



**WONG WAN SAID TO LEAVE POST AS DSAT HEAD**  
The Transport Bureau director Wong Wan will leave his post in May, according to media reports

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**RECESSION LIKELY TO REACH DOUBLE-DIGITS**  
Economist Albano Martins predicts that the city's GDP will face a downturn likely to reach double-digit percentage points

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**CHINA HAS GROWN TO WORLD'S 3RD-BIGGEST ARMS EXPORTER**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** Two Chinese taxi-hailing apps that merged in February issued a set of standards yesterday to govern their ride-on-demand service, which has run afoul of state and local regulators over passenger safety concerns. Under the self-imposed standards issued by Didi Dache and Kuaidi Dache, drivers must have at least three years of driving experience, be screened for criminal and traffic violation records and undergo training and tests before becoming employed for ride-on-demand services.

**HONG KONG-S KOREA** An Asiana plane with 259 passengers aboard returned to Hong Kong yesterday after finding a wrong passenger was aboard the aircraft, airline officials said. The plane was bound for Incheon, South Korea, when it had left Hong Kong earlier yesterday. But it began flying back to Hong Kong when it was above Taiwan, Asiana Airlines officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because their company was still checking details of the incident. The passenger, believed to be a South Korean, was supposed to take a Jeju Air plane from Hong Kong to Incheon but that it wasn't known how he got on a wrong plane, according to Asiana Airlines.

**INDONESIA** The Indonesian government will raise the number of countries receiving free visas to 40 from the current 15 countries, a minister said yesterday. Tourism Minister Arief Yahya said that the expansion of the scheme was expected to increase the number of foreign tourist arrivals by 15 percent annually. Among the countries to be included in the expansion are China, France, Germany, Norway, South Korea, Japan, Russia, the UK and the USA, Minister Yahya said at the Coordinating Ministry for Economy.

# Two young people die in scooter accident . P2



# Arts Festival returns, promising innovative and diversified shows . P3

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LOCAL police have launched an inquiry into a severe traffic accident that occurred near the hangar of the Macau International Airport yesterday afternoon at around two o'clock, resulting in two fatalities.

The accident, which killed a motorcyclist on the spot, involved a motorbike, a truck, as well as a cab. The initial investigation disclosed that the dead scooter driver, aged 24, was a local while the passenger was a 27-year-old migrant laborer. The latter was later pronounced dead in hospital. It also suspected that both were run over by the truck.

A large part of the motorbike embroiled in the deadly crash was badly mangled, with the driver's belongings seen scattered across the ground.

## Two killed in traffic accident

Both the local taxi and truck drivers, who both passed a breathalyzer test, are currently under police investigation.

A self-claimed witness told the media outlet that the cause of the fatal accident was linked to one of the vehicles passing the others. The incident caused traffic congestion to the nearby area.

The Institute for Tourism Studies last night issued a statement verifying the identity of one of the victims as a junior student. The institute offered to provide assistance to his family and organize ad hoc counseling services for students and teaching staff.



The police made an appeal yesterday calling on witnesses to report any details to them on 2837 4214.

Multiple construction projects underway in Cotai have turned certain parts of the district into accident hot spots. Large vehicles commute between Macau and Taipa every day along the diverted roads, most of which have become narrower and bumpier, and without clear road signs indicating directions.

The first month of the year recorded a total of 1,237 traffic accidents, according to the latest figures by the Statistics and Census Service. **Staff reporter**

## Wong Wan said to leave post as DSAT head



THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) chief, Wong Wan, will leave his post in May. He has not renewed his current contract, according to a Radio Macau broadcast yesterday. However, the bureau told The Times it would not confirm the report at this time.

Mr Wong has served as DSAT head since the bureau's creation in 2008. He has allegedly requested not to renew his cur-

rent contract, which expires in May.

Last week, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário was asked about Mr Wong's future within DSAT, but he did not clarify whether changes are underway in the bureau's leadership. Mr Rosário stated that he would soon make a decision on the matter, stressing that he was pleased with Mr Wong's

performance.

Improvements in the traffic flow and the city's overall transportation system were among Macau citizens' top concerns, according to a report released by the government's Policy Research Office last year. Among 111,246 opinions and suggestions collected during Chief Executive Chui Sai On's campaign, a total of 87,425 were concerned with traffic issues.

In recent years, Mr Wong and DSAT have been under fire for failing to solve major transportation issues in Macau. Residents complain of packed buses and dreadful traffic jams, as well as criticizing taxi drivers' behavior and the insufficient number of taxis.

### Wong has served as DSAT head since the bureau's creation in 2008

Last November, DSAT and Vang Iek Radio Taxi, the company operating dial-a-cab services, failed to reach an agreement, which prompted the so-called yellow taxis to bid Macau's streets farewell. The company and the government's attempt to renew their contract failed, with Vang Iek's request to introduce an additional fee for dial-a-cab services going unapproved by Macau's administration.

Vang Iek used to operate 100 taxis, 60 of which provided only dial-a-cab services, while 40 offered regular services.

Another major controversy was triggered by Reolian's bankruptcy in 2013. In 2009, Reolian was granted three main bus routes in a much-criticized bid while TCM, another bus operator, was granted a license despite allegedly delivering its tender four minutes past the deadline. Reolian would later be asked to release part of its awarded routes to TCM.

After commencing operations, Reolian faced several other challenges, from high operating costs to manpower shortages and the government's refusal to pay for a contractual annual fee adjustment related to inflation.

In 2013, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) slammed Macau's bus operation scheme, describing it as "the most severe case of legal breach" and therefore affecting public interest. CCAC accused DSAT of allowing the city's three bus operators to operate illegally, as none of the companies had signed proper concession contracts, instead signing mere "service-rendering contracts."

Last year, Mr Wong told lawmakers at a Legislative Assembly plenary meeting that he is the main government official accountable for issues relating to the bus operation system. **CP**

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Brook Yang

**T**HE annual Macau Arts Festival (MAF) is returning to stages city-wide on May 1, now in its 26th year. Through the month of May, it will host 30 shows and visual art exhibitions, and over one hundred activities, with an emphasis on “transcending the boundaries of art.”

“The theme of this year’s edition is ‘Encounter,’ representing an attempt to explore the diversity of the performing arts, and to break through language barriers, with the objective of revealing artistic diversity through dialogue between different artistic media,” said Ung Vai Meng, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), at a press conference held yesterday.

Headlining the festival’s grand opening is “Lied Ballet,” a physical interpretation show presented by French group Centre Chorégraphique National de Tours, which will stage its Asian premiere at the Macau Cultural Center (CCM). Through the dancers’ body movements, audiences can expect a journey through various artistic styles, from Baroque to Modernism.

Another Asian premiere, titled “Trust,” will be performed by German company Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz, bringing the festival to a close at the same venue. Written in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crash, the dance and theatre production questions the contemporary world we live in. It discusses the collapse of values and trust in political and economic institutions, as well as the emotional aftermath.

More world-class innovative works are highlighted in this year’s arts festival. Ung explained that, “apart from meeting the needs of conventional art lovers, the MAF hopes to bring out a more diverse and intense set of messages so that the audience can explore in different directions.”

“The Macau Arts Festival has already become one of the city’s most important annual cultural events,” he stressed. “We believe that only by constantly trying, learning and feeling, can we grow and really perceive culture’s various features and nuances.”

A dance production titled “Out of Context – for Pina” will be brought to life by Belgium’s Les Ballets C de la B, paying tribute to contemporary dance master Pina Bausch. From France, “The Suit,” presented by Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord and directed by legendary theatre director Peter Brook, will showcase an extraordinary denotation of theatrical space. Moreover, Portugal’s Teatro Praga will aim to probe in its play the age-old issue: “What is old age all about?”

Following these acclaimed

# 26th Arts Festival explores diversity of the performing arts



Ung Vai Meng (center) presents the MAF yesterday during a press conference

productions, local talent from the region will showcase various performances that explore issues facing people in modern times, in the form of dance, theatre, music, visual arts and multimedia. According to the bureau, local shows comprising

**The Macau Arts Festival has already become one of the city’s most important annual cultural events**

UNG VAI MENG

half of the event’s programs, since the bureau is committed to “providing opportunities for local artists to showcase their talent.”

Meanwhile, intangible heritage performances such as Kun Opera, Cantonese Opera and Patuá Theatre promise to add to the festival’s artistic diversity with their unique art forms.

Audiences can expect a perfect demonstration of the inheritance of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in Kun Opera play, “1699 The Peach Blossom Fan,” performed by the Jiangsu Kun Opera Theatre Performing Arts Group. Local Cantonese Opera troupes will also take to the stage in two plays.

Beside concerts, dance, theatre, and Chinese opera, the MAF will also showcase a series of exhibitions aiming to “broaden audiences’ horizons.” The

exhibition “At the Risk of Colour – Claude Viallat and Frank Chalendar” will open a path for visual arts experiences with text and colour, whereas the Macau Museum’s exhibition “From L’orient to the Orient” will explore the port cities of China and France on the 18th Century Maritime Silk Route.

Moreover, the Iao Hon Garden, located in the city’s North District, will be converted into an outdoor cinema, screening a number of outstanding films from all over the world. The festival’s annual “Outdoor Performing Arts Showcase” will be moved to Barra Square this year.

The Macau Arts Festival will also roll out an outreach program comprised of content ranging from lectures to post-show talks and workshops, aiming to facilitate the audience’s understanding

of the shows’ conceptual ideas, and interacting with the creative groups.

According to IC vice president, Leung Hio Ming, the festival has increased its budget to MOP29 million, mainly to cope with inflation. Tickets will be available on March 22, with various discounts on offer.

**19,000 TICKETS SOLD IN 2014**

ACCORDING TO IC vice president, Leung Hio Ming, the festival sold around 19,000 tickets last year, but only attracted 2,000 participants in the outreach activities. “This year we’ve tried to strengthen our work on this part, hoping to attract more participants,” he said.

## New Patuá show to take on Macau’s talent issues

**A**S one of the highlights of the 26th Macao Arts Festival this May, local theater group Dóci Papiaçám di Macao will tackle more hot-button social issues by staging its new play in Patuá dialect, titled “Macao’s Got Talent.”

The group’s plays have become one of the most anticipated features of the annual festival. This year’s play is written and directed by Miguel de Senna Fernandes, and focuses on discovering the story behind the city’s “lack of talent.”



“Macau is a land of talented people, but where are the talents and who decides their geniality? The plot unfolds in today’s Macau, a city in which the production of talents is a priority, in order to contribute to the intellectual and technical development of our city,” said the organizer.

As a vanishing creole language spoken at home and informally by the city’s Macanese community, the Patuá dialect has been identified as a critically endangered language by UNESCO.

NPC | COOPERATION

# Delegates call for quicker implementation of 'one river, two straits' plan



Pedestrians walk past a Starbucks Corp. coffee store in Zhuhai

**F**OUR members of Macau's delegation to the National People's Congress have jointly urged the related government departments to come up with plans for the construction of the "one river, two straits" economic zone, which is part of the Zhuhai government's urban planning scheme, targeting waterfront regions between their city and Macau.

The scheme, proposed in 2005 by the mainland government, also seeks to revamp Wanzai, turning the area that faces the Inner Harbor into a more livable zone.

Four Macau delegates to the NPC, namely Chui Sai Peng, Lok Po, Io Hong Meng and Kou Hoi In, expressed their wish for early implementation of the project to ease enduring pressure on the Gongbei checkpoint, and to address the overcrowded central district of Zhuhai.

According to them, the urban planning project resonates with local residents' growing demand for renovation of the Inner Harbor district. The regional cooperation may strengthen business interaction between the two sides, and the district itself could become an additional destination for travel and leisure activities.

The four delegates told *Jornal do Cidadão* that an up-to-date plan of the project was essential in further realizing the "Framework Agreement on Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macau," which aims to improve and optimize the livelihood of people in the Pearl River Delta.

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## Wanzai will be revamped, turning the area that faces the Inner Harbor into a more livable zone

The four delegates told *Jornal do Cidadão* that an up-to-date plan of the project was essential in further realizing the "Framework Agreement on Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macau," which aims to improve and optimize the livelihood of people in the Pearl River Delta.

## DSEJ asks schools to take in children with special needs

**T**HE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau has called on local private secondary schools to admit more children with special needs and provide them with integrated education.

Director of the bureau's Centre of Psychopedagogical Support and Special Education, Ms Chow Pui Leng, told TDM that there are currently 29 private and 9 public schools providing integrated education. Of these, 17 private and 2 public schools provide integrated education at the secondary level.

One concerned parent on TDM's current affairs radio program noted that Macau lacks a system for special needs students to transition to secondary education. Chow responded on the program that the bureau would offer assistance when parents encounter problems obtaining school seats. The bureau will also strive to meet the special needs of these students and encourage more of them to attend ordinary secondary schools.



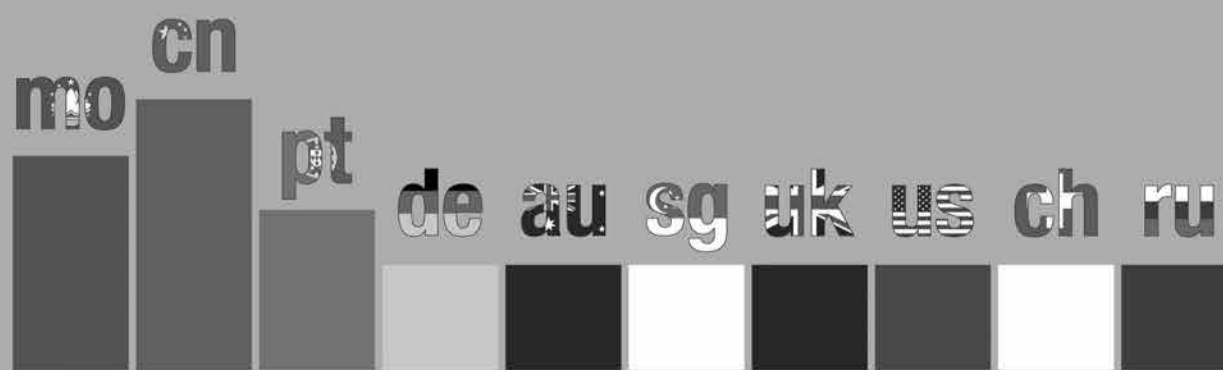
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# Recession likely to reach double-digit percentage points, economist says

**L**OCAL economist Albano Martins predicts that the city's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will face a downturn likely to reach double-digit percentage points. "Everything indicates that the gaming revenue will continue to drop



sharply, at least during the first half of the year. That slump will negatively affect Macau's GDP," he said. According to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the city's economy shrank 17.2 per-

cent in the fourth quarter of 2014, after casino revenues slumped and visitors cut spending. Gross domestic product for the full year dropped 0.4 percent following a 10.2 percent decline in the second half of the year. Albano Martins thinks that 2015 will be a negative year for the local economy because "the government can do almost nothing to counter the effects that the gaming industry revenue fall has on local GDP, since the economy is small and the size of the public sector is not significant when compared with gaming." Taking the first two months of the year into consideration, gaming revenue is falling 31.5 percent year-on-year. In January revenues dropped 17.4 percent, and in February the slump was much more pronounced, reaching 35.1 percent compared to the same month last year. **MDT/Lusa**

**The government can do almost nothing to counter the effects of the gaming industry revenue fall on the local GDP**

ALBANO MARTINS

## Gov't intends to introduce minimum wage by 2018

**T**HE government intends to introduce a universal minimum wage for all workers, following its initial introduction for cleaning and security personnel working in property management companies. "We intend to implement the minimum wage for those two sectors this year. But our stand on this is implementing a minimum wage for all workers within three years," the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, revealed yesterday on the sidelines of a Standing Committee for Coordination of Social Affairs meeting. In July 2014, after two days of discussion, the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary passed the first reading of the minimum wage law. Since then, the Third Standing Committee has been examining the details of the legislation. Yesterday, Lionel Leong said that employers and employees agree on the general principle of introducing a minimum wage for all sectors. However, nothing has been decided regarding the wage amount and its related regulations. "We are going to meet with workers and employers to see how we can implement that, [whether] gradually or immediately," Leong said, adding that the government is looking into the matter. The Standing Committee for Coordination of Social Affairs also discussed increases for elderly and invalidity pensions. Both pensions will be raised from MOP3,180 to MOP3,350 starting next July.

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## Mist and fog to cover city until Sunday

Mist and fog will affect Macau until Sunday, according to the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG). Due to a warm and humid maritime airstream, poor visibility on the sea surface is expected to persist throughout the week. The Marine and Water Bureau has called for careful sailing and safety in water sports, advising passengers taking high-speed boats to pay attention to weather information. According to the SMG, visibility will improve over the weekend as the air cools down. Moreover, temperatures will be unstable due to the contention of two airstreams during the change from winter to summer.

## Online bookstore expands fast delivery to Macau

Books.com.tw 博客來, Taiwan's largest online bookstore, added Macau to its fast-delivery overseas distribution network yesterday. The addition of Macau comes nearly one year after the bookseller set up its first overseas operation in Hong Kong, offering cheaper books than domestic vendors as well as fast delivery through the 7-Eleven convenience store chain. According to Focus Taiwan News Channel, the bookseller has spent almost a year integrating back-end systems such as customer service and logistics to ensure a smooth shopping experience in Macau.

## Ten new PJ detectives sworn in



Ten new Judiciary Police (PJ) detectives were sworn in yesterday, said the PJ in its latest statement. Cheong Kam Fai, Liu Kuok Sang, and António Manuel Pereira will serve as detectives, while Choi Ian Fai, Lao Man Leng, Chan Lai Cheng, Leong Kuok Hei, Lai Chio Hong, Che Peng Kun and Yeung Sau Chan will be deputy inspectors. The ten new detectives and deputy inspectors have extensive experience in the police force, having served for over 15 years, the PJ said. They were all subject to "rigorous examinations" and underwent further training for over six months, including a training program at the China Criminal Police College.



# Sound & Image Challenge expands into festival

Catarina Pinto

**T**HE Sound & Image Challenge (SIC), a project launched by Creative Macau five years ago, has expanded into a film festival. Organizers announced yesterday that the event features two competitions, a short-film contest (titled "Shorts") and a music video contest ("Volume"). Submissions for both contests are open until June 16.

José Luis Sales Marques, president of the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), which supports the festival, told a press conference yesterday that, "[the project] has developed into something bigger, particularly last year with the support of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ). This has encouraged us to take a step forward and turn it into a festival."

The Sound & Image Challenge

Festival 2015 will be held between December 1 and 6. The "Shorts" category awards the best short films in four categories (Fiction, Documentary, Animation and Advertisement). For the "Volume" category, contestants submit music videos based on Macau compositions.

The winning music video will

**This project, launched five years ago, has developed into something bigger**

JOSÉ LUIS SALES MARQUES

be recorded as the festival's theme song.

A series of cultural events will be held between December 1 and 6, including film screenings and seminars on film production and development, as well as workshops.

Lúcia Lemos, project manager of Creative Macau, said that the event received 397 submissions last year. Local response, however, "was not as big as expected" as Macau's film industry is still developing, she added.

This time, organizers are hoping to attract a higher number of submissions, while trying to capture the attention of local talent. João Cordeiro, the festival's executive producer, said that they hope to reach about 1,000 submissions.

The "Best in Event" award is given to the best short-film, as voted by the grand jury among

the four categories, with BNU sponsoring MOP20,000 in prize money. The best film in each category is awarded MOP10,000, sponsored by USJ, Creative Macau, or the Orient Foundation.

This year's jury includes Mr. Zhang Zeming, Hong Kong film director and producer; João Francisco Pinto, TDM's Portuguese News and Program Controller; and Mário Dorminski, founder of Fantasporto, Porto's International Film Festival, among other international experts.

The Sound & Image Challenge was launched by Creative Macau - Center for Creative Industries in 2010, and targets both professionals and amateurs, said Ms Lemos. Since last year, the event has been held in collaboration with the University of Saint Joseph.

## CRIME

# Man refuses change, grabs notes from cash register

**T**HE Public Security Police (PSP) on Sunday received a report of theft from a store on the Cotai Strip claiming that a man who intended to make purchase in the shop stole a total of HKD1,000.

The cashier, who reported the crime to PSP around 7:00 pm that day, said around an hour before, an unknown man dropped by the shop and selected a black leather bag worth HKD340 before proceeding to the checkout to pay. He decli-

ned an HKD500 note among the change given by the cashier and requested a MOP500 note instead. However, the cashier told him that there were no more pataca notes left in the cash register and asked him to take the available change.

According to the PSP's account in a press conference held yesterday afternoon, the man then reached his hand into the cash register, refusing to believe the cashier's words. He then grabbed a

pile of notes and checked to see if there were any pataca notes. Realizing that there were in fact none left, the unidentified man then grabbed the money back from the cashier's hands before leaving the shop without making any purchase.

The man's suspicious behavior alerted the storekeeper, who afterwards discovered that a HKD1,000 note was in fact missing after counting. The cashier then called the police reporting the case immediately.

The PSP authorities also made an appeal to the media during the press conference, warning shopkeepers to stay cautious and alert all the time and to count their money clearly before customers leave. They also urge them to avoid allowing strangers to touch their cash registers. **Staff reporter**

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Kyoungwha Kim

**C**HINESE stocks gained, with the benchmark index climbing to its highest level since August 2009, after Premier Li Keqiang pledged to take action if economic growth slows too much and the benchmark money-market rate fell.

Hundsun Technologies Inc. and Glodon Software Co. surged more than 9 percent as a gauge of technology shares extended its gain this year to 40 percent after Li encouraged the development of e-commerce. China Mobile Ltd. advanced the most in a month in Hong Kong. Huadong Medicine Co. jumped by the 10 percent daily limit to lead consumer shares higher. The number of advancing stocks was at a record-high. The seven-day repurchase rate slid the most in five weeks as funds locked up for new share sales returned to the banking system.

The Shanghai Composite Index rose 2.3 percent to 3,449.31 at the close, extending last week's 4.1 percent increase. Li said Sunday the government will take additional steps if China's growth, which the government targeted at 7 percent this year, drifts toward the lower limit of its range and cuts into employment or wages. About 3 trillion yuan (USD479 billion) was set aside for initial public offerings last week, according to the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of brokerages.

"Li's positive tone on growth bolstered investor confidence," said Yen Chiu, a trader at Shenwan Hongyuan Group Co. in Hong Kong. "Technology stocks are getting a boost on the economy's reliance on the sector for growth."

There were 973 stocks that rose on the Shanghai Composite yesterday, the most since Bloomberg began compiling the data in 1997, while nine fell and 78 were unchanged.

The CSI 300 Index rose 2.4

# Chinese stocks rise to five-year high after Li's pledge on economy



Li Keqiang, China's premier, applauds during the closing session of the third session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng China Enterprises Index added 0.9 percent and the Hang Seng Index gained 0.5 percent. The Bloomberg China-US Equity Index slid 0.9 percent in New York on Friday.

A gauge of technology shares climbed 4.1 percent, the most among the 10 industry groups on the CSI 300. The ChiNext index advanced 3.6 percent. Hundsun Technologies soared to a record and Glodon Software jumped by the 10 percent maximum.

Earnings for Chinese technology companies have been revised upwards by 14 percent in the past month, compared with a 1 percent downward revision for the CSI 300 as a whole, ac-

ording to HSBC Holdings Plc analysts including Roger Xie in a report dated March 13.

Indexes tracking consumer staples companies and drug-makers rallied more than 2.4 percent. Huadong Medicine rose to a record and Zhangzhou Pientzhuang Pharmaceutical Co. gained 5.7 percent.

The seven-day repurchase rate, a gauge of interbank funding availability, dropped 10 basis points to 4.6155 percent, according to a weighted average from the National Interbank Funding Center. That was the biggest decline since Feb. 5.

Trading in Shanghai was 44 percent above the 30-day average at the close. The gauge is

valued at 12.7 times 12-month projected earnings, compared with the five-year average multiple of 10.2, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Margin traders increased holdings of shares purchased with borrowed money for a 13th day on Friday, with the outstanding balance of margin debt on the Shanghai Stock Exchange rising to a record 880.6 billion yuan (\$141 billion).

A gauge of Macau casino stocks dropped to its lowest level since December 2012 after Morgan Stanley predicted a 25 percent drop in the city's gambling revenue this year. MGM China Holdings Ltd. fell 3 percent and Sands China Ltd. slid 1.4 percent.

Investors are rushing to buy protection against declines in Chinese stocks amid concern an economic slowdown will undermine their world-beating rally.

Demand to hedge against future losses on the largest U.S. exchange-traded fund tracking China's mainland market climbed to the highest since the ETF was created in November 2013, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The buying pushed the ratio of bearish to bullish contracts to a five-month high on March 11 as investors pulled \$34 million from the fund in a second week of outflows.

While the economy is growing

## A gauge of Macau casino stocks dropped to its lowest level since Dec 2012 after Morgan Stanley predicted a 25pct drop in the city's gambling revenue this year

at the slowest pace since 1990, the Shanghai Composite has jumped 64 percent in the past year through last week, the best performance among major equity gauges tracked by Bloomberg.

China's total public and private debt has increased to more than twice the nation's economic output, soaring 83 percentage points relative to gross domestic product since 2007. No other developing country has amassed as much debt as quickly, according to data compiled by McKinsey Global Institute. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MDME DISTINGUISHED IN THE "IFLR ASIA AWARDS 2015"

MdME, the member firm of the network MLGTS Legal Circle for Macau, received the award "M&A Deal of the Year" in the "IFLR Asia Awards 2015" due to its involvement in the acquisition of Hong Kong's Wing Hang Bank by the Singapore-based Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC). The team led by partner Rui Pinto Proença and associate Liliana Faria acted as Macau adviser to OCBC in the USD5 billion deal that allowed it to delist the Hong Kong bank and combine operations. The Wing Hang Bank purchase was the largest takeover of a Hong Kong bank since 2001.

The award is one of the most recognized in the Asian legal market, given annually by the international legal magazine International Financial Law Review (IFLR), acknowledging MdME's growing performance in the region.

The IFLR Asia Awards, as they are known, are based on the analysis of a law firm's performance by an international judge panel, mainly composed by in-house counsel from worldwide financial institutions and companies.

The results were made known during the award ceremony on the evening of March 11, in Hong Kong.

CATS ended its 10-day run at The Venetian Macao Sunday, presenting the acclaimed Broadway musical to audiences at The Venetian Theatre March 6-15. CATS has entertained audiences all over the world, including for 18 years on Broadway. Tickets for the 13 shows were in demand, with weekend performances particularly popular.

According to a Venetian press release, it was clear from opening night that the show would be a hit with Macau audiences. The response from the public, both in terms of ticket sales and comments, has been very positive and is an encouraging sign for a city making a name for itself a world center of tourism and leisure. The combination of score, choreography, costumes and song-and-dance

### CATS COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL RUN AT VENETIAN MACAO



routines were met with applause night after night.

The staging of CATS at The

Venetian Theatre is the first in a series of Broadway shows coming to Sands Resorts Co-

tai Strip Macao, including another major musical coming in June.



# Portugal's public debt reaches 231.1b euros

**P**ORTUGAL'S public debt is expected to have increased by 6.6 billion euros in January, standing at a total of 231.1 billion euros by month's end, the Technical Budget Support Unit said Friday in Lisbon (UTAO).

The independent technicians supporting parliament claim that increasing the amount of public debt "contributed to the amount of debt issued in January and the subscription of Savings Certificates and Treasury Certificates."

At the end of February, the central bank announced that state debt had reached 224.477 million euros and central government net debt on deposits stood at 206.971 million in December 2014.

According to the Bank of Portugal, the debt ratio of general government to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in line with Maastricht guidelines, stood at 128.7 percent in 2014, more



A tourist poses for a photograph in front of the Belem Tower during a foggy day on the Tejo river in Lisbon, Portugal

than in 2013 (128 percent) and more than the target set by the government for the last year, which was 127.2 percent of GDP.

Debt, based on Maastricht criteria, is used to measure the level of indebtedness of the government of a country and the concept is defined in a 2009 regulation of the European Council on the application of the Protocol on excessive deficits attached to

the Treaty establishing the European Community.

The numbers already include the accounting changes based on the European System of Accounts for SEC2010 that all EU countries had to adopt by September last year and, in the case of Portugal, generated an upward review of the GDP figure and a downward review of the debt to GDP ratio. **MDT/Macauhub**

## ANGOLA

# Cities of Luanda and Lobito to be linked by motorway

**A** new bridge over the Kwanza River along National Road 100, is set to be built this year to allow traffic to move more easily along the coast between Luanda and southern Angola, said the Director General of the Angolan Roads Institute.

António Resende said the new bridge would have four lanes, two in each direction, and be able to support vehicles weighing up to 100 tons. The site is currently undergoing mine removal and being cleared for the work yard to be installed.

The Director-General of the Angolan Roads Institute said that the current link between Luanda and Lobito, passing around the city of Sumbe, would give way to a motorway, "as it no longer has capacity to support the amount of traffic recorded on a daily basis."

The motorway will be built in phases, "because of its length and high cost", with the first phase starting from the bridge over the Kwanza River to Porto Amboim and the second phase to Sumbe "and so on until the work is finished."

National Road 100 currently passes through a number of locations, such as Porto Amboim, Sumbe and Lobito, which has caused many constraints on road traffic. The current Kwanza River bridge will continue to work, but only for internal traffic in Luanda, Resende noted.

In addition to construction of the new bridge over the Kwanza River, two other bridges will be also built with motorways running along them over the Longa and Queve rivers. However, these will be smaller, as the bridge over the Kwanza River is 4 kilometers long and the other two are each 1,200 meters long. **MDT/Macauhub**

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In this Nov. 21, 2010, file photo, Pakistan Air Force personnel sit in front of their JF-17 jet fighter at the 8th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition (Zhuhai Airshow) in Zhuhai

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA has overtaken Germany to become the world's third-biggest arms exporter, although its 5 percent share remains small compared to the combined 58 percent of exports from the U.S. and Russia, a new study says.

China's share of the global arms market rose 143 percent from 2010 to 2014, a period during which the total volume of global arms transfers rose by 16 percent over the previous five years, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said in a report released yesterday.

Its share of the world market was up from 3 percent in the 2009-2014 period, when China was ranked ninth among exporters of warplanes, ships, side arms and other weaponry, said the institute, known as SIPRI.

The data show the growing strength of China's domestic arms industry, now producing fourth-generation fighter jets, navy frigates and a wide-range of relatively cheap, simple and reliable smaller weapons used in conflicts around the globe.

Responding to the study, Chinese Foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China took a "cautious approach" to arms exports and abided by relevant U.N. resolutions and domestic laws.

"We follow the principle that the export of arms will help increase the recipient country's legitimate self-defense capabilities and not undermine international or regional peace and stability, and we

## Study: PRC has grown to world's 3rd-biggest arms exporter

don't intervene in their domestic affairs," Hong said.

China had long been a major importer of weapons, mainly from Russia and Ukraine, but its soaring economy and the copying of foreign technology has largely reversed the trend, except for the most cutting-edge designs and sophisticated parts such as aircraft engines.

China supplies weapons to 35 countries, led by Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, SIPRI said.

Chinese sales included those of armored vehicles and transport and trainer aircraft to Venezuela, three frigates to Algeria, anti-ship missiles to Indonesia and unmanned combat aerial vehicles, or drones, to Nigeria, which is battling the Boko Haram insurgency in its north.

China's comparative advantages include its low prices, easy financing and friendliness toward authoritarian governments, said Philip Saunders, director of the Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs at the U.S. National Defense University.

"Generally speaking, China offers medium quality weapons systems at affordable prices, a combination attractive to cash-strapped militaries in South Asia, Africa and Latin America," Saunders said.

Notable successes inclu-

de a co-production deal with Pakistan to produce the JF-17 fighter, widespread sales of the basic but effective C-802 anti-ship cruise missile, and an agreement to sell the HQ-9 air defense missile system to Turkey that has run into controversy over its incompatibility with NATO weapons systems.

### China supplies weapons to 35 countries, led by Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar

China also has exploited niche markets such as North Korea and Iran that the West won't sell to, emphasizing its attractiveness to impoverished countries and pariah states, said Ian Easton, research fellow at The Project 2049 Institute, an Arlington, Virginia-based Asian security think tank.

Both those U.S. foes appear to have received satellite jamming and cyber warfare capabilities from China, along with

technologies to break into private communications and spy on government opponents, Easton said.

"All of these sales should be very disconcerting to American policymakers and military leaders," he said, calling China's rise to the third-place spot among exporters a "disturbing development" that could threaten the security of the U.S. and its allies.

China also offers leading-edge drone technology at competitive prices. One model, known variously as the Yilong, Wing Loong or Pterodactyl, has become especially popular with foreign buyers, although Chinese secrecy surrounding such sales makes it difficult to know how many are in use and where.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV quoted retired People's Liberation Army Gen. Xu Guangyu saying at an air show two years ago that the unmanned aircraft, which can be armed with two guided missiles, would cost only about USD1 million each. That is about 10 to 20 percent of the price of a comparable U.S. model such as the MQ-1 Predator. Rumored buyers include the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia.

However, China's incremental growth and the yawning

gap with industry leaders America and Russia show the limitations of its aspirations.

The U.S. retained a 31 percent share of the global arms market, exporting to at least 94 recipients, SIPRI said. Countries in Asia and Oceania took 48 percent of U.S. exports, followed by the Middle East with 32 percent and Europe at 11 percent, it said.

Russia was second with a 27 percent global share, 39 percent of which went to India — the world's largest arms importer overall. China took 11 percent of Russia's exports, followed by Algeria.

SIPRI uses a five-year moving average to account for fluctuations in the volume of arms deliveries from year-to-year and doesn't provide monetary values, which are often distorted by governments providing weapons as gifts or at below-market prices. AP

# 143%

China's share of the global arms market rose 143% from 2010 to 2014

# Ex-top military official Xu Caihou, facing bribery probe, dies

**T**HE Chinese military's former second-highest ranking officer, Xu Caihou, who was being investigated on suspicion of taking bribes and brokering promotions, has died in a hospital of cancer, the state Xinhua News Agency reported early yesterday. He was 71.

A former deputy chairman of the ruling Communist Party's Central Military Commission, Xu was the most senior military figure detained in a sweeping crackdown on corruption within the party launched by President Xi Jinping.

Xu died of advanced bladder cancer that had spread throughout his body and of multiple organ failure, Xinhua said.

Xu had been expelled from the party in June and his rank as general revoked, but an indictment had not yet been announced. The Xinhua report said the criminal investigation against him would now be dropped because of his death.

Officials last year had been quoted as saying that Xu was ill with bladder cancer and would get appropriate treatment, but

also that the case against him would go forward, in a sign of Xi's determination to root out wrongdoing at all levels. In addition to being president and head of the party, Xi also chairs the powerful party and government commissions that oversee the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army.

Xu's death lends needed momentum to Xi's campaign against powerful corrupt officials, said Beijing-based historian and political analyst Zhang Lifan.

However, since Xi still faces a potential backlash against those entrenched interests, he "must speed up his pace," Zhang said.

Xu had been under investigation since early last year by the party's anti-corruption watchdog, the Central Committee for Discipline Inspection.

Few details were ever released about the investigation into Xu, but Xinhua said he was accused of taking advantage of his position to promote people and had accepted "huge amounts of bribes personally and through his family."

Like most of China's leading

generals, Xu never saw combat, serving almost his entire career as a political commissar before being appointed to the Central Military Commission in 1999. Under former president Hu Jintao, Xu was named one its three CMC vice chairmen, along with Xi, then serving as China's vice president. He stepped down from the commission when he retired from the military in 2012.

Phoenix Weekly, a Hong Kong-based magazine with strong military connections reported that large amounts of cash, jade, gems, paintings and rare antiques had been found in Xu's Beijing mansion, items frequently used as bribes to avoid leaving a paper trail for investigators.

Much of the corruption in the military is believed to involve the selling of positions, seen as having a corrosive effect on military preparedness and morale.

Xu's downfall followed an investigation into another leading general, former logistics department chief Gu Junshan, who allegedly amassed a huge



In this March 11, 2012 file photo, Xu Caihou, then deputy chairman of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Military Commission, which controls China's military, attends a plenary session of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

fortune through embezzlement, kickbacks and the selling of favors.

Xu and Gu were the most pro-

minent of 16 high-ranking officers placed under investigation or convicted of corruption and abuse of power under Xi. AP

## Land Rover, China Mobile criticized in CCTV show

**C**HINA'S state-run television reported that Tata Motors Ltd.'s Jaguar Land Rover hasn't handled an alleged fault properly, car dealerships inflate repair costs and China Mobile Ltd. enables fraudsters.

Jaguar Land Rover's Range Rover Evoque SUVs have gearbox problems that the company has failed to fully address, according to China Central Television's annual consumer rights program shown Sunday, citing customer complaints confirmed by reporter checks. This year's "315 Gala" also contained allegations that dealers for brands including Nissan, Volkswagen and Mercedes overstated problems with vehicles and then overcharged for simple fixes.

The CCTV program, broadcast on March 15 each year to mark Wor-



Visitors look at a Nissan Qashqai sport-utility vehicle displayed at the Dongfeng Nissan booth, at the Wuhan Motor Show in Wuhan

ld Consumer Rights Day, typically has reporters with hidden cameras posing as customers to expose flaws at companies. Companies singled out in past years include McDonald's Corp., Volkswagen AG, and Apple Inc., whose Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook apologized to Chinese consumers after 2013's program.

"In addition to possible fines, there is the loss of

reputation as the show receives wide media coverage and threads through social media," said Jim Feldkamp, founder of Chinese website Mingjian.com, which reviews consumer products.

Jaguar Land Rover apologized to consumers for "the inconvenience and trouble caused" in a posting on its official microblog. The company said it is working to resolve

the problem as quickly as possible.

On the car dealerships, Volkswagen said in an e-mail that it provides tools and training to its dealers, and regularly monitors their performance via means including audits. Customers are welcome to contact the company directly if they have problems with dealer service, the company said.

Dongfeng Nissan Passenger Vehicle Co., a joint venture between Japan's Nissan Motor Co. and Wuhan, China-based Dongfeng Motor Corp., takes "very seriously" CCTV's allegations that its dealers inflate simple repairs, and has already formed working groups to investigate the problem, according to an e-mailed statement.

Daimler AG, which owns Mercedes Benz, said in an e-mailed statement it is in-

vestigating the issues raised by CCTV. Daimler is "against this behavior by dealers as it constitutes an infringement on the rights of consumers", the company said.

China Mobile and its sister company China Tietong Telecommunications Corp., owned by the same mainland parent group, allowed fraudsters to gain access to numbers used for official phone-company operations and failed to prevent the use of fake caller ID numbers, CCTV said. Fraudsters impersonated banks and the police to obtain money, the broadcaster said.


China Mobile spokeswoman Rainie Lei referred to the company's statement on its official Weibo account and declined to comment further.

The Weibo statement says: "The problem of false calling reported by CCTV on its March 15


program is a serious violation of the legitimate rights and interests of consumers. China Mobile has instructed China Tietong Telecommunications Corp. Ltd, Guangdong Mobile and Shanghai Mobile to check this out carefully, and handle the matter seriously."

Checks by reporters also showed it's too easy to obtain bank cards with fraudulent documentation and mobile-phone SIM cards without the proper documentation, CCTV reported.

China has made efforts to protect its consumers better as the rising middle-class becomes more vocal on grouses from food and product safety lapses to air pollution. A new consumer protection law introduced last year imposed greater penalties for fraud and false advertising, and added return policies for online purchases. Bloomberg



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Nick Perry and Elaine Kurtenbach,  
Wellington

**V**ANUATU'S president was rushing back to his country yesterday in the wake of what he dubbed a "monster" cyclone whose damage was still unknown beyond the devastation in the South Pacific archipelago's capital city.

Looking weary and red-eyed, Baldwin Lonsdale told The Associated Press that the latest information he had was that six people were confirmed dead and 30 injured from Cyclone Pam, which he said destroyed or damaged 90 percent of the buildings in the capital alone, when it hit over the weekend. Lonsdale was interviewed in Sendai, in northeastern Japan, where he had been attending a U.N. disaster conference when the cyclone struck.

"This is a very devastating cyclone in Vanuatu. I term it as a monster, a monster," he said. "It's a setback for the government and for the people of Vanuatu. After all the development that has taken place, all this development has been wiped out."

Lonsdale said because of a breakdown in communications infrastructure, even he could not reach his family. "We do not know if our families are safe or not. As the leader of the nation, my whole heart is for the people, the nation," he said.

Officials in Vanuatu had still not made contact with outlying islands by yesterday night and were struggling to determine the scale of devastation from the cyclone, which tore through the nation early Saturday, packing winds of 270 kilometers per hour. Bridges were down outside the capital, Port Vila, making travel by vehicle impossible even around the main island of Efate.

Paolo Malatu, coordinator for Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office, said officials had dispatched every plane and helicopter they could to fly over the hard-hit outer islands. The office was expecting to get full reports from the flyover crews early today. "The damage to homes and infrastructure is severe," Malatu said. "The priority at the moment is to get people water, food and shelter."

The damaged airport in Port Vila has reopened, allowing some aid and relief flights to reach the country. Lonsdale said a wide range of items were needed, from tarpaulins and water containers to medical supplies and construction tools. Those on the ground pleaded for help to arrive quickly.

The city's hospital was overwhelmed with patients, and some beds were moved



Samuel, only his first name given, kicks a ball through the ruins of their family home as his father, Phillip, at back, picks through the debris in Port Vila, Vanuatu in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam

VANUATU

# President: Cyclone devastation forcing nation to start anew

outside due to fears the building is no longer safe.

"The wards have all been evacuated because of structural damage," surgeon Richard Leona told Australia's Channel 7. "We are badly needing this help. We need to get an urgent drug supply and food and also set up a mobile hospital to deal with the influx of patients coming in."

In Port Vila, smashed boats littered the harbor, and sodden piles of household belongings tangled among twisted tree branches lay where some homes once stood.

Many of the city's residents spent yesterday clearing away downed trees and cleaning up what was left of their houses. Those left homeless were generally staying with loved ones whose houses had withstood the storm, or sleeping in temporary shelters provided by aid agencies, said UNICEF spokeswoman Alice Clements.

Access to food and water is an urgent concern, said Clements, who is in Port Vila. Much of the city's water supply has been tainted, so residents are boiling water to drink.

Clements said she spoke to a woman who is nine months pregnant and lost her home in the storm. The woman's situa-

tion, along with many others, is growing desperate, Clements said.

"She has no water, no food, no power," she said. "This is an incredibly dangerous time."

Some commercial flights have resumed, although services are limited. Georgina Roberts, New Zealand's High Commissioner to Vanuatu, said two defense force planes were sent to retrieve about 100 stranded New Zealand tourists.

In Sydney, shaken Australian tourists returning from Vanuatu greeted loved ones with hugs and terrifying tales of the storm's wrath.

"I've never seen or heard anything like that noise," Ralph Scott said after arriving at Sydney's airport. "It was fri-

ghtening, it was supersonic, it was terrible."

Scott said the aftermath of the storm was "utter devastation."

"Houses, roads washed away," he said. "People walking around like zombies."

New Zealand radio journalist Frances Cook and her husband traveled to Vanuatu for their honeymoon two days before the cyclone struck. She said they knew a storm was coming but figured from the forecasts it wouldn't be too bad.

"It's been exciting," she joked.

Instead of zip-lining through the jungle and looking at active volcanoes as planned, Cook has been reporting back home on the devastation. She said a lot of stranded tourists were desperate to leave and some were afraid for their security.

"It's a glorious place and the people are so lovely," she said. "It's quite upsetting to see this happen."

Vanuatu has a population of 267,000 people spread over 65 islands. About 47,000 people live in the capital.

Hannington Alatoa, head of the Vanuatu Red Cross Society, said flyovers by New Zealand and Australian relief teams showed much of the country had been "flattened." At least half of the population has

been affected, Alatoa said in Sendai.

"No trees, no foliage, no iron structures standing on the western part of Tanna (island)," Alatoa said. "People are in great need of water."

UNICEF estimated that 54,000 children were among those affected by the cyclone.

The small archipelago, about a quarter of the way from Australia to Hawaii, has repeatedly warned it is already suffering devastating effects from climate change with coastal areas being washed away, forcing resettlement to higher ground and smaller yields on traditional crops.

Scientists say it's impossible to attribute single weather events like Cyclone Pam to climate change.

"Climate change is contributing to the disasters in Vanuatu," President Lonsdale said. "We see the level of sea rise. Change in weather patterns. This year we have heavy rain more than every year."

The cyclone also caused damage to other Pacific islands, including Kiribati and the Solomon Islands. Some homes were evacuated in New Zealand yesterday to escape flooding as the weakening storm moved past North Island. **AP**

After all the development that has taken place, all this development has been wiped out

BALDWIN LONSDALE

MALAYSIA

# Police arrest daughter of jailed opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

**M**ALAYSIAN police arrested the eldest daughter of jailed opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim for alleged sedition yesterday, a move slammed by critics as a clampdown on dissent.

Nurul Izzah Anwar, a lawmaker and a vice president of her father's People's Justice Party, was to be detained overnight because of a speech she made last week in Parliament, said Fahmi Fadzil, the party's communications director.

Police didn't specify which part of the speech — which questioned Anwar's jailing — was seditious, and told Nurul Izzah's family that the detention was to facilitate investigations, Fahmi said.

Fahmi said the arrest was "ridiculous and outrageous," noting that lawmakers have immunity over comments made in Parliament. He



In this Saturday, March 7, 2015 file photo, lawmaker and a vice-president of the People's Justice Party Nurul Izzah Anwar, speaks to protesters as they gather to demand freedom for Anwar Ibrahim, in downtown Kuala Lumpur

said the move was intended to silence the opposition after Anwar was jailed for five years last month when he lost a final appeal against a sodomy conviction.

Anwar's family condemned the arrest, saying it was "nothing short of intimidation and an abuse of power."

Nurul Izzah went to police voluntarily to give a statement about an opposition rally she participated in earlier this month, said her sister Nurul Nuha Anwar.

"We maintain that the arrest of our sister is illegal and unconstitutional. We deplore the glaring selective per-

secution," Nurul Nuha said in a family statement, calling for the release of her sister.

Anwar's arrest was widely seen at home and abroad as politically motivated to eliminate any threats to the ruling coalition, whose popularity has slowly been eroding since 2008 after more than five decades of unquestioned dominance. Anwar and his three-member opposition alliance were seen as the most potent political threat to Prime Minister Najib Razak's ruling coalition.

New York-based Human Rights Watch slammed Nurul Izzah's arrest. "Prime Minister Najib needs to recognize that every sedition arrest of an opposition political leader is another step towards the destruction of rights-respecting democracy in Malaysia, and bring this campaign of abuse to an end," Phil Robertson, the group's deputy Asia director, said in a statement. **AP**

INDIA

# Police detain 8 people for gang rape of 72-year-old nun

**I**NDIAN police have detained eight people in connection with the alleged gang rape of a 72-year-old nun in the eastern state of West Bengal in the early hours of Saturday, a senior police official said yesterday. "We have detained some eight persons in connection with the incident in the state's Nadia district. We are questioning those under detention. We have announced a reward of one lakh rupees (USD2,000) for information about the rapists," he said, on condition of anonymity. "We are probing if the incident was a revenge attack on the elderly nun of a convent school by some disgruntled former employee." Meanwhile, the nun has undergone surgery at a hospital in the state capital Kolkata and she is said to be in a stable condition. State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has assured swift and strong action against those involved. The Archbishop of Kolkata, Thomas D'Souza, has said it's important to ensure that "an inhuman act" like this should not take place again. "It has brought a lot of shame and pain to all concerned," he said.

AD



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<p><b>Project Management</b> 項目管理</p>			<p><b>Access Control Systems</b> 門禁系統</p>
<p><b>Maintenance &amp; Service</b> 維修和服務</p>			<p><b>AV/TV, Telephone &amp; Display Systems</b> AV/TV, 電話和顯示系統</p>
<p><b>Risk Assessment &amp; Management</b> 風險評估和管理</p>			<p><b>Fire Detection &amp; Suppression Systems</b> 火焰偵測和滅火系統</p>
<p><b>Survey &amp; Troubleshooting Services</b> 檢驗和故障診斷與維修服務</p>			<p><b>Network &amp; Structure Cable</b> 網絡和綜合佈線</p>

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**Brad Brooks  
and Stan Lehman, Sao Paulo**

**BRAZIL**

# Mass protests present big challenge to Rousseff

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff faced the biggest challenge yet of her young and turbulent second term, as hundreds of thousands of protesters took to streets in more than 150 cities to demand her impeachment and an end to corruption.

The Sunday protests (early yesterday, Macau time), organized by right-leaning groups on social media and held across the continent-sized nation, had none of the violence seen in massive anti-government demonstrations that hit the country in 2013 and lingered into the following year.

They add to the mounting pressure on Rousseff, who is facing both political and economic crises as Brazil's economy stalls and dozens of top political figures are investigated in a kickback scheme at state-run oil company Petrobras, which prosecutors label as the largest graft scheme yet uncovered in the country.

The biggest protest was seen in Sao Paulo, where some 210,000 people gathered on a main avenue, according to the polling and statistics firm Datafolha. Large gatherings were also seen in the capital Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro and the southern city of Porto Alegre.

Rousseff didn't appear in public, but government ministers held a nationally televised press conference in which they said they would introduce anti-corruption measures in Congress, action the president promised during her campaign for re-election in October.

"We are here to express our indignation with the government-sponsored corruption and thieving, and to demand Dilma's impeachment," said Andre Menezes, 35, protesting on Avenida Paulista in Sao Paulo.

"She may have not been directly involved in the corruption at Petrobras, but she certainly knew about it, and for me that makes her just as guilty and justifies her ouster," he added.

In Rio, police estimated 15,000 people marched along the golden sands of Copacabana beach, where they waved Brazilian flags and many openly called for a military coup to dissolve the government.

In contrast to the widespread violence seen during Brazil's 2013 pro-



Demonstrators hold a Brazilian flag and a sign that reads in Portuguese "Military intervention now!" during a march demanding the impeachment of Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff in Sao Paulo

tests, on Sunday the only conflict reported was police using tear gas and stun grenades to disperse a small group of protes-

ters in Brasilia who authorities said were trying to enter the Congress. In Sao Paulo, police arrested about 20 young men who

were carrying powerful fireworks and brass knuckles.

Justice Minister Jose Eduardo Cardozo de-

fended the government, emphasizing Rousseff's record as a leftist guerrilla who stood up to Brazil's 1964-85 military regime — and who was jailed for three years and brutally tortured because of it.

Rousseff has said she fully supports peaceful demonstrations and Cardozo added Sunday night that the rallies "confirm that Brazil is a democratic state that allows for divergences, the existence of opposing opinions and that we're far from any coup option."

Much protester ire was focused on a kickback scheme at Petrobras, in which at least \$800 million was paid in bribes and other funds by Brazil's biggest construction and engineering firms in exchange for inflated Petrobras contracts.

Top executives are already in jail and the attorney general is investigating dozens of congressmen, along with current and former members of the executive branch, for alleged connections to the scheme that apparently began in 1997 before Rousseff's party took power in 2003. Rousseff, a former chairwoman of Petrobras' board, has not been implicated and so far is not being investigated, though top officials from her administration, including two former chiefs of staff, are caught up in the inquiry. **AP**

**RUSSIA**

# Moscow was ready for Crimea nuclear standoff, Putin says



**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin said he was ready to put his country's nuclear forces on alert when he annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula

last year in case of intervention by the U.S. and its allies.

"We were ready to do that," Putin said when asked in a documentary film about Russia's

takeover of Crimea aired Sunday on state television if the Kremlin had been prepared to place its nuclear forces on alert. The Russian leader said he warned the U.S. and Europe not to get involved, accusing them of engineering the ouster of Russian-backed Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. "That's why I think no one wanted to start a world conflict."

In the film, called "Crimea: the Road to the Motherland," broadcast by Rossiya-1, Putin said he sent military intelligence and elite navy marines to spearhead the disarmament of 20,000 Ukrainian troops in the territory. No date was given for the Putin interview. The film was made over eight months.

Russia's seizure of Crimea in March last year provoked the worst geopolitical confronta-

tion with the U.S. and Europe since the Cold War. Tensions have escalated during a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine that's killed more than 6,000 people over the past year. Despite a European-brokered cease-fire, the U.S. is considering arming Ukrainian forces.

Putin, 62, whose country has

been hit by U.S. and European Union sanctions that have helped to drive the Russian economy toward recession, branded President Barack Obama's administration as "puppet-masters." He said the U.S. directed the months of mass protests that overthrew Yanukovich in February last year. **Bloomberg**

**PUTIN REAPPEARS AFTER 10-DAY ABSENCE**

**RUSSIAN PRESIDENT**

Vladimir Putin resurfaced yesterday, looking healthy after a 10-day absence from public view. Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atanbayev, who met with Putin yesterday in St. Petersburg's ornate Konstantin Palace, referred to the swirling rumors about Putin's condition, saying that the Russian leader is in good shape. Atanbayev said that Putin drove him around the palace's park before the talks, adding that "the president of Russia not only walks, but speeds around."

"It would be dull without gossip," Putin retorted with a smile. The 62-year-old Russian leader was last seen in public on March 5,

when he hosted Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. The Kremlin insisted that he continued holding official meetings, and released photos and video of Putin at meetings on national television, but Russian media suggested the images had actually been shot much earlier. Putin's decision to abruptly postpone a trip to Kazakhstan planned for last week fueled speculation that he was unwell or isolated by a palace coup. A Swiss newspaper claimed that Putin had traveled to Switzerland, where it said Putin's reported girlfriend — former Olympic gold-winning gymnast Alina Kabayeva — had given birth to their baby. The Kremlin has denied all those allegations.

## what's ON



## NEW YEAR TRADITIONS OF TIANJIN AND CHONGQING MUNICIPALITIES

TIME: 9am-9pm

UNTIL: April 12, 2015

VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau / Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro No.163

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100

## "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

## VENETIAN CARNEVALE

TIME: 2:30pm-10:30pm

UNTIL: March 29, 2015

VENUE: Outdoor Lagoon Area, The Venetian Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: The Venetian Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8888

## "START" - EXHIBITION OF PIXEL ART BY 2UP STUDIO

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

UNTIL: April 19, 2015

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

## ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm

(closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: March 29, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OIL PAINTINGS - MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

## SOUTH AFRICAN WOMAN CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY WITH A SKYDIVE



Centenarian Georgina Harwood, sits inside an airplane with Jason Baker, right, before her tandem parachute jump forming part of her birthday celebrations

Celebrating her 100th birthday with a parachute jump is not enough for South African Georgina Harwood. She plans to make her centenary even more exciting by doing a shark cage dive.

Her birthday skydive was a tandem jump in which she was in harness with another person. The jump took place Saturday near the Melkbosstrand area north of Cape Town. Wearing a red jumpsuit, Harwood was joined in the air by 15 family members and friends who participated in groups of three. Harwood said it was wonderful seeing all the others around her.

Harwood said this was her third skydive. She did her first when she was 92 years old in 2007. In a shark cage dive the participant goes underwater in a cage in an area where sharks are fed chum, bits of cut up fish meat, by tour operators.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:40	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:45	Happy Endings S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

12 MAR - 18 MAR



## CINDERELLA

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Starring: Lily James, Richard Madden, Cate Blanchett

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min

## CHAPPIE

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Neil Blomkamp

Starring: Sharlito Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 120min



## THE BOY NEXT DOOR

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.00, 7.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Rob Cohen

Starring: Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman, John Corbett

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 91min

## STAND BY ME DORAEMON (3D)

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 95min

## MACAU TOWER

05 MAR - 18 MAR

## CHAPPIE

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Neil Blomkamp

Starring: Sharlito Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 120min

## this day in history



## 1968 ANTI-VIETNAM DEMO TURNS VIOLENT

More than 200 people have been arrested after thousands of demonstrators clashed in an anti-Vietnam war protest outside the United States embassy in London.

The St John Ambulance Brigade said it treated 86 people for injuries. Fifty were taken to hospital including up to 25 police officers. The trouble followed a big rally in Trafalgar square, when an estimated 10,000 demonstrated against American action in Vietnam and British support for the United States.

The mood at the rally was described as good humored. The violence broke out when the protesters marched to the US embassy in Grosvenor Square. The embassy was surrounded by hundreds of police. They stood shoulder to shoulder to cordon off the part of the square closest to the embassy.

Tensions rose as the crowd refused to back off and mounted officers rode at the demonstrators. The protesters broke through the police ranks onto the lawn of the embassy, tearing up the plastic fence and uprooting parts of a hedge.

During a protracted battle, stones, earth, firecrackers and smoke bombs were thrown. One officer was treated for a reported serious spinal injury, another for a neck injury.

One officer had his hat knocked off and was struck continuously on the back of the head with a stick from a banner as he clung, head down, to his horse's neck. Earlier the actress Vanessa Redgrave was allowed to enter the embassy with three supporters to deliver a protest. She had been one of the speakers at the rally in Trafalgar Square.

Labor MP Peter Jackson, has said he will be tabling a private question for answer by the Home Secretary about what he called "police violence". He told The Times newspaper: "I was particularly outraged by the violent use of police horses, who charged into the crowd even after they had cleared the street in front of the embassy."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

There was another big anti-Vietnam war demonstration on 27 October 1968. An estimated 25,000 took part in the march and once again trouble flared outside the US embassy in Grosvenor Square. But security was very tight. There were 1,000 police outside the embassy and officers lined the streets of the march to prevent a repeat of the trouble in March. The last American troops left Vietnam on 29 March 1973. The following year there were frequent violations of the peace treaty. In 1975, full-scale warfare resumed between North and South Vietnam -without American intervention. In 1976 the first elections were held to a National Assembly, finally reuniting North and South.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Clarity is everything today — it's far too easy for you to rush through your conversations and leave folks with questions they can't answer. Save time by slowing down when speaking or writing.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Take a second look at your business dealings today — they may not quite be everything you hope for. That's not to say it's time to leave the table, just that you need to know what you're dealing with.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
You feel so happy you're almost giddy at some point in the day, and may start flirting shamelessly with someone you barely know. Go for it — unless you think you may hurt someone, that is!

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Details are more important than ever today — so don't look away! It's tempting to take the wide view or think long-term, but much more rewarding to focus on the nitty-gritty of today's work.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You're somewhat indecisive today — but for all the right reasons! You may find that you've got more info than you need, or that all your options seem equally terrific. Make up your mind tomorrow.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Work issues pop up, whether or not it's a work day for you — or even if you don't have a job right now! It could be a call from an old boss, a rush project that can't be denied or something equally exciting.

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Your big brain is fully engaged with the business of the day — even before that first cup (or pot) of coffee! Use this terrific energy to show the world what you are capable of. Great things are possible!

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
The tiniest details are problematic today — so make sure that you go over every row in that spreadsheet twice or check your math whenever you're called on to add or subtract. It all counts!

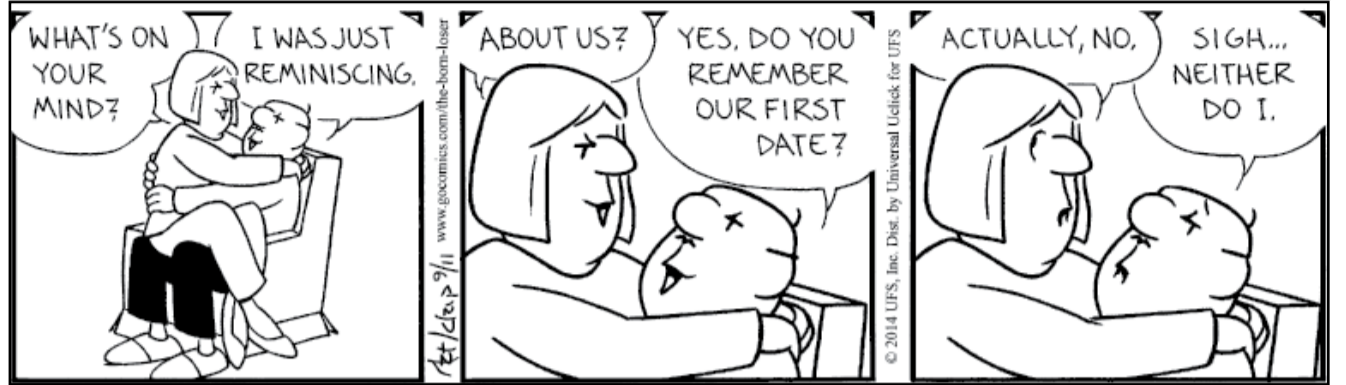
**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
It's all up to you today — so make sure that you're focused on the right issue! It's a good time for you to take the lead, because your energy is right for making key decisions and showing others how to succeed.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You are somewhat less focused than usual today, but that could just mean that you're surrounded by folks who are distracting you from what's really important. You may need to get some alone time.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
A new wave of creative energy sweeps you up and carries you off to somewhere new and great! Just let it go on its own, as trying to guide it is a big mistake, and you should be pleased with the results you get naturally.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
You are of two minds about something pretty important — so see if you can resolve your confusion or indecision by the end of the day. Get more information and ask for plenty of advice.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

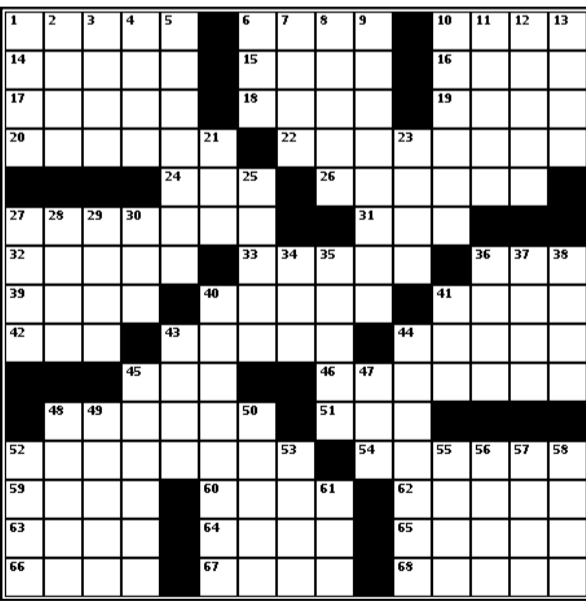
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	2	8	cloudy/clear
Harbin	-4	-1	cloudy
Tianjin	4	10	clear
Urumqi	-5	1	clear
Xi'an	9	7	cloudy
Lhasa	-1	11	cloudy
Chengdu	11	10	overcast/cloudy
Chongqing	13	12	overcast/cloudy
Kunming	8	23	clear
Nanjing	8	4	drizzle/overcast
Shanghai	10	6	drizzle
Wuhan	10	4	cloudy/drizzle
Hangzhou	9	4	moderate rain
Taipei	17	22	clear/drizzle
Guangzhou	18	18	overcast
Hong Kong	19	19	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-3	3	flurry/sleet
Frankfurt	-1	8	sleet/drizzle
Paris	0	11	sleet/clear
London	2	9	cloudy
New York	0	5	moderate rain

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Disney deer; 6- Mex. miss; 10- Smell or fragrance; 14- Pertaining to the small intestine; 15- Actress Deborah; 16- Hawaiian goose; 17- Sheer fabric; 18- Support beam; 19- \_\_\_ yellow ribbon...; 20- Bitter conflict; 22- Pert. to first man; 24- Not to mention; 26- Tooth covering; 27- One that prowls; 31- College sr.'s test; 32- George of "Just Shoot Me!"; 33- Buenos \_\_\_; 36- Juilliard deg.; 39- Type of gun; 40- Possessed; 41- Trim; 42- Driving peg; 43- Pooh's creator; 44- Examine account books; 45- Gal of song; 46- Portable lamp; 48- Prescription; 51- Common ID; 52- Promontory; 54- Subject to legal action; 59- Traditional prayer ending; 60- Some digits; 62- Sensational; 63- Gospel singer Winans; 64- Decked out; 65- Be gaga over; 66- Small children; 67- \_\_\_ but known...; 68- Ascended;

**DOWN:** 1- Fragments; 2- Immensely; 3- Golda of Israel; 4- Indonesian holiday resort; 5- Steep part of a glacier; 6- Snow runner; 7- First name in country; 8- Commerce; 9- Put in order; 10- Punctual; 11- Thaw before takeoff; 12- Actor Ryan; 13- Genuine; 21- Compass dir.; 23- Roman god of war; 25- Speak in a slow manner; 27- Hey, over here!; 28- Nerve network; 29- Arch type; 30- Pale; 34- Tavern; 35- Stagger; 36- Ancient Persian; 37- Free from bias; 38- Env. notation; 40- Petroleum industry; 41- Crackpot; 43- Letters, e.g.; 44- Ring-shaped; 45- Views; 47- Horse-like animal, term of insult; 48- Lover of Juliet; 49- Set up; 50- Name on a bomber; 52- Truth; 53- Six feet under; 55- Quattro maker; 56- Warner \_\_\_; 57- Italian bread?; 58- Paradise lost; 61- Star Wars letters;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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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	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IACM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	



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<b>La Bahia Studio Apartment</b> Macau Studio Apartment 5 Stars Condo HKD 16,500 / 434 sq ft Ref: 15020470	<b>The Manhattan, Unit D Taipa</b> Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Luxury Residence HKD 33,000 / 2,488 sq ft Ref: 15015429	<b>Plum Court</b> Ocean Gardens, Taipa 2 Bedrooms Apartment Viewing by Appointment HKD 20,000 / 1,290 sq ft Ref: 15020467	<b>Ieng Kok C</b> Macau 1 Bedroom Apartment Convention Location HKD 8,800 / 559 sq ft Ref: 15020466

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ANALYSIS | F1

# Mercedes' dominance has rivals calling for rules reform



Luke Costin

**MERCEDES'** Formula One chief Toto Wolff has suggested rival teams "moaning" about his team's commanding success should put their heads down and work harder, following Mercedes' domination of the Australian GP in Melbourne.

After Mercedes' pair Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg finished more than 30 seconds clear of the field, Ferrari and Red Bull immediately called for rule changes to peg back the Silver Arrows.

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner questioned how long the sport's governing body, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), could allow Mercedes to go unchallenged, after the German constructor won 16 of 19 races last season.

"Is it healthy to have this? The FIA have an equalization mechanism within the rules," Horner said post-race on Sunday night. "They perhaps need to look at it."

But Mercedes principal Wolff, whose team began preparing for the last year's drastic regulation overhaul back in 2011, was blunt in his advice for those crying out for equalization.

"If you come into Formula One, try to beat each other and perform at the highest level and then you need equalization after the first race - you cry out after the first race - that's not how we've done things in the past," he said. "I think 'Just get your head down, work hard and try to sort it out'."

Mercedes' superiority reigned for the entire weekend with Saturday's practice the only session where Mercedes failed

## Mercedes' superiority reigned for the entire weekend with Saturday's practice the only session where Mercedes failed a one-two knockout

a one-two knockout. In that session, second-ranked Sebastian Vettel, driving a Ferrari, clocked a lap 0.2 second quicker than Rosberg.

The calls for urgent reform

increased after the race on Sunday night with the Silver Arrows' team having seemingly moved further ahead of the field in the four months since winning the drivers' and constructors' titles in 2014.

Even Rosberg admitted that he hoped the competition would soon catch up for the fans' sake and told third-placed Sebastian Vettel he hoped "you can give us a challenge."

"I do think about the show," Rosberg said in Sunday's post-race press conference. "Half of me - or a part of me - thinks about the show because I want to give people a great time at home watching on TV or at the track."

Vettel probed Rosberg's intent: "Be honest. Do you really hope so? Seriously? You finished 30 seconds ahead of us and you hope it's going to be closer? So you hope you

slow down? Is that what you're saying?"

The FIA is not expected to budge to help Red Bull, which enjoyed similar, if less commanding, success from 2010-2013.

Horner insisted it was not simply sour grapes - or part of his frustration at the woeful reliability delivered by engine manufacturer Renault - and claimed that during his team's domination, the FIA continually barred innovative designs. "On today's evidence we are set for a two-horse race at every grand prix," Horner said.

"When we were winning - and we were never winning with an advantage that Mercedes has - double diffusers were banned, exhausts were moved, flexible bodywork was banned, engine mapping was changed mid-season - anything was done to pull us back. That was not just us, it was done to McLaren and Williams in other years."

Horner even suggested complex sensors to effectively limit the amount of power a team can use, to mimic the fuel rate sensors brought in last year. As it is, the Red Bull principal is concerned that Mercedes' dominance will have F1 fans turning off their televisions en masse as the season progresses.

"I fear the interest will wane," Horner said. "I didn't see much of Mercedes on the television and I can only imagine that it isn't interesting watching a procession so the producer was looking for other battles going on in the race - except there weren't that many cars to look at. The highlight for me was Arnie (Schwarzenegger) on the podium."

"Take nothing from Mercedes, they have done a super job. They have a good car, a fantastic engine and two very good drivers. The problem is that the gap is so big that you end up with three-tier racing and that is not healthy for Formula One. Unless there is an intervention, we are set for a season with quite a broad running order." **Xinhua**

## Platini: Change at top of FIFA is 'important' for football

**CHANGE** at FIFA is "important for football," UEFA President Michel Platini said yesterday in a recorded video interview two months before the world soccer body's presidential election.

Platini, a FIFA vice president, said the governing body needs "new ideas, a new program" as longtime leader Sepp Blatter seeks a fifth term on May 29.

UEFA is supporting the campaigns of all three of Blatter's opponents: FIFA



UEFA president Michel Platini (left) and FIFA president Sepp Blatter

vice president Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, former Portugal great Luis Figo and Michael van Praag of the Netherlands, a UEFA executive committee member.

"Let's see what happens. Let's see the programs of the four candidates," Platini said in the video interview produced by UEFA. "But I think it's important for football that there is a change in FIFA."

Platini said at the World Cup last June he would

no longer support Blatter, but opted in August not to run against his onetime mentor.

"Perhaps it is not my time for the moment to go to FIFA. We will see one day if I go or if I don't go," Platini said.

Still, the FIFA contest was "a very nice opportunity to open a debate for democratic reasons in the world of football," he said.

Platini is running unopposed for the UEFA presidency next week in

Vienna. He also had no rival when he got a second four-year term in 2011.

Asked Monday what people got wrong about him, Platini said it was presuming he was authoritarian running UEFA.

"Don't think I am very despotic," he said. "I am very, very, very democratic and very, very transparent. I never take a decision alone without the support of the UEFA executive committee or with the congress of UEFA." **AP**



Pakistani women walk in the rain past a mural

CRICKET

# Terrorism, security issues mean no home matches for Pakistan

Dennis Passa, Adelaide

**F**AST bowler Wahab Riaz played his first limited-overs cricket international in 2008, in a vastly different era for cricket in Pakistan. A terrorist attack just over a year later in his hometown of Lahore means that all but three — all played in 2008 — of the 50-plus games he has played since his debut have been staged outside of Pakistan due to security concerns.

On March 3, 2009, a bus carrying the Sri Lanka squad travelling to a test match against

Pakistan was attacked by 12 masked gunmen near Gaddafi Stadium. The resulting fire-fight injured six members of the Sri Lankan touring party, including star batsman Kumar Sangakkara, who is the leading current run-scorer at this World Cup. Six Pakistani policemen and two civilians were killed. The tour was quickly cancelled.

Since the attack, Pakistan has played most of its “home” matches in the United Arab Emirates because the top teams in world cricket fear touring in Pakistan.

Umar Akmal made his one-

day international debut in Sri Lanka on Aug. 1, 2009, meaning the 24-year-old batsman and part-time wicketkeeper he has not played any of his 100 matches in front of his home fans.

“Of course it’s a big drawback for us not being to play in our country,” Riaz told The Associated Press. “We have been born and bred here. Unfortunately what has happened is a big loss for us, obviously we would love to play in front of our own people, relatives and friends, but it is how it is. We have to cope with it and try to keep the

smiles on the faces of our fans no matter where we play.”

Security and terrorist incidents have been a concern for travelling cricket teams to Pakistan for more than a decade.

In May 2002, New Zealand abandoned its test series in Pakistan after a suicide bomb attack outside their hotel in Karachi. The cricketers were not the target of the attack, and none were injured, but the shock was enough to cause concern for incoming sports teams.

Last year, a Taliban attack on Karachi airport killed 28 people, 10 of them attackers. That incident directly affected one team’s plans to set aside security concerns and tour Pakistan.

Ireland, which won three matches at the World Cup this year but missed out on the quarterfinals after a loss to Pakistan on Sunday, has proven to be the best of the so-called Associate or second-tier teams. The Irish are always looking for opportunities to play against the top ranked teams.

Richard Holdsworth, performance director for Cricket Ire-

land, said contact was made with the Pakistan Cricket Board in January about reviving hopes of a tour, subject to security concerns.

“Discussions were put on hold last June following the terrorist attack on Karachi airport, such incidents would still be reviewed before any possible tour,” Holdsworth said in an email response to The AP. “We will keep this matter under review and consider a tour when conditions are right.”

But Ireland officials may have to reconsider after the most recent terrorist attack. On Sunday, a pair of suicide bombers attacked two churches in Lahore as worshippers prayed inside, killing 15 people.

Bangladesh has twice backed out of proposed tours to Pakistan over the last three years due to terrorism concerns. But there have been a few recent success stories.

The Kenyan national team toured Pakistan in December and played all of its five one-day internationals against a Pakistan “A” — or second-tier — team in Lahore. Afghanistan, which won a match at this World Cup in its first-ever appearance, also played against Pakistan A in three ODI in 2013.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan said last week that the PCB plans to host associate countries in 2015, and eventually test nations again.

“The doors will be opened slowly once we start hosting smaller nations,” Khan said. “If you compare security situation in Pakistan it has improved (from) what it was four years ago. Afghanistan and Kenya have already played and Nepal will come soon. Netherlands and Ireland are also willing to come.”

Those visiting teams would be welcomed by pace bowler Riaz. “We realize there have been incidents, but the security situation is improving,” Riaz said. “I would like to say to any other team that would like to travel here, I can assure them it would be a great pleasure to see them.” AP

# China aims to see its football teams among world’s best

**C**HINA’S Cabinet released a reform plan yesterday aimed at raising the level of football in the country, where poor international showings have been blamed on a history of corruption and a lack of youth programs.

Medium term goals in the plan issued by the State Council include substantially increasing the number of young people playing football and seeing the women’s team

## In the long term, China wants to bid to host the World Cup

return to the top of the rankings.

In the long term, China wants to bid to host the World Cup and improve its men’s team. Chinese

President Xi Jinping has led the drive to improve the quality of Chinese football, both to boost popular participation in sports and burnish China’s reputation as an international sporting power.

The Cabinet’s 50-point plan includes instructions to promote football on school campuses, create schools dedicated to training aspiring professional players and expand the number of stadiums.

It also gives the China Football Association the power to independently decide its own staffing and financing, rather than being run by China’s sporting administrative body.

Authorities will also look at putting a cap on players’ salaries in order to increase competition between rich and poor teams and avoid financially destabilizing bidding wars. The plan said research will also

be done into further restricting the use of foreign players, only five of whom are currently permitted per team.

China’s lack of success in men’s football has consistently perplexed the country’s sporting authorities, who’ve made the country a global power in sports such as gymnastics, swimming and volleyball.

China’s men are currently ranked 83rd by FIFA, one rung below

Honduras. They’ve qualified for only one World Cup, in 2002, when they were eliminated in the group stage without scoring a goal.

The team’s poor performance is blamed on a history of corruption, overly bureaucratic government supervision and a weak youth training system that has seen the numbers of registered youngsters playing the game fall year by year. AP

opinion

**World Views**

William Pesek

**How ASIA SHOULD DEFEND AGAINST THE RISING DOLLAR**

Can Asia beat the rising-dollar curse? The question is far from academic considering the central role that a strengthening U.S. currency played in sparking the region's 1997 crisis, as well as Latin America's own financial woes a decade earlier. When the dollar slides, liquidity flows into emerging markets, pumping up growth and assets. As the dollar rallies, it can act like a gargantuan money magnet drawing much-needed investment away from the developing world.

With the dollar now experiencing what many observers believe may be its third "super-cycle" rally in 30 years, emerging markets have reason to worry. Since the 2008 global crisis, outstanding dollar-denominated credit to non-bank borrowers overseas has surged to USD9 trillion from \$6 trillion, according to the Bank for International Settlements. (That figure is roughly equivalent to China's annual economic output.) Chinese companies alone owe at least \$1.1 trillion.

In emerging economies with volatile local currencies such as India and Malaysia, issuing debt in dollars can be a smart and pragmatic strategy - until it isn't. With the dollar up sharply almost across the board since the start of 2014 - 23 percent versus the euro and 13 percent versus the yen - and the Federal Reserve set to raise rates, borrowers are going to have a harder time paying back what they owe, let alone taking out new loans. That helps explain why the Shenzhen property developer Kaisa is suddenly making global headlines. It may soon be the first Chinese company to default on dollar bonds - and could set off a domino effect across Asia's biggest economy.

Fortunately, the region seems better prepared to withstand currency swings than in 1997. "People are watching the rise of the dollar nervously this time around, but this cycle is fundamentally different from a key structural perspective," notes economist Glenn Maguire of Australia & New Zealand Banking Group in Singapore. "We must take into account the incredible journey many Asian economies have made from low-income, to middle-income, even to higher-income since 1997."

Maguire offers up several reasons for optimism. Asian exchange rates generally aren't pegged to the dollar anymore. Current-account balances are less worrisome, and many countries have stockpiled substantial currency reserves. There are fewer currency mismatches between assets and liabilities. Banking sectors are stronger and central banks are far more transparent than they once were.

Still, if emerging markets worldwide slide into chaos, Asia won't be immune. As recently 2013, remember, when the Fed first started talking about tapering its bond-buying program, India and Indonesia quickly found their currencies in free-fall.

In particular, the region may come to regret the still relatively high level of non-financial sector dollar debt. It stood at around 10 percent of gross domestic product on average in mid-2014, compared with roughly 11 percent in 1997. That "poses a potentially new source of vulnerability" as Fed rate interest rates hikes begin, says Callum Henderson, global head of foreign-exchange research at Standard Chartered in Singapore.

In recent weeks, central banks in India, Thailand and South Korea have surprised markets with rate cuts. But Asia's window for further cuts may be closing as policy makers take stock of how many local borrowers could face default if currencies fall too far. That goes especially for China, where dollar loans are a fast-growing risk to stability. As Bloomberg economists Tom Orlik and Fielding Chen write in a new report, the "dollar's strength is China's weakness." A weaker yuan, they argue, "would add to repayment costs, adding to financial stress for debtor firms."

Standard Chartered's Henderson takes heart from the fact that central banks are encouraging corporations to trim or hedge their dollar debts before the Fed taper begins. Still, even if underlying fundamentals are stronger now, the inevitable flow of capital out of local stock and bond markets will pose serious management challenges.

Both central banks and government policy makers should be acting nimbly and proactively to stabilize their economies. That means devising so-called macro-prudential policies, including limits on capital to defend against turmoil. Governments should batten down the hatches, narrowing current-account deficits even further and widening surpluses. They must prepare emergency fiscal-stimulus packages, yet also stay focused on investments that raise productivity and competitiveness so that in the long run their economies are less dependent on credit and foreign capital.

It may not be 1997 again in Asia. But the region has 9 trillion reasons to be ready if things go awry. **Bloomberg**

**THE AUSTRALIAN BOXER DIES 2 DAYS AFTER COLLAPSING AFTER FIGHT**

A 23-year-old boxer died yesterday two days after losing consciousness after losing a 10-round featherweight bout. Family spokesman James O'Shea confirmed Braydon Smith, who was in the final year of a law degree, had been in an induced coma at a Brisbane hospital since collapsing 90 minutes after a WBC Asian Boxing Council continental title

bout with John Moralde of the Philippines on Saturday.

Smith lost in a unanimous points decision, before praising his opponent and congratulating Moralde on the win and then returning to his dressing room.

O'Shea said Smith was alert and talkative immediately following the bout before collapsing.

**Arrested millionaire says in HBO finale he 'killed them all'**

Janet McConnaughey, Brian Melley, New Orleans

**R**OBERT Durst, a millionaire from one of America's wealthiest families, was arrested just before the finale of a serial documentary about his links to three sensational murders in which he said he "killed them all."

FBI agents arrested Durst at a New Orleans hotel Saturday on a warrant from Los Angeles for the murder of a mobster's daughter 15 years ago, authorities said. He was ordered held without bond pending a hearing Monday.

Durst gave an extensive interview to filmmaker Andrew Jarecki for the documentary "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst." His estranged and fearful relatives thanked authorities for tracking him down.

"We hope he will finally be held accountable for all he has done," said his brother, Douglas Durst, in a statement. The Durst family is worth at least \$4 billion, according to the Forbes list of richest Americans.

Durst, 71, has always maintained his innocence in the 2000 murder of Susan Berman, whose father was an associate of Las Vegas mobsters Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky.

Berman, who was Durst's spokeswoman, was killed at her home as New York investigators prepared to question her in the unsolved 1982 disappearance of Durst's wife,



Real estate heir Robert Durst leaves a Houston courtroom

Kathleen.

Last week's episode revealed a hand-written address on a letter that Durst had sent to Berman. The handwriting seems virtually identical to an anonymous letter alerting Beverly Hills police to a "cadaver" in Berman's home. The word "Beverly" is misspelled as "Beverley" on both documents. Durst observes in the documentary that only Berman's killer could have sent the letter to police.

His lawyer, Chip Lewis, said he has no doubt his client's arrest was orchestrated in coordination with HBO's broadcast of the final episode. The Los Angeles Police said the arrest resulted from "investigative leads and additional evidence that has come to light in the last year."

In the finale Sunday night, Durst was asked about the similarities in handwriting. Later, filmmakers said Durst wore his microphone into the bathroom.

Durst then said, apparently to himself, "There it is. You're

caught" and "What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course." The show ended, and it wasn't clear whether producers confronted Durst about the secretly recorded words, or what Durst meant by them.

After Berman's death, Durst moved to Texas, where he lived as a mute woman in a boarding house until his arrest in 2001 after dismembered parts of the body of his elderly neighbor, Morris Black, were found floating in Galveston Bay.

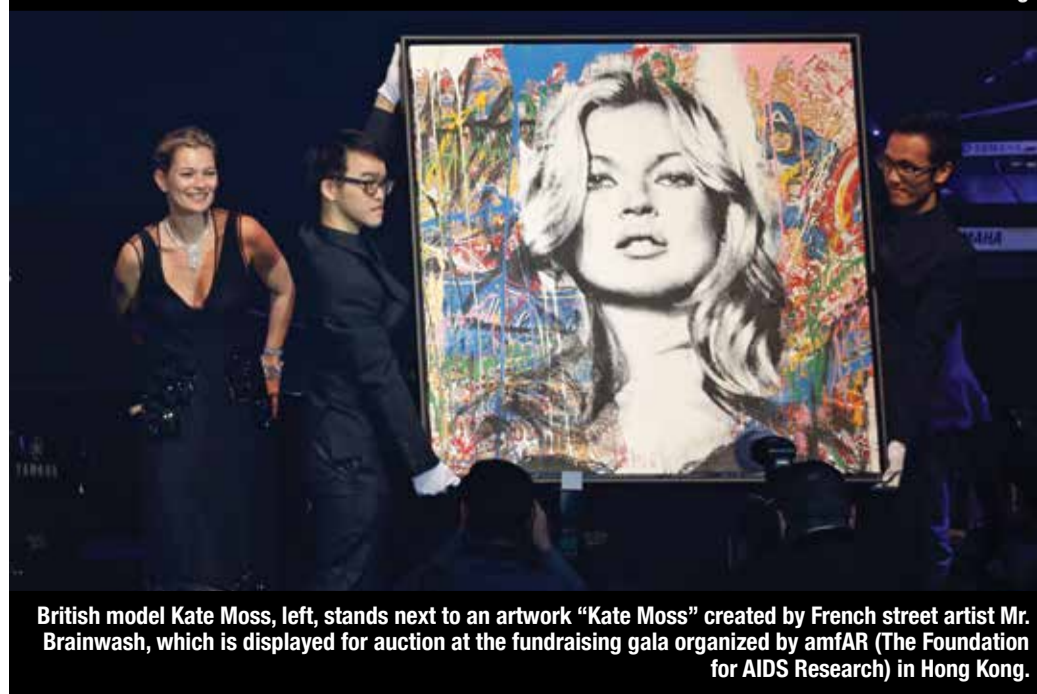
Durst then became a fugitive until he was caught shopping in Pennsylvania, even though he had \$500 cash in his pocket and \$37,000 in his rental car - along with two guns and marijuana.

Lewis told the jury that Durst shot Black in self-defense and had Asperger's syndrome. Despite admitting that he dismembered Black's body before dumping the remains, Durst was acquitted of murder.

Durst "has been incredibly lucky that so many people who've investigated him have dropped the ball, but I think that luck may be running out," said Former Galveston County District Court Judge Susan Criss, who presided over the Texas murder trial.

The oldest son of the late real estate mogul Seymour Durst, Robert Durst became estranged from his family when his brother Douglas was chosen to run the family business. **AP**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**



British model Kate Moss, left, stands next to an artwork "Kate Moss" created by French street artist Mr. Brainwash, which is displayed for auction at the fundraising gala organized by amfAR (The Foundation for AIDS Research) in Hong Kong.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	35-55 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**PHILIPPINE** troops have captured the leader of a Muslim rebel group in the south who has been linked to bombings and a beheading and accused of protecting two terror suspects wanted by the United States.



**JAPAN** U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has urged the leaders of Japan, China and South Korea to work harder for reconciliation over their wartime past to ensure peace and stability in the region. In a speech yesterday in Tokyo marking the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, Ban said the countries' lack of reconciliation is "a missing link" for peace and stability in northeast Asia despite the U.N.'s engagement.



**IRAQ** The tomb of Iraq's late dictator Saddam Hussein was virtually leveled in heavy clashes between militants from the Islamic State group and Iraqi forces in a fight for control of the city of Tikrit. Fighting intensified to the north and south of Saddam Hussein's hometown Sunday as Iraqi security forces vowed to reach the center of Tikrit within 48 hours. All that remains of Hussein's once-lavish tomb are the support columns that held up the roof.

**USA-IRAN** The United States and Iran plunge back into negotiation, hoping to end once and for all a decades-long standoff that has raised the specter of an Iranian nuclear arsenal, a new atomic arms race in the Middle East and even a U.S. or Israeli military intervention. Two weeks out from a deadline for a framework deal, officials say the awesomeness of the diplomatic task means negotiators are likely to announce only that they've made enough progress to justify further talks.