



**2015 HONORS TITLES AWARDED**

P3



**PARENTS FACE HURDLES TO REGISTER 2ND CHILDREN**  
Wan and other parents cycled through Beijing with signs pleading for unregistered children to be given "an identity"

P10 CHINA



**THAI ARMY BLOCKS ANTI-CORRUPTION PROTEST**  
The military government blocked an anti-corruption protest yesterday, detaining about three dozen students

P13

**TUE.08**  
**Dec 2015**

T. 14°/ 20° C  
H. 65/ 85%

Blackberry email service powered by CTM

N.º 2455 **MOP 5.00**  
**HKD 7.50**

2305 4271

**MacauDaily** 澳門每日時報®

# Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**CHINA** Masked men attack a government office in western China, smashing vehicles and equipment and leaving 13 people injured in a regional dispute over farmland, local authorities and state media say. *More on p11*

**AFGHANISTAN** An Afghan official says a suicide car bombing in the country's east has wounded nine people, including six policemen.

**JAPAN-AUSTRALIA** Australia, one of most vocal opponents of Japanese whaling hunts in the Antarctic, threatens to take legal action against the lethal expeditions after Tokyo began its latest hunt. *More on p12*

**JAPAN** Interest in nuclear power has increased, mainly in Asia, despite the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency says.

**AUSTRALIA** Actor Johnny Depp's wife Amber Heard announces that she will fight charges that she smuggled the couple's Yorkshire terriers into Australia.

**USA-SYRIA** Syrian refugees are scheduled to arrive in Texas after the state eased up in its legal fight against resettlement agencies and the federal government. Twelve Syrians, including six children, were expected to arrive in Dallas and Houston yesterday, joining relatives already settled in Texas. Another nine refugees are scheduled to arrive in Houston Thursday.

*More on backpage*

# Desperate Pearl Horizon pre-sale buyers **blame Chui**

P5

RENATO MARQUES



**HOLIDAY TIMES**

Macau Daily Times will not be published tomorrow. The Times will be back on the stands on December 10. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.

## Investors less eager to bet on Crown casino as its Macau business suffers

P5



## Renato Marques

A man who authorities had been searching for over the past two months was caught after he was found performing a trick at a dice game in a local casino.

During yesterday's police press conference, agents described how, without being spotted by the casino staff, the man somehow placed a bet of HKD1,100 after the dice had been rolled, illegally winning fifty times more than the original bet (HKD55,000).

After checking the CCTV system to verify the facts that occurred on September 10, casino staff noticed the trick and pressed charges.

On the night of December 3, the same man was finally cau-

ght by the PJ when trying a similar trick in another casino. The second attempt failed and he was taken into custody by the authorities. The investigation revealed that the man had also illegally entered the territory due to the fact he had previously been banned for a period of seven years. He was charged with aggravated fraud and illegal entry and was presented to Public Prosecutions Office (MP).

In another case reported by the Judiciary Police (PJ), a couple visiting from mainland China was allegedly robbed in a lodging while they were asleep. On the night of December 5, the mainland residents lost several of their possessions that included cash in Hong Kong Dollars

## CRIME

## Cheater caught when repeating dice trick



and Renminbi, and two gold coins, totaling a loss of about MOP98,000.

During the investigation that followed the complaint, the PJ found out that the

couple had been staying in an illegal inn in the Rua de Xangai. They had no idea who might have granted access to their room and stated that they had booked it in main-

land China through an intermediary for MOP500 per night. The PJ couldn't find any signs of breaking and entering, and there are currently no suspects.

## ONE INFRACTION LEADS TO OTHERS

A 19 year-old Macau resident was stopped by a police patrol in the Horta e Costa district yesterday at around 5 am. The police found it suspicious that the motorcycle he was seated on looked like it had been recently damaged. Questioned by the officers and due to the clear smell of alcohol, the man was given a Breathalyzer test that resulted in him being found 1.79g/l over the limit. In the

process of investigations he was also found to be in possession of an extendible metallic baton that he could not justify possessing, advancing only that had bought it in Gongbei. Since he could not present any documentation to the officers, they also searched his record and found he did not possess any valid driving license and he was a repeat unlicensed driving offender.

## Local resident behind world's most expensive diamond necklace

HONG Kong jeweler Wallace Chan is the man behind some of the SARs' most extravagant pieces of jewelry. His two workshops – one in Macau and one in Hong Kong – employ veteran artisans who have worked with him for 15 to 30 years and churn out around a dozen pieces annually.

Chan may be best known for pioneering the "Wallace Cut", a technique that creates a brilliant optical illusion in a stone, allowing an image to be reflected multiple times. In 1987, the technique brought Chan international recognition as a master jeweler.

In September 2015, Wallace Chan unveiled what is considered to be the world's most expensive diamond necklace. The piece is titled "A Heritage in Bloom" and contains 11,551 diamonds, as well as numerous jade pieces in the shape of butterflies and bats.

Chan had been commissioned to

craft the necklace by Hong Kong jewelry company Chow Tai Fook, which found the rare diamond in a South African mine.

"I spend so much time with one piece that it becomes me," he told the New York Times. "The stone is me, and I am the stone."

"The stone tricks the eye, so I have to outsmart it," he added. "I can see its flaws and angles. There are elements I want to hide and elements I want to bring out. I am chasing its light."

An exhibition at Christie's in Hong Kong opened last month featuring 30 pieces of Chan's work, some of which had never been revealed to the public.

In an interview with the New York Times, Chan said that he was born in Fujian Province, but moved to Hong Kong with his family in the 1960s. His interest in precious stones began after he secured a job at a workshop that



carved Chinese religious icons. A year later, at the age of 17, Chan bought his first carving machine and a chunk of malachite.

In his late 20s, Chan expressed a desire to study art and to make jewelry not as a craftsman, but as an artist. Against his family's wishes, he moved to Macau.

Chan now works in a walk-up studio in Central Hong Kong but, according to the NYT, still resides in Macau. **Staff reporter**

## Jiangsu player wins mahjong championship

THE World Series Mahjong championship, held at the Venetian Macau over the weekend, saw Zhao Jian from Jiangsu Province defeat some 200 players and take home the first prize. The mainlander was awarded a cash prize of HKD 400,000, a golden mahjong tile-shaped necklace and a guaranteed lifetime entry to future editions of the competition.

"I just feel I am lucky. I don't think I'm much better... It's just my hobby," 36-year-old Zhao told reporters. He was awarded with the championship after accumulating the most points over the course of the 20 hours that he spent gaming on the weekend.

Zhao celebrated the victory by waving a Chinese flag that he had brought to the competition, according to AFP. Other participants told reporters that they enjoyed the competition. Sun Yuexian, 80, from mainland China said that he felt playing mahjong stimulated his brain.

Another player, based in Japan, said: "I play almost every day. I feel really at home at the mahjong table. It's my favorite place to be. So I love being a pro."

Mahjong has been promoted outside of China in recent years in an attempt to become a more globally-recognized game. In 2013, after three editions in Macau, the World Series moved to Sydney, Australia.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

MDT's Website has logged over 94 million page views since January 1st, 2012 up to today.

Thank You!

Like us? facebook.com/mdtimes

Times

DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela  
CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com  
DESIGN EDITOR João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS  
Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Aries Un, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Viviana Seguí | ASSOCIATE  
CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com  
SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com  
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84  
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com  
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd





Protestors were initially requested by police to leave the area facing the gov't headquarters



Later on, they obstructed the road facing the side entrance, heavily guarded by police

PEARL HORIZON

# Denial of extended land concession prompts siege

Aries Un

**S**CORES of pre-sale buyers of Polytec Asset's Pearl Horizon residential development stormed government headquarters yesterday afternoon, in tandem with a press conference explaining the government's decision. Police officers surrounded the building and tried to quell the protests.

The luxury residential complex's land concession expires on December 25. Its underdevelopment is due to the bureaucratic nature of the public service, the land developer claimed two months ago in a media conference.

As the project edges closer to the deadline, the authorities have announced that the concession will not be renewed after the stipulated date, as the "concessionaire failed to fulfill the land use in accordance with the conditions

laid down in the contract."

The announcement was made by the Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan during a press conference, where she said the decision was made on a legal ground.

On Friday, Polytec Asset acknowledged that the application for an extension of the expiry date had been declined. On Saturday, the group issued a statement pledging to take the case to court after consultation with its own legal advisers. The

**We're over. We have lost both the money and the flats.**

PRE-SALE BUYERS

Nonetheless, the government's move has exacerbated protests. Angry buyers arrived outside the heavily guarded headquarters, furious after having just sought intervention at the region's mainland liaison office.

ultimate fate of the land parcel is expected to remain subject to the court's sentencing, which will take time.

"The government has to wait for the court's verdict before responding accordingly under the Land Law and the varying outcome that ensues," secretary Sonia Chan stressed yesterday.

If the government wins the litigation, the land - with an area of roughly 68,000 square meters - would have to be put up for another development tender, which the authorities have promised will be favorable for advance buyers, Sonia Chan added.

One property owner, wearing

a face mask, spoke on condition of anonymity, telling the Times that they actually learnt about the news earlier through several organizations.

"We're over. We have lost both the money and the flats," said another homeowner in her forties. Using an idiomatic Cantonese expression, she said: "We want Chui Sai On to 'die' with us."

A majority of buyers have allegedly poured small fortunes - ranging from HKD2 to over HKD10 million - into the presale of around 3,000 apartments, while some even claimed that they bought them on mortgage or after selling their own flats.

The masses refused to leave after the media conference, despite police warnings, which eventually led to a skirmish.

Angry protestors yelled verbal abuse to authorities present at the complex, demanding talks with the officials and the re-

gion's leader. "How could the government make such irresponsible remarks under the current situation?" said another middle-aged man. "We're left stranded now."

The authorities promised to return the payment to buyers via the tax required for home purchase, and offered them legal assistance. However, buyers must seek their own legal counsel to pursue greater compensation from the developer.

According to another buyer, the lawsuits would be troublesome as each flat transaction requires a lawyer, citing the remarks from the legal advisers they talked to earlier.

The land, which has been disputed for more than a year, sits in the northern Macau Peninsula close to the Amizade Bridge. The government had granted the concession to develop the land to one of the region's largest property developers 25 years ago.

It remains unknown how many of the advance buyers are actually speculators, as the authorities professed yesterday that they do not know the full statistics. The Hong Kong listed company's stock tumbled to a three-year record low in last Friday after the news surfaced.

## 2015 honors titles given to 63 individuals and entities

**U**P to 63 individuals and groups officially received honors yesterday afternoon from the Chief Executive Chui Sai On at the Macau Cultural Center in recognition of their contributions to the region's development.

The former Secretary for Administration and Justice Florinda Chan, who was awarded the highest accolade, the Golden Lotus, delightedly told media how excited she was at being bestowed the honor.

"I didn't ask for the prize, it's given by the Chief



Executive and so I feel only mine but to all civil exceptionally apprecia- servants." In the meantime, the sure such an honor is not former official's effort-

ts were also marked by three members from the pro-democracy New Macau Association, who devised their own ceremony outside the gates - "The first edition of the Golden Durian medal awarding ceremony."

The group's vice-president Cheng Ming Hin said that no one could surpass Chan's contributions in bringing down civil servants' morale, being tardy in leading legal reform and her questionable role in the cemetery grant scandal. In response to her other "award," Flo-

rinda Chan refused to offer comments on it and turned on her heels.

Besides Ms Chan, the Golden Lotus awards went to the former Secretary for Security Cheong Kuok Va, the former Secretary for Economy and Finance Francis Tam, and the previous head of the Unitary Police Service José Proença Branco.

Medals of merit in the professional field were presented to several figures, including the controversial Ho Weng Cheong, recipient of the medal for the labor and business

sector and also the owner of the contractor responsible for the troubled Sin Fong Garden residential block, said that he had "a clear conscience for everything" he had done before.

"Until now, no Sin Fong flat owners ever came to my office and accused me of anything," he claimed.

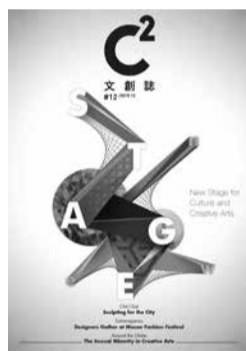
Other awardees included Macau's bishop José Lai, who expressed his "great appreciation" for the Silver Lotus. The same title was also given to lawmaker Chan Meng Kam. **AU**



### MSAR passport holders granted visa-free access to Morocco

Local authorities and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco have finalized a mutual visa exemption agreement. MSAR passport holders are entitled to enter Morocco without a visa for a maximum stay of 90 days starting from December 10, 2015. At present, a total of 118 countries and territories have agreed to grant visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to local passport holders, while 10 countries have agreed to grant visa-free access to MSAR Travel Permit holders.

### C2 magazine focuses on art platforms



The latest issue of C2 magazine, published by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, was launched this week. This edition discusses how individual artists can make use of art platforms to promote their work to the market. C2 is a trilingual publication

and is available in Chinese, Portuguese and English. Readers can browse or download the magazine at <http://www.c2magazine.mo>. Starting from 2016, the magazine will be released bimonthly on the first Wednesday of the month. The next issue will be launched on February 3.

# Analysts speculate whether Da Nang could become 'the next Macau'

**INVESTMENT** analysts have said that Vietnam could become a major Southeast Asian casino hub if it revises the laws prohibiting locals from gambling. The country's seven luxury casinos are currently only permitted to serve overseas visitors, but according to The Malaysian Star, an advisor to Hanoi on the gaming industry has said that the restriction may be debated next year.

One of Vietnam's licensed casinos, Crown International Games Club, is owned by Chinese businessman Hui Kong and is already an established destination for many Chinese tourists at its Da Nang resort.

Chinese tourists form the biggest client base for Vietnam's casino industry, whose gaming operators work with junkets to help VIP gamers circumvent China's currency controls, similar to Macau.

Rocked by complications in the VIP sector this year,



Da Nang

junket operators may soon turn their gaze to Da Nang. The competition coincides with Macau's ailing gaming fortunes, as gambling revenues show little sign of recovery.

In Da Nang, unconfirmed reports suggest that Crown casino has reached USD3 billion in its monthly turnover over the past year – a figure which the Malaysian Star notes is at least double

that of larger rivals in the region.

"There is no other destination I know where the junket and casino [operators] organize 25 charter flights a week from China," said Ben Lee, managing partner at Asian gaming consultancy IGamiX.

Investment organizations like Hong Kong-based Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and VinaCapital are also looking

to Vietnam, and are building a casino in Quang Nam province which is expected to open by 2018.

Da Nang, which is also conveniently located for mainland tourists, may become a serious rival for Macau in coming years – and perhaps not just in the gaming industry.

The director of Da Nang's tourism promotion office said: "We are positioning ourselves as a leisure, beach, meeting and conferencing destination." **Staff reporter**

## We are positioning ourselves as a destination for business and leisure.

DIRECTOR OF DA NANG'S TOURISM PROMOTION OFFICE

AD

30m pageviews per year

[www.macaudailytimes.com.mo](http://www.macaudailytimes.com.mo)



# Times App

## New look more features



Times App on App Store & Google Play



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 Times

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

advertising@macaudailytimes.com

# World's biggest gamblers can't halt Aussie casino bond risk jump

Benjamin Purvis

**C**ROWN Resorts Ltd.'s local market may be home to the world's biggest gamblers, but debt investors are less eager to bet on Australia's largest casino operator as its Macau business suffers.

Bond risk for the company controlled by billionaire James Packer has risen the most in Australia over the past three months as China's corruption crackdown and a slowing economy weigh on revenue at its Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. venture. Melbourne-based Crown has also seen its debt burden increase as it finances the development of Australian attractions. It's also considering a new venue in Las Vegas.

"Melco constitutes a significant portion of Crown's overall earnings profile, so given the weakness in the market there, that certainly is being reflected in expectations for future profits," said Michael Bush, Melbourne-based head of credit research at National Australia Bank Ltd.

The cost of protecting Crown Resorts debt against non-payment has risen 42 basis points over the past three months to 213 basis points as of Dec. 4, the worst performance in the 25-member iTraxx Australia index of credit default swaps. Its CDS last month touched the highest versus the benchmark gauge since 2009, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Casino operators in the Chinese gambling hub of Macau saw a 32 percent slump in revenue in November from a year earlier and it's fallen for 18 straight months, data from the city show. The region's Chief Executive Chu Sai On said last month he expects further declines.



James Packer, co-chairman of Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd., listens during a news conference at Studio City casino resort

## Macau remains the world's most important and exciting gaming market over the longer term.

ROWEN CRAIGIE  
CROWN CEO

Crown's net income after adjusting for one-time items and an unusual rate of winnings was A\$526 million (USD386 million) for the year ended June 30, down 18 percent from a year earlier. Although so-called normalized revenue for the company's Australian resorts increased 14 percent to A\$3.21 billion, the profit received from its stake

in Macau-focused Melco Crown slumped 45 percent to A\$129.9 million.

In Australia, the local penchant for wagering has shown little sign of abating, with Aussies frittering away A\$24.1 billion on gambling in the 12 months through September, government data show. That equates to about A\$1,000 for every man, woman and child. The country's punters are the world's biggest spenders on gambling, with per person losses exceeding the likes of Hong Kong and Canada, according to the latest figures from Global Betting and Gaming Consultants.

In addition to home-market developments such as Barangaroo in Sydney, Crown is also contemplating plans for a new resort in Nevada and earlier this year acquired a stake in restaurant and hotel owner Nobu for \$100 million. Crown's net debt increased 47 percent to A\$2.5 billion in the last financial year.

"The development pipeline, they've added a few things here and there to it, but in essence the development pipeline now isn't that much different to what it looked like three or six months ago," said NAB's Bush. "The thing that has changed is that the risks in the Melco investments are rising further."

The yield premium over the swap rate on Crown's November 2019 Australian dollar bonds widened to 219 points as of yesterday, up from 165 a year earlier, based on Commonwealth Bank of Australia pricing. Crown's credit-default swaps last month reached as much as 104 basis points more than the benchmark iTraxx index, while the gap was at 89 at the end of last week.

The company's shares have also slipped this year, although they've rebounded 15 percent from the almost three-year low they touched in September.

Ken Barton, Crown's chief financial officer, didn't immediately reply to a message left at his office seeking comment on the company's bond risk.

"Macau is currently experiencing a difficult period which has adversely affected all casino operators," Crown Chief Executive Officer Rowen Craigie said at the company's annual meeting in October. "However,

## Crown is also contemplating plans for a new resort in Nevada

MCE believes that through the strong leadership from the Macau and Chinese governments, the ongoing build-out of significant local and regional infrastructure, together with an expanding and increasingly affluent Chinese middle-to-upper-class, Macau remains the world's most important and exciting gaming market over the longer term.

Crown is rated two steps above junk by Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service. Fitch Ratings this week said the outlook for Australia's gaming operators was stable, while noting that Australia's economy has slowed and that both Crown and its biggest rival Star Entertainment Group Ltd. are embarking on debt-funded projects.

"Robust operating cash flows should allow them to expand successfully despite a weakening broader economy," Fitch wrote. "Crown's leverage is likely to be under pressure during the construction phase." **Bloomberg**

AD



**優悅牙科護理中心**  
**ICQ Oral Health Center**

I Care for Quality

ICQ dental team is a group of dental specialists with internationally recognized qualifications. We provide all range of dental services:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oral examination and radiology investigation</li> <li>- Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry</li> <li>- Children Dentistry</li> <li>- Orthodontic Treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oral and Dental implant Surgery</li> <li>- Endodontic Treatment</li> <li>- Periodontal Treatment</li> <li>- Emergency Treatment</li> </ul>
---	---

We are committed to deliver high quality dental services with personalized care. We ensure the highest level of infection control.

Website: [www.icqoral.com](http://www.icqoral.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/icqoral](http://www.facebook.com/icqoral)

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT: OFFICE HOUR: 10:00AM-19:00PM  
CLOSE ON SUN, TUE AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY

RM1907, 19/F, AIA Tower, Nos. 251A-301, AVENIDA COMMERCIAL DE MACAU, MACAU SAR  
TEL: (853)28373266 FAX: (853)28356483 EMAIL: [INFO@ICQORAL.COM](mailto:INFO@ICQORAL.COM) WWW: [WWW.ICQORAL.COM](http://WWW.ICQORAL.COM)

**New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.**




**Carpet Cleaning**

Call: 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry





# Thermomix Macau

The one year anniversary  
promotion continues!

HKD12,800 for one Thermomix with  
one extra mixing bowl full set (worth  
HKD3,500 per mixing bowl) as free gift.

Tong Jia de Ramirez  
Phone Number: +853 6668 1771



## RCR Electronics (Macau) Ltd. 中葡電子(澳門)有限公司

ELV Systems Specialists  
專業的弱電系統



Surveillance Systems  
監控系統

Design & Budgets  
設計和預算

Intrusion Alarm Systems  
入侵警報系統

Project Management  
項目管理



Access Control Systems  
門禁系統

Maintenance & Service  
維修和服務

AV/TV, Telephone & Display Systems  
AV/TV, 電話和顯示系統

Risk Assessment & Management  
風險評估和管理



Fire Detection & Supression Systems  
火焰偵測和滅火系統

Survey & Troubleshooting Services  
檢驗和故障診斷與維修服務

Network & Structure Cable  
網絡和綜合佈線

澳門馬場東大馬路25-69號福泰工業大廈12樓B座

Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69, Edif. Industrial Fok Tai, 12 Floor "B", Macau

TEL: + (853) 2822 1341

FAX: + (853) 2822 0824

www.rcr-macau.com

email: contact@rcr-macau.com



GAMING

## Caesars among firms said to push to curb lender protection rules



A view of Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino

Laura J. Keller, Sridhar Natarajan and Devin Banerjee

**CAESARS** Entertainment Corp. and Education Management Corp. have been stymied in their efforts to influence Congress to change a Depression-era law that's designed to protect lenders, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The casino company owned by Apollo Global Management LLC, and the for-profit college backed by KKR & Co., tried last month to insert an amendment into an early version of the landmark U.S. transportation bill that would've rolled back part of the 1939 law known as the Trust Indenture Act, said the people, who asked not be identified discussing the actions because they haven't been made public. Without the changes, the companies may find it harder to win creditor lawsuits claiming actions they took to revise their debt-violated parts of the act.

Caesars has said it will probably have to join its bankrupt subsidiary in Chapter 11 if it loses the suits, which are over actions the company took to shuffle debt before the unit filed for court protection. Apollo, which controls Caesars along with TPG Capital, could then lose its stake entirely in

the casino giant. Education Management may have to pay out junior creditors who didn't go along with its out-of-court debt reorganization, hurting the investment value of KKR, which is among the company's largest equity holders.

Charles Zehren, a spokesman for Apollo at Rubenstein Associates Inc., Kristi Huller, a spokeswoman at KKR, and Chris Hardman, a representative for Education Management, declined to comment. Jan Jones Blackhurst, a spokeswoman for Caesars, didn't immediately respond to an e-mail message seeking comment.

Although they were unsuccessful, some investors are worried that the companies could try to insert another version of the amendments into the U.S. government's spending bill that needs to be passed by Dec. 11, the people said.

The proposed amendments would've killed two key provisions in the existing law that limit what companies can do to modify their debt without having creditors demanding to collect on it, said Julia Winters, a legal analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence.

The changes would have made it more difficult for minority bondholders to challenge actions companies take in restructurings, according to a Dec. 4 research note by Winters and Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Philip Brendel.

Under the proposal, creditors would be protected by law only if a company reduced principal amounts, interest rates or maturity dates, according to a copy of the draft amendment published by Politico. If a company changed those attributes, bondholders would have the right to get paid back in full. **Bloomberg**

HEALTH

# Merck KGaA drops cancer drug after studies fail

Anjali Cordeiro and Johannes Koch

**G**ERMAN drugmaker Merck KGaA said it won't seek regulatory approval for its experimental cancer medicine evofosfamide after the treatment failed in the last stage of clinical tests.

The medicine didn't help patients with pancreatic cancer or soft-tissue sarcoma live longer when combined with chemotherapy, Merck said in a statement yesterday.

The decision is a setback for Darmstadt, Germany-based Merck, which has sought new drugs to boost its lineup, but not a dramatic one. The company said it's "confident" in its pipeline and will re-allocate resources to other key programs. The stock showed little change, rising 0.5 percent to 92.96 euros in Frankfurt. Partner Threshold Pharmaceuticals Inc., however, slumped 70 percent to USD1.04 in U.S. pre-market trading.

"We viewed these studies, particularly in pancreatic cancer, as high risk, so today's result is not a major surprise," Johanna Walton and colleagues at Credit Suisse Group AG wrote in a note to clients. Analysts at Bader-Helvetia had expected the medicine to garner peak annual sales of 500 million euros (\$543 million). Others said they hadn't issued a forecast for sales of the drug because the risk of failure was so high.

Chief Executive Officer Karl-Ludwig Kley is betting on the



Karl-Ludwig Kley, chief executive officer of Merck KGaA, speaks during a Bloomberg Television interview in New York, U.S.

## Is it the end of the research in oncology for the company? Definitely not.

FLORENT CESPEDES

company's acquisition of chemical firm Sigma-Aldrich Corp. to reduce Merck's dependence on its pharmaceuticals unit after more than 10 years of failing to develop a new drug. The

German conglomerate, which also makes products ranging from liquid crystals for screens to specialty chemicals and drugs to treat multiple sclerosis, named deputy CEO Stefan Oschmann in October to succeed Kley in April.

"It's certainly not positive," said Florent Cespedes, an analyst at Societe Generale in Paris. "Is it the end of the research in oncology for the company? Definitely not, because they have other golden bullets with the immunology program." He pointed to Merck's partnership with Pfizer Inc. last year that may bring in \$2 billion. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### BNU GIVES AWAY 330,000 ASIA MILES

BNU recently held its BNU Asia Miles Visa Card Grand Lucky Draw. All BNU Asia Miles Visa Card holders who spent MOP5,000 with the card from 1st March to 31st August were eligible for the Lucky Draw. Rewards include 17 prizes of 10,000 Asia Miles, as well as three grand prizes containing 30,000, 50,000 and 80,000 Asia Miles respectively. The Lucky Draw was held under the surveillance of Macau DICJ, with the prize presentation ceremony held on 4th December at BNU's Main Branch.

Mr. Ronald Kan, BNU's Executive Director and Ms. Mercedes Ho, Asia Miles' Head of Partnership & Business Development co-hosted



the ceremony to present the prizes. During the event, Mr. Ronald Kan said, "Not only does BNU Asia Miles Visa Card combine banking, travel and lifestyle rewards, but also brings cardholders a number of exclusive benefits including earning Asia Miles. This is the first co-brand card in Macau that allows its cardholders to earn Asia Miles directly through spending."

#### MGM HOLDS RESPONSIBLE GAMING WEEK

Between November 25 and December 2, MGM held its annual Responsible Gaming Week consisting of workshops and promotion booths on theme of "Know your limits, keeping it fun", in an effort to ensure that the subject is well recognized by all levels of employees.

The Responsible Gaming Week featured a promotion day on November 25, where more than 1,300 MGM staff were given an in-depth introduction on the subject and preventative measures through information booths with representatives from the Sheng Kung Hui Service Coordination Office, interactive activities at game booths and lucky draws. In addition, MGM invi-



ted Mr. Lawrence Lee, senior psychologist from Sheng Kung Hui, to host a workshop on "Diagnosis and Treatment of Gambling Disorder", which was attended by more than 60 management staff.

#### CELEBRATIONS AT THE LANDMARK MACAU & FISHERMAN'S WHARF

The Landmark Macau has prepared festive dishes at its different restaurants. Varanda Restaurant has a Christmas Oyster Temptation Dinner Buffet offering various types of oysters from different regions together with choices of fresh seafood. Holly Jolly Turkey, Honey Glazed Gammon Ham and Christmas Log are also food items not to miss. A 20% early bird discount will be offered for reservations made during 7 - 14th December. Additionally, the Fun Fun Christmas High Tea offers seasonal snacks and desserts together with Christmas background music.

From 16 - 25th December, there will be 4 'Santarina'

girls welcoming visitors at the Macau Ferry Terminal and Border Gate distributing Christmas hand warmers. Guests can enter the Instant Lucky Draw by scanning the QR code on the hand warmer to win cosmetic gift sets, buffet coupons or shopping vouchers. Santa Claus will also be giving away gifts to families and kids at the Macau Fisherman's Wharf on 24 - 26th December. On New Year's Eve, the "Countdown Fever 2016" countdown party welcomes a group of artists and singers to ring in 2016, and all guests can participate the AfriKana "Welcome 2016" competition event on NYE to win prizes.



# Stocks still buoyed by US jobs data but oil price slides

**STRONG** U.S. jobs data continued to shore up stock markets yesterday as investors welcomed the growing certainty of an interest rate increase from the U.S. Federal Reserve next week. Meanwhile, oil prices slid again after the OPEC oil cartel's decision to not cut production.

### KEEPING SCORE

In Europe, the CAC-40 in France was 1.6 percent higher at 4,789 while Germany's DAX rose 2 percent to 10,964. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was 0.4 percent higher at 6,265. U.S. stocks were poised for a steadier opening, with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures up 0.1 percent. Last Friday's strong U.S. jobs figures helped the S&P post its biggest gain since early-September.

### U.S. JOBS

Those figures showed that the U.S. economy added 211,000 jobs in November. That was more than investors expected, and a sign that consumers are spending and keeping the American economy afloat, even as manufacturing and energy companies struggle.

### FED IMPACT

The data cemented expecta-



AP PHOTO People are reflected on the electronic board of a securities firm in Tokyo

tions that the Fed will raise interest rates from a record low at its policy meeting on Dec. 16. That's potentially good for the dollar as it raises returns for holders of the U.S. currency. The euro was down 0.6 percent at USD1.0821 while the dollar rose 0.3 percent to 123.42 yen. And though at face value it would be negative for stocks as it raises costs for business,

investors have welcomed the increased certainty about the Fed's likely actions after months of guesswork and anxiety.

### THE QUOTE

"We look set for an environment that will see the dollar and global stock markets rise, so long as the Federal Reserve delivers on expectations to increase interest rates this mon-

th," said Chris Beauchamp, senior market analyst at IG.

### CHINA DATA

Much focus this week will also center on China, the world's number 2 economy. Concerns over China's slowing growth have weighed on market sentiment over the past few months. Trade data are due today, inflation tomorrow and retail sales,

industrial production and fixed asset investment on Saturday.

### ASIA'S DAY

Japan's Nikkei 225 jumped 1.0 percent to 19,698.15 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.1 percent to 5,155.70. But South Korea's Kospi fell 0.5 percent to 1,963.67, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng inched down 0.04 percent at 22,226.85. China's Shanghai Composite gained 0.3 percent to 3,536.93. Stock benchmarks also rose in Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia.

### ENERGY

Oil markets, meanwhile, were being driven by OPEC's decision last Friday to keep production unchanged. Benchmark U.S. crude was down 95 cents to \$39.02 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, following an equivalent slide on Friday. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, dropped 84 cents to \$42.18 in London. **AP**

AD




**BBAM and FMBA invite you to attend our Joint Christmas Networking Evening Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December**

6 pm:  
Miscellany of Christmas music by the celebrated choir of Gonville and Caius, Cambridge



**Principal Sponsor** 香港上海滙豐銀行有限公司 (HSBC)  
**Co-sponsors** CNConcerts 澳門國際會議及展覽中心 GRAND COLOSSEUM RESORT

6.30 – 8.30 pm  
Cocktail Party in the Fireplace area  
The choir will also give a short reprise at 7.15 pm  
Lucky Draw at 7.30 pm

Since Joint Christmas Networking Evening is likely to be in strong demand  
RSVP by 8th December to  
[bbam@britchammacao.org](mailto:bbam@britchammacao.org) to phone +853 8798 9697  
[info@francemacau.com](mailto:info@francemacau.com) or phone +853 8798 9699  
Members: MOP/HKD 250.00  
Non-Members: MOP/HKD 350.00

A seasonal collection will be made for ARTM (Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers)



20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Macau International Airport

MACAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



ANGOLA | MOZAMBIQUE

# More investment and funding expected after Africa/China Forum

**T**HE 6th edition of the China/Africa Forum served to approve a Chinese financing package of USD60 billion for Africa and to convey a message of confidence in the existing relationship that was received positively by the leaders of Angola and Mozambique.

Since the 1st Forum on China/Africa, trade between China and Africa has increased 21 fold, exceeding USD222 billion in 2015, but the ambition voiced by Angolan and Mozambican leaders at the Johannesburg summit was also reflected in their call for more investment in industry, technology transfer and financing projects.

The Angolan Finance minister, Armando Manuel said that the intervention of the Chinese president at the summit “demystified the belief that China’s relations with Africa had at their core the raw materials that Africa offers,” adding there was “a very precise strategy to respond to the three



Chinese President Xi Jinping (5th L, front) and his wife Peng Liyuan (4th L, front) watch the closing ceremony performance of the Year of China, in Johannesburg, South Africa

areas of infrastructure, human capital and financial resources,” needed by African countries.

As for the USD60 billion package for development projects in Africa, USD5 billion is expected to be donations and USD35 billion in preferential loans, not including one-off loans from Chinese commercial banks, according to Armando Manuel, cited by the Angolan press.

The finance minister also highlighted the prospect raised by China of “moving Chinese indus-

try to African economies,” while for the minister of Agriculture, Afonso Canga, Angola should take advantage of the financial and technological availability of China and the aim is a program of investments in the agricultural sector with investors from both countries.

Max Tonela, Minister for Industry and Trade of Mozambique, told Radio Mozambique of a desire for greater technology transfer and installation of Chinese labor-intensive industries.

In a meeting with his counterpart Xi Jinping, the Mozambican president, Filipe Nyusi presented agriculture and mineral resources as two of the priority sectors for the beginning of the industrialization of the country, which is needed to abandon the current model of exporting raw materials and move on to investing in selling processed products.

China International Radio reported that Xi Jinping asked for China and Mozambique to deepen cooperation in the areas of oil and gas, mining, processing, agriculture, infrastructure and finance.

The Angolan president, José Eduardo dos Santos in his speech at the summit called for the Johannesburg Declaration to reflect the “depth and strategic vision” of the Forum and the 2016-2018 Action Plan to open a “new era of cooperation and progress.”

On the sidelines of the meeting, Santos met with a delegation from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC),

the world’s largest, which funded construction of the biggest housing project in Angola, the city of Kilamba, and is funding construction of a combined cycle power plant in Soyo.

The Chinese President, Xi Jinping, asked his Angolan counterpart during a joint meeting, for more dynamic cooperation between China and Angola, stressing that bilateral relations “are experiencing the best period ever” with “mutual political trust” and “economic complementarity.”

José Eduardo dos Santos stressed the “success” of his six-day visit to Beijing last June, when Angola was granted a new loan from China totaling USD6 billion. Angola and China are negotiating at a very fast pace an agreement on visas and another on currency conversion, as well as an agreement for reciprocal protection of investments, said the Chinese ambassador to Angola, Cui Aimin, on the eve of the summit.

Also in Johannesburg was the President of Cape Verde, Jorge Carlos Fonseca, who in addition to being seen with the Chinese President also met with a Chinese company from the audiovisual sector that wants to invest in the archipelago. **MDT/Macauhub**

## REPORTERS WANTED

### MACAU DAILY TIMES PUBLICATIONS

is looking to hire full-time reporters with recognized qualifications and experience.

#### Requirements:

- Degree in Journalism or equivalent;
- Minimum of 2 years experience in professional news reporting;
- Native/Bilingual English language proficiency;
- Fluent in Chinese AND/OR Portuguese (Spoken & Written);
- Team player, with capacity to work independently.

#### Preferred attributes:

- Macau residency;
- Macau professional experience.

#### We Offer:

- Competitive salary and conditions
- A career in a fast-growing English media group
- Opportunity to work with a motivated team

Candidates should send their CV and relevant portfolio to [jobs@macaudailytimes.com](mailto:jobs@macaudailytimes.com) by December 31, 2015.



We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

**General Surgery** : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong, Dr. Kwong Man

**Breast Surgery** : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

**Urology** : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

**Paediatric Surgery** : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

**Paediatrics** : Dr. Leung Ping Maurice, Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

**Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery** : Dr. Lam U Lin

**Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine** : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

**Cardiology** : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

**Gastroentero-Hepatology** : Dr. Zhan De Juan

**General Medicine** : Dr. Ng Kam Hong

**Anaesthesiology** : Dr. Ning Siu Kei Eric, Dr. Chan Wai Han

**Dietitian** : Chan Lai U Joey



Louise Watt, Beijing

## HUKOU REFORM

# Parents go to court seeking to register 2nd children

WAN Changru's 6-year-old daughter collects passes — for her dance school, English lessons and other extra-curricular classes, anything bearing her name that she can pretend is an identity card.

The girl is legally unregistered because her parents broke China's one-child policy in having her. They say they cannot afford to pay a 200,000 yuan (USD30,000) fine that would allow her to gain legal status. Without it, she can't visit a hospital or get on a plane to go on holiday to Disneyland like her friends.

With the government's announcement in October that it would allow all married couples to have two children, Wan and her husband have decided to take family planning officials to court to try to get her registered without paying the fine.

Wan's daughter is one of nearly 14 million unregistered people across China, most a legacy of China's 35-year strict family planning policy that limited most urban couples to one child, though rural couples were allowed to have two if their first was a girl.

Those who are unregistered lack a "hukou" — a household registration entry in a small family book and on a police computer system. Without a hukou, a person has limited access to health care, education and other benefits, and cannot get a permanent ID card.

"Now that the country has relaxed the one-child policy, I think it's time for us to call upon the public to realize that there are still a large number of marginalized people in China who have no hukou," said Wan, a 42-year-old housewife.

The Ministry of Public Security said last month every citizen has the right to a hukou and efforts should be made to register those without one. It gave no details on how, and no official has so far publicly backed any amnesty for fines, which vary from city to city.

The hukou system predates the one-child policy, which perpetuates inequalities not only between registered and unregistered Chinese, but between urban and rural residents.

"The one-child is just a policy that can be quite easily changed, like China has just done, while the hukou is a much larger institution," said Kam Wing Chan, a geography professor at the University of Washington who researches the hukou system. "It has been around for almost 60 years now. It has all kinds of impact. It's dividing China socially, economically."

China's ruling Communist Party initiated the household registration system in the 1950s to control the movement of people. It ties them to their family's hometown and the subsidized

AP PHOTO



In this Saturday, Nov. 14 photo provided by a demonstrator who wished to remain anonymous, demonstrators urging the Chinese government to recognize unregistered children gather along the side of a road before bicycling to Tiananmen Square in Beijing

health and education services available in that area. Changing one's hukou can be difficult, particularly shifting residence to big cities like Beijing and Shanghai where many migrants want to work.

The system has barely changed even as millions of people have moved from the countryside to cities. Big-city governments have balked at the costs of delivering education and health care to migrant workers and their children, an estimated 253 million people — almost a fifth of China's population.

China last year announced a cautious reform of the hukou system by allowing urban areas to give migrants a residence permit with some social benefits, or a local hukou if they meet a city's own residency requirements. Shanghai and Shenzhen are experimenting with registering migrants based on a points system related to educational background and their employment history in the city, for example. The government's plan aims to enable around 100 million people to settle in towns and cities by 2020.

None of those changes, however, are aimed at helping the unregistered.

To create more public awareness of their cause to have their second children registe-

red, Wan and seven other mask-wearing parents cycled through Beijing on a recent smoggy Saturday with signs stuck to the backs of their shirts pleading for unregistered children to be given "an identity."

"We organized the cycling event because we don't want our children to be forgotten," Wan said.

Their route took them past

## ■ Nearly 14 million people in China are unregistered, most a legacy of the strict 35-year family planning policy

Tiananmen Square, a sensitive location near the government's offices where police told them to take their signs off. Instead, they cycled in a different direction and then went home.

In the 2010 census, there were 13.76 million people, or 1 percent of the population, without permanent residence registration. Data collectors visited homes and counted people

regardless of their registration status.

In Beijing, some districts allow unregistered children to go to school if their parents have a Beijing hukou and can prove the children are theirs. That's how Wan's daughter is able to attend school.

"The real trouble comes when my daughter gets ill," said Wan. "Almost all hospitals in China require an ID card to register medical treatment, so when she's ill, I can only take her to the small community clinics near our home."

The penalty in Beijing for having a second child is a "social compensation fee" that is three to 10 times the average annual disposable income for a household with two children — which was 44,000 yuan (\$7,000) last year. Families with higher-than-average incomes were charged even more.

Wan said her court case has been accepted by the court and she is waiting to be notified of the hearing.

"I simply cannot afford to pay such a large sum of money," Wan said of her 200,000 yuan fine. She did not want her daughter's name published, partly because the girl doesn't want her friends to know she doesn't have a hukou.

"She seldom talks about this with me and her dad, but it

does slip out at times and she says she wants to fly to Disneyland in Hong Kong or Japan, probably after hearing about the travels of her friends at school," said Wan. "But without a hukou, my daughter can't get an air ticket."

Another parent taking family planning officials to court is Yan Fengyin, whose 5-year-old son is being treated as a third child because she and her husband had one child each in previous marriages. Those two children are not in their custody, so they argue that the family planning commission in Beijing's Fangshan district should not treat the 5-year-old as their third child, and are asking a Beijing court to revoke the 400,000 yuan (\$60,000) fine.

Beijing lawyer Yan Xin says he has worked on six cases in the past two years related to families going to court after breaking the one-child policy.

"The success rate of such lawsuits is very low, and I can merely help to negotiate between authorities and the families who usually demand that the punishment is revoked and want to get a hukou without paying the fine," he said.

It's unclear whether the process will become easier with the end of the one-child policy, since that change occurred so recently. AP



## LAND RIGHTS

## 13 injured in attack on government office

**M**ASKED men attacked a government office in western China, smashing vehicles and equipment and leaving 13 people injured in a regional dispute over farmland, local authorities and state media said yesterday.

The attack was part of a disagreement between residents of Gansu province and the vast Inner Mongolia region it borders to the north, state newspapers reported.

China's government regularly cites such incidents as justification for heavy-handed Communist Party rule. Often driven by economic or ethnic rivalries, such incidents stretch the capacity of local law enforcement bodies to cope, especially in the relatively impoverished west.

More than 100 men with their faces covered descended on the Ejin Banner office complex at about 3 a.m. on Sunday, the Ejin Banner county government said on its website.

They used pepper spray on staff members and herders who were helping guard the premises, the go-

vernment said. They were hooded, threatened, beaten with clubs and dumped outside where temperatures were about -20 Celsius, the government said. Six men were taken to hospital for treatment.

Photos on the website showed demolished pre-fabricated structures and pick-up trucks crushed from being flipped over. The Ejin Banner government said the attackers used two bulldozers to carry out the destruction and also stole any personal or government property they could find.

Reports said the attack likely grew out of a long-running dispute over land rights in Ejin Banner, which had been part of Gansu until it was returned to Inner Mongolia in 1979. No suspects have been named publicly.

The vast region is home to 32,000 people, mostly farmers and herders, along with the Jiuquan satellite launch center used to launch China's crewed space missions. **AP**

## FINANCIAL CORRUPTION

## Citic Securities says it can't reach 2 senior execs

**Kelvin Chan, Business Writer, Hong Kong**

**O**NE of China's biggest securities companies said it can't contact its top two investment bankers after media reports said the pair might be under investigation.

Citic Securities Co. said in a statement Sunday evening that it hasn't been able to get in touch with Chen Jun and Yan Jianlin.

Financial news magazine Caixin reported Friday on its website that the two were taken away by authorities but it wasn't clear whether they were the ones being investigated or were merely being asked to assist in an investigation.

The two are the latest executives to go missing from Citic as authorities deepen an investigation into the company following a spectacular rout on China's stock market over the summer.

Chen is head of Citic's investment banking business while Yan is head of the company's international in-

vestment banking arm, according to its website.

Authorities are also scrutinizing two other big Chinese securities firms as part of the investigation, which many see as an attempt by the ruling Communist Party to deflect blame for the Shanghai index's 30 percent drop from its peak. State media had encouraged the public to buy stocks, fueling a bubble.

In August, the official Xinhua news agency said eight Citic employees were being investigated for illegal stock trading. The following month, the police ministry said Citic executives including its general manager, Cheng Boming, were suspected of insider trading and leaking sensitive information.

The company said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange that operations were "normal" and some employees who were asked to help in unspecified preliminary investigations have returned to work, although it didn't name them. **AP**

AP PHOTO



A woman wearing a mask to protect herself from pollutants walks past office buildings shrouded with pollution haze in Beijing

# Beijing issues 1st smog red alert, urging schools to close

**Christopher Bodeen, Beijing**

**B**EIJING issued its first-ever red alert for smog yesterday, urging schools to close and invoking restrictions on factories and traffic that will keep half of the city's vehicles off the roads.

The red alert — the most serious warning on a four-tier system adopted a little over two years ago — means authorities have forecast more than three consecutive days of severe smog.

An online notice from the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau said it issued the alert to "protect public health and reduce levels of heavy air pollution."

Readings of PM2.5 particles climbed toward 300 micrograms per cubic meter yesterday and are expected to continue rising before the air begins to improve with the arrival of a cold front on Thursday. The World Health Organization designates the safe level for PM2.5 particles at 25.

Along with school closures and limiting cars to driving every other day depending on the last number of their license plate, a raft of other restrictions will seek to reduce the amount of dust and other particulate matter in the city of

22.5 million people. Officials said extra subway trains and buses would be added to handle the additional strain on public transport.

It's the second time this month that notoriously polluted Beijing has experienced a prolonged bout of smog, sending PM2.5 levels in the suburbs as high as 976 micrograms. Beijing was also shrouded in per-

## Readings of PM2.5 particles climbed toward 300 micrograms per cubic meter yesterday

sistent smog for most of November, when power demand soared due to unusually cold weather.

While pollution in the capital improved slightly in the first 10 months of the year, heavy smog that can be seen from outer space regularly forces Beijing schools to suspend outdoor activities and can even prompt highway closures because of reduced visibility.

There previously have been stretches of severe smog that lasted more than three straight days. However, those had been forecast to last three days or less, so they did not trigger a red alert. The alert requires a forecast of more than 72 straight hours with PM2.5 levels of 200 micrograms per cubic meter or more.

Polluted air throughout broad swaths of China has had severe health effects. A study led by atmospheric chemist Jos Lelieveld of Germany's Max Planck Institute and published this year in Nature magazine estimated that 1.4 million people die prematurely because of pollution in China each year.

Most of the pollution is blamed on coal-fired power plants, along with vehicle emissions and construction and factory work. China, the world's biggest carbon emitter, plans to upgrade coal power plants over the next five years to tackle the problem, and says its emissions will peak by around 2030 before starting to decline.

While emissions standards have been tightened and heavy investments made in solar, wind and other renewable energy, China still depends on coal for more than 60 percent of its power. **AP**



## TERRORISM

## Australian who joined Kurdish forces in Syria sent home

An Australian who joined Kurdish forces in their fight against Islamic State militants in Syria has returned to Australia where he was questioned by police after being deported from Germany. Ashley Dyball was met by Australian Federal Police at Melbourne Airport late Sunday night and interviewed for four hours before he was released to his family early yesterday morning. His lawyer Jessie Smith told Australian Broadcasting Corp. that Dyball he was interviewed and "released without charge pending further inquiry." Australian Federal Police said in a statement: "The public can rest assured that any Australian who is identified as a threat to security will be investigated by the relevant agencies."

## PAKISTAN

## Intel officials say Malik attended religious school

Pakistani intelligence officials say the California shooter Tashfeen Malik attended a religious school while living in Pakistan, where she studied pharmacy in the central city of Multan. The officials identified the school yesterday as the Al-Huda International Seminary, a women-only madrasa with a chain across Pakistan and branches in the U.S. and Canada. Al-Huda's founder, Farhat Hashmi, now living in Canada, has been criticized for promoting a conservative strain of Islam. The school has no known links to extremists. Al-Huda's spokeswoman Farrukh Chaudhry says she cannot confirm whether Malik studied there until she goes through the records because "we have thousands of students." The officials spoke on condition of anonymity under regulations. Malik and her American-born husband were killed after carrying out Wednesday's mass shooting in San Bernardino, California.

## AUSTRALIA

## Ministers threaten legal action against Japanese whaling

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

**AUSTRALIA**, one of most vocal opponents of Japanese whaling hunts in the Antarctic, threatened yesterday to take legal action against the lethal expeditions, about a week after Tokyo began its latest hunt.

Australia's foreign and environmental ministers said in a statement that the country had joined 32 others to oppose the Japanese expedition that left last Tuesday to catch up to 333 minke whales in the Antarctic.

The International Whaling Commission banned commercial whaling in 1986, but Japan has continued killing whales under an exemption for research.

"There is no scientific basis to include lethal methods in Japan's whaling program," Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Environment Minister Greg Hunt said in a statement issued in Canberra, Australia's capital. They said information needed for the management and conservation of whales should not involve lethal methods.

"We are also exploring options for further legal action," the statement said.

Australia filed a lawsuit with the International Court of Jus-



South Korean environmentalists beat whale-shaped balloons during a rally against Japan's whaling activities in the name of research near the Japanese embassy in Seoul, South Korea

stice in 2010 over Japanese whaling in the Antarctic. The ICJ responded to the lawsuit, which New Zealand later joined, by ruling last year that the hunts were not scientific, forcing Tokyo to revise its Antarctic whaling program.

Australia also said last week that it might send a boat to sha-

dow the current Japanese fleet.

Joji Morishita, Japan's commissioner to the International Whaling Commission, told reporters in Tokyo yesterday that Japan had met the ICJ's new requirements. He said that Japan only wants to make whaling sustainable and promote healthy whale populations.

Japan's whale catch has fallen in recent years in part because of declining domestic demand for whale meat. Protests by the anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd have also contributed to the decline. Japan's government has spent large amounts of tax money to sustain the whaling operations. **AP**

## Australia to invest USD800 million in boosting innovation

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**AUSTRALIA'S** government announced new economic policies yesterday aimed at attracting entrepreneurs from abroad and promoting innovation in an economy that has slowed after a mining boom.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said his government will invest 1.1 billion Australian dollars (USD800 million) in creating incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship and promoting the study of science, mathematics and computing in schools.

It is Turnbull's first major economic policy announcement since he ousted Tony Abbott as prime minister in a surprise September ballot of ruling party lawmakers.

The government will introduce a new class of visa for entrepreneurs with innovative ideas



Malcolm Turnbull

and financial backing to develop their businesses in Australia.

Foreign students who graduate from Australian universities with specialized doctorate and masters qualifications in science, technology, engineering or mathematics would be assisted to become permanent residents of Australia.

The government would also

reform solvency laws. The current penalty period for bankrupts would be reduced from three years to one year. Company directors would also be given more protections from being held personally liable for a failed business, striking a new balance between encouraging entrepreneurship and protecting creditors.

The government plans to introduce new laws that would enable companies to access crowd-sourced equity funding to develop innovative business plans. Early stage investors in startups would be provided with tax concessions.

It said wants to encourage an "ideas boom" by promoting collaboration between business, universities and the research industry.

The government plans to explain next week how the policies will be funded as part of an update of Australia's worsening budget position. Low prices for key commodity exports including iron ore and coal which reflect China's slowdown have hit Australia's coffers hard.

Turnbull said appetite for risk in Australia was lower than in comparable countries. The study of science, math and computing in Australian high schools was declining, he said. **AP**



**T**HAILAND'S military government blocked an anti-corruption protest yesterday, detaining about three dozen students and other activists who were headed to a park honoring past kings that was allegedly built with money from shady dealings involving several senior officers.

The military's efforts to quash the protest included detaching the railway car on which the protesters were traveling to Rajabhakti Park, near the seaside town of Hua Hin, before taking them into custody. Officials abruptly announced that the park, on army land, was closed for the day for renovations.

The case has become a major scandal in Thailand, largely because the junta that has run the country since staging a coup last year has vowed to reform the country's political system to stamp out corruption, which it blames on politicians.

The affair has also attracted attention because the leaking of information casting suspicion about an army-led project is rare, leading to speculation that it may be linked to rifts within the junta, or an attempt to discredit it by other influential forces within Thai society.

The military, which seized power in a May 2014 coup, has

THAILAND

# Army blocks anti-corruption protest, detains activists



In this Sept. 26 file photo, statues of seven former Thai kings are silhouetted against the sky at the official opening of Ratchapakdi Park in Hua Hin, 240 km south of Bangkok

denied financial wrongdoing related to the park, built under its auspices and featuring giant statues of seven past Thai kings. It announced last month that its own investigation cleared its officers of any wrongdoing, but under public pressure agreed to launch a new probe.

Two senior officers have been accused of wrongdoing, including kickbacks and the diversion of funds contributed

to the project, which has been described as costing 1 billion baht (USD28 million). Recently retired army commander Gen. Udomdej Sitabutr, who is deputy defense minister and a member of the ruling junta, was head of the foundation overseeing the park's construction. It officially opened in late September.

The New Democracy Movement, comprising mostly stu-

dents, issued a statement after the detentions describing their planned protest as "a symbolic activity to inspect corruption" at the park.

It said the authorities' action "shows that there is corruption in the construction of Rajabhakti Park. The more they try to block us from the truth, they more likely that there is corruption in the military junta." The group said 36 people

had been detained, slightly more than initially reported by the authorities.

Government spokesman Maj. Gen. Sansern Keawkamnerd accused the students of being misleading about their intentions, telling an interviewer from TV Channel 9 that "What this small group of students does is not about what they claim to do, checking government corruption, because that has to be done with documents not at the park, where there is nothing but hard ground and statues of past kings."

He said it was a political activity and violated a law which bans public meetings of more than five people for political purposes.

Sansern said he hoped the result of the new corruption investigation would be released before the new year, and vowed that anyone found to have committed wrongdoing would be prosecuted. **AP**

AD

**MAGNUS** SECURITY SERVICES  
馬格納斯 保安 (澳門) 有限公司

License No. 5/2010

MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD

Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69

Edif. Ind. Fok Tai, 12 floor "B", Macau SAR

Tel.: (853) 2822 1341

Fax.: (853) 2822 0824



SECURITY SERVICES  
全面保安服務  
EVENTS SECURITY  
活動場地保安  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
特別行動  
SECURITY SYSTEMS  
保安及安全系統  
RISK ASSESSMENT &  
RISK MITIGATION  
風險評估及應對措施  
SECURITY FORCE TRAINING  
& EVALUATION  
保安部隊訓練及評核



## FRANCE

## Far right comes out strong in post-attacks vote



France's far-right National Front ran strongly in a first-round regional vote that was the first election since an attack by Islamic extremists left 130 dead in Paris. A second-round was planned for Sunday; in the interim other parties will negotiate and jostle for position. The National Front was leading in six of the 13 regions, including two where it was strongly ahead. Party leader Marine Le Pen told BFM television yesterday that "the French people have had enough of being treated like a herd of sheep." She is the top candidate in Calais, where thousands of migrants live in makeshift camps in hopes of reaching Britain. Sunday's vote took place at a time of high tension in France, where unease is spreading after terror attacks in January and November.

## SYRIA

## 3 soldiers killed in US led coalition airstrikes



Syria's government yesterday accused the U.S.-led coalition of launching airstrikes on a Syrian army camp in the country's east that killed three soldiers and wounded 13 and sent a protest letter to the U.N. over the incident. If confirmed, the airstrikes would mark the first time coalition forces fighting the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq have attacked Syrian government forces. In a letter sent to the United Nations and published in Syrian state media yesterday, the government in Damascus said four aircraft belonging to the U.S.-led coalition targeted the army camp in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour on Sunday night. In addition to the casualties, it said the attack destroyed armored and other vehicles and a weapons and ammunition depot. The city, in the province also called Deir el-Zour, is mainly in the hands of the Islamic State but the Syrian government still holds some parts of the city.

AP PHOTO



President Barack Obama addresses the nation from the Oval Office at the White House in Washington

## CALIFORNIA SHOOTING

## Obama: US will defeat terror threat's new phase

Julie Pace, White House Correspondent, Washington

**I**n a rare Oval Office address, President Barack Obama vowed the United States would overcome a new phase of the terror threat that seeks to "poison the minds" of people here and around the world, as he sought to reassure Americans shaken by recent attacks in Paris and California.

The president's speech Sunday night (early yesterday, Macau time) followed Wednesday's shooting in San Bernardino, California, that killed 14 people and wounded 21. Authorities say a couple carried out the attack and the wife pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and its leader in a Facebook post.

"I know that after so much war, many Americans are asking whether we are confronted by a cancer that has no immediate cure," he said, speaking from a lectern in his West Wing office. "The threat from terrorism is real, but we will overcome it."

Obama said in his 13-minute address that while there was no evidence the shooters were directed by a terror network overseas or part of a broader plot, "the two of them had gone down the dark path of radicalization."

In speaking from the Oval Office, Obama turned to a tool of the presidency that he has used infrequently. His decision to speak in prime time reflected the White House's concern that his message on the recent

attacks hasn't broken through, particularly in the midst of a heated presidential campaign.

Yet Obama's speech was likely to leave his critics unsatisfied. He announced no significant shift in U.S. strategy and offered no new policy prescriptions for defeating IS, underscoring both his confidence in his current approach and the lack of easy options for countering the extremist group.

**The threat from terrorism is real, but we will overcome it.**

BARACK OBAMA

Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan dismissed the president's address as "a half-hearted attempt to defend and distract from a failing policy."

Obama did call for cooperation between private companies and law enforcement to ensure potential attackers can't use technology to evade detection. He also urged Congress to pass new force authorization for military actions under way against IS in Iraq and Syria, and also to approve legislation to bar guns from being sold to people prohibited from flying on planes in the U.S. for terrorist concerns.

The president's most specific policy announcement was to order the departments of State and Homeland Security to review the fiancé visa program that the female shooter in California used to enter the U.S. In his remarks, Obama referred to a visa waiver program that Congress is also reviewing, but the White House later clarified he meant the fiancé program.

He also reiterated his call for broader gun control legislation, saying no matter how effective law enforcement and intelligence agencies are, they can't identify every would-be shooter. He called it a matter of national security to prevent potential killers from getting guns.

"What we can do, and must do, is make it harder for them to kill," he said.

Obama stands little chance of getting the Republican-led Congress to agree to any gun control measures. On Thursday, the Senate rejected legislation barring people suspected by the government of being terrorists from purchasing firearms. Gun rights advocates say such a ban would violate the rights of people who haven't been convicted of crimes.

Congress also has been unable to coalesce behind any plan to authorize more force against IS, and the administration's proposal has languished since February.

Obama repeated his long-standing opposition to an American-led ground war in the Middle East and made no mention

of the more aggressive action others have suggested, including enforcing a no-fly zone and safe corridors in Syria.

"Our success won't depend on tough talk, or abandoning our values or giving in to fear," he said. "Instead, we will prevail by being strong and smart, resilient and relentless."

After the speech, the president appeared as previously scheduled at the Kennedy Center Honors tribute in Washington.

The president's critics — and increasingly, some members of his own party — have questioned his strategy. Hours before he spoke, Hillary Clinton — his former secretary of state and the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination — said the U.S. is "not winning" the fight against IS.

Obama has insisted that the Islamic State is contained in Iraq and Syria. However, the group has set its sights elsewhere in the world, launching attacks in Lebanon and Turkey and downing a Russia airliner over Egypt.

The Nov. 13 attacks in Paris marked the group's most aggressive actions in Europe, a coordinated effort that left 130 people dead and wounded hundreds more.

Last week, the terror threat drew even closer for Americans when a couple — a 29-year-old woman originally from Pakistan and her 28-year-old American-born husband — launched an attack on a holiday luncheon in San Bernardino. **AP**



Hannah Dreier  
and Joshua Goodman, Caracas

VENEZUELA

# Opposition wins legislative voting in landslide

VENEZUELA'S opposition won control of the National Assembly by a landslide, stunning the ruling party and altering the balance of power 17 years after the late Hugo Chavez kicked off the nation's socialist revolution.

The opposition coalition won at least 99 seats in the incoming 167-seat legislature, electoral authorities announced after midnight Sunday (yesterday, Macau time). The ruling socialist party won 46 seats. The 22 remaining races remain up for grabs but if enough are won by the opposition it could give the coalition a two-thirds supermajority needed to strongly challenge President Nicolas Maduro's grip on power.

The streets of the Venezuelan capital of Caracas broke out in shouts of joy, fireworks and car honks after National Electoral Council President Tibisay Lucena announced the partial results six hours after polls closed. In the plaza in wealthy eastern Caracas that was the epicenter of last year's bloody anti-government protests, a small group of opponents, some of them sipping champagne, burned red shirts that are the obligatory revolutionary attire.

Within seconds, Maduro re-



AP PHOTO  
Opposition leaders, from left to right, Lilian Tintori, wife of jailed Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, Freddy Guevara, of the Voluntad Popular party, Jesus Torrealba, head of the Democratic Unity Movement (MUD) party and deputy Julio Borges celebrate in Caracas

cognized the opposition's win, saying that despite an adverse result Venezuela's democracy had triumphed. But he recalled the long history of US-supported coups in Latin America in blaming the "circumstantial" loss on a conservative "counter revolution" trying to sabotage the oil-dependent economy and

destabilize his rule.

"I can say today that the economic war has triumphed," Maduro, surrounded by his party's top leadership, said from the presidential palace.

Opposition leaders meanwhile spoke in strident terms, a prelude to what's likely to be a period of intense political fighting in

a deeply polarized country mired in an economic crisis. Voter turnout was a stunning 74 percent, the highest for a parliamentary vote since compulsory voting ended in the 1990s, as Venezuelans punished Maduro's government for widespread shortages, a plunging currency and triple-digit inflation that has brought the economy to its knees.

"Venezuelan families are tired of living the consequences of the failure," Jesus Torrealba, head of the Democratic Unity opposition coalition, told supporters at campaign headquarters. "The country wants change and that change is beginning today."

The opposition victory deals a serious setback to the socialist revolution started almost 17 years ago by the late Hugo Chavez, who until his death in 2013 had an almost-magical hold on Venezuela's long-excluded masses.

It was also a major blow to La-

tin America's left, which gained power in the wake of Chavez's ascent but more recently has been struggling in the face of a region-wide economic slowdown and voter fatigue in some countries with rampant corruption.

Last month, Argentines elected a conservative businessman over the chosen successor of Cristina Fernandez, who was a close ally of Chavez. In Brazil, President Dilma Rousseff is battling impeachment over a corruption scandal in her long-ruling Workers' Party.

Maduro had repeatedly vowed in recent weeks to take to the streets and defend his mentor Chavez's legacy if his party lost. But on Sunday night he softened his tone, urging his supporters to calmly regroup from the loss.

"I call on all of our people to recognize in peace these results and re-evaluate many political aspects of the revolution," he said. AP

AD

**SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC**



**SATURDAY SUPER STACK**

Every Saturday, until January 7, PokerStars LIVE Macau will be hosting the HK\$1,000 Saturday Warm-up (20k GTD) at 2pm and the HK\$3,000 Saturday Superstack (100k GTD) at 6pm

It's part of the exciting new schedule of poker tournaments we're running Wednesdays to Sundays


Cancel all other plans

Find out more at [PokerStarsLIVEMacau.com](http://PokerStarsLIVEMacau.com)

**PokerStars LIVE Macau**

Level 2, Casino Estrada do Istmo, Cotai Macau SAR

All tournaments are subject to regulatory approval.



**D2 CLUB**

[WWW.D2CLUB-MACAU.COM](http://WWW.D2CLUB-MACAU.COM)

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edif. New Orleans III  
澳門漁人碼頭新奧爾良館 III  
Tel: (853) 2872 3777



## what's ON



## MACAU PRINTMAKING TRIENNIAL

TIME: 10am-7pm

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

UNTIL: February 14, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## MACAU HANDOVER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

DONATED BY LAU SIN PENG

TIME: 10am-7pm

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

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Multi-function Hall,

Handover Gifts Museum of Macao

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF MACAU OLD SHOPS

TIME: 10am-7pm

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

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS

- EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF TAIPA AND COLOANE

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

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Museum of Taipa and Coloane History

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Adult); MOP2 (Student or Group); Free (Under 12 or above 65)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

## THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)

VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House,

Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

## Offbeat

## AUSTRIAN POLICE FIND MORE THAN 100,000 EUROS IN DANUBE RIVER

The banknotes were wet, but Austrian police are not treating the find of more than 100,000 euros found in the Danube river as a classic case of money laundering.

Firefighters fished the banknotes worth nearly USD110,000 out of the water in Vienna on the weekend. Yesterday, police remained mystified about how they got there, and who the owner is.

Police spokesman Roman Hahslinger says there are no links to robberies or other crimes involving such a large amount of money.

He suggests that if the search for the owner fails, it could be a case of finders' keepers for a man who discovered the large denomination notes on Saturday and then dove into the water to start recovering them.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Young Children
15:35	Miscellaneous
16:15	Documentary Serie
17:10	Zig Zag
17:40	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Non-Daily Port. News
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

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, Iyshwarya 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



## 1980 JOHN LENNON SHOT DEAD

Former Beatle John Lennon has been shot dead by an unknown gunman who opened fire outside the musician's New York apartment.

The 40-year-old was shot several times as he entered the Dakota, his luxury apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side, opposite Central Park, at 2300 local time.

He was rushed in a police car to St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center, where he died.

His wife, Yoko Ono, who is understood to have witnessed the attack, was with him.

A police spokesman said a suspect was in custody, but he had no other details of the shooting.

"This was no robbery," the spokesman said, adding that Mr Lennon was probably shot by a "deranged" person.

Witness reports say at least three shots were fired and others have claimed they heard six.

There are also reports Mr Lennon staggered up six steps into the vestibule after he was shot, before collapsing.

Jack Douglas, Lennon's producer, said he and the Lennons had been at a studio called the Record Plant in mid-town earlier in the evening and Lennon left at 2230.

Mr Lennon said he planned to have some dinner and then return home, Mr Douglas said.

The Lennons are said to have left their limousine on the street and walked up the driveway when the gunman opened fire.

It is unclear whether the man had been lying in wait in the entrance to the building for Mr Lennon, or whether he came up behind him.

Witnesses describe the gunman as a "pudgy kind of man", 35 to 40 years old with brown hair.

Other former band members, Paul McCartney, guitarist George Harrison and drummer Ringo Starr are thought to have been informed of Lennon's murder.

Fans have already begun arriving at the scene, many still unaware Lennon has died.

Mr Lennon is survived by his wife, their son Sean, and his son from a previous marriage, Julian.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

John Lennon was shot four times in the back by Mark Chapman who had asked the former Beatle for his autograph only hours before he laid in wait and killed him.

Chapman pleaded guilty to gunning down Mr Lennon and is currently serving life in Attica prison near New York. In October 2004 he failed for the third time to secure his release.

He said he had heard voices in his head telling him to kill the world-famous musician.

Twenty years after his death millions of fans paid tribute to Mr Lennon in his home town of Liverpool and in New York.

His widow launched a campaign against gun violence in the United States to mark the anniversary.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your values are out in the open today -- and are likely being tested!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Indulge your whims today, no matter how decadent they may seem to you -- or to others, for that matter!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Take care of your bookkeeping today -- if that's a need of yours, of course.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Go wild today -- the crazier, the better! Your ideas shouldn't be measured against reality just yet.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You have a brush with the law, though it may be as minor as a speeding ticket or even just a need to pore over the fine print.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Dig a little deeper into the history of your family, company or some other topic of personal interest -- your great mental energy ensures that you dig up something lovely!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Try to be skeptical of first impressions today -- they are sure to lead you astray!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You may have bitten off more than you can chew -- so get ready for some discomfort!

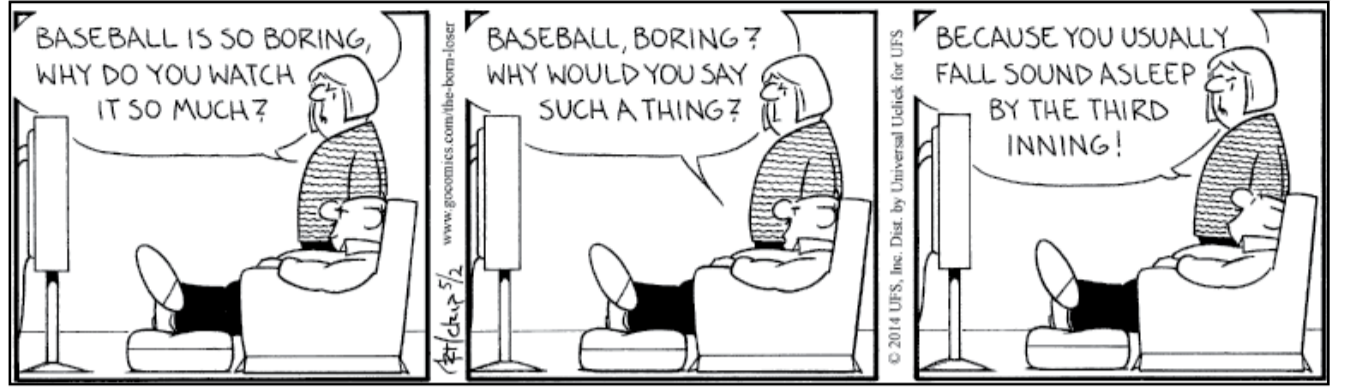
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The details of today's big business may get a little spooky -- but you can handle them!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You are feeling more conscientious today -- so make the most of this great energy and take care of some tasks that have fallen by the wayside.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your parents or other older relations are important figures today -- even if you don't ever hear from them directly.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're inspired to create something beautiful tonight -- maybe a four-course dinner for friends or family.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Beijing -2 3 foggy/smoggy
Harbin -22 -5 clear
Tianjin 0 6 clear/smoggy
Urumqi -6 0 foggy
Xi'an 2 9 smoggy
Lhasa -4 11 cloudy/clear
Chengdu 8 12 drizzle
Chongqing 9 14 overcast
Kunming 6 17 cloudy
Nanjing 3 13 clear/cloudy
Shanghai 7 13 clear/cloudy
Wuhan 0 12 clear
Hangzhou 5 13 clear/cloudy
Taipei 18 21 drizzle
Guangzhou 13 19 cloudy
Hong Kong 17 21 cloudy

WORLD

Moscow 0 2 drizzle
Frankfurt 2 10 cloudy/clear
Paris 6 10 clear/drizzle
London 10 13 drizzle
New York 3 9 cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Start of something small?; 5- Attic; 9- Air pollution; 14- Astronaut Shepard; 15- On \_\_\_ with; 16- Try to pick up; 17- Spanish muralist; 18- Like candles; 19- Combined; 20- Foul-smelling, poisonous oil; 22- Having the form of a ring; 24- Driving aids; 25- Verdi opera; 26- Mend; 29- Fortuneteller's deck; 31- Young salmon; 32- Department store department; 33- Used to be; 36- Bordeaux, e.g.; 37- Longed for; 40- Dada pioneer; 41- Thickness; 42- Uncommon; 43- Minneapolis suburb; 45- Smell, usually a pleasant one; 47- Speaks publicly; 48- Climbed; 51- Spheres; 52- U.S. Army officer; 54- Whenever; 58- Make \_\_\_ for oneself; 59- Neighbor of Sask.; 61- Mil. school; 62- Joltin' Joe; 63- Nair competitor; 64- Tear; 65- Cross the goal line; 66- Bern's river; 67- Bond classic;

DOWN: 1- Not fem.; 2- Intestinal sections; 3- Pusher pursuer; 4- All told; 5- Barrister; 6- October birthstones; 7- Office transmission; 8- \_\_\_ Little Tenderness; 9- Religion of Japan; 10- French dance; 11- Wake Island, e.g.; 12- Delineated by area; 13- January, in Juarez; 21- Divinity; 23- Like Thor; 26- Invitation request; 27- Pianist Gilels; 28- Small horse; 29- Earth; 30- Singer Murray; 32- Polite address; 33- Hold on!; 34- "Judith" composer; 35- Health resorts; 38- Wear down, physically or emotionally; 39- Bowler hat; 44- Sneaking coward; 45- Baseball's Roberto; 46- Go back on one's word; 47- Elaborately adorned; 48- Oodles; 49- Funnel-shaped; 50- 1836 siege site; 51- Horse opera; 53- Actress Turner; 55- Bakery worker; 56- Jazz flutist Herbie; 57- Other name for taro; 60- Grazing spot;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



FOR SALE www.JMLProperty.com
FOR RENT More info, please contact us Info@JMLproperty.com (853) 2835 2699 Office

Real estate listings for Wai Son Macau, Roof Top Apartment, H Unit in Gladiolus Court, Meng FUNG St Paul Macau, Ieng Kok, Unit A, Car Park Space, Houston Court, Coloane Village, and Manhattan F Unit.

JML property logo and '卓雅物業' text.



**HONDA**  
The Power of Dreams

# 穩健·從容 Rest assured

坐擁185匹馬力，配合7前速軔環+/-撥片，造就13.7km/L高性能油耗。配備原廠360°全景泊車影像系統及先進智能自動泊車輔助系統。同級最低300mm低地台，小朋友及長者亦能「一步到位」。  
185 ps and 7-speed +/- CVT transmission seal, reduce the fuel consumption by 22.3% to 13.7km/L. Monitored by the omniscient 360° multi-view camera system and Smart Parking Assist System. The 300mm ultra low platform design provide convenience for kids and elderly.

## The All New **ODYSSEY**



Photos shown here may be different from Macau specifications.

新康明集團有限公司屬下本田澳門代理  
**新康明汽車有限公司**  
XIN KANG MING MOTORS LTD.

陳列室：澳門漁翁街354-408號南豐工業大廈地C-D舖  
Rua Dos Pescadores, No. 354-408, R/C. C-D, Macau

**Enquiry: 2883 5678**



Honda Macau





opinion

Extra Time

Tales Azzoni, AP Sports Writer

**COPA DEL REY MISTAKE EXPOSES A FRAGILE REAL MADRID**

The team that calls itself the best in the world is entangled in an ordeal that only amateur clubs are used to dealing with. Real Madrid inexplicably fielded an ineligible player in a Copa del Rey match last week, prompting its embarrassing elimination from the competition. To make it worse, the club is defiantly trying to shift blame and avoid punishment on a technicality.

The mistake and the attempt to dodge responsibility dents Madrid's grandiose reputation, and exposes the fragility of the Spanish giant. It further deepens the crisis sparked by a demoralizing 4-0 home loss to rival Barcelona two weeks ago, and raises questions about the future of its leaders.

Fans have had enough and are not being easily satisfied by wins on the field. The calls for the resignation of coach Rafa Benitez and president Florentino Perez have become a constant at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The team's disqualification from the Copa del Rey because of a bureaucratic misstep is proving to be too much to the team's demanding supporters. And although some might be happy that the club is doing everything it can to get reinstated, the attempt is seen by the rest of the soccer world as an act of desperation.

The Copa del Rey game against Cadiz wasn't even over when the shocking news of Madrid's mistake began spreading across Spain: The team fielded Russian-born player Denis Cheryshev, who was carrying over a one-game suspension from last season for accumulation of yellow cards while playing on loan for Villarreal.

Social media exploded with users talking about the potential problem, and the mistake quickly became the focus of Spanish media covering the game. Cheryshev had already scored Madrid's first goal in the 3-1 victory, and was substituted early in the second half, apparently after team officials realized the problem.

For the second time in less than a month, president Perez was forced to come out and speak publicly about a difficult situation involving his team. He had already done it to display his support to coach Benitez after the humiliating home loss to Barcelona.

But instead of trying to explain how a team as powerful and wealthy as Madrid didn't notice that Cheryshev was suspended, Perez stood tall in front of reporters and said that his team did nothing wrong and shouldn't be punished. He said the club would appeal and explore "every avenue" to reverse the Spanish federation's decision.

"We believe that the ban should not take effect because the player was not personally notified, which is what the code says," Perez said. "Quite honestly, if we were not told by the player, who is the individual who needs to know about it, if we were not told by either the federation or Villarreal, who are aware of it, it was impossible for us to know about it."

So, basically, it was everybody else's fault for not telling the almighty club that Cheryshev was ineligible.

Perez also briefly mentioned a by-law which allowed for an interpretation that the player's previous bookings should have been voided at the start of this round in the competition, but the focus was clearly on the fact that Cheryshev allegedly was not notified.

So, apparently, it wasn't his staff who should've checked the players' eligibility, it was somebody else's mistake that hurt his team.

The federation disputed Madrid's claim, saying that "there is no doubt that the player was notified in person and that the imposition of a one-match suspension derived from an accumulation of yellow cards was published."

Perez had already faced an embarrassing bureaucratic oversight earlier this year, when a late fax ruined Madrid's attempt to secure the transfer of Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea at the end of the summer transfer market.

Real Madrid remained optimistic it would be restored in the Copa del Rey and continued selling tickets for the return match at the Bernabeu on Dec. 16.

If the appeal does work, it could take some pressure off Perez, at least momentarily. But it wouldn't change the fact that Madrid made a mistake uncharacteristic of a team of its significance.

When it claims the right to call itself the best team in the world, it also needs to know that it has the responsibility to act accordingly.

It means it needs to take responsibility for its mistakes instead of trying to blame others when things go wrong.

FOOTBALL

**English clubs hope to avoid more Champions League ignominy**

Steve Douglas, AP Sports Writer

Wednesday, 3:45am  
Wolfsburg v Man Utd  
H 2.4, D 3.46, A 3.25

**E**NGLISH soccer went through a period of introspection last season after the Premier League failed to have a representative in the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

A year on and things could get even more embarrassing for the world's richest and most popular league.

Heading into the final round of the group stage this week, only one English team — Manchester City — has already qualified for the knockout stage and the other three are far from sure of joining them.

Manchester United may have to win away in Wolfsburg today (tomorrow, 3:45am) to advance from Group B. Injury-hit Arsenal has to beat Olympiakos away, potentially by a two-goal margin, to squeeze out of Group F tomorrow (Thursday, 3:45am). And Chelsea still needs a point at home to FC Porto to progress from Group G.

It is a far cry from just six years ago, when England provided three semifinalists in the Champions League club for the third straight season.

Nowadays, the Premier League's so-called giants are trailing in the wake of Barcelona, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and others, despite having more money to spend than ever because of lucrative domestic and international television deals.

Barcelona, Madrid, Bayern and City are among the nine teams already into the last 16 with one game left. Paris Saint-Germain, Atletico Madrid, Benfica, Juventus, Zenit St. Petersburg are also through.

It means seven places are still up for grabs, with 13 teams in the running.

**INJURY WORRIES**

Arsenal and Man United have major injury concerns for their biggest matches of the season.

Santi Cazorla and Alexis Sanchez are the latest names on Arsenal's lengthy injury list that is mostly affecting manager Arsene Wenger's midfield.

Olympiakos won 3-2 at Emirates Stadium so Arsenal must win 2-0 — or 3-2 or above — in Greece to overtake Olympiakos on head-



Real's Cristiano Ronaldo gestures to Dortmund supporters after scoring during the Champions League Group D

to-head. A 3-2 win would be good enough for Arsenal to go through on overall goal difference and advance from the group stage for a 16th straight season

Captain Wayne Rooney was ruled out of the United's trip to Wolfsburg, leaving United with just one available striker in Anthony Martial. If PSV Eindhoven wins at home to CSKA Moscow, United has to beat Wolfsburg.

**NO BOYCOTT PLEASE**

Roma coach Rudi Garcia has urged the team's fans to put their protests to one side to help the capital side progress to the Champions League knockout stages.

Roma's hard-core fans have boycotted several matches at the Stadio Olimpico, including the derby against Lazio, in protest at new security measures which have split the 'curse' — the ends of the stadium where the ultras sit.

Victory against BATE Borisov would secure second spot in Group E, while a draw would be enough provided Bayer Leverkusen do not win at Barcelona.

"We are stronger with a full stadium, when the fans encourage the team and help it surpass its limits, also putting pressure on the opponents and the referee," Garcia said. "The Olimpico is not the same anymore and that is something very sad, I really wish the fans will help us Wednesday."

Garcia will also be hoping Gervinho recovers in time. The forward limped off 25 minutes into his comeback in Saturday's 1-1 draw at Torino — Roma's fourth match without a win.

That run includes an embarrassing 6-1 loss to Barcelona in the Champions League.

**NEVILLE'S DEBUT**

Gary Neville will make his head coaching debut in a pressure-packed setting at Valencia's Mestalla Stadium on Wednesday.

The former Manchester United and England defender takes over with Valencia needing to beat Lyon, and hope for some help to keep alive its chances of advancing.

Valencia is third in Group H with six points and is trying to overtake Ghent in second with seven.

Ghent hosts group winner Zenit St. Petersburg, which has won all five group games, meaning Neville's team is rooting for the Russian side.

Valencia will be trying to give Spain four teams in the round of 16 after defending champion Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid already secured their berths.

**WOUNDED WOLFSBURG**

Wolfsburg's 29-game unbeaten run at home came to an end Saturday when Shinji Kagawa scored Borussia Dortmund's winner in the 93rd minute, two minutes after Ricardo Rodriguez had equalized.

"It's very annoying," said coach Dieter Hecking, whose side is out to repair damaged pride against Manchester United.

A draw against Louis van Gaal's side today (tomorrow, 3:45am) will be enough for Wolfsburg to progress beyond the group stage for the first time, and a win would secure first place in Group B.

United is a point behind Wolfsburg and needs a win to guarantee progression to the round of 16, or a favor from CSKA Moscow at PSV Eindhoven in the other group game. A draw would be enough if PSV also fails to win. AP / Oddschecker.com



opinion

**Artifacts**

Vanessa Moore



**COAL LUMPS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Now it's December, the fairy lights are up in Senado Square and you can almost taste Christmas in the air. Well not quite. Macau's winter breezes generally smell more like the noxious scent of car exhausts rather than the crisp winter fragrance of pine trees or gingerbread. But if you happened to be in Beijing yesterday or anytime last week then you'd probably have tasted something more akin to coal (through the filter of your obligatory air mask, naturally). The Chinese capital has suffered from grim air pollution for many years now, but the timing of this latest 'air-pocalypse' has been pretty apt. Beijing's December 1st pollution cloud hit exactly the same day that president Xi Jinping arrived in Paris for the start of the UN climate summit. And even more ironically, this time the heavy haze has affected 500,000 square-kilometres, an area nearly the size of France.

For the first time this year, yesterday Beijing authorities issued a red pollution alert - the most serious warning on a four-tier system. While world leaders and negotiators are now frantically trying to use the last remaining days of the Paris talks to hammer out a deal to help clear the air of pollutants that cause global warming, Beijing is the embarrassing poster child of what not to do. Readings of harmful PM2.5 particles hit 300 micrograms per cubic meter compared with the WHO's safe level of 25, the Associated Press reported yesterday. After its 2009 spoiler, China officially has a new status as a major pollution player. Now not only the world's second largest economy, the People's Republic (or should that be Pollution Republic?) is also the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Consequently, this time around, domestic pollution problems have unquestionably contributed to public pressure to take environmental issues seriously. Earlier this year "The Dome", a film about air pollution by a former Chinese state TV host, garnered more than 100 million views online before it was removed. And now, so bad is Beijing's haze cloud that last week a performance artist even went so far as to use a vacuum cleaner to suck up the smoggy particles to make a brick of condensed pollution.

But how do we know that Xi et al really care about China's dirty air problem? This year's APEC summit in the Chinese capital was somewhat of a turning point. Factories were shut down, cars ordered off the roads and people told not to go to work. The consequent blue skies (dubbed APEC blue) proved to people what Beijing's sky should really look like while sparing the leadership the international embarrassment of airing its dirty laundry in public. Likewise, yesterday's red pollution alert may also be a sign local authorities are finally waking up and taking the smog seriously. "The red alert shows the local government has stepped up efforts to protect citizens from pollution," said Dong Liansai, a climate and energy campaigner at Greenpeace East Asia, as quoted by Bloomberg yesterday. "It's probably because of pressure from the central government."

With the whole world knowing that China's pollution is as bad as it is, the risk of losing face internationally may be a powerful motivation to spur policy adjustment. Leadership pressure combined with the opportune timing brought about by events in Paris could well herald a change in attitude.

But while many mainlanders hope for cleaner air and better environmental conditions, things will only improve when the government ditches the coal and gets serious about the clean-up. Most of Beijing's smog comes from coal-fired power plants alongside car exhausts and factories. The Party has already tightened emissions standards by investing in solar, wind and other renewable energy. But this is only a negligible figure and China still depends on coal for more than 60 per cent of its power. According to Greenpeace, local authorities are reported to have approved the construction of more than 150 new coal-fired power stations in the first nine months of this year alone. That doesn't look conducive to lowering emissions.

Getting back to Christmas, in the yuletide stories of old, Santa Claus would only bring good children presents while the bad kids would get a lump of coal. Until China's leaders start weaning themselves off the black stuff, Beijingers are undoubtedly set for another soot-covered new year.

**THE BUZZ** AMERICAN LAWYER LENARD TO HEAD ARBITRATION PANEL AT OLYMPICS

American lawyer Michael Lenard will head the arbitration panel that will hear any legal disputes at next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport announced yesterday that Lenard will lead the 14-person tribunal that will rule on disputes involving doping, eligibility and other issues.

Lenard, a former Olympic handball player, is

a vice president of the International Court of Arbitration for Sport. He is also a former senior official of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

CAS, which has operated a special panel at each Olympics since 1996, says the tribunal "will provide participants in the Rio 2016 Games with free access to justice rendered within a timeframe consistent with the competition schedule."

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**USA** A recent MRI showing no cancer on Jimmy Carter's brain is "very positive" news for the former U.S. president but will not end his medical treatment, doctors said. Carter, 91, announced Sunday that doctors found no evidence of the four lesions discovered on his brain this summer and no signs of new cancer growth.

**UK** It's become the rallying cry of many who want the Muslim faith to be separated from the violence some commit in its name: "You ain't no Muslim, bruv." The comment, heard in the background of a bystander's video following a stabbing at a London Underground station that prosecutors say was a terrorist act, has touched a nerve in Britain and become a trending hashtag on Twitter. Even Prime Minister David Cameron embraced it as a slogan.



**FRANCE** India's environment minister is hinting that the country might contribute to a global climate donor fund - as long as richer countries fulfill their commitments first. The U.S. and other countries have collectively pledged to scale up climate financing to developing countries to USD100 billion annually by 2020 to help them adapt to climate change and reduce their emissions. That "should come first, because that will give us the confidence," Prakash Javadekar said at the Paris climate talks yesterday. "Everything cannot be resolved here in Paris, let us leave something for future" climate meetings.



A local resident walks across a flooded street in in Carlisle

**UK leader visits flood-hit England, Scotland**

**BRITISH** Prime Minister David Cameron visited a swath of northwest England inundated by floods, as rescuers pulled people from waterlogged homes after record rainfall led to at least one death and swamped some 3,500 properties.

The visit comes amid criticism that 45 million pounds spent on flood defenses after major floods in 2005 failed to hold back the deluge in Cumbria, the hardest-hit county. The area got a month's worth of rainfall in a day - about 34 centimeters.

Visiting a flooded home in the city of Carlisle, Cameron called the damage "horrific" and vowed to review flood defenses.

Environment Secretary

Liz Truss said that in the worst-hit towns and cities, water levels were half a meter higher than during the 2005 floods.

She said extreme weather events like the weekend deluge were "consistent with the trends we're seeing in terms of climate change."

While local leaders demanded an investigation, Floods Minister Rory Stewart defended the government, arguing that defenses had slowed down the water to allow more time for evacuations.

"When you face, as we have now, probably the highest rainfall we have ever had in the United Kingdom, it is going to come over the top of defenses," he said. "But what the defenses do do is they slow it down. It gives

us more time, it's given people here more time to evacuate safely and it's meant that there's less water on the streets than there would have been if we hadn't had that defense in place."

The military has been called in, and has been helping evacuate people from their homes. Some 55,000 people were left without power, 40 schools were closed yesterday and a main rail line between England and Scotland is likely to remain shut until at least tomorrow.

The same deluge battered southern Norway, causing floods, damaging property and closing roads. Iris Straume from the Norwegian Meteorological Institute said it was "the worst storm in 150 years." AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Xinhua/Zhu Jichai



Researchers board China's first polar airplane "Snow Eagle 601" for a trial flight at the Zhongshan Station, a Chinese scientific research base in Antarctica, yesterday