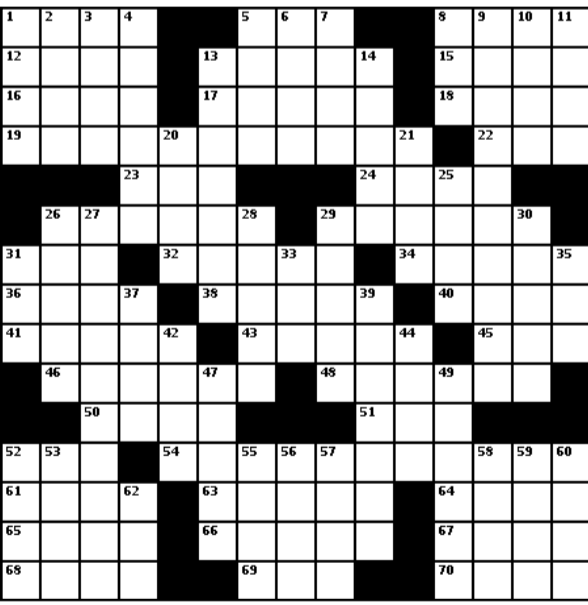
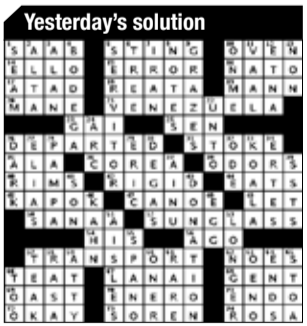
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- I did it; 5- Snakelike fish; 8- Turkish titles; 12- Served perfectly; 13- Vacuum tube filler; 15- Memory unit; 16- Butter alternative; 17- Roman goddess of the moon; 18- Latin love; 19- Encircling; 22- Actress Peeples; 23- Latin word meaning "nothing"; 24- "Tosca" tune; 26- Misplace; 29- African fly; 31- Hurried; 32- Pad user; 34- Insinuate; 36- No ifs, ...; 38- Devoured; 40- Microscopic arachnid; 41- Jam; 43- Cut into small pieces; 45- Member of genus Felis; 46- Take; 48- Least polite; 50- Home furnishings chain; 51- Author Amy; 52- T.G.I.F. part; 54- Needed to borrow books; 61- Dry and waterless; 63- \_\_\_ lift?; 64- Hydrox rival; 65- Relocate; 66- Flower-part; 67- Title bestowed upon the wife of a raja; 68- Summer coolers; 69- Neither's partner; 70- Black;

DOWN: 1- New Mexico art colony; 2- Rights org.; 3- Antlered animal; 4- Decorates; 5- "\_\_\_ Brockovich"; 6- Old-fashioned exclamation of surprise; 7- Actress Anderson; 8- Attorney's org.; 9- Physical exercises; 10- Yours, in Tours; 11- Lab fluids; 13- Admire servilely; 14- Grannies; 20- Lubricates; 21- Golfer Norman; 25- Romantic couple; 26- Craze; 27- Irresolute; 28- Brewer's need; 29- It's human; 30- Really bother; 31- Rodent, betrayer; 33- \_\_\_ degree; 35- Vietnamese New Year; 37- Draw in; 39- Not aligned; 42- Rind; 44- WWII event; 47- Hurts; 49- Once more; 52- \_\_\_ Camera; 53- Stepped; 55- "It's \_\_\_ real"; 56- Bank takeback; 57- Purim month; 58- Kaffiyeh wearer; 59- City in Western Nevada; 60- Slay; 62- Paris's Pont \_\_\_ Arts



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Justin Bergman, Melbourne

TENNIS | AUSTRALIAN OPEN

# Same opponent, same result: Azarenka tops Stephens again

**V**ICTORIA Azarenka is in an unfamiliar position as the Australian Open gets underway: unseeded after a long injury layoff and no longer a heavy favorite to capture a title she's already won two times.

While much has changed for the Belarussian, one thing has remained the same — her opponent on the other side of the net yesterday. For the third consecutive year, Azarenka knocked American Sloane Stephens out of the Australian Open.

Their matches at Melbourne Park have all been one-sided — Azarenka has won all three in straight sets — but they haven't lacked drama.

Two years ago, the two women faced off in the semifinals when Azarenka was the defending champion and Stephens a fresh-faced 19-year-old who had just upset No. 1-ranked Serena Williams in the quarters.

Azarenka was comfortably ahead for much of the match, but the momentum began to shift in the second set. Azarenka, appearing flustered, called for an extended injury time-out that was considered by many to be strategic. Azarenka went on to win the match and her second title at Melbourne Park.

Last year, the tension between the players was evident when

Stephens icily described their relationship as “nonexistent” before they met in the fourth round. Despite her pre-match confidence, though, the result was the same: another Azarenka victory.

When the Australian Open draw came out this year, Stephens said she had a funny feeling.

“I knew I was going to play her. Of course, I'm not seeded, she's not seeded and we're going to play each other,” she said, before joking, “The draw's rigged, I swear. I need to go talk to (tournament director) Craig Tiley because this is ridiculous.”

Both Azarenka and Stephens came into 2015 on the mend — and hoping for a good result in Australia to build on.

Azarenka played in just nine tournaments last year due to a left foot injury, causing her ranking to slip to No. 44 and for her to be unseeded at a major for the first time since the 2007 U.S. Open.

She said she still needs more



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus

matches to feel comfortable on court again, though she looked sharp in her 6-3, 6-2

win over Stephens as she guided backhand winners down the line and volleyed with

crisp precision.

She even sounded like the Vika of old, pumping herself up with emphatic “Come ons!” and punctuating her shots with high-pitched hoots.

Can she hoist the trophy again this year?

“The dreams are always big, and I think that's kind of the light in the end of the tunnel,” Azarenka said. “I don't know if it's going to happen here or whenever, I just want to work and have that mentality that that's what I want to achieve.”

Stephens' game, on the other hand, remains a work in progress. She is coming back from a wrist injury and is now on her third coach in the past year, Nick Saviano, who previously coached her when she was a rising junior.

She believes she's due for a turnaround soon, particularly against Azarenka.

“I'm going to do my best and hopefully,” she said before stopping herself, “No not hopefully. I will beat her one day.” AP

CRICKET

## England beat India by 9 wickets in tri-series ODI

**S**TEVE Finn and James Anderson shared nine wickets for 51 runs as England rolled India for 153 to set up a nine-wicket win in the tri-series one-day cricket international yesterday.

Finn took a career-best 5-33, and Anderson, returning from injury, took 4-18 as England bowled out India in only 39.3 overs after it won the toss and batted at the Gabba Ground.

Ian Bell then scored 88 and James Taylor 56 in an unbroken 131-run partnership which carried England past India's total in the 28th over.

India remains winless in the tri-series after its three-wicket loss to Australia on Sunday, while England has a bonus-point win and a loss ahead of its second clash with Australia at Hobart on Friday.

Bell and Taylor both made ducks in England's first-up loss to Australia but found form yesterday. Bell produced his 32nd ODI half cen-



England's James Taylor

tury, taking his 88 runs from 91 balls, while Taylor scored his third, facing 63 balls, and hitting Akshar Patel for four for the winning runs.

Finn and Anderson set up the win with their outstan-

ding bowling performances which fully exploited the deceptive bounce of the Brisbane pitch, which India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni thought ideal for batting.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan was out to Anderson in the third over of the match when India was 1-1, and that set the tone of an innings which hurried towards its end with only brief and feeble resistance. Only Stuart Binny, who top-scored with 44, Dhoni, who made 34, and Ajinkya Rahane, with 33, made any impact for India on the scoreboard.

Binny also took 1-34, dismissing Moeen Ali for 8 at 25-1, during England's reply.

Rahane and Ambati Rayudu (23) put on 46 for the second wicket to temporarily steady the India innings, and give it some semblance of order after Dhawan's early departure. But Finn claimed his first wicket when he dismissed Rahane in the 15th over, and from that point he bowled with confidence and

control to disassemble India's batsmen.

Rahane's dismissal was typical in the India innings: He tried to play a forcing shot down the ground from a Finn delivery which pitched on an awkward length. The ball hit higher on the bat than Rahane expected and the ball ballooned to James Taylor at mid-on.

Finn was able to exploit that length throughout the match, and India's batsmen were unable to counter a concerted onslaught from England's seamers.

“It was important that we bounced back after the disappointment of losing the game (against Australia) at Sydney,” Finn said. “We came out and responded, and did really well.”

“It was a very good toss to lose. We were going to bat as well if we won the toss.”

“It was important that we held our lengths. Balls about waist high were very hard to hit and we could build pressure by holding that length, and it made them play loose shots. We had a bit of luck and there were a few good balls in there as well.”

Finn said the ball did a little bit when it was new but also sometimes held up on the Gabba pitch, and created timing issues for the batsmen. AP

FOOTBALL | ASIAN CUP

## Japan, Iraq advance to Asian Cup quarterfinals



Japan's Shinji Kagawa

**K**EISUKE Honda and Shinji Kagawa scored as Japan weathered a determined Jordan to win their final group match 2-0 and advance to the Asian Cup quarterfinals yesterday.

Iraq also qualified from Group D after Younis Mahmoud and Yaser Safa Kasim gave it a 2-0 victory over already-eliminated Palestine in Canberra.

Group-winner Japan will next face the United Arab Emirates on Friday, when Iraq plays Iran.

Honda opened the scoring in the 24th minute when he coolly slotted the ball home at the near post after a powerful shot by Shinji Okazaki was deflected by Jordan goalkeeper Amer Shafi.

Kagawa put the win beyond doubt eight minutes from the end, meeting a long centering pass in front of goal and firing in. AP

opinion

**Artifacts**  
 Vanessa Moore



**KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY**

It's that time of year again where Christmas has gone and Chinese New Year is coming up, and whether Western or Chinese, most of us will have had to (or are about to) endure habitual large-scale family gatherings. And just like for Macau's people, so too for the country. Last month Grandpa Xi Jinping paid a visit to check up on his errant nephew Macau before the holidays. Under the guise of marking the prodigal 15th anniversary of its return into the family fold Xi, the proverbial patriarch, made the journey down from Beijing to whip the MSAR into shape.

It's no secret that Grandpa is on a family crusade. Upon taking up the reins of the presidency back in 2012, Xi made his own great leap forward by announcing a broad anti-corruption campaign promising that he would be "striking tigers and flies at the same time", meaning that no Party official was safe, and that both prominent bureaucrats and grassroots cadres alike would be targeted.

Since Xi first read the riot act, the clampdown has netted those in the military, the secret services and plain old low-level cronies, and has uncovered millions of dollars held by corrupt officials both at home and abroad. In concrete terms, the campaign has already snared 100,000 cadres of various levels. Most surprisingly, anti-corruption efforts have even gone so far as to break the unwritten rule of touching the CPC's inner circle, with former security tsar Zhou Yongkang, the most prominent official since the days of Mao, declassified in the probe.

And it doesn't stop there. Xi vowed to maintain "high pressure" and "zero tolerance" in the battle against graft in a speech earlier this month at a plenary session of the party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. The net is being cast wider and Grandpa has now called time on Macau's black sheep exploits as he steers the family business into going legit. It's time to buckle down, toe the line, and join PRC incorporated everyone. The nephew of gaming billionaire Stanley Ho, Alan Ho, was unlucky enough to find this out first-hand when he was arrested following the bust of the massive prostitution ring he was heading up at the Lisboa. More tellingly, it seems that having the right uncle is no longer enough to protect you from Grandpa.

Furthermore, Macau's family elders are also putting a stop to all the gallivanting. The end of the year saw a new government administration sworn in together with the announcement of a crackdown on illicit money flows. Xi admonished that there be "greater control and supervision" of the gaming industry as well as, more ominously, "clean government".

In terms of practicalities, the rich are flashing less cash-affecting everything from upscale restaurants and liquor to gambling-fearing that they'll get caught in the anti-corruption sweep. Wealthy mainland punters are avoiding the casinos and Macau's revenue is plunging because of it. In 2014 revenue fell for the first time ever by 2.5% according to data released last week by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. Now some are forecasting that they'll decline a further 16.5% this month.

Xi's crackdown has even snared the junket operators, and most visibly David Group, which runs rooms for high rollers in Sands and Wynn, last week announced that it was shutting three of them. Analysts are hoping that things will take a turn for the better when the next wave of casino resorts open next year. But if the high rollers are scared of getting caught with their fingers in the till, the only thing for it will actually be walking the walk and making a real effort at economic diversification rather than merely paying lip service to it.

But lurking in the background amidst all of this, the elephant in the room is the question of whether this is really about wiping out corruption at all. Back at the family compound in Beijing, some in Zhongnanhai believe it's about Xi firming up power not only in the party, but under him too. Innocently netting powerful enemies in rival Politburo political factions such as Zhou seems almost too good to be true, and Grandpa's poker face may get busted soon.

Whether they're right or not, in Macau all this speculation is beside the point. If Xi's anti-graft crusade has the (un)intended consequence of forcing the city to clean up and call time on its seedier underbelly whilst finally coercing it into diversifying its one-trick pony economy, isn't that something worth thanking Grandpa for?

**THE BUZZ** THAI AGENCY SEEKS PROSECUTION OF EX-MINISTERS FOR RICE SALE

Thailand's anti-graft agency has called for corruption charges against a former commerce minister and his deputy for allegedly committing fraud in a government-to-government rice sale.

National Anti-Corruption Commissioner Wicha Mahakun said yesterday an investigation found the pair, along with 17 government officials and businessmen, sold rice from the Thai government's stockpile to a Chinese company that did not represent the mainland government.

Wicha said the sale, which was supposed to take place between the two governments, caused serious losses to Thailand.

Thailand accumulated a large rice stockpile during the term of the government that was ousted in a coup last May.

It bought rice from farmers at above-market prices but faced losses when selling the grain on the world market. The program accumulated losses of at least USD4.4 billion.

**Nobel laureate Gbowee: Security Council must reform itself**



Nobel peace laureate Leemah Gbowee speaks during the United Nations Security Council meeting

Edith M. Lederer, United Nations

**N**OBEL peace laureate Leemah Gbowee told the Security Council yesterday (Macau time) that people across the world are living in fear and she urged the U.N.'s most powerful body to take action to reduce inequality and promote inclusiveness.

The Liberian peace activist painted a grim picture of a more dangerous world where the lives of rich and poor of all races and political beliefs are affected.

"All of the things that made life meaningful to us (are) gradually being taken away by insecurity," Gbowee said in a keynote address at a council meeting on the importance of "inclusive development" in promoting peace. "The joy of getting on the airplane is gone. The freedom to worship when, where and how we choose is gone. Education especially for girls is under threat."

"Freedom of expression, freedom of the press as we

saw in Paris is also a thing of the past," she added, referring to the recent terror attacks that killed 17 people at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, a kosher grocery and elsewhere in the French capital.

Saying this may be the only time she gets to address the Security Council, Gbowee urged its 15 members "to do some deep self-reflection" and undertake reforms, including expanding the number of its permanent veto-wielding members from five to seven.

"Militarism is viewed as the primary solution to every local national and international problem regardless of what the problem is," Gbowee said. "In order to achieve international peace and development, we need to change the systems and structures that make it impossible for others to try where others are succeeding."

The Security Council approved a presidential statement highlighting "the importance of identifying and addressing social, economic, political, cultural and religious exclusion, intolerance, as well as violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, as drivers of conflict."

It encouraged all 193 U.N. member states to come up with a common U.N. approach to promote development for all peoples and enlist lo-

cal communities and non-governmental organizations in developing strategies "to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts."

The meeting drew criticism from the Group of 77, representing 132 mainly developing countries, which accused the council of encroaching on the mandate of the 193-member General Assembly and other U.N. organs to address development issues.

South Africa's U.N. Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, whose country chairs the group, criticized richer nations for failing to honor commitments to provide aid to developing countries, for not providing debt relief to poor countries, and for failing to open markets and transfer technology to developing countries.

Chile's President Michelle Bachelet, whose country currently holds the Security Council presidency and chose the topic for Monday's debate, countered that the council was the right place because "social inclusion and inclusive development are the conditions for peace."

"Latin America, which is the region of the world with the most inequality, is also the region with the highest homicide rate and one of the regions most affected by drug trafficking and organized crime," she said. **AP**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Joydip Kundu



**Tigers up.** A Royal Bengal tiger prowls in the Sunderbans about 130km south of Calcutta. India's latest tiger census shows a sharp increase in the number of endangered cats in the wild, raising hopes that conservation efforts are working. The census conducted in 2014 found at least 2,226 tigers in forests across the country, up from 1,706 counted in 2010.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	80-110 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	85-115 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**TAIWAN** Six Taiwanese firefighters were killed yesterday when a burning roof collapsed on them in a bowling alley, media reports said. Taiwan's official Central News Agency said firefighters had rescued two brothers from the bowling alley, which was closed at the time. Other firefighters were then trapped when metal supports gave way and the roof fell on them in Taoyuan city south of Taipei.

**ISRAEL** Beating their chests and chanting "Death to Israel," thousands of Hezbollah supporters march in a funeral procession for a prominent Hezbollah fighter killed with five other members of the militant Shiite group in an Israeli airstrike the day before in Syria's Golan Heights.



**USA-CUBA** American officials head to Havana with fairly modest goals of cooperation with the Cuban government, seeking an end to restrictions on the U.S. Interests Section there so that an embassy can eventually be established.

**VATICAN CITY** Pope Francis is firmly upholding church teaching banning contraception, but says that Catholics don't have to breed "like rabbits" and should instead practice "responsible parenting." **More on p15**



**FRANCE** Five Russians of Chechen origin have been arrested in southern France, including one with a cache of explosives, a local mayor said yesterday as four other men appeared at a court in Paris, the first to face charges in the Paris terror attacks.