



**UKRAINE RUNNERS DOMINATE LOCAL MARATHON**

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**CHINESE FUGITIVE RETURNS FROM US**

One of China's most wanted fugitives voluntarily returned from the U.S. Huang Yurong turned herself in at Beijing airport

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**THAI KING MARKS 88TH BIRTHDAY**

King Bhumibol, the world's longest-reigning monarch, remains in hospital and unseen in public for 3 months

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**WORLD BRIEFS**

**INDONESIA** Police say a commuter train slammed into a passenger minibus at a railroad crossing in Indonesia's capital, killing at least 14 people and seriously injuring 10 others. [More on p14](#)

**AFGHANISTAN** New Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor denies being wounded in a dispute with another commander.

**FRANCE** Negotiators adopt a draft climate agreement that is cluttered with brackets and competing options, leaving ministers with the job of untangling key sticking points in what is envisioned to become a lasting, universal pact to fight global warming.

AP PHOTO



**COLOMBIA's** president hails the discovery of a Spanish galleon that went down off the South American nation's coast more than 300 years ago with what may be the world's largest sunken treasure.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

China's missing children

F1

**HEALTH**

# Gov't accused of 'stealing' private sector resources

P3 POLICY ADDRESS



# Parade brings party atmosphere despite cold weather

P2

Aries Un

**R**OUGHLY 1,500 local and overseas performers streamed through the city's old quarter yesterday afternoon filling the alleys and streets with elaborate dance moves and music. Their enthusiasm contrasted with the cold weather that left many would-be spectators at home.

The procession, decked out in outlandish costumes, made its way from the Ruins of St Paul's all the way to Tap Seac Square while cheerful spectators stood huddled along the route scrambling to snap shots of the entertainers.

The annual "Parade Through Macau, Latin City," now in its fifth year, marks the 16th year since the region's return to China.

Additionally, the MOP16 million pageant has sought to popularize the region's lesser-known side to tourists with its colonial history and features associated with Portuguese-speaking nations.

Speaking on the sidelines of a stage performance at the heart of the square following the parade, the Cultural Affairs Bureau president Ung Vai Meng told media how he also wished to bring the region into global awareness. "We could promote the city through the media and cameras here today," said Ung.

Rather than simply a day of festivities, he believed that the event

# Parade brings party atmosphere despite cold weather



would encourage more visitors to the less explored side of Macau, which represents the city's past. "The old precinct we have is authentic, the scene there isn't setting," said Ng in reference to the district's streetscape.

Despite the large turnout, local residents had mixed opinions over the authorities' move to turn the neighborhood into a tourist-friendly attraction.

"It's rare to see such a large-scale event in Macau apart from the Grand Prix," said a local living in the old district, who

only identified herself as Mrs Chu. "It's fun and novel. I wish there were more similar functions despite their size."

Yet her viewpoint clashed with another resident's. Damon Leung, a university student, accused the event of adding to the already jammed traffic in the city. "Once a year is enough. It would interrupt our life if the government wished to bring in more tourists," said the 20-year-old.

Another highlight of this year's parade is the meter-high figures scattered along the rou-

te, created by three local illustrators, Fok Hoi Seng, Un Chi Wai and Lam Ieong Kun.

The IC head hoped that local artists' presence in the parade could continue to expand in future.

## LIGHT FESTIVAL COULD BECOME ANNUAL EVENT

**MACAU GOVERNMENT** Tourist Office head Maria Fernandes told media that the first ever Macau Light Festival would become annual if it proved successful. The seasonal event was expected to run until the end of the month after it kicked off last night. The authorities spent almost MOP20 million

on the project featuring glitzy decorations and performances at 11 historic spots. Together with Galaxy Macau's annual marathon and the Parade through Macau, Latin City, the authorities aim to enhance the city's attractiveness for tourists during the peak winter travel season.

## AirAsia considering Krabi-Macau route



**THAILAND'S** AirAsia branch, which recently inaugurated a new route with direct flights to Pattaya, is considering adding Krabi to its destination list.

Newspaper Tribuna de Macau cited the general director of the AirAsia group for Greater China, Celia Lao, expressing the company's intention to expand. However, she did not advance a date yet for the start of the prospective route.

The company's director sta-

ted that during the first days of operation, the route to Pattaya "was not very good" in terms of passenger numbers, but she hopes these results will improve during the holiday season.

"The first flights were not very good. Perhaps the destination is new to the tourists. We need some promotion time until it reaches people. We look forward to the holiday season. Reservations for Christmas and Lunar New Year for this destination are very good," she said.

Other possibilities such as flights between Macau and Phuket are on "standby" for now due to the fact that Phuket airport is currently undergoing expansion works. "Maybe next year," Celia Lao added.

## ONE SHOT NEWS



The Macau Anglican College held its annual "Carols by Candlelight" event yesterday evening. A large number of its community members attended and sang along, showing their Christmas spirit. The school chaplain, Reverend Stephen Durie, described the event as "just a humble community carol singing." The event was an opportunity for families and friends to gather and share in the holiday spirit. RM

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Alexis Tam (center)

2016 POLICY ADDRESS

# Health: Gov't accused of 'stealing' resources from private sector

Renato Marques

**S**OME lawmakers have criticized the idea of expanding the public health care service given the lack of human resources available. The criticism came on the second day of Alexis Tam's Policy Address presentation at the Legislative

Assembly on Friday.

Fong Chi Keong was one of the most outspoken individuals, arguing against what he called "a measure [that could be] potentially catastrophic in the future." The lawmaker accused the government of stealing human resources from the private sector.

Mr Fong suggested that

approximately five hundred healthcare professionals have left the Kiang Wu hospital in the past few years, attracted by the salaries and benefits of the public sector.

"The private healthcare sector might not be able to offer the same conditions as those seen in the public hospital, but it has been addressing the population's needs. The sector works hard. However, the public hospital has been taking away, even stealing, human resources from the private sector and plans to hire even more people," he said.

The lawmaker reminded the secretary that there are at least eight legislators in the AL with connections to the administration of the Kiang Wu hospital.

Chan Meng Kam, also dissa-

tified with the mass recruitment of healthcare professionals and wave of spending policies, argued that other regions such as Hong Kong and Taiwan have "achieved more with less." He went on to explain that, "In Taiwan, there was a lower investment but a higher turnout. That happened because there was good control and management. Macau has a population with a lower rate of disease and a higher economic capacity. We need to take note of examples from neighboring regions and provide a high level of quality

**“We need to support our human resources and hire more workers. This will ultimately provide higher quality service to the population.”**

ALEXIS TAM

in the health sector.”

In response, Alexis Tam noted, "It's true that we have had some constraints up until now, namely in the lack of human resources, qualified employees and legal matters. But it's not enough to have the building done. We need to support our human resources and hire more workers. This will ultimately provide a better quality of service to the population."

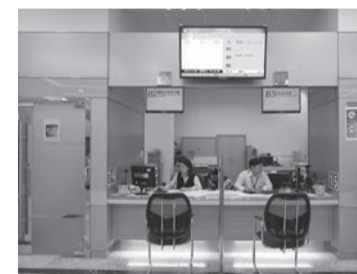
## Loan-to-deposit ratio slightly elevated

According to information released by the Monetary Authority of Macau, total deposits decreased at a slightly faster rate than total loans in October. This caused the loan-to-deposit ratio of the banking sector to rise marginally compared with the previous month. Currency in circulation grew at a slower rate (1.7 percent) than demand deposits (3.3 percent), while quasi-monetary liabilities fell by 1.4 percent. The effect of this was a general tightening of the money supply during October. Resident deposits decreased by 1 percent from the previous month to a value of MOP466.1 billion, while non-resident deposits rose by 1.5 percent to MOP273.9 billion

## Group demands measures to stimulate housing market

The Macau Association of Building Contractors and Developers has urged the authorities to come up with measures to boost falling housing prices. As the region's property prices have fallen for almost a year due to the economic slowdown in the gaming industry, the group hopes the government can ease mortgage restrictions for first-time property buyers by letting the financial institutions decide the ratio. The group also supports the government's policy of "social housing first, affordable housing next," which could see a reduced supply of affordable housing for youth and lower income families.

## Electronic ID card wins international recognition



The Macau SAR Electronic Identity Card has won an award from the Asia Pacific Smart Card Association (APSCA) for its role in making citizens' lives easier and more convenient. The Identification Services Bureau received the Radiant electronic-identification award at the 11th Asian Government Forum on Electronic Identity in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The award is for a public electronic identity scheme that has consistently delivered exemplary service over a five-year period, as well as quantifiably improving citizens' and residents' lives. It focuses on the application of smart card technology to public sector service offerings. The bureau thanked APSCA for the Radiant award and announced that in future, citizens will be able to use more electronic public services with their ID cards. APSCA is a non-profit smart card organization within the Asia-Pacific region and provides consultancy services to smart card scheme operators and suppliers, among others.

### TOURIST SYNERGIES NEEDED

ALEXIS TAM has said that in order to create a better dynamic for tourism, the creation of "synergy" between the different government departments is needed. According to the secretary, Macau "does not need to build anything else to attract the tourists, we already have it: it's our heritage." Mr Tam offered an

example of such synergies in the form of the new project for developing the Taipa Houses Museum. This project will involve IACM, IC, and IFT, among other non-profitable associations. According to the Secretary, this is the secret to "attracting more tourists" to Macau for longer periods of time.

# DSEJ to develop more vocational education

**T**HE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) plans to strengthen its provision of vocational education, according to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture.

Answering a question from legislator Chui Sai Cheong on Friday, Alexis Tam said, "[the school project] at Seac Pai Vai will include a center for vocational education courses." He added that the center will provide lecture courses in the areas of "translation, fashion design and other creative industries."

Mr Chui had questioned the secretary over the need to invest more in this field. According to the lawmaker, courses in the creative industries account for 50 percent of students in countries such as Germany, and generates high incomes for industry professionals working in European countries as well as in the US. Chui Sai Cheong also underlined that there is a need for the government to seek to change societal

attitudes toward this type of education. In order to accomplish this, he proposed a sensitization campaign to show people that a "University degree is not the only way."

Details about the operation of this school center were not offered at this time.

Also on the subject of education, and following the concerns of another legislator over the need for the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) to be upgraded to a bureau, the secretary said that "although [GAES] is labeled an 'office,' the competences of GAES are equivalent to a Bureau." In addition, he guaranteed that the Office will not be put under the auspices of the DSEJ. "I can guarantee that DSEJ will merge with GAES. They have very different domains. In fact, GAES will be given more powers, for example, being able to make regulations that would be applied to the

tertiary education institutions," Mr Tam said.

The teaching of the Portuguese language was a topic that was raised on both days of the debate, especially in regard to the University of Macau (UM). Lawmaker Leonel Alves, in a straightforward manner, said that it "looks like there is a lack of alignment between the theory and the practice, between the political program and the actions. There is a need to moralize the leaders and the structures," he added, referring to the apparent non-compliance from UM, with the strategy of developing the teaching of the Portuguese language. The legislator added, "IPM has been doing a great job, maybe because its rector is bilingual."

The lawmaker went even further, saying, "Maybe we need to have a special school just to teach languages: a language school." RM

## Chui Sai On meets with top Beijing official

**T**HE Chief Executive (CE), Mr Chui Sai On, met on Friday with the Vice president of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Minister of Science and Technology, Wan Gang.

The purpose of the meeting, held at Macau government headquarters, was to exchange views on the development of the science sector in Macau. According to a statement from the CE's Office, Mr Chui stressed that the education system should ensure that one of its primary goals is to attract the interest of young people for science, and ensure that they are trained in this field.

Wan Gang said that Macau has achieved great success as well as socio-economic stability. He indicated that he was pleased with a tour he made of the new University of Macau (UM) campus, which included a visit to two state reference laboratories. Mr Wan remarked that a continuous investment in science will have



The CE meets with Wan Gang

positive effects on sustainable development, talent training and development of technology and science locally.

Separately, speaking at the opening ceremony of a seminar on big data and privacy protection last week, Chui Sai On welcomed the growing sense of awareness that local residents are showing with regards to

data protection and security. The CE said that the extensive scope of the Office for Personal Data Protection demonstrates the local authorities' commitment to "monitor and coordinate the implementation of the Personal Data Protection Act," as well as the office's more specific responsibilities in data protection.

## Resident fined MOP5,000 for tobacco smuggling

**A** Macau resident has been discovered by the Customs Service (SA) carrying an amount of cigarettes far exceeding the legal allowance into the territory. On September 17, the man was intercepted at the Gongbei Border in possession of six packages totaling 1,200 cigarettes.

The merchandise was immediately confiscated and the Service penalized the resident with an accessory fine of MOP5,000.

The person claimed that the goods were for personal use, and that they had been purchased in duty free shops in Gongbei. The man said he was unaware that the importation of the cigarettes in question was subject to restrictions and import licenses.

According to the SA investigation, the goods seized and found were likely destined to be sold in Macau with a profit margin of 30 percent. Dissatisfied with the decision of the SA, the resident appealed, claiming to be unemployed and receiving only a monthly subsidy from the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) of



MOP1,500.

The case reached its final stage with the Administrative Court (TA) rejecting the claims from the applicant and upholding the decision of the SA director.

The court noted that it considered the initial decision to be appropriate and reasonable, as the customs authorities had, in fact, only applied the minimum legal penalty.

The TA also remarked that the amount of cigarettes considered to be reasonable for personal use is 200. The amount the individual was carrying largely exceeded this limit. **RM**

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GAMING

# No break for junkets as Dore investors protest Wynn again

**FORMER** Dore investors have once again taken to protesting outside Wynn Macau, demanding the return of their investments in the junket operator, after Dore reported an alleged internal theft of at least HKD300 million in September.

A Business Insider report suggests that the Dore group is unlikely to be in a position to return the money – even if required to – amid the industry-wide collapse of the VIP gaming segment and ensuing closures of junket operators that has followed.

Last year 16 percent of all junkets in Macau closed down, according to the report.

The VIP segment once made up a significant majority of gaming revenues, but has been hit hard by President Xi's anti-corruption campaign, which has taken the form of an increase in government monitoring and oversight in the industry.

As the pressures on the VIP sector continue to mount, traditional junket operators have

found that loans used to shore up betting are not being repaid in full.

As the Times reported on Friday, junket operators are having problems collecting on their debts. Kwok Chi Chung, the president of Macau's Association of Gaming & Entertainment Promoters, said that only 20–30 percent of their junkets' loans are being repaid.

"Getting the money back is a bigger challenge now for junkets than before," Kwok told Bloomberg. "With a longer payback period, junkets have less money to lend to new customers, and the business is shrinking accordingly."

As junket confidence in the ability or willingness of high-rollers to repay operators plummets, significant changes to the junket system are under consideration.

According to the Business Insider report, a more cautious industry that is less eager to lend could spell the end of VIP gaming by denying VIPs access to the amount of money required for this sort of gaming. **Staff reporter**

SPORTS

# Ukraine runners dominate at local marathon

Renato Marques

**UKRAINE'S** Vitaliy Shafar and Olena Shurkhno have taken this year's Macau Marathon titles in the male and female categories, respectively. Shafar was clearly the strongest in his category, running the 42.195 kilometers in a mere 2:14:44. Shurkhno won with a time of 2:33:24 in the race held yesterday morning in Macau's streets.

This year, for the first time, the course included the University of Macau campus in Hengqin Island. As 2015 marks the tenth anniversary of the listing of the city's historic center as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the race route also included the heritage-listed A-Ma Temple.

A total of 8,000 runners from Macau and overseas amassed on the starting line with 1,200 joining the full marathon course. A total of 2,600 participated in the half-marathon and 4,200 ran the mini-marathon. This number was an increased



quota from previous years, and was quickly filled after the registration first opened.

Alexis Tam, Secretary of Social Affairs and Culture, and José Tavares, president of the Macau Sport Development Board, kicked off the event, among other notable athletic figures. These included former Olympic marathon winner Rosa Mota. Despite the cold weather and wet pavement, the runners started with a determined spirit that they maintained throughout the entire race.

Finishing behind Ukraine's Vitaliy Shafar on the male podium were Dominic Kangor Kimwetich from Kenya and Abraraw Misganaw Tegegne from Ethiopia.

Aside from the winner, Olena Shurkhno, the female podium consisted of second-placed Ruth Wanjiru Kuria from Kenya and third-placed Ayelu Abebe Hordofa from Ethiopia.

Joseph Ngare (Kenya) and Carla Martinho (Portugal) won the half-marathon distance titles in the male and female categories, respectively.

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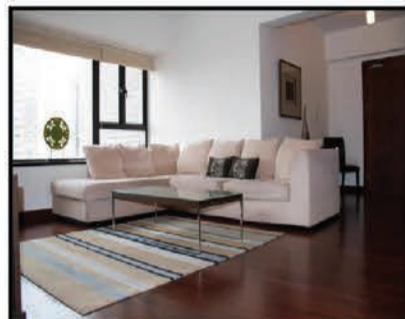
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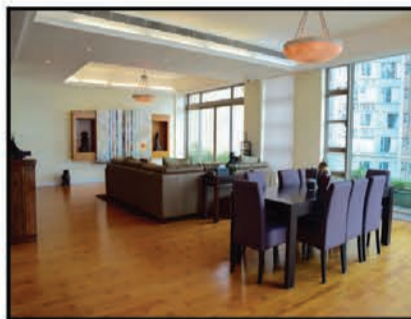


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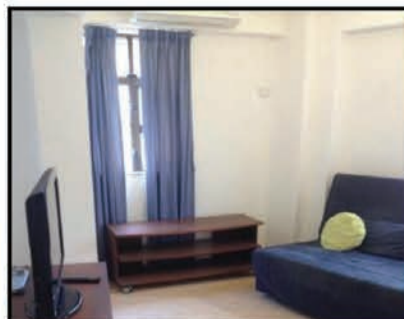
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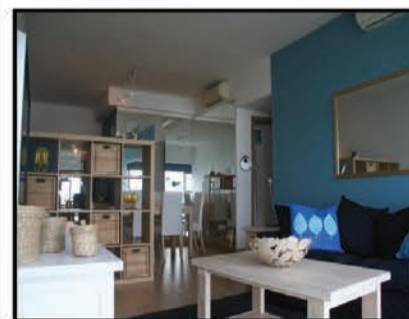
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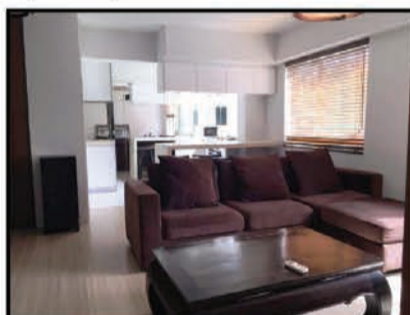
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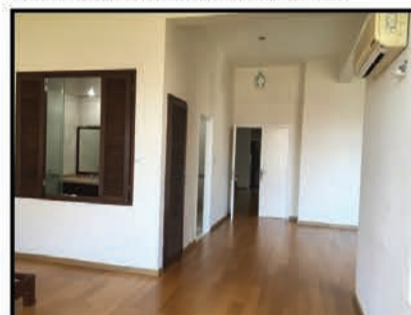
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This furnished 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms apartment is bright and spacious with a large open planned living room/dining room. Amazing views overlooking Taipa and the Macau Tower. One Central offers a magnificent 5-level indoor and outdoor leisure and recreational space. A great location within walking distance to MGM, Wynn and Mandarin Oriental. Directly linked to the shopping centre.

### For Sale



#### H Unit in Gladiolus Court, Hellene Gardens

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2,530sq. ft. HKD 9,988M  
Rate: HKD3,947sq ft

Unique opportunity to purchase a completely renovated & remodeled duplex apartment in Hellene Gardens. Plumbing, electrics and flooring throughout have been completely replaced. Reverse cycle Daikin air conditioners throughout. Two side by side parking spaces. 2 Car Parks HKD888,888 each.

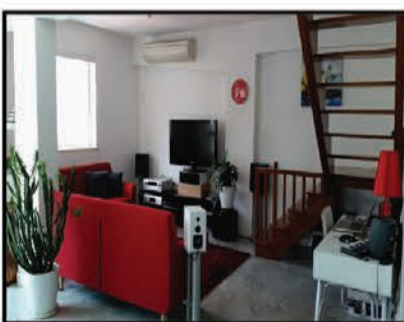


#### Meng FUNG St Paul

(Ref: 15115461)  
1570sq. ft. HKD 9.8M  
Rate: HKD 6,242sq ft

Two apartment knocked into one duplex apartment which is in a walk up building in St.Paul.

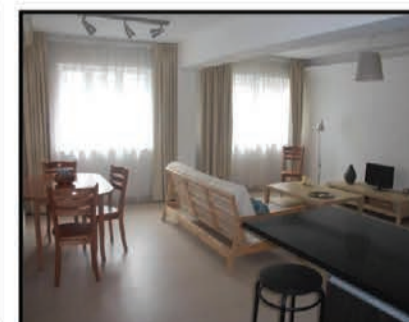
The apartment can be sold separately. Bright and spacious, located in a very convenient area where restaurants, supermarkets and market nearby.



#### Roof Top (Investment Apartment) - Macau

(Ref: 15055441)  
799sq. ft. HKD 4,993M  
Rate: HKD 6,250ft.

Renovated 5 years ago this apartment has a modern open plan kitchen. The main floor consists of a good size double bedroom and a separate bathroom. A wooden staircase leads to the upper floor which has an open area, good for bedroom, office, studio or entertainment area. This is a rare chance to buy a view. Viewing by appointment only.



#### Va Fu, Old Taipa Village

(Ref: 15085449)  
670sq. ft. HKD3.5M  
Rate: HKD5,223sq ft

Spacious and bright furnished apartment. Double glazing. This apartment has one bedroom with free standing storage, one modern bathroom and one small closed balcony for laundry. Open plan living/dining area. Very centrally located, within minutes of cafes, shops, banks, restaurants etc.

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## Agricultural Bank of China head resigns amid graft probe



Zhang Yun

**T**HE head of China's fourth-largest state bank has resigned citing personal reasons amid reports of his involvement in a corruption investigation.

No details were given about the departure of Agricultural Bank of China president Zhang Yun, according to reports appearing Saturday.

The resignation of the 56-year-old executive comes amid an ongoing campaign against corruption in the Chinese government, the military and state industries.

A massive stock market sell-off over the summer has also lately focused investigators' gaze on the financial sector.

The respected financial weekly Caixin reported that Zhang had been demoted and placed under two years' probation in October after being investigated by the ruling Communist Party's anti-corruption watchdog body over a series of cases. Reports also said a subordinate in the bank's Shenzhen branch had been placed under investigation for corruption earlier in the year.

A notice Friday on the Hong Kong stock exchange's website said Zhang's resignation took immediate effect and that there were no matters in relations to his case that should "be brought to the attention of the shareholders or creditors of the bank."

With the economy slowing, profits among China's top four state-run banks slumped in the first three quarters of the year, with Agricultural Bank's rising by just 0.57 percent. **AP**

# Chinese cities give Toyota boost in hunt for hybrid buyers

Jie Ma

**C**HINA'S former leader Deng Xiaoping famously quipped that it doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, so long as it catches mice. When it comes to environmentally-friendly cars that might help clear up the nation's polluted skies, China has ignored Deng's advice - to the detriment of Toyota Motor Corp.'s lineup of hybrid cars. That may soon change.

Tianjin and Guangzhou, home to Toyota's local joint ventures, are becoming the first cities to let buyers of new Levin and Corolla hybrids enter lotteries usually restricted to plug-in cars, virtually guaranteeing access to coveted new license plates. The cities are rewarding Toyota for sharing some hybrid technology and know-how with local partners.

More Chinese cities are adopting the plate restrictions to control the number of autos on their roads and promote greener cars. These lotteries are routinely undersubscribed. Getting a plate for a gas engine-powered car is far more difficult. In Beijing, for example, a consumer has 0.5 percent chance of winning a plate in lotteries held every two months.

"Toyota has done its part to localize production and lower costs," said Zhang Yi, a Tokyo-based auto industry consultant at Nomura Research Institute. "The



government support is the last step they need to reverse hybrid's fate in China."

Under the new arrangement in Tianjin and Guangzhou, Toyota's newest China models will get a marketing edge as the Japanese carmaker plays catch-up with Volkswagen AG and General Motors Co. in the world's largest auto market. Toyota agreed to localize development and production of hybrid car components after almost two decades of keeping the work contained to Japan.

China has doled out subsidies to electric-car buyers and puts less-stringent purchase restrictions on plug-in autos in urban centers as part of a government strategy to reduce tailpipe emissions and dependence on imported oil. Conventional hybrids, which run on a combination of a gasoline

engine and a battery, have been excluded in the government's new-energy vehicle programs until now.

The lack of state support has hampered Toyota's bet that hybrids could be a more realistic solution to reducing emissions, since plug-in cars sold by companies including BYD Co. and Chery Automobile Co. are dependent on still-nascent charging infrastructure. While Toyota has sold more than 8 million hybrids globally, it delivered only about 1,000 Prius and 5,700 Camry hybrids last year in China.

With Tianjin and Guangzhou getting behind the Corolla and Levin hybrids, Toyota received orders for 8,000 units in the three weeks after their introduction in late October. That level of hybrid demand is unprecedented for the carmaker, which first in-

troduced the gasoline-electric Prius to the China market in 2005.

The FAW Toyota joint venture plans to increase production of Corolla hybrid next year by as much as 15 percent to 45,000 units, said Zhang Sijun, a general manager of marketing planning division. This would boost both FAW and local Chinese battery supplier Hunan Corun New Energy Co.

Hunan Corun rose as much as 7.4 percent as of 1:25 p.m. Friday while the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index fell as much as 1.5 percent.

"Toyota has taken 10 years to sharpen a sword," Hiroji Onishi, Toyota's chief executive officer for the China region, said last month at the Guangzhou Motor Show. "This year marks the start of a hybrid era in China." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### CEM ANNOUNCES 'INDUCTION COOKER LUCKY DRAW' RESULTS

To encourage the use of induction cooking and to promote the concept of healthy eating, Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) again presented its "Induction Cooker Lucky Draw" at this year's Macau Food Festival. Lucky draw tickets were attached to Macau Food Festival cash coupons. Participants who answered questions correctly and put them into the lucky draw box could win one of 10 single-zone induction cookers.

The prize draw ceremony was held earlier in the Festival, presided by Chou Iok Leong and Elizabeth Chung, Executive Directors, as well as Lo Kam Kuan and Chow Yu Tang,



Vice-Presidents of the United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macau; and Jaclyn Iun, Manager of CEM's Communications and Public Affairs Office. The ten lucky winners were: Tam Lai Ngo, Chang Wai Kit, Sio Son Chao, Lei Sio In, Cheong Lai Fan, Tjje Vil Son, Kuong Sut lan, Ho Sou I, Che Ka Hou, and San Wai Fong. Winners were notified individually by CEM.

### MGM ANNOUNCES FIVE MORS GOLD PIN WINNERS

MGM Macau employees were awarded with a total of five Gold Pin Awards, the most ever received for MGM. The award ceremony for the 2015 "Macao Occupational Skills Recognition System" (MORS) Gold Pin Competition Award Presentation Ceremony sponsored by the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) took place on December 2.

The "Macao Occupational Skills Recognition System" was launched in 2001 as a joint effort of the Tourism Industry of Macao and IFT, with the main objective to upgrade human resources in the industry through the introduction of a certification scheme for a number of hospitality and tou-



risms professions. To reward and demonstrate outstanding MORS recognized professionals IFT has been organizing the Gold Pin Competition since 2002. The competition is a platform for contestants to demonstrate their professional skills and pit their talent against the best in the industry. This year, there were a total of 290 contestants representing 31 companies and 67 contestants were shortlisted for the finals.

### ETIHAD AIRWAYS NAMED AIR TRANSPORT WORLD'S AIRLINE OF THE YEAR 2016



Etihad Airways, the Abu Dhabi-based national airline of the United Arab Emirates, was named Airline of the Year 2016 by the US-based aviation industry publication Air Transport World (ATW) at a ceremony on Friday night.

Etihad Airways was chosen by ATW's editorial board out of entries from more than 100 airlines around the world. According to a press release, the award "re-

cognizes Etihad Airways' clear vision; its successful organic growth supplemented by a unique partnership strategy; its commercial focus which has delivered net profits in each of the last four years; the rapid growth of its highly motivated workforce; its development of innovative products and services, including The Residence by Etihad; and the airline's strong executive leadership".

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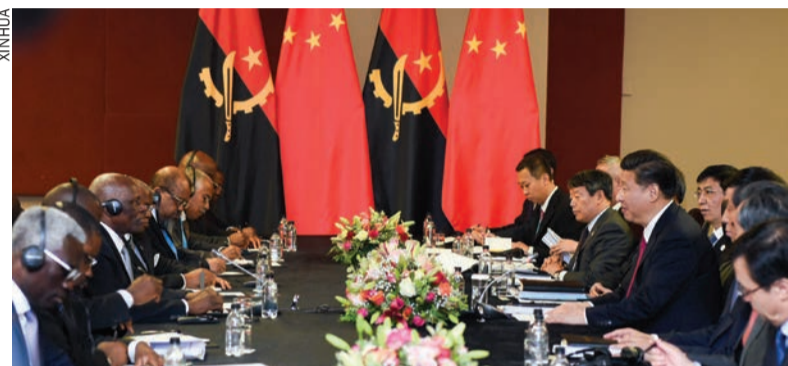
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# Presidents of Angola and China call to strengthen bilateral cooperation



Xi Jinping (r) met with Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Johannesburg, South Africa

**A**NGOLA and China should consolidate and deepen the existing bilateral strategic partnership for mutual benefit, Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos and Chinese President Xi Jinping said Thursday in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Xi noted that bilateral relations are “at their highest level ever” and gave assurances that China intended to continue to work with Angola to support the country’s development, particularly in the industrial, financial and infrastructure construction sectors.

Cited by Chinese state news agency Xinhua, China’s president called for increased exchanges in areas such as education, culture, healthcare, media, youth, tourism and human resources.

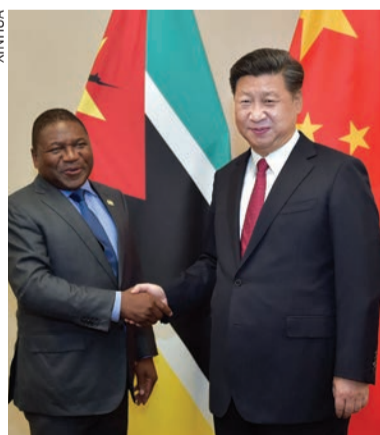
The two leaders, who met in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the Summit of Heads of Sta-

te and Government of the China/Africa Cooperation Forum taking place Friday and Saturday, seized the moment to review some international issues, particularly those related to the Great Lakes region in central Africa.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, after referring to his state visit to China earlier this year in which “important consensus” was reached, mentioned some economic sectors in which Angola is interested in Chinese cooperation, including the oil industry, conservation of water resources and food processing, as well as the financial sector.

The Chinese ambassador to Angola, Cui Aimin, said last week that ongoing meetings between technical groups of the two countries are taking place. Those meetings aim at the development of monetary agreements, reciprocal protection of investments and introduction of visa facilities. **MDT/Macauhub**

# Mozambique presents priority cooperation areas



Xi Jinping (r) and Filipe Nyusi

**T**HE definition of priority areas such as agriculture, infrastructure and industrialisation, as well as their financing were topics discussed Thursday in Johannesburg by the presidents of China and Mozambique, Xi Jinping and Filipe Nyusi.

The meeting, the first between

the two heads of state since Nyusi was sworn in in January, took place at the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the China/Africa Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation (FOCAC), in Johannesburg, bringing together more than 50 dignitaries from countries with diplomatic relations with China.

According to Mozambican news agency AIM, the three areas that Mozambique put up for discussion with China coincide with the priorities identified not only by the African Union but also by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as it was considered that they are essential to poverty alleviation by increasing the income of the productive sector and the promotion of employment opportunities for the population. **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

# MGM CHINA

## Helping to Create a Better Tomorrow Today



Our Responsible Gaming Program is rooted in our Sustainability Vision, Create a Better Tomorrow Today, which serves as a call to action to create a sustainable, and more responsible Macau where our operations positively impact our people and the environment.

At MGM we are committed to creating entertainment experiences, while delivering our products and services in a responsible manner and promoting sustainable gaming practices. We take our obligations to prevent and minimize the harm that problem gambling may cause with the utmost seriousness. Responsible gaming consistently remains an integral part of our operating philosophy.



### Engaging our guests

Responsible gaming means staying in control of how much time and money we spend gaming. Whether it's buying a lottery ticket or placing a bet, gaming responsibly means treating the activity as a form of entertainment and never spending more money and time than one can reasonably afford. Responsible gaming is promoted to our guests through information kiosks and other interactive communications placed in prominent locations throughout the casino. All gaming tables and machines are fitted with digital signage boards and

clocks reminding guests of the signs of problem gaming, as well as the time they have spent playing. As one of the first gaming operators in Macau to proactively promote self-exclusion, we recognize our responsibility to those that need our help and for whom gaming has become a problem. MGM responsible gaming ambassadors are on duty twenty-four hours daily and are trained to identify warning signs and work with our Responsible Gaming Operations Team to initiate immediate remedial action.

### Employee awareness

Understanding responsible gaming, the risks of problem gambling and ways to seek further assistance, are topics conveyed to all team members through regular employee training, awareness-raising events and other staff bulletins. Last month we held our annual Responsible Gaming Education Week. During this week we arranged a host of activities aimed at engaging our team members about the importance of gaming responsibly. Activities ranged from educational and fun games, to an intensive workshop on how to identify people at risk. As part of our ongoing Employee Assistance Program (EAP), *Enrich Your Life*, we also held regular awareness-raising events throughout the year on responsible gaming, inviting organizations such as the Macau Youth Volunteer Association and Sheng Kung Hui to come and share their professional advice. In collaboration with Sheng Kung Hui, we offer our employees, as well as their families, access to a professional and confidential counseling service for any issues of personal and professional concern. Last month, we enhanced this program by extending our EAP hotline to 24-hour daily operation making us the first in the local Macau industry to offer this level of assistance.



### Industry collaboration

MGM participates annually in the *Macau Responsible Gaming Campaign*, which is collectively organized by the Macau Social Welfare Bureau, the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau and the University of Macau's Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming. This event enables the public and private sector to work in partnership to provide information and resources to the community and help people make informed decisions about their gambling choices.

MGM employees also attend industry and community forums to promote responsible gaming awareness. In May, MGM participated in the 4th Asian Pacific Problem Gambling and Addiction Conference (APPGA), presenting on our own responsible gaming program and as well as our EAP Program. We also welcomed participants from the APPGA conference, as well as from Tung Wah Group of Hospitals on a separate date, for a tour of our initiatives so we could share our learnings and for them to see our initiatives in practice.

# Mainland fugitive returns from US amid crackdown

ONE of China's most wanted fugitives voluntarily returned from the U.S. on Saturday in a new victory for the government's campaign to track down corruption suspects who have fled abroad, the ruling Communist Party said.

The party's anti-graft body said that Huang Yurong had turned herself at Beijing's Capital Airport. Official photos showed Huang flanked by police officers standing before an official while a document was read and then signing a piece of paper.

Huang is accused of abusing her position as head of the highway administration in the central province of Henan to embezzle funds and take bribes. She fled abroad in August 2002, and had resided in the U.S. for the last 13 years.

Although Washington has no extradition treaty with China, it has agreed to assist in the repatriation of officials accused of corruption. In return, the U.S.



Huang Yurong, center, one of China's most wanted fugitives, appears at Capital International Airport in Beijing

hopes for Beijing's help in taking back the thousands of Chinese residing in the U.S. illegally.

Huang was ranked No. 4 on a list of China's 100 most wanted suspects issued in April and filed with Interpol. Her husband, former Henan provincial transport department chief Shi Faliang, had already been sentenced to life imprisonment in 2005 on corruption charges.

The anti-graft body, known as the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, said it had made Huang a priority and dispatched officials to build a case against her.

The commission made no mention of the amount of money involved or any admission of guilt.

It quoted Huang as saying she was happy to return home, had full confidence in the Chinese legal system and would "provide a clear explanation as to her issues."

Since taking office in 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping has made a wide-ranging crackdown on corruption in public life a central part of his political agenda. The government is believed to use offers of lighter sentences or better treatment of relatives as inducements for suspects to return from abroad. AP

# Xi pledges USD60 billion to African development

Lynsey Chutel, Johannesburg

CHINA'S president pledged USD60 billion to development in Africa on Friday, as part of what Chinese and African leaders have called "win-win cooperation."

President Xi Jinping made the announcement to rousing applause from an audience that included South Africa's President Jacob Zuma, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and African Union Commission Chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

Speaking at the Forum on China Africa Cooperation in South Africa, Xi outlined 10 areas that will receive funding including infrastructure projects, aid for drought-stricken countries and thousands of scholarships for African students. The Chinese government will also cancel outstanding debts for Africa's least developed countries in the form of zero interest loans that mature at the end of 2015, he said.

Xi also promised to provide assistance to help upgrade African health care facilities, train hundreds of journalists and provide satellite reception in 10,000 African villages.

China has the world's largest fo-



Xi Jinping delivers his speech during the opening ceremony of the Johannesburg Summit for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg

reign currency reserves at \$3.514 trillion. State owned banks have often looked to developing countries for investment opportunities.

The \$60 billion pledge is three times as much as the package promised at the last China Africa cooperation summit in 2012, said economist Aubrey Hruby. With China's recent economic woes, the Washington D.C.-based economist was expecting a more modest fund.

Hruby added the package is likely to be distributed through numerous

state-owned agencies and it will be difficult to track the funding's successes or failures.

"There's not a lot of transparency in how it's broken down," she said.

As with pledges from previous summits, the funding will be distributed over the next three years, she added.

At the last summit in Beijing, China pledged to provide a \$20 billion credit line to African countries for development projects and boosted the China Africa development fund by \$5 billion, as it has this year. AP

# Beijing schools suspend outdoor activity on smog, Xinhua says

ELEMENTARY and middle schools in Beijing will suspend outdoor activities after China's capital issued an orange alert for smog this week, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The suspension also covers kindergartens and extracurricular training schools and will remain in force during the alert from today to Wednesday, Xinhua reported, citing the city's Commission of Education.

China, the world's biggest carbon emitter, plans to upgrade coal power plants in the next five years to crack down on the kinds of pollutants and heavy smog that blanketed northern parts of the country last week. Beijing on Nov. 29 raised its air-pollution alert for the first time in more than a year to orange, the second-highest level in a four-tier system.

Beijing's skies have only just cleared after concentrations of PM2.5 - the pollutants that pose the greatest risk to human health - reached 666 micrograms per cubic meter on Dec. 1. The World Health Organization recommends average exposure over a 24-hour period of no higher than 25 micrograms per cubic meter.

With a lack of wind hampering the dispersion of pollutants, readings of PM2.5 near Tiananmen Square in the center of Beijing rose again to 117 as of noon yesterday, the Beijing Municipal Monitoring Center said on its website. Bloomberg

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**C**HINA'S campaign of island building in the South China Sea might soon quadruple the number of airstrips available to the People's Liberation Army in the highly contested and strategically vital region.

That could be bad news for other regional contenders, especially the U.S., the Philippines and Vietnam.

The island construction work that is creating vast amounts of new acreage by piling sand on top of coral reefs is now moving into the construction stage, with buildings, harbors and, most importantly, runways appearing in recent months.

China now operates one airfield at Woody Island in the Paracel island chain, and satellite photos show what appears to be work on two, possibly three, additional airstrips on newly built islands in the Spratly archipelago to the east.

The bases could have a "significant impact on the local balance of power" by helping bolster the forward presence of Chinese coast guard and navy forces, said Euan Graham, director of the International Security Program at the Lowy Institute in Sydney, Australia.

As with most South China Sea developments, China has remained opaque about its plans for the island airstrips. At a recent monthly briefing, Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian declined to say how many China planned to build or what their purpose would be, repeating only that all military infrastructure was "purely for defensive purposes."

Beijing claims almost all of the South China Sea and its islands and has created seven new features in the Spratlys since last year that are permanently above water totaling more than 800 hectares in area, according to satellite photos collected by U.S. government agencies and private groups including the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

While China insists its island building works are justified and don't constitute a threat to stability, further militarization of the region seems assured given China's increasingly robust assertions of its territorial claims.

Those perceptions were reinforced with the deployment in October of advanced J-11BH/BHS fighters of the navy air force to Woody Island that was revealed online in China in October. China's military has declined to comment on the reports.

The island's 2.4-kilometer long runway will soon be eclipsed by one more than 3 kilometers long on the reclaimed island built atop Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratlys, the satellite



SOUTH CHINA SEA

# New airstrips a potential headache for neighbors, US

photos show. Another runway is being built on Subi Reef, with signs of similar work underway on nearby Mischief Reef.

Patrols by fighter jets based on the islands, most likely temporarily given the salty climate and frequent storms, could serve to intimidate other claimants, especially the Philippines

**Buildings, harbors and, most importantly, runways [have started] appearing in recent months**

and Vietnam. That could also complicate regular operations by U.S. forces which insist on freedom of navigation and overflight over the entire sea.

"In periods of tension, the intimidation value of air patrols from the islands would be con-

siderable," Graham said.

The airfields would allow Chinese aircraft to refuel, repair and if necessary, rearm without having to fly the more than 1,000 kilometers to the nearest Chinese air base on Hainan island, said Hans Kristensen, a China security expert with the Federation of American Scientists.

They would also be highly vulnerable to bombing in an actual conflict, although their presence alone would require additional planning and effort by opponents.

Short of that, the issue grows murkier and more troublesome, especially if China were to announce a zone of air control over all or part of the South China Sea. In that case, the airstrips could be launching points for patrols, enforcement operations and possibly strikes.

China announced an initial air defense identification zone over much of the East China Sea in late 2013, a designation the U.S., Japan and others refused to recognize.

In early December, China conducted what its air force

spokesman Shen Jinke described as the latest "routine patrol" through the zone, featuring aircraft including H-6K long-range bombers, fighter jets and early warning aircraft.

Questioned on plans for a South China Sea zone, Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian said that would depend on threats to China's interests and security.

"Therefore we will take into consideration a number of factors in making the decision," Wu said.

Other countries also operate airstrips on their South China Sea holdings, but their size and level of sophistication are dwarfed by China's new developments.

Vietnam's strip on Spratly island is just 550 meters, just long enough to accommodate slow-moving cargo and surveillance planes. Those operated by the Philippines on Thitu Island, also known as Pagasa, and Taiwan on Itu Aba, or Taiping Island, and Malaysia on Swallow Reef, are about twice as long, allowing them to land

fighters as well.

Yet, only Fiery Cross Reef is long enough to accommodate bombers like the H-6K, whose air launched cruise missiles increase its destructive power.

Lying astride busy sea lanes, rich fisheries and a potential wealth of mineral deposits, the Chinese airfields would also boost China's position over strategic resources it craves to fuel economic growth.

The new airstrips will also come in handy as China develops its aircraft carrier program, particularly for training pilots in simulated night landings or to recover planes in difficult conditions.

However, their usefulness is constrained by the need for large amounts of jet fuel on hand, along with the need to reinforce strips built on sand to handle bombers and other heavy aircraft.

"If we start to see satellite evidence of fuel storage going in on a large scale in the artificial islands, that will be the clearest indicator that China is planning to develop them as active air bases," Graham said. AP

**T**HE people of Thailand on Saturday marked the 88th birthday of their king, the world's longest-reigning monarch, but with their once-vigorous leader in a hospital and unseen in public for three months, the celebrations were the most subdued in memory.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej looked frail on his last appearance before the general public on Sept. 1, when he was taken on a brief tour of the Bangkok hospital where he has spent most of the last six years. His most recent ailment was a lung infection that required him to be fed intravenously and use a machine to aid his breathing.

Many public activities were being held for the royal birthday, but there were no joyous celebrations of the type that used to be held before the decline of the king's health. One major gathering point this year was outside the hospital that has become his de facto palace, where well-wishers came to offer their prayers.

The king's other medical issues in recent years have included excess fluid in the brain and an operation to remove his gallbladder.

A somber reminder of his generation's passing came Saturday morning with the death of

## THAILAND

# King, longest-reigning monarch, marks 88th birthday



Well-wishers light candles for Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej to mark his 88th birthday in Bangkok

96-year-old former Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila, a member of the Privy Council, the king's personal advisory board.

While he is a constitutional monarch with no formal political role, Bhumibol — King Rama IX — has generally been

regarded as Thailand's unifying figure. His intervention during major political crises is generally seen as having been key to

There were no joyous celebrations of the type that used to be held before the decline of the king's health

restoring the status quo.

Before the decline in his health, Bhumibol's birthday had also been the occasion for a much-anticipated annual speech in which he would speak his mind to exercise his authority as the

country's moral leader.

Love of the monarchy is almost seen as the definition of Thainess. But it is not so clear whether the people's strong devotion for the king will be transferred to his son and heir apparent, 63-year-old Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, who does not have his father's record of public service.

Social and political schisms that have sometimes led to violence over the past decade have added to the air of uncertainty about what may happen after Bhumibol's reign is over.

"I don't know what to think," said Thaweewat Chongsuanoi, a banker. He was wearing a 'Bike for Dad' T-shirt promoting a mass cycling event being held Dec. 11 under the prince's auspices to honor the king.

"He has been the person that holds the people together; without him, people would be lost," Thaweewat said. AP

AD

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Nirmala George, New Delhi

INDIA

## Officials investigate negligence after 18 patients die

INDIAN authorities were investigating possible negligence after 18 hospital patients died when rainwaters from massive floods in southern Tamil Nadu state knocked out generators and switched off ventilators.

The patients were in the intensive care unit at MIOT International hospital in the state capital of Chennai when floodwaters seeped into the room with the generators, cutting off power to the building and the ventilators earlier this week, state Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan said Saturday.

The worst flooding in a century in Tamil Nadu has left more than 280 people dead since November. In the latest deluge this week, authorities turned off power in some areas to prevent electrocutions that were blamed for several deaths.

Although floodwaters have begun to recede, vast swaths of Chennai and neighboring districts were still under 2 1/2 to 3 meters of water, with tens of thousands of people in state-run relief camps.

Army soldiers using boats have rescued thousands of residents marooned in high-rise buildings and launched massive relief operations to provide food and medicine.

"We feel quite helpless," said Malti Soman, standing in knee-deep water in Mambalam, a residential area in central Chennai. "The landline phones are not working. And my cellphone is dead because



An Indian army soldier distributes relief material to flood affected people in Chennai

there is no electricity to charge it."

Radhakrishnan, the health

secretary, said that while the immediate rescue operations were tapering off, the main

focus in the coming days will be to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

In many areas, sewage drains have overflowed, posing a health hazard for residents who have had to wade through the water, Radhakrishnan said.

"This is a concern," he said. "We are working with the local water and sewage agencies to disinfect the worst-hit areas."

Sanitation workers have begun spraying insecticide in many places to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue due to the stagnant water collected in large parts of the city.

Chennai's airport was closed for a fourth day Saturday, although some flights operated from a nearby air force base.

Railway services resumed partially, with a few trains running from Chennai's main train station.

India's main monsoon season runs from June through September, but for Chennai and the rest of the southeastern coast, the heaviest rainfall is from October to December, also called the retreating monsoon. Experts say the heavy rainfall was linked to the El Nino weather pattern, when the waters of the Pacific Ocean get warmer than usual. **AP**

INDONESIA

## Commuter train hits passenger bus; 18 dead

A commuter train slammed into a passenger minibus yesterday at a railroad crossing in Indonesia's capital, killing at least 18 people and seriously injuring six others.

The bus driver allegedly ignored the warning signals when he crossed the rail tracks and was rammed by the train in western Jakarta, said Wirdhanto, the police chief in the neighborhood of Tambora. Like many Indonesians, Wirdhanto uses only one name.

All of those who were killed were traveling in the minibus. No one aboard the train was injured.

The shattered bus was seen lying on the tracks after it was dragged by the train up to a nearby platform, about 300



Rescuers remove the wreckage of a passenger minibus after it was hit by a commuter train in Jakarta

meters from the collision site.

Thirteen minibus passengers died instantly, while another died on the way to a hospital, Wirdhanto said.

The minibus driver and his assistant were among four people who died at three Jakarta hospitals, while six others were hospitalized with serious injuries, said Musyafak, who heads Jakarta police's medical and heal-

th division.

He said that no one traveling in the train's eight cars was hurt, and that all rail signals were working at the time of the crash. The train was headed to Jakarta's neighboring town of Bogor with about 400 passengers.

Road, train, boat and air accidents are common in Indonesia, due largely to poor safety standards. **AP**

INDIA

## Top Delhi, Pakistan security officials hold talks in Bangkok

Nirmala George, New Delhi

THE top security officials from India and Pakistan held talks in Thailand's capital yesterday, signaling a resumption of the rival countries' on-again, off-again peace dialogue.

The South Asian neighbors' national security advisers discussed issues including peace and security, terrorism, the disputed region of Kashmir and ways to maintain peace along the countries' shared border, according to a joint statement issued in New Delhi and Islamabad.

The meeting, which also included the nations' foreign secretaries, marks a thaw in the recent frostiness that had crept into bilateral relations. Talks between the two national security advisers were called off in August after the sides disagreed on the agenda for discussions.

The statement said Sunday's

meeting in Bangkok was held in a "candid, cordial and constructive atmosphere."

"It was agreed to carry forward the constructive engagement" between the two countries, it said.

This past week, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, had an unscheduled meeting at the Paris climate change talks.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is expected to visit Pakistan today to attend a meeting on Afghanistan, said a ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Since independence from Britain in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir, the Himalayan region that both claim in its entirety. **AP**

FRANCE

## Country votes amid tensions around attacks, migration



People walk past electoral posters of far right National Front party regional leader for southern France, Marion Marechal-Le Pen, left

**FRENCH** voters were casting ballots yesterday for regional leaders in an unusually tense security climate, expected to favor conservative and far right candidates and strike a new blow against the governing Socialists.

Islamic State-inspired attacks on Paris Nov. 13 and a Europe-wide migrant crisis this year have shaken up France's political landscape.

Marine Le Pen's anti-im-

migration National Front is hoping the two-round voting that starts yesterday will consolidate political gains she has made in recent years — and strengthen its legitimacy as she prepares to seek the presidency in 2017.

The unpopular Socialist president, Francois Hollande, has seen his approval ratings jump since the Paris attacks, as he intensified French airstrikes on Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq and ordered a state of emergency at home. But his party, which currently runs nearly all of France's regions, has seen its electoral support shrivel in recent years amid economic disappointment.

Voters are choosing leadership for the country's 13 newly redrawn regions in elections that started yesterday and go to a second round Dec. 13.

Le Pen is campaigning to run the northern Nord-Pas-de-Calais-Picardie, which includes the port city of Calais, a flashpoint in Europe's migrant drama. Polls suggest she could win.

Her young niece, Marion Marechal-Le Pen, appears to be on even stronger footing in her race to lead the southern Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur region, including the French Riviera and part of the Alps. **AP**

YEMEN

## IS-claimed bombing kills governor, 6 guards in Aden

Ahmed Al-Haj, Sana'a

A huge explosion killed the governor of Yemen's southern Aden province and six of his bodyguards yesterday, security officials said, in an attack that was later claimed by a local Islamic State affiliate.

Gov. Gaafar Mohamed Saad was traveling to his office when the explosion struck his convoy in the southern port city. Authorities are investigating the exact cause of the explosion. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

An IS affiliate claimed the attack in a statement circulated online by supporters, saying the bomb was concealed in a parked car along the

convoy's route. The group referred to Saad as a "tyrant" and warned the "heads of the infidels" in Yemen that it would carry out "operations to chop off their rotten heads."

IS has claimed a series of bombings that killed 159 people and wounded 345 this year in Yemen, according to an AP count.

The extremists have been able to expand their reach in the chaos of Yemen's larger conflict, between a loose array of pro-government forces backed by a Saudi-led coalition and Shiite Houthi rebels, who control the capital, Sana'a, and large parts of northern Yemen. Pro-government forces drove the Houthis out of Aden earlier this year. **AP**



Police crime photos are displayed during a news conference near the site of Wednesday's mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif.

USA

## California's strict gun laws failed to stop mass shooting

Juliet Williams and Don Thompson, Sacramento

**T**HE deadly shooting in San Bernardino happened in a state with some of the toughest gun laws in the United States: California bars assault weapons, blocks the sale of large-capacity magazines and requires universal background checks for all gun purchases.

Authorities say they believe suspected gunman Syed Rizwan Farook and wife Tashfeen Malik had legally obtained two handguns and that two rifles were also legally purchased in California. Federal officials say the attackers had large-capacity magazines that violate California law in their SUV.

Since the attack Wednesday at a social service center in Southern California, the state's strict laws and the apparent legal purchase of the weapons have set off a debate over the effectiveness of gun measures and whether getting tougher would help prevent more violence.

"Strong gun laws do prevent gun deaths. Not every law can prevent every gun death," said Allison Anderman, a staff attorney with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence in San Francisco. "They work most of the time."

The gun-control advocacy group rates California's gun laws No. 1 in the nation; the state ranks 42nd in its rate of gun deaths. Louisiana's gun laws were ranked 50th and it is No. 2 in deaths, according to the group's 2014 rankings.

Gun laws vary dramatically state-to-state, even city-to-city. The patchwork of regulations means it's often easy for determined gunmen to acquire weapons by

**Strong gun laws do prevent gun deaths. Not every law can prevent every gun death.**

ALLISON ANDERMAN  
LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN  
VIOLENCE

skirting laws in their home state, they say. Untraceable weapons can be built from scratch using parts bought online.

As a result, gun control advocates in the days since the shooting have called for more stringent laws in California and nationwide. At least two state lawmakers say they will propose measures to close what they consider loopholes in the state's gun laws.

The FBI said Farook legally bought the two handguns used in the attack — purchases that would have required a background check. And there is no indication he or Malik had any criminal record or history of mental illness that would have triggered California's unique law allowing authorities to seize weapons from those who aren't allowed to own them.

Federal officials are investigating whether the military-style rifles used were part of an illegal straw purchase, possibly from a former neighbor of Farook, and then given to Farook or Malik.

California limited access to high-powered, military-style rifles in 1989 and lawmakers passed further restrictions in 2000, when the state banned specific types of

AR-15 and AK-47 style rifles. It also bans the sale of ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 bullets.

Legislation that would have banned so-called bullet buttons, which allow shooters to rapidly exchange empty magazines for ones fully loaded with bullets, stalled in the state Legislature two years ago.

David Hemenway, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, said it is foolish to draw policy conclusions based on the facts of one specific shooting when the U.S. has more than 30,000 gun deaths per year.

He questioned whether the assault-style rifles used in San Bernardino should be legal anywhere.

"Are those guns needed for self-defense? Are they needed for hunting? They can kill a lot of people, which they succeeded in doing," he said.

Even in California, advocates for stricter gun control say there are holes in the law. The impression that the state has strict gun laws is "based on fact, but in some cases it's inaccurate," said Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat.

Newsom has proposed a ballot initiative that would require on-the-spot background checks when buying ammunition, ban the possession, not just the sale, of large-capacity magazines with 10 rounds or more and require police reports when guns are lost or stolen.

Those measures might not address the specific circumstances of what happened in San Bernardino, he acknowledged. But, he said, "that doesn't mean they're not appropriate proposals to address the next circumstance and the next moment." **AP**

what's ON



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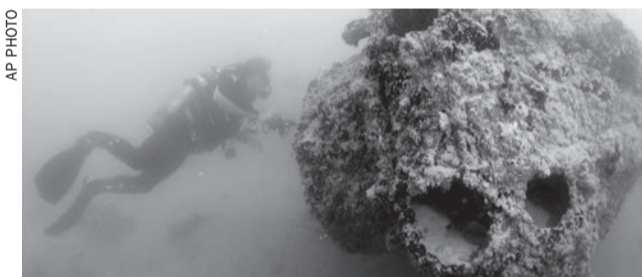
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'SCAPE' - DRAWINGS BY RUI RASQUINHO
TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Signum Living Store, Rua do Almirante Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau
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VENUE: Albergue SCM, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau Gallery A2
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

Offbeat

NEW IMAGES SHOW SEAPLANE THAT SANK IN PEARL HARBOR ATTACK



New images of a large U.S. Navy seaplane that sank in Hawaii waters during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor show a coral-encrusted engine and reef fish swimming in and out of a hull.

The video and photos are the clearest images taken of the Catalina PB5Y-5 wreckage to date, said Hans Van Tilburg, a maritime archaeologist with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

The site isn't publicly accessible, so the images allow scientists to share the wreckage with others. They also help with documenting a historically significant wreck over time.

The seaplane had a wing span of 100 feet, about comparable to a modern-era Boeing 727 commercial jet. It now sits in pieces 30 feet below the surface in Kaneohe Bay next to a Marine Corps base, about 20 miles east of Pearl Harbor on the other side of Oahu.

There were an estimated six of these planes - also called "flying boats" - in the bay at the time of the attack, but Van Tilburg said nobody is sure what happened to the others.

The base, which was then a naval air station, was among several Oahu military installations attacked by Japanese planes on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941.

Van Tilburg said a mooring cable is still attached to the plane, but there are signs someone started the port engine before the plane sank. This indicates a crew may have died while attempting to take off as the aerial assault began.

The Catalina PB5Y-5 could hold an eight-man crew, and four 500-pound bombs.

Standard practice was to keep someone on the seaplanes at night to make sure the aircraft didn't drift off. There were aviator casualties in the water, but it's not known which planes they were on or when they got off, Van Tilburg said.

"That's one of the mysteries of the story," he said.

The seaplanes would have been priority targets because they could fly as far as 2,000 miles and would have been able to follow Japanese planes back to their aircraft carriers, Van Tilburg said. AP

TV canal macau

Table with TV program listings including TDM News, News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast, Publicity, Cerimónia de Imposição de Medalhas e Títulos Honoríficos do ano 2015 (Live), RTPi Live, Trail of Lies (Repeat), Contraponto (Repeated), Soap Oepra, Main News, Financial & Weather Report, TDM Sports, UEFA Champions League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme, Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated).

cinema



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03 DEC - 09 DEC



POINT BREAK

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Ericson Core
Starring: Teresa Palmer, Luke Bracey, Édgar Ramírez
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 113min

KEEPER OF DARKNESS

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Nick Cheung
Starring: Nick Cheung, Kuo Tsai Chieh, Louis Chueng
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 105min

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2

ROOM 2
7.00 pm
Director: Francis Lawrence
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 137min



THE CROW'S EGG

ROOM 3
2.30, 7.30 pm
Director: M. Manikandan
Starring: Ramesh, J. Vignesh, Iyhwarya Rajesh
Language: Tamil (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 91min

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN

ROOM 3
4.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Paul McGuigan
Starring: James McAvoy, Daniel Radcliffe
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 109min

MACAU TOWER

26 Nov - 16 Dec

KEEPER OF DARKNESS

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Nick Cheung
Starring: Nick Cheung, Kuo Tsai Chieh, Louis Chueng
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 105min

this day in history



2001 TALIBAN SURRENDER KANDAHAR

The Taliban regime has given up its stronghold in Kandahar, marking the beginning of the end of the 61-day war in Afghanistan.

A deal brokered by Hamid Karzai, the head of Afghanistan's new interim administration, has helped to secure the surrender of the hardline Taliban's spiritual home.

Taliban fighters have been laying down their arms after being bombarded by US planes. General Tommy Franks said troops were blocking fleeing Taliban soldiers.

However, it has left the Bush administration facing a showdown with the country's new leader over the fate of Taliban leader Mullah Muhammad Omar, who is holed up in the city.

Washington has flatly rejected provisions of the deal negotiated by Mr Karzai that appears to offer protection for the Taliban leadership. US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld believes that a deal that will allow Mullah Omar to "live in dignity" would be unacceptable.

Mr Rumsfeld has declared that US relations with Afghanistan's new interim government will "turn south" if Mullah Omar is granted any sort of amnesty and that Washington may withdraw its military support and promise of financial aid.

The fall of Kandahar will allow US and opposition forces to focus almost all of their resources on the hunt for Saudi-born militant Osama Bin Laden in the Tora Bora mountains south of Jalalabad. Bin Laden is believed to be behind the terror attacks in the US on September 11.

After a day of ferocious fighting anti-Taliban forces say they have captured Bin Laden's command centre in his Tora Bora cave fortress. Downing Street has reported that it believes that Ayman al-Zawahiri, Bin Laden's second-in-command and long-time mentor, has been killed by an American air strike.

The military authorities in Pakistan have meanwhile deployed helicopter gunships and extra troops along its 2,500km (1,500 mile) border with Afghanistan, hoping to make the border impenetrable.

Bin Laden's al-Qaeda forces are on the run after they were forced out of their mountain fortress by a day of intense bombardment. Anti-Taliban forces say al-Qaeda fighters have fled the cave complex and have moved into the mountains of eastern Afghanistan after hours of carpet bombing by American aircraft.

The toppling of Kandahar has been achieved after weeks of bombardment with the US and its allies launching air attacks on Afghanistan, allowing the Taliban's opponents to sweep them from power. The fall of Kandahar comes after the Afghan capital Kabul was retaken in November.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Taliban regime first came to prominence in the autumn of 1994 under leader Mullah Omar. The Taliban promised to restore peace and security and pledged to enforce Sharia, or Islamic law. Their birthplace is the province of Kandahar in south west Afghanistan and their target was the feuding warlords known as the mujahideen.

The Taliban captured the province of Herat, bordering Iran, in September 1995 and the following year, they captured Kabul - the Afghan capital. By 1998, the Taliban was in control of almost 90% of Afghanistan.

The US declared a "war on terror" in October 2001 and launched an air bombardment by US and UK forces on Afghanistan. President Bush had earlier named Osama Bin Laden as the prime suspect behind the September 11 terrorist attacks on the US.

In December 2001, Afghan groups agreed a deal in Bonn for an interim government to be headed by Hamid Karzai. The UN Security Council endorsed the agreement to form an interim government. The leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan have recently promised they will co-operate to defeat terrorism.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has vowed to crack down on warlords and their private militias after winning the country's landmark election in October 2004. He was declared the winner, with 55.4% of the vote.

However, Osama Bin Laden remains elusive to this day as the US war on terror continues following 9/11.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Someone needs your help -- but they may not know how to ask you. Make sure that you're really paying attention as you move through the day, as you can score bonus karma points!

Taurus April 20-May 20 You finally get that one friend or family member who's been so odd lately -- and the explanation is likely simpler than you would have thought. Just reach out and let them know you're savvy.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to really hunker down and focus on communication today -- in all its creative forms. Your energy is better spent on poetry than on drafting that email to get a new job.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to enjoy what you've got today -- your energy is terrific, and almost anything you choose to do should make life sweeter and more enjoyable for you and your people. Go for it!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Nothing is quite clear today -- you need to take a big step back before you can make sense of anything. That could work to your advantage, though, as you may spot details you'd never have seen otherwise.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Not much gets done today -- which could mean that you just need to deal with a backlog later. There's nothing wrong with that, especially as fighting too hard against today's pace could result in moving backward!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to stay flexible and enjoy life's little treasures -- there's no sense in walling over every little thing that goes wrong today! All should return to balance soon, and no one knows that better than you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your artistic license just got renewed -- make the most of it! All this great energy should make you a hit with your colleagues or friends, as long as you're free with your ideas.

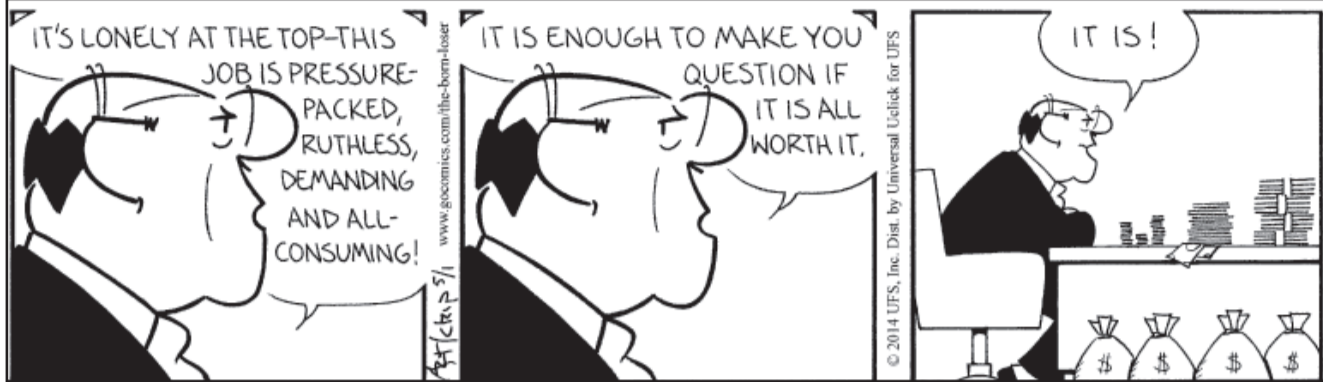
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Try something totally new today -- it could be almost anything! Your personal energy is somewhat restless and seeking new inspiration. A new friend, a random website or even a cloud can give it to you!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You have got to make social connections today -- though not necessarily new ones. Reach out to old friends (even old flames, possibly) to see if you've still got anything to talk about.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Take a chance on that new volunteer opportunity or charity pitch, even if it doesn't quite seem right -- you can always back off later if it falls apart. You need to give back on a day like today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've got to rethink things a bit -- but your great energy helps you do just that with ease. See if you can get your friends to pitch you new ideas for transformative activities. Use them all!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles: Easy and Easy+. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in. The Easy puzzle has numbers 5, 4, 3, 2, 8, 9, 6, 7, 1, 8, 9, 4, 7, 1, 5, 9, 3, 4, 6, 4, 6, 1, 7, 9. The Easy+ puzzle has numbers 9, 4, 3, 7, 6, 5, 9, 8, 3, 2, 7, 4, 8, 9, 2, 4, 4, 4, 6, 1, 6, 5, 3, 5, 4, 3, 7, 6, 7, 2, 8.

Sudoku puzzles: Medium and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in. The Medium puzzle has numbers 9, 7, 3, 1, 5, 3, 3, 4, 5, 8, 5, 2, 6, 2, 4, 8, 1, 8, 6, 3, 3, 6, 2, 7, 9, 6, 1, 8, 9. The Hard puzzle has numbers 2, 4, 7, 8, 1, 9, 2, 4, 1, 3, 8, 5, 8, 9, 3, 4, 1, 7, 8, 2.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Travel on water; 5- Despised; 10- Annapolis inst.; 14- Architectural pier; 15- Coeur d'... ID; 16- Needy; 17- Pierce with a knife; 18- Person who dresses stones; 19- French actor Jacques; 20- Haphazard; 22- Studied, with "over"; 23- Regret; 24- 1980's movie starring Bo Derek and Dudley Moore; 25- Objects of personal adornment; 29- Heartburn; 33- Earth tone; 34- Economist Greenspan; 36- Told; 37- Pond fish; 38- Dried plum; 39- Wealth of flowers; 40- Otherwise; 42- Prepare a book or film for release; 43- Lobster state; 45- Keeps; 47- Big consumer; 49- Queue after Q; 50- Fast flier; 51- Blackjack request; 54- Pleasure garden; 60- Jacob's brother; 61- In the least; 62- Moderately cold; 63- Coral habitat; 64- Lady of the house; 65- Doing nothing; 66- Ego; 67- Orgs.; 68- Consider;

DOWN: 1- Scarf; 2- Against; 3- Let's just leave \_\_\_ that; 4- Worker; 5- Tool used for driving nails; 6- Jai \_\_\_; 7- Hardy lass; 8- Slaughter in Cooperstown; 9- Lair, often for wild animals; 10- So far; 11- Rise sharply, as a bird would; 12- E or G, e.g.; 13- Like the Gobi; 21- Govern; 22- A piece; 24- Actress Daly; 25- Batman's hilarious nemesis, with "the"; 26- French school; 27- Card game; 28- Fenced areas; 29- Trousers; 30- Not hollow; 31- Goodnight girl of song; 32- One on slopes; 35- Him, to Henri; 38- Confined, with "up"; 41- Worn over the ears in cold weather; 43- Pigsty; 44- Tums, e.g.; 46- British verb ending; 48- Old Testament book; 51- "His and \_\_\_"; 52- Fortune teller's start; 53- Chinese weight; 54- School orgs.; 55- Scottish boys; 56- Vivacity; 57- Lymph \_\_\_; 58- "Unforgettable" singer; 59- K-6; 61- Doctors' org.;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words: LEASE, LIBRA, ALI, ORRIN, OBITS, RID, AMINO, PANETTONE, WAS, LEER, OASES, TOOLS, STUDENT, SPONGY, LEONA, MATEY, PLEAD, CAD, OLLA, HEARD, LAME, GEE, BARNS, TAPES, HELLO, UAKARI, SANTAFE, ASNER, ETATS, ISAN, TISM, TEMPTRESS, TISME, TIE, TONIA, SHOES, ONS, EMEEND, HONES.

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PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
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H Unit in Gladiolus Court Coloane 2,530 sq ft / HKD 9.988M HKD 3,947sq ft Completely Renovated Ref: 11115275
Houston Court, Coloane Village 1 Bedroom Apartment Upgraded in Sept 2015 HKD 13,500 / 800 sq ft Ref: 15090532

Meng FUNG St Paul Macau 1,570sq ft / HKD 9.8M HKD 6,242sq ft Walk up Building in St.Paul Ref: 15095453
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# Romario helped FIFA in probe of Brazilian chief



Romario

Tariq Panja

**BRAZIL'S** World Cup-winning striker-turned-senator Romario supplied the evidence that led to football's governing body opening a corrup-

tion probe into the country's football association president, Marco Polo del Nero.

Del Nero was named among 16 people in the latest Department of Justice indictment, unsealed on Thursday, that wi-

dened the U.S.'s global football corruption case. Hours after the indictment was made public, Del Nero announced that he was taking a leave of absence. He has denied all the allegations against him.

FIFA's independent ethics committee informed Del Nero on Nov. 23 that it had opened proceedings against him, said spokesman Andreas Bantel. He declined to explain the basis for the proceedings.

Romario, who was the top scorer in Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning team, is leading a parliamentary probe into corruption in the country's most popular sport. He sent FIFA documents that include details of a boat purchased on behalf of Del Nero and a payment of about 1.5 million reais (USD400,000) made to a bank account in the name of a girlfriend, said two people familiar with the case, who asked not to be named because the information isn't public.

A spokesman for Brazil's football federation said it wouldn't

comment beyond a statement released on Thursday night, when it announced that Del Nero would be taking his leave of absence. Romario's office said in a statement that the information was sent to FIFA on Nov. 11 and "shows how Del Nero had infringed ethical rules." It didn't offer details.

The fallout from the U.S. investigation now includes the last three Brazilian football leaders. Jose Marin, who was president of football in the country

during last year's World Cup, was among the seven football leaders arrested in dawn raids on a posh Zurich hotel in May. His predecessor, Ricardo Teixeira, and Del Nero were charged on Thursday with crimes including racketeering and money laundering.

Del Nero hasn't left Brazil since hurriedly returning to the country a day after the Zurich raid that nabbed Marin. It's unclear when FIFA's case against Del Nero will be closed. **Bloomberg**

## ONE SHOT NEWS



AP PHOTO

Spain's Rafael Nadal smiles as a Filipino boy returns a shot during a tennis clinic yesterday in Makati, south of Manila, Philippines. Nadal is in the country to promote his tennis academy and to compete in the International Premier Tennis League (IPTL).

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Rob Harris, London

**N**OT long ago Chelsea losing to Bournemouth in the Premier League would have been inconceivable. Actually impossible.

For much of the 21st century Chelsea has been collecting every major trophy in European football, while Bournemouth has fought to stay in business or avoid dropping out of England's professional leagues.

No wonder then that Bournemouth's 1-0 victory at Stamford Bridge on Saturday was acclaimed by manager Eddie Howe as "the best individual result in the club's history." Not since 2001 had Chelsea lost to a Premier League newcomer.

Yet on another level it was not so unexpected for the 125-year-old team from the south coast to pull off this upset. It's been that kind of a season when the pressure has mounted on Jose Mourinho as Chelsea has gone from winning the Premier League by eight points to losing on Saturday for an eighth time in the 15-game-old title defense.

Once Chelsea and Bournemouth were three divisions apart. Now just two points split them in the topflight as they both hover above the relegation zone. Chelsea, four-time Premier League winners in the last decade, is approaching the midway point of the season an alarming 17 points behind surprise leader Leicester, which was itself fighting relegation for much of last season.

This wasn't a subdued Chelsea performance although waves of attacks were thwarted as goalkeeper Artur Boruc blocked shots from Pedro Rodriguez, Oscar, Branislav Ivanovic and Eden Hazard. But returning striker Diego Costa, a second-

half substitute, never caused Boruc any problems.

And against the run of play, Bournemouth's goal came in the 82nd minute when Chelsea failed to clear a corner and Glenn Murray sent a diving header in the net less than two minutes after coming on as a substitute.

"We tried to impose ourselves on Chelsea," Howe said. "I thought we were very good with the ball. We broke well and counter-attacked well a couple of times and gave them problems and we defended well."

The landmark result was achieved despite nine first-team players featuring on Bournemouth's injury list.

"It gives the players some reward for how hard they've worked," said Howe, a former Bournemouth player who went around town with buckets collecting cash to keep the club afloat during the late 1990s.

"We've been hit with a lot of things, the injuries and some dominant performances that haven't won games and it's been tough and the players have kept going."

Mourinho was left bemoaning the referee's decision not to award a penalty before Bournemouth's goal when Simon Francis handled, although he did acknowledge some of Chelsea's shortcomings.

"In the first half we were a bit passive and didn't press enough," Mourinho said. "We were not intense enough with the ball, without the ball to create problems to our opponents. In the second half we did that. We created problems ... I'm really disappointed with this result. Not so disappointed with the performance because especially in the second half the performance was good."

When Mourinho first took charge of Chelsea in 2004,

EPL

# New low for Chelsea as Bournemouth stuns Mourinho's champs



AP PHOTO  
Chelsea's Cesar Azpilicueta, front, heads the ball clear

Bournemouth was languishing in the third tier of English soccer. When the self-styled "Special One" was winning the Italian and Champions League titles with Inter Milan was 2008 to 2010, Bournemouth was scrapping away at the bottom of the fourth tier.

"We've got the Special One," Bournemouth's visiting fans chanted Saturday about the 38-year-old Howe, who is regarded as one of the brightest

emerging managers in English football.

Howe steered Bournemouth into the topflight for the first time by winning the League Championship in May.

While Chelsea has enjoyed hundreds of millions of dollars of investment from billionaire Roman Abramovich in the last 12 years, Bournemouth has only benefited from more modest Russian investment from Maxim Demin since 2011.

Bournemouth came close to dropping out of the four professional leagues in 2009 before embarking on a remarkable rise. Chicago-based PEAK6 Investments last month bought a quarter of the team, which plays in a stadium with a capacity of less than 12,000.

"The boys are gaining belief every week and I think it showed," Murray said after Bournemouth climbed a point outside the relegation zone. **AP**

## Man City deal with Chinese consortium will improve image

John Duerden

**A** major investment from a Chinese consortium gives Manchester City a good chance of gaining ground on English Premier League rivals Manchester United and Arsenal for popularity in the world's most populous nation.

Manchester City announced this week that state-backed China Media Capital and investment company Citic Capital paid around USD400 million for a 13 percent stake in the team's parent company, City Football Group.

CFG, owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyana, also

owns the New York City and Melbourne City soccer teams and has a 20 percent stake in Yokohama F. Marinos.

City has won two of the last four English titles but lacks the European success and support around the world commanded by some other Premier League sides.

United had the most support of Premier League fans in China at 31.98 percent, followed by Arsenal with 22.65 percent, then Chelsea with a similar share, according Gu Xin, an analyst at Beijing sports marketing company Yutang Sports.

City's share was 5.47 percent.

"If City aims to become the most popular European football team, they will need to contest against not only those English teams but also other European football giants like Barcelona, Real Madrid or even Bayern Munich," Gu said. "Overall, it all depends on what the club does."

European clubs' struggle for marketing success in China is down to aggressive sales-driven tactics, according to Simon Chadwick, professor of sports enterprise at England's Salford University.

"This type of approach only disaffects and antagonizes some Chinese people," Chadwick said.

"Hence, City's approach is rather more considered, and strategic, and could succeed where others have failed. Working in partnership with the Chinese is the way to break into China."

City has some advantages in this respect. Former China international Sun Jihai, who played for City from 2002-08, was made a club ambassador in September, and was inducted to the Manchester-based National Football Museum's Hall of Fame in October while Chinese President Xi Jinping was visiting.

"The Chinese president doesn't normally attend such events unless they are of the utmost impor-

tance," Chadwick said. "The fact that he visited City tends to suggest just how important this deal is for China and its football ambitions."

"This time last year, China announced a plan to create a domestic sport economy worth \$850 billion by 2025. An important part of this vision is China's desire to bid for, host, and win the World Cup. Buying City is a way of acquiring competence, intelligence, and insights into football."

There has been speculation in China that a Chinese club could be the next addition to the CFG stable, with Beijing Guoan the most likely candidate.

Buying a Chinese club is the next logical step according to Christopher Atkins, a Guangzhou-based player representative with RWMG Sports, but just the beginning.

"There is no reason why the Chinese Super League cannot establish itself as the best non-European league," Atkins said. "The addition of the knowledge that a company like CFG can bring would surely only help. I expect CFG to look into the prospect of an academy in China in the fairly short-term future. If they can produce China's first superstar, their status in the market would be elevated yet further." **AP**

opinion

Rear Window  
Severo Portela



FILTERING OPTIMISM

If not for the motto we selected today as a title for our column, we would dare to claim that a small revolution is taking place in the MSAR's troubled economy. Piece by piece, or block by block, like he is in the process of assembling a puzzle, the Secretary for Economy and Finance is readjusting, reshaping and repackaging the gaming industry; name it the new normal or otherwise. Quietly but decisively, Lionel Leong is restructuring departments or bureaus, as well as focusing on laws and regulations. That is to say he did not allow himself to be submerged by the - and pardon the euphemism - pressing needs of the gambling business, gunning for VIP tables and players to roll them high.

As an example of the restructuring process, we have the very bureau of Gaming Inspection and Coordination, known by its Portuguese acronym DICJ, now under the former Assistant Public Prosecutor-General, Paulo Chan, and the Financial Intelligence Office.

However, we would rather mention first something that is not directly related to the industry, but which could indirectly serve as an inspiration. At last, the Macau Special Administrative Region will establish a sovereign wealth fund, through a substantial allocation from the so-called "extraordinary fiscal reserve" - in figures, almost MOP212 billion, which is much more than the primary or emergency reserve, or in the AMCM lingo, the basic reserve of around MOP132 billion.

Macau's SWF will be managed by a government body, or corporation, underlined unequivocally by the Secretary for Economy and Finance while addressing the Legislative Assembly, as "fulfilling the wishes of the locals". Lionel Leong seemed cool towards private management of the SWF, which some lawmakers like Chan Meng Kan had mooted in the past, on the grounds of efficiency, or its well-known sister, profitability.

Lionel Leong also had no hesitation to address the issue of the supposed lack of efficiency. Leong admitted that the Macau SWF, to be known as the MSAR Investment and Development Fund, may not be profitable initially, as happens all around. But once the SWF stabilizes and the returns are secure, the fund might open to participation by Macau residents.

Even if we do not know by now the path a private local investor must walk to participate in the MSAR Investment and Development Fund, the idea is a kind of education and a sober recall to the new reality mentioned above. MSAR sovereign wealth fund returns will be conservative but solid, and a world away from the fishy place of depositors or investors in junket operators, like in Dore Investments, and their enormous returns. And a universe away from the idea that Macau people should have by right a share in a gaming concession for locals.

We repeat that the SWF is a way to temper the greed and envy with which some residents look to the gambling revenues. Despite the fact the some funds may invest indirectly in domestic sectors... that will not be the case for the MSAR Sovereign Wealth Fund.

Nevertheless, there is nothing quite as sobering as the truth. Zhonglu Zeng, a professor of gaming studies at Macau Polytech, quoted by Bloomberg, has no doubts: "The gambling market will gradually find its way to get used to negative factors such as China's economic slowdown and anti-corruption campaign". And things will not get easier. With China, now the world's second economy, leading the G-20 (20 years ago China's economy was the size of Italy's) and the yuan on step to be included in the IMF basket of currencies, who believes there will be a more liberal stance towards the gambling hub that brought at its peak in 2013 USD45 billion, seven times the size of Las Vegas?

THE CHALLENGE FOR SOCIALISTS AS VENEZUELAN ELECT LEGISLATURE

The socialist system built by Hugo Chavez is facing its gravest electoral test as Venezuelans cast ballots in what seems to have become a tightening race for control of the national legislature. Government-sponsored fireworks and music woke people up in working-class parts of Caracas, and voters began lining up before polling stations opened, anxious to cast their ballots early in case violence should break out later in the day.

Wealthier neighborhoods, which tend to favor the opposition, were spared the early morning cacophony. Until recently, the opposition was seen coasting to its first major electoral victory since Chavez became president in 1998, with Venezuelans tired of rampant crime, routine shortages of basic goods and inflation pushing well into triple digits. The economic crisis has worsened with this year's slump in oil revenue, which funds almost all public spending.

Redford says fighting global warming is urgent



American actor and environmental activist Robert Redford is pictured during an interview with The Associated Press in Paris, France

Sylvie Corbet, Paris

AMERICAN actor and environmental activist Robert Redford called global warming "an urgent matter" Friday and encouraged mayors to reduce local emissions even as world diplomats are trying to work out a global climate accord.

Redford, trustee of the NGO Natural Resources Defense Council, told The Associated Press that the U.N. climate conference under way in Paris is "key."

"I think we're running out of time because the planet is running out of resources," he said. "I think now

the American people are waking up to the fact that nothing has happened and then the consequences are going to fall on them - the people - and not the politicians."

Redford was invited to a climate meeting of mayors and local leaders in Paris. "Mayors are closer to the ground are closer to the people and they're closer to the solutions and we need solutions rather than talk," Redford told the AP.

Redford announced a new extension of the City energy project, a joint initiative of the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Institute for Market Trans-

formation aimed at helping cities boost energy efficiency of buildings and therefore cut carbon pollution. The new round of funding provided an additional \$10.5 million, raising the fund to \$20 million in total.

Asked about the voices

The planet is running out of resources.

ROBERT REDFORD

of climate doubters that are still strong in the U.S. Congress, Redford insisted "their time is over." Many Congressional Republicans doubt global warming is real, or fear that stringent controls of carbon emissions could kill jobs.

"The people that are involved with oil, gas, coal, they've been running the show for a long, long, long time. And their time has run out. Because the resources are now a problem," Redford said.

Redford was among celebrities in Paris advocating around the conference on climate, which runs through Dec. 11. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



A road traffic officer watches calmly as Hanoi's hectic flow of motorbikes passes by him. "Anyone who has traveled to the Vietnamese capital knows that the seemingly chaotic sea of motorbikes can be quite a challenge, particularly if you try making your way around town on foot," The Diplomat magazine pointed out. The traffic woes are worsened by the almost complete lack of public transportation in Vietnam's capital.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**CHAD** A triple suicide bombing at a market on an island in Lake Chad kills at least 27 people and injures 90 others. A top police official blamed the carnage on Nigeria's Islamic extremist group Boko Haram.

**AZERBAIJAN** One worker is killed, 30 are missing and 33 have been rescued after a fire swept through a Caspian Sea oil platform owned by Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR. The missing workers were in a lifeboat that fell into stormy seas.



**UK** Counter-terrorism police in Britain are investigating a stabbing at a London Underground station in which a suspect injured three people with a knife and reportedly said "This is for Syria." Police arrested a man believed to be 29 years old late Saturday and said they are treating the attack at east London's Leytonstone subway station as a "terrorist incident."

**VATICAN CITY** The Vatican has engaged an outside auditor for its consolidated financial statements as part of economic reforms. The Holy See said Saturday it has chosen PricewaterhouseCoopers, which will get to work immediately on the 2015 audit.

**IRAQ** The presence of Turkish troops near the Islamic State-held city of Mosul in northern Iraq is a "violation" of international law, Iraq's president said Saturday. President Fuad Masum called the move a "violation of international norms, laws and Iraq's national sovereignty," and said it was contributing to increased tensions in the region.