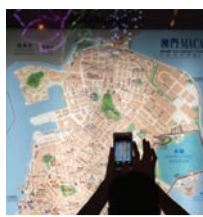




### POLYTEC UNINTERESTED IN FUTURE TENDER

The Pearl Horizon developer expressed reluctance to join a future public tender to redevelop the controversial land

P2



### MACAU RANKS 2ND FOR TOURISTIC APPEAL

The city's touristic attractions fare well in the latest China Institute of City Competitiveness rankings

P6



### BEIJING'S DAY 2 OF RED ALERT

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## WORLD BRIEFS



**GERMAN** Chancellor Angela Merkel has been named Time's Person of the Year, praised yesterday by the magazine for her leadership on everything from Syrian refugees to the Greek debt crisis. Time also cited Merkel's strong response to "Vladimir Putin's creeping theft of Ukraine" and on its cover called her "Chancellor of the Free World."

**INDONESIA** Millions of Indonesians vote in nationwide elections for regional leaders in the sprawling archipelago.

**INDONESIA** A strong earthquake strikes off the coast of eastern Indonesia, but officials say there is no threat of a tsunami.



**AFGHANISTAN** A Taliban assault on an airport in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar that has been underway for nearly 24 hours has killed 37 people, the Defense Ministry said yesterday. A ministry statement said the assault, which began on Tuesday, also left 35 people wounded. It said nine attackers have been killed and one wounded. By yesterday evening, one remaining attacker was still battling security forces, the statement said.

**PAKISTAN** Representatives of over two dozen countries are gathering in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad to seek joint efforts to bring peace to war-torn Afghanistan.

More on backpage

## CANIDROME

# Chief vet reveals importing of dogs in 'death trade'

P5



LRT

## Depot delay will cost Macau MOP700 million

P3 POLICY ADDRESS



# Polytec Asset declines offer to join redevelopment tender

**T**he property developer of the maligned Pearl Horizon residential project expressed his reluctance to join a future public tender to redevelop the land.

After the authorities clarified that the group's land use concession would lapse later this month and that they would launch a new tender, Polytec Asset's chairman Or Wai Sheun told the Chinese broadcast

media outlet MASTV that he most likely would not get involved.

"Who knows who will be granted the land in the next tender?" questioned Or. "We dare not take the risk to get it back, as no one knows what the outcome will be."

The land was initially granted to the Hong Kong-based property company 25 years ago, which used it to erect a textile factory. The usa-



The Pearl Horizon construction site

ge was changed in 2006 to be devoted to residential development, Or explained.

Or Wai Sheun claimed the subsequent nine years were not sufficient enough for him to implement the renewed construction plan as he had yet to receive the green light on the architectural plans in the first seven years.

On Tuesday afternoon, scores of pre-sale property owners stormed to the company's office demanding an official response to their advance purchase as most flat buyers have been left in limbo. It was said that a meeting between both sides would be scheduled for Friday. **AU**

# Airport expects 5 pct rise in passengers this year

**M**ACAU International Airport (MIA) is expecting to see a five percent increase in passenger movements this year, according to its marketing director, Eric Fong Hio Kin.

Fong made the remarks on the sidelines of an awards ceremony for a micro-film competition in celebration of the airport's 20th anniversary. He said that the terminal has estimated catering for approximately 5.7 million passengers this year, signaling an approximate five percent increase from the year before. He added that the number of aircraft movements was expected to see a six percent rise as well.

Fong also said that South Korea's Jeju Air was slated to commence operating flights to Macau on Monday.

Meanwhile, the winners of the micro-film competition,

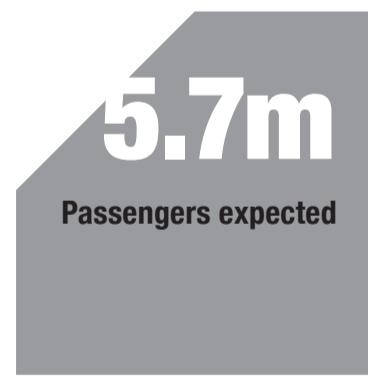


co-organized by the airport and public broadcaster TDM, received their prizes during the awards ceremony held at the airport. The winner received MOP30,000, while the recipients of the second and third prizes were awarded MOP20,000 and MOP10,000 respectively.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Wong Seng Iun, who won the competition, said

he was able to learn a lot about filmmaking during the competition. He added that he would like to continue making films in Macau but lamented the absence of a local market for filmmakers.

The airport, whose main shareholder is the government, recorded 5.48 million passengers last year. In 1996 - its first full year of operation - it saw 1.3 million passengers. **MDT/Macauhub**



## TOURISM

# Taiwan to celebrate 10 millionth visitor

**A**CCORDING to Taiwan's Tourism Bureau, tourist arrivals in the island are expected to surpass 10 million for the year 2015. This figure will be the highest number of arrivals in the history of the island-state, and will realize a target narrowly missed in 2014, when the bureau recorded 9.91 million visitors.

The news of the approaching milestone comes as visitor arrivals in Taiwan are up 4.67 percent for the first 10 months of 2015, compared with the same period in the previous year.

For the January-October period, around 8.47 million overseas tourists arrived in Taiwan, of which more than 40 percent were from mainland China (3.5 million). The number is expected to climb to 4 million in December.

By the end of the year, tourists from Hong Kong and Macau alone are expected to exceed 1.3 million, while the number from Japan is likely to reach 1.5 million.

The bureau estimates that the 10-millionth visitor will arrive on either December 15 or 16.

However, the Tourism Bureau cautioned that while visitor numbers have risen, overall spending may stagnate due to the depreciating value of the Taiwan dollar against its US counterpart.

Tourist contributions to the Taiwanese economy are expected



Pedestrians walk past market stalls in Taipei, Taiwan

to amount to USD13.62 billion for 2015, according to Central News Agency citing the bureau, marking a significant drop from the figure of USD14.6 billion recorded in 2014.

In addition, the bureau said that a shorter average length of stay and a greater use of independent travel budget could also account for the recession in tourist spending.

Meanwhile, outbound travelers from Taiwan are expected to exceed 13 million by the end of 2015, due to the increasing popularity of overseas travel, and the impact of the decline in value of the Japanese Yen.

# Tourists from HK and Macau alone are expected to exceed 1.3m

## WE CORRECT

In our Monday December 7 edition, there was an error in the page 2 article entitled "DSEJ to develop more vocational education," outlining the second day of Secretary Alexis Tam's sectorial Policy Address debate at the Legislative Assembly on December 4. At the plenary that

day, Dr Tam confirmed that the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) would not be placed under the auspices of the DSEJ. His correct statement on the issue was: "I can guarantee that DSEJ will not merge with GAES." The article was corrected immediately on our website.

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Paulo Barbosa

**G**IVEN the major delays on the construction of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) depot, the government has reached an agreement with Mitsubishi, the manufacturer of the trains. The Japanese company will store and maintain the "Ocean Cruiser" trains, which will run on the LRT railway after its completion. The delay will cost local authorities up to MOP700 million, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário revealed yesterday at the Legislative Assembly, while presenting the Policy Address for the areas under his watch.

The secretary asked the Transportation Infrastructure Office coordinator Ho Cheng Kei to comment further on the case. "The trains are already made and will be kept by the manufacturer, since they can't be shipped to Macau. (...) We have negotiated a deal with Mitsubishi worth MOP700 million that takes into account all the project's delays," Ho said.

Since the contract with the LRT depot builder was recently canceled, works are expected to resume in 2016. This is one of several major infrastructure projects likely to see significant development next year, Mr Rosário said pragmatically. Others include the LRT 9.3 kilometer and 11 stations Taipa section, slated to be concluded before year-end (although the trains will only run in 2019, according to the latest estimate); the public tender for the LRT's Barra station and Taipa's Pac On ferry terminal, which will be fully working by the second semester of next year. Also in 2016, he expects to see 700 public housing units concluded, launch works on the future Macau Prison, and start working on the fourth link between Macau and Taipa. As the Chief Executive Chui Sai On announced previously, that link will be via a bridge, since the possibility of building a tunnel was discarded.

The need to introduce measures that promote public transportation was one of the most discussed topics at the AL, with several lawmakers addressing questions related to the region's well-known traffic woes. "Only with an efficient public transportation system will it be possible to attract more users," said Au Kam San.

Mr Rosário noted that cur-



Raimundo do Rosário (center)

## 2016 POLICY ADDRESS

# Mitsubishi gets MOP700m to maintain LRT trains in Japan

rently there are "129,000 motorbikes and 119,000 cars running in Macau," adding that the figure indicates that the roads are clogged by traffic.

**“We don't have land available to build public housing units.”**

RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO

"The local road system capacity and the environmental impact of such traffic are factors that must be assessed. The transportation system must be used rationally," he said.

One of the attempts to achieve that goal is a dedicated corridor for buses stretching from Lam

Mau Dock to Barra. It is also probable that owning a vehicle in Macau will become more expensive, with more inspections and costlier parking.

Regarding the recovery of unused land lots, the secretary said that the priority would be to build public housing units there, "whenever it is possible." However, he acknowledged that there is strong litigation whenever an attempt is made to recover idle land, including appeals and rulings suspended for a period defined by the court. To give an example, he said that from the 22 plots recently recovered there is only one case where the owner issued a letter accepting the government's action, although pledging to seek compensation in court.

Mr Rosário also confirmed that the government is studying a new housing scheme to cater for the needs of residents who are unable to buy residential properties here and can't apply for affordable housing (given that they have incomes above the cap to apply). A decision on the feasibility of such a plan will be taken in 2016, but he didn't give many details on it. Earlier, Chui Sai On said at the AL that the plan's beneficiaries could be the younger generations. According to the Secretary, the major hurdle to overcome befo-

## 'LET'S FIRSTLY DO WHAT WE DECIDED TO DO'

**THE SECRETARY** seemed surprised by Chui Sai Peng's suggestion of building a fifth link between Macau and Taipa. "We don't even have the fourth link built!" Rosário replied. "Let's firstly do what we decided to do."

re creating new housing schemes is the lack of land: "At this moment, we don't have land available to build public housing units," he revealed.

Regarding the Pearl Horizon

**“Only with an efficient public transportation system will it be possible to attract more users.”**

AU KAM SAN

case, which has recently been making the headlines, several lawmakers had comments and hints to make. "The [Pearl Horizon] concessionaire alleges that there were delays in the project assessment and approval [that

led to its stalling] (...) Each case must be assessed on a singular basis and there shouldn't be a one measure fits all procedure," said Angela Leong, suggesting that a solution similar to the LRT depot (an extra judicial agreement) could be reached in the Pearl Horizon case.

Mak Soi Kun proposed the creation of a "transitory measure" to regulate the Land Law and avoid cases like Pearl Horizon, that left many pre-sale buyers fearing for the investment they made in installments to pay for homes that - everything indicates - are not going to be built.

Raimundo do Rosário acknowledged that the "new Land Law is regulating old issues", but added that he had no alternative but to uphold it: "I'm not proposing to change the Land Law, since I don't have that competence. If someone else takes that step, it can be done. But according to the Land Law there is no alternative solution that isn't litigious in cases when the land concession expires."

## BASIC CHANNELS ON THE MOVE

**LAWMAKER CHAN** Hong questioned Basic Television Channels Limited, a company set to be absorbed by TDM, which will be responsible for re-transmitting the 49 channel package: "Will the number of channels be increased?" she asked. Derby Lau, the director

of the Macau Post (which owns 25 percent of the basic channel company) said that the addition of other channels would "depend on the population's needs". "But to add more channels to the basic package may have consequences for Cable TV survival," she added.



# Law guiding family policies kept unchanged

Aries Un

**T**HE Social Services Committee recognized the necessity to further promote the principles outlined in the regulation framing family-related policies instead of the need to update it, as previously urged for by some organizations and lawmakers.

The law, which was introduced in 1994, stipulates the basis for family-oriented policymaking. However, it became controversial in recent years as it was regarded as obsolete and unresponsive to the current landscape, amid widespread calls for it to be improved.

Half a year ago, another concern group composed of representatives from government agencies and civil groups came together to review the provisions and possible loopholes.

However, after the committee's third plenary meeting yesterday afternoon, Au Chi



IAS department head Au Chi Keung

Keung, an official who heads the Social Welfare Bureau's Family and Community Service Department, told media that the law would remain unaltered after deliberation.

"If we figure the principles and spirit in the law are not commensurate with current situations, then revision is necessary," said the department head, hinting that the provision was still up to date.

In addition, Au said that it was more vital to promote the meaning behind what he described as a constitutional law akin to the Basic Law to the public.

Before the anti-domestic violence act passes into law - most likely next year - the official stressed that their precaution efforts to prevent violence and crisis in families have been ongoing.

The authorities' third-year blueprint, whose framework was created as early as 2011 after a study carried out by a Hong Kong university, has been in operation since last year. It offers three major scales based on which social workers respond to family issues and violence accordingly.

"Although no obvious violent behavior occurs in a family, if

there are potentials identified," detailed Au, "our service strategies [will] serve to prevent violence at the first level."

Furthermore, the official also said that citizens could seek help from the social authorities via a hotline "as long as he or she felt potentially threatened." The authorities would then decide if immediate deployment of their social workers is necessary.

In another scenario, under a cooperation mechanism with the police, their social workers would automatically be alerted and respond immediately if the police were called to cases involving family conflicts.

If the case was found to be life-threatening, the authorities would reach out to the victim irrespective of the latter's will, Au said.

From the start of the year up until now, the authorities have recorded a total of 175 assistance-seeking cases, close to 100 of which required immediate contact with victims.

# Woman faces jail for insulting police

**A** local court ruled that a woman - surnamed Kam - who insulted two policemen will either serve a year in jail or pay MOP14,000 in compensation to the officers.

Kam had posted a video in which she verbally abused two policemen, which went viral after it was uploaded to a public Facebook page.

The footage shows officers issuing a parking ticket to the woman's husband after he was found to have illegally parked outside the Holiday Inn Macau in July 2013.

Kam, who later deleted the post and apologized, criticized the officers in the footage and used offensive language in the caption of the video. Upon realizing the gravity of her actions, she allegedly urged people not to forward or share the post.

Kam has been sentenced to a year in prison by Judge Mario Augusto Silvestre for unlawful video recording and the use of offensive language. According to the Macau Daily, Silvestre said that Kam's behavior was highly illegal and a serious offense. He added that what Kam said was vulgar and that she ought to bear the consequences of her actions.

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REPORT

# Canidrome chief vet reveals importing of dogs in 'death trade'

A covertly recorded interview with the chief vet of the Canidrome has revealed how Australian greyhounds are being sourced and imported to Macau, in what ABC has termed a "death trade" in the latest of a series of investigations aired through the broadcaster's news program entitled "The 7:30 Report".

After being deemed uncompetitive on Australia's racing tracks, the greyhounds are exported to places in Southeast Asia, such as Macau, where they are housed in unsanitary conditions until they are unable to compete.

"In Australia [your dogs] don't run quickly enough and you can't keep feed[ing] them, so you sell those dogs through those brokers [sic]," said the Canidrome's chief vet, Wu Sung Hu.

The greyhounds are flown to Hong Kong and then



Entrance of the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Club

ferried to Macau, where they are locked inside the Canidrome facility. "We have four suppliers from Australia and we buy the dogs from them monthly," Wu told the undercover reporters working for ABC, Australia's public broadcaster.

In April, animal rights activists in Macau exposed the killing of more than 30 under-performing dogs each month at the Canidrome, where as many as 800 canines are housed. Now according to the re-

port, many of these dogs are euthanized due to injuries sustained on a racing track that is considered "too hard."

The exposé interviewed the campaign director of Animals Australia in Macau, China and Vietnam, Lyn White, who described the conditions endured by greyhounds as "awful" and "prison-like."

"For those dogs, it's a death sentence; it's a straight-out death sentence," White told the 7:30 Report investigators, describing

the regular practice of euthanizing greyhounds. "[It] is like being exported to another country and being put on death row," she added.

Meanwhile, the Canidrome's adoption program for unwanted dogs has come under criticism again from Albano Martins of Anima, the animal welfare group.

"They [Australian authorities] know that one dog is killed per day on average, only because the animals are not competitive," Martins said, before adding that the adoption program had been unable "to put more than four animals [up] for adoption."

Once the Australian greyhounds are transported to Macau, they are not protected by any animal welfare laws. The situation has prompted activists in Macau and Australia to urge authorities to cease the export of Australian dogs to the MSAR. **Staff reporter**

## Trade unions form gaming federation

A new federation has been established by three gaming trade unions; namely the Gaming Employees Advancement Association, the New Gaming Employees Advancement Association and the Sands Venetian Employees Union. The federation, called "Macau Positive Energy," aims to provide assistance to gaming employees in Macau who are struggling financially, by using a charitable fund. The head of the Gaming Employees' Advancement Association, Chan Chi Kin, earlier this week called for a pay rise of "no less than 2.5 percent for workers," and for operators to pay holiday bonuses to help "relieve gaming employees' financial pressures."

## Steve Wynn raises stake to 10 pct

Shares in Wynn Resorts jumped by 9.6 percent outside trading hours after CEO Steve Wynn's announcement late on Tuesday that he had made a personal purchase of one million shares; this raises his total stake in the company to more than 10 percent. Steve Wynn will now control 11.1 million shares, while Wynn Resorts will have 102 million shares outstanding. The casino operator has been hit hard by the VIP gaming slump, resulting in a reduction of its stock by 57 percent this year. In comparison, Las Vegas Sands was down 24 percent and Melco Crown saw its stock decreasing by 36 percent over the same period. Wynn shares fell 4.3 percent during market hours - closing at USD61.80 on Tuesday - only to increase by almost 10 percent in after-hours trading.



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## One-stop clearance for Macau-Hengqin car transit

**T**HE director-general of the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee, Niu Jing, has confirmed that cars from Macau could soon access the island, as Hengqin prepares to trial a one-stop customs clearance policy.

"We hope to announce as early as possible the measures for vehicles with a single license permit to enter and exit Hengqin and the date for the implementation of these measures" said the director-general.

The announcement comes soon after the introduction of ten new measures to stimulate economic cooperation between Hengqin and the SAR. While one measure seeks to stimulate cooperation through permitting car transit to and on the island, another one will help promote investment through Macau and Hong Kong-based companies.

According to Niu, the successful implementation of the measure will mean that Hengqin Island will be able to cooperate



Niu Jing

with Macau Customs, holding only one inspection before transit clearance.

Reducing border checks to a single inspection could help to avoid 'bottlenecks' at the crossing, Niu said earlier this year when investigating a clearance arrangement for transit between Macau and

Hengqin.

"If the cars will just jam up at the border port, what's the point of offering them entry?" he asked on the sidelines of a policy-briefing seminar in May.

Meanwhile, authorities from Zhuhai stressed the need for special measures to connect the city to Hong Kong and Macau.

"It highlights the intensive economic cooperation with Hong Kong and Macau. In comparison with the Shanghai special zone, as well as the free trade zones of Fujian and Guangdong, we structurally set the measures, particularly for connecting with Hong Kong and Macau. This is a unique feature of the existing free trade zone measures," said Wang Zhibin, director of Zhuhai's Legislative Affairs Bureau, cited by TDM.

In December 2014, a 24-hour customs service was implemented at the Lotus Bridge, connecting Macau with Hengqin. The crossing had previously only been open between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

## MSAR almost tops Chinese city rankings for touristic appeal

**M**ACAU was ranked fourteenth in the latest league table established by the China Institute of City Competitiveness in terms of its overall competitiveness compared to other Chinese cities. This year, the region's spot fell two places below last year's.

The institute released the new rankings yesterday, placing Shanghai and Hong Kong in the first two places, followed by Shenzhen, Beijing and Guangzhou. However, the region's distinctive travel features placed it second in another ranking on travel features.

Additionally, the MSAR also came third in another table for its efforts to safeguard and preserve cultural legacy.

However, the territory once again failed to reach the top 30 cities in terms of exploiting potential for sustainability. Nevertheless Macau came



sixth in terms of domestic security, a factor that gives reassurance to investors.

Founded in 1998 in Hong Kong, the Institute of City Competitiveness assesses 289 Chinese cities. It began releasing rankings annually four years later with overseas and domestic scholars allegedly engaged in evaluations. The rankings were conducted using a system called the GN indicator system created by the group itself. **AU**

## New Macau to march for universal suffrage

**T**HE New Macau Association urged for participation in its annual demonstration on December 20, the day of Macau's return to China.

The march, endeavors to ensure that the region's leader is elected democratically. Other demands include a thorough inquiry into the alleged suicide of the Macau Customs chief, the introduction of more public housing, and the imposition of a cap on the spending on the Light Rail Transit project, declared the association's incumbent president, Chiang Meng Hin at a media briefing yesterday.

Since 2007, the group, formerly led by outspoken lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong

and Au Kam San, has been mobilizing citizens to take part in its democracy-themed march held on the same day every year. Last year, the march attracted a relatively small turnout of just over one hundred participants. Chiang told media that he did not care about the number of marchers this year, as he believes that it takes time to realize democracy.

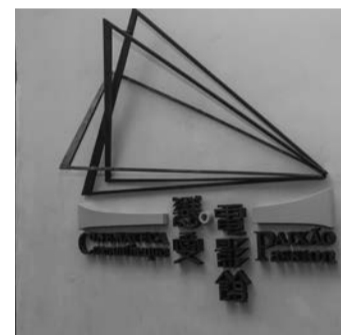
The parade is expected to make its way from the Iao Hon Garden at three o'clock in the afternoon to government headquarters. The group also said it would approach neighborhoods to develop an understanding of citizens' demands before the march took place. **AU**

## Local and HK directors discuss film art in seminar

**C**INEMATHEQUE Pas-sion will host a seminar titled "Film Arts - Theory and Application", where local director Chan Ka Keong and Alex Mok, vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Film Arts Association, will share ideas on the theory and application of film art.

Topics for Sunday's discussion will include "The Relationship between Arts and Film Arts", "Self-Positioning of Art Directors in Films", "How do Post-Production Techniques Influence Film Arts Development" and "Case Studies of Film Arts Production."

Chan Ka Keong is the president of Macau's Audiovisual CUT Association and is familiar with media art forms such as film, visual arts and graphic design. His first feature film, "Passing Rain," was selected to feature in the "2013 Su-



pport Programme for the Production of Feature Films."

Mok is an experienced art director for film, and has participated in over 50 works including "2 Young", "Caution", "I Corrupt All Cops", "Cold War" and "The Viral Factor."

The seminar will be held on December 13 at 3 pm. Admission will be free. As seats are limited, interested parties can register in advance via email (info.dpicc@icm.gov.mo). The deadline for registration is today at 12 pm.

### corporate bits

#### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY'S CAIUS CHOIR TO PERFORM AT JOINT BBAM - FMBA EVENT



A Concert of Carols for Advent and Christmas given by the Choir of Gonville & Caius College, visiting from the University of Cambridge, UK, will be held in the foyer of the Grand Coloane Resort at 6pm today. The concert will kick off the joint British Business Association of Macao and France Macau Business Association Christmas Networking Party. Led by Choir Director Dr. Geoffrey Webber, the choir is

one of the United Kingdom's leading collegiate choirs, and students will perform a wide range of sacred and secular choral music from across the ages.

The concert is made possible by the support of principal sponsor HSBC Macau Branch, and of co-sponsors Grand Coloane Resort and CN Concerts.

Following on from the concert, which will last for approximately 45 minutes, up to one hundred members and guests from both business associations will have a chance to enjoy Christmas cocktails and canapés, while reflecting on Macao's business and social highlights over the past year.

#### ETIHAD AIRWAYS' JAMES HOGAN NAMED ONE OF 25 MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS TRAVEL EXECUTIVES



James Hogan, President and CEO of Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has been recognized as one of the 25 most influential business travel executives by Business Travel News (BTN). The 2015 list of industry honorees was announced Tuesday night at The BTN Group's Business Travel Trends & Forecasts conference in New York City. "BTN identified Mr. Hogan early in the year as a person to watch," said Elizabeth West, Business Travel News' Editor-In-Chief. "Completing Etihad's purchase of a 49 per cent stake in Alitalia last December underscored his dedication to a bold equity alliance strategy. This, along with his continued effort to place downward pressure on long-haul airfares, have earned him a spot on our annual list."

James Hogan said: "Etihad Airways and our 27,000 employees worldwide are reinventing the air travel experience, bringing competition, world-class hospitality and revolutionary new products to our guests, while providing access to parts of the world that would otherwise go underserved or unserved."

#### WYNN HOLDS FESTIVE CAROL CONCERT AND CHARITY GIFT DRIVE



The International School of Macau (TIS) Crescendo Choir presented the gift of music at the lobby of Wynn Macau yesterday to kick-start the festivities of the holiday season and to celebrate the success of the Wynn employee (WE) charity gift drive - WE Share. The charity initiative received overwhelming support from Wynn em-

ployees, with more than four hundred gifts collected, which will benefit underprivileged children through the help of Caritas Macau. Mr. Pun Chi Meng, Secretary General of Caritas Macau, attended the event and received the gifts and handmade greeting cards from Mr. Thomas Lau, Wynn Macau's Director of Human Resources.





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**POSTAL** Savings Bank of China Co., which has the most branches of any Chinese lender, raised 45 billion yuan (USD7 billion) selling about 17 percent of itself in what it called the biggest private fundraising ever undertaken in the nation's financial industry.

The stake sale ahead of a planned initial public offering by the Chinese lender lured 10 firms including UBS Group AG, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Temasek Holdings Pte, Postal Savings Bank said in a statement yesterday. Canada Pension invested 3.2 billion yuan, it said in a separate statement.

Postal Savings Bank, an arm of state-owned China Post Group Co., is raising capital at a time when Chinese lenders are feeling the squeeze of shrinking profit margins and rising defaults in a slowing economy. Figures from the banking regulator show that the postal bank's bad-debt ratio at the end of 2014 was lower than any of the listed lenders in China, where troubled loans had risen to more than \$620 billion by September.

"In the downward economic cycle we're in, the bank's asset quality risk is the lowest," which is among factors that make it attractive to investors, Yuan

# China's Postal Bank raises USD7b from stake sale



Lin, a Beijing-based analyst at BOC International Holdings Ltd., said by phone. "People are optimistic about its future."

JPMorgan Chase & Co., DBS Group Holdings Ltd. and the World Bank's private investment arm, International Finance Corp., were among the other investors that bought shares in the placement. China Life Insurance Co., Tencent Holdings Ltd., China Telecommunica-

tions Corp. and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s finance affiliate, Zhejiang Ant Small & Micro Financial Services Group Co., also participated.

Postal Savings Bank wants to work with some of its investors to help it build out businesses including investment banking, wealth management and micro-finance, people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg in September. The lender

had 500 million customers and more than 40,000 outlets nationwide, according to figures provided by JPMorgan in a separate statement.

The U.S. bank will provide "support and expertise to PSBC as it invests in and introduces new distribution capabilities while further strengthening its risk-management processes," JPMorgan said. Ant Financial's partnership with Postal Savings

Bank will explore opportunities for rural finance, the Alibaba affiliate said in a press release.

Canada Pension viewed its investment as a chance to benefit from rising consumption in China, Chief Executive Officer Mark Wiseman said in his firm's statement.

Postal Savings Bank had about 6.8 trillion yuan of assets at the end of September, according to the statement. That would make it the nation's sixth-largest bank, after Bank of Communications Co.

The lender's capital adequacy ratio was 9.56 percent as of last December, according to its 2014 annual report. The China Banking Regulatory Commission requires non-systemically important banks to have a minimum ratio of 10.5 percent by the end of 2018. Its bad-loan ratio stood at 0.64 percent at the end of 2014, lower than any of China's listed banks and the sector average of 1.59 percent as of the end of September, CBRC data show. **Bloomberg**

AD

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GUINEA-BISSAU

# Economy expected to grow 4.8 pct

**GUINEA-BISSAU** will end 2015 with economic growth of 4.8 percent, the head of the evaluation mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday in Bissau.

Felix Fischer, who heads an IMF mission that has been in the country since 2 December, said growth could have surpassed this figure if not for the crisis caused by the resignation of Domingos Simões Pereira's government last August.

However, he stressed, its impact did not harm the country much because it lasted only two months, so despite activities coming to a standstill and a slowdown in some business deals due to a lack of decision-makers at ministries, projected growth increased by one tenth of a percentage point to 4.8 percent.

Felix Fischer announced

that the execution of the state budget had generated enough savings to ensure the payment of salaries of civil servants in January and February 2016.

"Revenues in January and February are usually low," said Fischer, whose delegation assessed the country's economy after the political crisis resulting from the government's fall in August.

He clarified that the visit served for the IMF to learn about the impact of the political crisis on the country's economic growth and to take appropriate action in relation to the Guinea-Bissau 2016 General State Budget.

Fischer he had discussed with the Guinea-Bissau authorities the possibility of the government limiting expenditure to the revenue actually collected, thus avoiding the accumulation of more debt. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

# Cabo Delgado contains 1 billion tons of graphite

**MOZAMBIQUE'S** northern province of Cabo Delgado contains about 1 billion tons of graphite, according to information issued Monday in Pemba at the 1st International Conference on Value Chains of the Gas, Graphite and Agrarian Industries.

In terms of the importance of infrastructure for the development of Cabo Delgado province, particularly relating to the province's mining potential, participants were informed of the occurrence of gas, rubies, marble, mineral water and unexplored metals including lead, zinc, copper and gold.

Speaking specifically about graphite, whose proposal for industrialization was the subject of discussion, the speakers drew attention to the need for Mozambique to improve the quality of electricity that provides consumers and start investing "seriously" in staff training, according to Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias.

Graphite ore is extracted in



open-cast or underground mines and then subjected to successive milling and a process of separation impurities known as flotation (mechanical concentration) and the process of removing the remaining impurities in the previously concentrated graphite mechanically (chemical concentration) to reach

levels of 99.8 percent graphite.

In Cabo Delgado, graphite occurs in the districts of Balama and Ancuabe, with a number of companies, some of which Australian, such as Syrah Resources, already explore deposits or are in the phase of prospecting and determination of economic viability. **MDT/Macauhub**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "



Joe McDonald, Business Writer, Beijing

**F**ACTORIES in Beijing that make goods from cement to train cars were shut down to help ease the Chinese capital's pollution crisis. But it was a boon for some businesses, boosting sales of air purifying equipment and travel to escape the haze.

Snack stands promoted sales of pear and pomegranate juices, a traditional remedy for lung problems, as the impact of traffic and other restrictions rippled through Beijing's economy, which at USD340 billion is bigger than many countries.

Half the cars in this city of 20 million people were ordered off the streets. Facilities in cement, petrochemicals and other industries were told to close or reduce operations after pollution soared to many times safe levels.

Beijing Building Materials Group, a major producer of cement and other materials, closed several factories, according to an employee of its public relations department. He declined to give his name or other details.

A factory operated by a unit of CNR Group, one of China's biggest producers of railway cars, suspended paint spraying and other work, according to a city government statement.

City inspectors set up 650 video cameras to watch construction sites and confirm they obey dust-control rules, the statement said.

Travel companies saw an uptick in demand as some residents left Beijing on "smog holidays."

Ctrip.com, an online travel service, has seen a 20 per-

cent rise in sales of packages marketed under a "Skip the Smog" label to people in Beijing, according to a company spokesman, Shi Kaifeng. They included trips to Tangshan, three hours from Beijing, or as far away as Indonesia.

"Normally winter is a quiet season for travelling," said Shi. "But we find many people want to take trips this year."

Mr Fruit, a fruit juice stand in the lobby of a Beijing office building, offered 12 percent off pear and pomegranate juice, which traditional Chinese medicine says can moisten the lungs and reduce phlegm.

"We try to catch the custo-

**An air purifier is a must at home.**

SUN YUANYUAN, 30  
BEIJING RESIDENT

mer's eye with this promotion," said the assistant manager, Li Mingji. "Sales of these juices have increased 30 percent in the past two days."

At Ele.me, an online food delivery company, anti-smog face masks passed spicy chicken burgers as the product requested most by customers in Beijing, said a company spokesman, Zou Yang. He said the company sold 40 percent more masks than chicken burgers on Tuesday and the number was up eight times compared with the previous week.

Those who stayed in Beijing also bought air purifying machines, an increasingly com-

## Smog crisis idles factories, boosts travel



Women wear masks to protect from air pollutants in Beijing

mon household necessity in a city that even on normal days is one of the world's most polluted.

Sales of purifiers made by Xiaomi, a prominent smartphone brand, soared to 422 on Monday from 120 on Sun-

day, according to the company's shop on Taobao.com, an online mall. Sales of the machines, priced at 899 yuan (\$142), stopped at 68 on Tuesday after the site ran out of filters required to operate the machines.

"An air purifier is a must at home," said Sun Yuanyuan, 30, an employee of a foreign company. "If my boss allows days off, I will definitely fly far away to a place with clean air to escape the dirty air in Beijing." AP

## Authorities use technology in pollution battle

Louise Watt, Beijing

**S**OME Beijing residents use smokestacks to predict smog: Smoke drifting gently upward means stagnant air where smog will accumulate, while smoke blowing away from the mountains indicates fresher winds and clear air ahead.

But the city government uses more sophisticated technology for its forecasts, including the one used this week to trigger Beijing's first-ever red alert for smog. The alert brought restrictions on cars and factories, as well as other measures aimed at keeping the smog in check.

The system takes into



People wearing masks walk past the Turret of the Forbidden City on a heavily polluted day in Beijing

account not only weather patterns that suspend pollutants in the air, but also industry emissions, and flows of vehicles and their emissions — which will differ depending on the day of the week and time of day. It also incorporates real-time

data from air monitoring systems, satellite images — and even information that is passed around on social media, said Meng Zhang, chief meteorologist at IBM Research China, which works with Beijing's environmental protection bureau on the

forecasting system.

It then models and predicts the effects of weather on the flow and dispersal of pollutants, and the airborne chemical reactions between weather and pollutant particles, Zhang said in an interview at an IBM research

lab in Beijing. It yields high-definition pollution forecasts 72 hours in advance, as well as rougher predictions for 10 days in advance, he said.

Beijing's current system of smog alerts triggers a scaled response with blanket restrictions for the entire city for four levels of predicted pollution.

Zhang said that the system can become increasingly granular, allowing authorities to pinpoint just the right restrictions — which factories must suspend operations and which not — at the right time to get the desired effect.

"Without this insight, the government does this in a very simple way.

They shut down everything around Beijing, just like how they have done for the 2008 Olympic Games," when factories were closed for a month, he said.

"But for the 2022 Winter Olympics, they can do that in a smarter way so they can know what is the best window, what is the best area, to reduce the economic impact," Zhang said.

Such forecasting is being rolled out to a handful of other Chinese cities to improve their air quality management, including Zhangjiakou, which wants to clean its air ahead of its joint hosting with Beijing of the 2022 Winter Games. AP



# Severe haze hovers over Beijing on Day 2 of red alert

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**B**EIJING residents stayed indoors, schools were closed and limits on cars, factories and construction sites kept pollution from spiking even higher yesterday, the second of three days of restrictions triggered by the city's first red alert for smog.

Cars with even-numbered license plates were kept off roads, and schools and construction sites remained shuttered. Far fewer pedestrians walked the streets than usual — many of them wearing air filtering face masks to aid their breathing.

Stuck at home, 8-year-old Zhao Hanxiao said she didn't mind missing school, but was fed up with not being able to play outside or go out to see friends.

"There is gray fog everywhere. We cannot leave the house, we cannot do anything, we can only stay at home, study at home, do everything at home," said Zhao, whose mother, an architect, has been working from the family's apartment in an affluent neighborhood in central Beijing.

Like many children in the capital, Zhao has come to see smog as a part of everyday life. "The reality is that we have smog," she said. "I am sure smog will be here in the future, too, because this is what is normal."

Zhang Jingtie, who sells insurance and water purifiers, said she had no choice but to be out despite restrictions through today that have prompted some businesses to close and others to allow employees to work from home.

"I stay outdoors most of the time, so I am very worried that I may have cancer if I continue to live in this kind of air for a long time," said Zhang, 25. "So we really need to do something to protect the environment."

Many drivers continued to defy the vehicle restrictions — 3,690 vehicles were found in violation of the even-odd license plate policy in Beijing on Tuesday — and a number of schools chose to open despite a board of education order to remain closed through today.

Pollution levels midday yesterday in central Beijing were mostly between 250 and 300 on the city's air quality index — suggesting the restrictions were having an effect. The city's alert was triggered by a forecast Monday that pollution levels would be above 300 for three



A man wears a mask for protection from smog during a day of heavy pollution in Beijing

consecutive days.

The index is strongly linked to levels of the dangerous tiny particles PM2.5, which at midday ranged from about 200 to 250 micrograms per cubic meter downtown — or 8 to 10 times the safe level recommended by the World Health Organization.

Although many other cities in China and elsewhere in the world typically see levels of

## ■ The ancient Forbidden City palace complex and other Beijing landmarks were lost in a gray, soupy haze yesterday

smog even worse than yesterday's pollution in Beijing, the Chinese capital's latest bout of smog has triggered the city's first red alert under a 2-year-old system of alerts and res-

trictions to deal with persistent pollution.

That followed a widely criticized failure to issue a red alert in Beijing at the beginning of December, when PM2.5 levels hit 40 times the WHO's safe level.

The ancient Forbidden City palace complex and other Beijing landmarks were lost in a gray, soupy haze yesterday. Convenience stores sold air-filtering masks at brisk rates, and health-food stores promoted pear juice as a traditional Chinese tonic for the lungs.

Some Beijingers have left the city altogether, taking advantage of the school closures to fly to cleaner destinations, such as the southern city of Kunming at the foot of the Tibetan Plateau.

The hazardous smog has enveloped much of the Northern China Plain between the East China Sea to the east and mountain ranges to the west.

It has persisted despite the Chinese government's stated priority of cleaning up the legacy of pollution left from years of full-tilt economic growth. Most of the smog is blamed on coal-fired power plants, along with vehicle emissions, construction and factory work.

The world's biggest carbon emitter, China plans to reduce hazardous emissions from coal-fired power plants by 50 percent over the next five years, and says its overall 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.

China's polluted air has had severe health effects. A study led by atmospheric chemist Jos Lelieveld of Germany's Max Planck Institute and published in the journal *Nature* this year estimated that 1.4 million people each year — almost 4,000 per day — die prematurely because of China's pollution.

The spike in air pollution has created opportunities for China's notorious counterfeiters. Shanghai's city government said in a statement yesterday that more than 970,000 fake 3M-branded masks and two production machines with a total value of 10.3 million yuan (USD1.6 million) were seized in a police operation in the city last month. **AP**

## Inflation edges higher as food costs rise



China's consumer inflation rebounded in November after vegetable prices jumped due to unusually frigid winter. Prices rose 1.5 percent over a year earlier, accelerating from October's 1.3 percent, data showed yesterday. That was driven by a 9.4 percent rise in prices of fresh vegetables. Consumer inflation had been drifting down after hitting 2 percent in August. Relatively low inflation has given Chinese leaders room to cut interest rates six times since last November to stimulate the slowing economy. "Today's inflation data support our view that domestic price pressures are on the rise," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report. "Looking ahead, we expect inflation to rise going into 2016." Also in November, wholesale prices measured as goods left the factory fell for a 44th straight month, declining by 5.9 percent from a year earlier. Inflation in non-food consumer prices edged up to 1.1 percent from October's 0.9 percent.

## Imports, exports contract again in November



China's imports and exports shrank again in November but there were signs a decline in domestic demand might be turning around. Customs data Tuesday showed exports contracted by 6.8 percent, accelerating from October's 3.6 percent. Imports declined 8.7 percent, an improvement over the previous month's 16 percent fall. A fall in global commodity prices has dragged down China's import figures but the volume of some goods has risen. In November, the volume of crude oil imports rose 8.7 percent over the previous year.



## NORTH KOREA

# 'Boy General' mobile phone game is Pyongyang's newest fad

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

**M**ILLIONS of North Koreans are now using mobile phones, and not just to make phone calls.

The Associated Press recently got a sneak peek at "Boy General," the North's hottest new game release, a spinoff of a new TV animation series that is both beautifully produced and genuinely fun to watch — suggesting Pyongyang is trying to win back an audience drawn to the banned Chinese and South Korean dramas that flow across its borders.

The app became an immediate hit after its September release, particularly in Pyongyang, where there are more mobile phones and a population that generally has more money and time to spend on leisure activities. The even more popular televised animation series returned to the airwaves in August and runs on Sunday evenings.

In the game, players are prompted to go on missions to defeat the enemies of the young general Swoeme, which means "Iron Hammer," a brave warrior-commander of the Koguryo kingdom that lasted for about 700 years and ruled most of the Korean Peninsula and the heart of Manchuria until its downfall in AD 668.

The concept and design of "Boy General" are simple, and its map-like scenery is reminiscent of the "Minecraft" game.

AP PHOTO



A man plays a piano game on his mobile phone in North Korea

Since there is nothing like the App Store in North Korea, the most common way of getting the game appears to be sharing it over Bluetooth.

Games are not new to North Korean mobile phone users.

Not long after the use of mobile phones was opened up in 2009, some handsets came pre-installed with games such as "Tetris" or janggi, a chess-like game that is popular across East Asia. As phones and to a lesser extent tablets have become more sophisticated, so have the games available for North Koreans to enjoy.

With its state-of-the-art animation values, often beautiful

characters and plot developments, the TV show has been a breath of fresh air for North Koreans, who are increasingly exposed to Chinese or South Korean entertainment. State-run TV is dominated by bland fare of old propaganda movies and news programs praising the country's leadership.

"Boy General" may be North Korea's answer to that challenge.

Both the TV series and the game clearly have the support of ruling regime. The TV show is a revamped and vastly improved version of a 50-episode cartoon that started in the 1980s and ran on and off until 1997. In November last year, leader Kim Jong

Un himself ordered the production of the 50 new episodes from the April 26 Animation Studios. It's not clear who designed the game version.

The political message remains strong.

For starters, there is the obvious analogy of Swoeme to leader Kim, who while still in his early 30s has among his many titles that of Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army. They also reinforce the official line that the nation must remain united against the constant threat of foreign invaders.

Koguryo, which like today's North Korea had its capital in Pyongyang, was overthrown by an alliance between the Chinese

Tang Dynasty and the southern Korean kingdom of Silla. The dastardly and yet often comical villain is Hobi, a snaggle-toothed, pig-nosed Chinese spy who tried to assassinate Swoeme before he rose to the ranks as general.

But the real appeal of the game — and many others now available in North Korea — appears to be that it's just fun to play.

Though local users are unable to connect to the Internet — North Korea instead has its

■ As phones and to a lesser extent tablets have become more sophisticated, so have the games available for North Koreans to enjoy

own domestic-use-only Intranet — they can send each other text messages, photos and, for high-end users, videos.

Phones also come with dictionaries, encyclopedias and provide access to e-books and some state-run news sites. If you want to know the weather forecast, you can call 112. KoryoLink, the county's mobile service provider, also recently introduced a selection of about 200 ringtones for a small additional fee.

But if you want to call or text a foreigner, you are out of luck. They are kept on a different network. **AP**

## JAPAN

# South Korean arrested over Yasukuni toilet blast

Isabel Reynolds and Maiko Takahashi

**A** South Korean man was arrested in Japan in connection with an explosion last month at a Tokyo shrine that is seen by some in his country as a symbol of Japan's wartime aggression.

Jeon Chang Han, 27, was taken into custody after returning to Japan from South Korea yesterday morning. He has denied that he set off an explosive device in a public toilet on the grounds of the Yasukuni Shrine on Nov. 23, public broadcaster NHK said. No one was injured in the blast.

AP PHOTO



A police officer stands guard in front of the south gate of the Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga declined to comment to reporters in Tokyo on the matter, saying the case was still under investi-

gation. A South Korean Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be named in line with ministry policy, said the nation was monitoring how Ja-

pan conducts the investigation and would offer consular assistance for the detained man.

Japan's relations with China and South Korea

have been damaged by visits of leaders including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the shrine, which honors 14 wartime leaders convicted as Class A war criminals, along with millions of war dead. While relations have begun to improve, recriminations continue over territorial disputes and differing views of Japan's invasion and occupation of much of the region in the first half of the 20th century.

Police found a bundle of steel pipes that appeared to contain explosives in the toilet, along with batteries and a timer, according to NHK. Jeon was seen prior to the blast on

security camera footage in the area carrying a backpack and another bag, the Sankei newspaper said on its website. Jeon returned to South Korea after the incident.

A DNA test on a cigarette butt found in the toilet matched that of possessions of Jeon's in the hotel room in which he was staying, according to Fuji News Network.

Jeon, whose parents divorced when he was young, lived alone without much contact with neighbors after serving in the South Korean air force for more than five years, according to Yonhap News Agency. **Bloomberg**



Kristen Gelineau, Sydney

AUSTRALIA

# Police search home of man named as bitcoin founder

**A**USTRALIAN police yesterday raided the home and business premises of a man that technology news sites have claimed is the founder of virtual currency bitcoin.

A statement from the Australian Federal Police said the searches were related to a tax investigation and not recent media reports on the virtual currency, which is used for transactions across borders without third parties such as banks.

Federal officers and tax officials refused to answer questions as they left the house in a Sydney suburb hauling two black roller suitcases.

Technology publications Wired and Gizmodo published reports this week claiming an Australian businessman is bitcoin's likely inventor.

Since bitcoin's birth in 2009, the identity of currency's creator has remained a mystery. The person, or people, behind the digital currency's inception have been known only as "Satoshi Nakamoto," which many observers believed to be a pseudonym.

In March last year, American Dorian Prentice Satoshi Nakamoto denied in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press that he was the inventor after Newsweek published a

AP PHOTO



A Federal police officer walks through the garage at the home of a Sydney man as they search the property

4,500-word cover story linking the currency to him.

Attempts to reach the Sydney businessman that reports claim is Nakamoto were unsuccessful.

A man answered a mobile

phone number belonging to the businessman's wife. When an AP journalist asked if she was speaking with the person named as Nakamoto, he asked who was calling. When told he was speaking to a reporter, the

man said, "Sorry. Not here," and hung up. Voicemails left on the man's mobile and office numbers were not returned.

His LinkedIn profile lists him as working for a Sydney company that focuses on "alternative currency" and "next generation banking."

The police search of the man's home in the wealthy northern Sydney suburb of Gordon lasted several hours and drew a steady trickle of perplexed neighbors into the quiet, tree-lined street.

Many described the man as quiet and somewhat standoffish, and said they had noticed the family kept an unusual amount of electronics running in the sunroom at the front of their two-story brick house. None had seen the family yesterday; letters overflowed the mailbox and the garbage bins were full.

"He has his computer running quite often," said a teenage neighbor, who declined to give his

name.

The teen said the family had lived at the house for about a year and has two kids, a dog and several hens. The family drives a Jaguar and a Lexus, but rents the property, the teen said. He had no idea he had been named as the alleged founder of bitcoin. AP

**Technology publications Wired and Gizmodo published reports this week claiming an Australian businessman is bitcoin's likely inventor**

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## USA

# Trump shrugs off widespread outrage over proposed Muslim ban

Jill Colvin, Newark

**C**ONGRESSMEN, rival candidates, world leaders and even the creators of Harry Potter and “The Shining” all agree: Donald Trump’s call to block Muslims from entering the United States goes too far.

The Republican presidential front-runner’s statement Monday advocating a “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States” was blasted as bigoted, unconstitutional and potentially dangerous for American interests abroad.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, breaking the custom of British leaders not commenting on U.S. presidential contenders, slammed it as “divisive, unhelpful and quite simply wrong.” U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon denounced “any kind of rhetoric that relies on Islamophobia, xenophobia, any other appeal to hate any groups.”

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling decried Trump on Twitter as worse than her fictional villain Lord Voldemort. Horror novelist Stephen King wrote, “That anyone in America would even CONSIDER voting for this rabid coyote leaves me speechless.”



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump

“This is not conservatism,” Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan told reporters after a closed-door Republican caucus meeting. “What was proposed yesterday is not what this party stands for, and more importantly it’s not what this country stands for.”

Trump’s campaign has been marked by inflammatory statements, dating back to rhetoric that some Mexican immigrants, who entered the country illegally, are drug smugglers and rapists — but even that didn’t evoke the same widespread level of contempt.

The billionaire businessman and former reality television star has maintained his lead in early opinion surveys, despite the controversies, vexing his Republican rivals and alarming a Republican establishment in panic over the damage they fear he’s doing to a deeply divided party.

Trump, who appears to revel in the attention, didn’t back down from his proposal Tuesday (yesterday, Macau time), saying that banning Muslims “until our country’s representatives can figure out what the hell is going on” is warranted after last mon-

th’s attacks by Muslim extremists in Paris and last week’s shootings in San Bernardino, California.

“Somebody in this country has to say what’s right,” Trump said in an interview with ABC Tuesday. “It’s short-term. Let our country get its act together.”

Trump’s proposed ban would apply to immigrants and visitors alike, a sweeping prohibition affecting adherents of a religion practiced by more than a billion people worldwide. Trump clarified in a round of television interviews Tuesday that his proposed ban would not apply to Ame-

**[Trump] advocated a ‘total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States’**

rican citizens traveling abroad and would allow exemptions for certain people, including the leaders of Middle Eastern countries and athletes for certain sporting events.

Among those not specified in his list of exemptions are Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai and the four civil society groups that led Tunisia’s transition to democracy — all Muslim Nobel Peace Prize winners.

At the White House, press secretary Josh Earnest lambasted Trump as a “carnival barker” and called on his rivals to denounce their fellow candidate.

“What he said is disqualifying,” Earnest said. “Any Republican who’s too fearful of the Republican base to admit it has no business serving as president, either.” AP

## PARIS ATTACKS

## Text to mom announcing death reveals 3rd Bataclan gunman

Lori Hinant and Nicolas Vaux-Montagny, Paris

**T**HE third gunman who terrorized Paris’ Bataclan concert hall before being killed last month in the attack was identified yesterday as a Frenchman who left for Syria in 2013. The development came after his mother received a text message announcing his death and gave a DNA sample to police.

The news was further confirmation that the deadly Paris attacks were carried out largely, if not entirely, by Europeans trained by the Islamic State group in Syria.

All the Nov. 13 attackers identified so far have been from France or Belgium, native French speakers

who joined Islamic State extremists. The Bataclan attackers, who carried automatic weapons and wore suicide vests, were responsible for the worst of the carnage. Of the 130 killed in Paris that night, nearly three-quarters died at the concert venue.

Foued Mohamed-Aggad left Strasbourg for Syria in late 2013, a French judicial official said, at a time when about a dozen young men from the eastern French city headed to the war zone. Some returned of their own will — including his brother — telling investigators they were disgusted by what they had seen. The Frenchman believed to have recruited them for IS, Mourad Farès, is also under arrest.

All are charged with terror-related offenses and face trial.

Mohamed-Aggad’s mother received a text message in English 10 days ago announcing her son’s death “as a martyr” on Nov. 13 — a typical way IS notifies families of casualties. Then she gave French police a DNA sample which showed that one of her sons was killed inside the Bataclan, his brother’s lawyer said, confirming an account by French officials, who requested anonymity to release details of the investigation.

“Without the mother, there would have been nothing,” the lawyer, Françoise Cotta, told BFM television. Cotta said he had told his family months ago

that he was going to be a suicide bomber in Iraq and had no intention of returning to France.

“What kind of human being could do what he did?” his father, Said, told The Parisien newspaper. “If I had known he would do something like this, I would have killed him.”

The other two Bataclan attackers, Omar Ismail Mostefai and Samy Ammour, were also French. Two of the three gunmen detonated their explosives when police special forces moved in, while the third was shot by an officer and his explosives went off.

There is still identification work for the police to do. One of the Paris attackers, who was killed Nov. 18 in a police raid on



Members of the band Eagles of Death Metal, Jesse Hughes, right, and Julian Dorio pay their respects to 89 victims who died in a Nov. 13 attack at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris

a hideout nearby, remains unidentified. Two of the suicide bombers at the French national stadium carried Syrian passports that are believed to be fake.

“What is important is that the investigation is progressing, that the accomplices are found out, that arrests happen,” French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said yesterday.

“This will all take time. And in the face of the terrorist threat that is unfortunately here, we need to

carry on with this work of tracking down terrorists because we are at war with radical Islam, with Daesh,” he said, using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Attackers who struck Paris that night included three suicide bombers at the stadium, a squad who shot up bars and restaurants, a suicide bomber at a restaurant and the three gunmen at the Bataclan. AP



## what's ON



## 2015 STAMP FESTIVAL – THE 'FESTIVE STAMPS' SPECIAL EXHIBITION

TIME: 9:30am-5:30pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: January 10, 2016

VENUE: Communications Museum of Macau, No.7, Estrada de D. Maria II, Macau

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

## 'MR. BANANA' - LOK 4 FRAMES COMICS EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: December 31

VENUE: Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, 10, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## 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

## Offbeat

## WILD BOAR IN GERMANY ADOPTED BY HERD OF CATTLE



A wild pig in Germany has decided to give up its "boaring" life — leaving the forest to live with a small herd of cattle.

Farmer Dirk Reese told the dpa news agency this week the boar, which he nicknamed "Banana," has been living with the eight cattle for more than two months on his property north of Hamburg, not far from the Danish border.

Reese says Banana has been effectively adopted by the cattle — "He's fully integrated into the herd, which is fascinating."

Reese says Banana has achieved something of a celebrity status in the area, so he's not worried that the boar's life in an open pasture might make it easy prey for a local hunter.

He says that "this pig has a special status."

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Publicity
14:55	Transportation and Public Works (Live)
20:05	Documentary Series
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Champions League: Chelsea - Porto (Repeated)
01:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:00	RTPi Live
04:05	Europa League: Sporting - Besiktas (Live)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

10 DEC - 16 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, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Nick Cheung

Starring: Nick Cheung, Kuo Tsai Chieh, Louis Chueng

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 105min



## INITIATION LOVE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Yukihiro Tsutsumi

Starring: Shota Matsuda, Atsuko Maeda

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 110min

## THE CROW'S EGG

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: M. Manikandan

Starring: Ramesh, J. Vignesh, Iyashwarya Rajesh

Language: Tamil (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 91min

## MACAU TOWER

26 Nov - 16 Dec

## KEEPER OF DARKNESS

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



## 1979 DAREDEVIL KIDD'S 80FT RIVER JUMP

Stuntman Eddie Kidd has accomplished a "death-defying" motorcycle leap.

During the spectacle he crossed an 80ft gap over a 50ft sheer drop above a viaduct on a 400cc motorcycle.

Experts said a fall would almost certainly have ended in disaster.

Kidd, who is only 20 years old, completed the stunt before a stunned group of spectators, fans and press, at the River Blackwater at Maldon, Essex.

The amazing feat has not left him thirsting for more. "No mistakes. I never want to do a jump like that again," Kidd said once he regained his breath.

He defied gusty winds which could have thrown him off course to complete the stunt for his new movie.

Kidd prepared himself for launch by opening up the throttle of his 400cc Yamaha motorcycle.

He reached a speed of 100mph for take-off during a 400-yard run-up.

The front of his motorcycle was thrown up temporarily under the pressure of the high winds - to gasps from the crowds below.

But he stayed in control and cleared the gap between the giant pillars which were once connected by a railway bridge.

Kidd landed square on the other side and despite the pressure of the stunt came away with only a minor leg injury.

His father, also Eddie, who has been his son's manager for 18 months, and mother Marjie were among the audience.

They said they were proud of his achievements and relieved it was over.

But their relief may be short lived as Kidd has said his ambition is to jump the Grand Canyon - with a parachute.

Kidd is now branching out from the world of stunts into showbiz.

He is releasing an album and appearing in his first film "Heavy Metal" which has won good reviews.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Eddie Kidd remained a top stunt rider winning the stunt bike world championship in 1993 over Robbie Knivel, son of Evel Knivel.

He jumped the Great Wall of China at Simatai in 1993.

His talent brought him parts in several movies, including as a double for Timothy Dalton in *The Living Daylights*, Pierce Brosnan in *Goldeneye* and Roger Moore in *Bull's Eye*.

But his career ended after he suffered serious head injuries in 1996 at a Hell's Angels rally in Warwickshire, when his motorbike crashed into an incline after he attempted a jump across a drag strip.

The accident left him with severely restricted co-ordination and speech.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're heading home in one way or another. You may be on your way to a reunion, or you may just be finding a place that is more comfortable and will work better for you in the long run.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your transportation issues come to a head today - and while it may be frustrating, it's for the best. If your car breaks down, just remember that you do have other options. Make the most of them!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You are having a hard time coping with the pace of change today - but it's not as bad as you think! You just need to find one safe place and stick to it for the day, as things should settle down soon.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You are so sure that you've got what it takes that you may find it easier to convince others. You've got twice the energy of anyone else in the room, so make the most of it and shine!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You really just want people to get along together - why does it have to be so hard? You can hardly believe the lengths people go to when they want to keep fighting, but you can calm them down.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You need to help out today - someone really needs you, and your energy is just better spent on outside activities. You may want to volunteer, ring up an elderly neighbor or just clean house.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to deal with today's situation with a little more flexibility than you may realize. Try not to just fall back on your old standby routines, or you could find yourself extremely confused!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You need to travel - but even if you're stuck at home for a while, you can still dream and make plans. Your great energy needs exposure to new things and new people, and you can make it happen.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You can't quite come to terms with that one person who's almost always on your side - sometimes it's just not a good match. That doesn't mean it's worth throwing out, though, so just move on for a bit.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your people are all freaking out over something that seems trivial to you, but you can tell that they are just enjoying a little drama - there's no reason for you to join them. Just watch and wait.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your health is all-important, so make the most of today's willpower and start on a new health kick. It could just be a dedication to whole grains and fresh fruit, or a whole new way of living.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to express yourself today in the best way you know how. That could mean freestyle poetry or something softer and more direct, but you should know when it works for you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

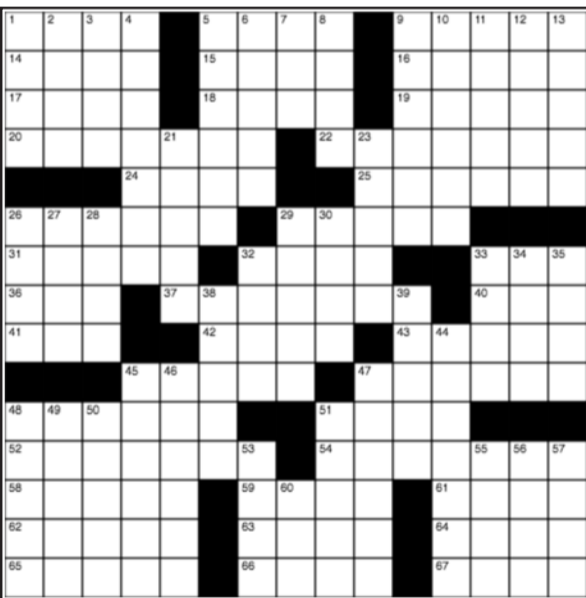
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

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 fern.; 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



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Photo shown here may be different from Macau specifications.



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## BOXING

# Champ Tyson Fury reported for 'hate crime' to police



Tyson Fury

**WORLD** heavyweight boxing champion Tyson Fury struck trouble on two fronts yesterday, with a police investigation launched into his comments about homosexuality, and reports that he had been stripped of one of his belts for not facing the mandatory challenger.

Greater Manchester Police said they have received a report of a "hate crime" regarding Fury's comments, which were published in a newspaper interview before his victory over Wladimir Klitschko in a heavyweight title fight on Nov. 28.

Fury, who is Catholic, said that among the things that need to happen "before the devil comes home ... is homosexuality being legal in countries."

The Greater Manchester Police said they "take every allegation of hate crime extremely seriously and we will be attending the victim's address to take a statement in due course."

The BBC reported yesterday that the International Boxing Federation has stripped Fury of his title less than two weeks after winning it, quoting Lindsey Tucker, championships chairman at the IBF, as saying: "It's true he's been stripped of his IBF belt."

"Our challenger was Vyacheslav Glazkov, but instead Fury's gone and signed a rematch clause with Wladimir

Klitschko," Tucker was quoted as saying.

Fury's profile has soared since his shock win over Klitschko to capture the WBA, IBF and WBO belts. Controversial remarks that previously went under the radar are now being seized on and questioned because of the added profile from being heavyweight champion of the world.

Before the Klitschko fight, Fury also criticized abortion, and said doping should be legalized in all sports to make it "fully fair." He was fined 3,000 pounds (around USD4,500) in 2012 for a rant that included branding two fellow English boxers "gay lovers." In the past week, he has been quoted as saying Olympic heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis-Hill "slaps up good," before adding that "a woman's best place is in the kitchen and on her back."

Fury's remarks prompted more than 100,000 people to have signed a petition calling for him to be removed from the shortlist for the BBC's sports personality of the year award.

"Young people need sports personalities that they can look up to," the petition says, "not people who express outrageous homophobic views, which can cause bullying and self-harm."

The BBC is refusing to deselect Fury from the 12-person shortlist.

Asked by The Associated Press two days after beating Klitschko if he needs to keep his views to himself now he is heavyweight champion, the 27-year-old Fury said: "There'll be no change in the champ." Fury has also said he was "not bothered" about being a role model to kids.

Fury is of Irish-Gypsy heritage — he calls himself "Gypsy King" on Twitter — and comes from a bloodline of bare-knuckle champions. He said he was the most charismatic boxer since Muhammad Ali, making headlines for dressing up as Batman in the run-up to the Klitschko fight. He sang Aerosmith's "I Don't Want To Miss A Thing" to his pregnant wife in the ring after the unanimous points win in Duesseldorf.

"Let's not try and make me out to be some evil person and I hate gays, because I don't hate anybody," Fury told the BBC this week. "I can actually say I don't hate anybody." AP



Manchester United's goalkeeper David de Gea stands inside the goal after Wolfsburg's Naldo scored his side's third goal during the Champions League group B soccer match between VfL Wolfsburg and Manchester United

## FOOTBALL

# Van Gaal faces scrutiny after United's Champions League exit

Steve Douglas  
Sports Writer

**L**OUIS van Gaal is 18 months and USD375 million into his "process" of rebuilding Manchester United.

What's it got him? So far this season, a playing squad lacking balance and depth, accusations that he is betraying United's heritage of attacking football, and an ignominious exit from the group stage of the Champions League.

"United just look like an average team, and with an average team you are going to get average performances," former United great Paul Scholes said after a 3-2 loss at Wolfsburg yesterday consigned the team to Thursday nights in the oft-maligned Europa League.

Supporters of the increasingly embattled Van Gaal argue he has stabilized United after a period of upheaval following Alex Ferguson's departure in 2013 and David Moyes' ill-fated 10-month tenure. They'd point to a lengthy injury list that keeps robbing Van Gaal of key players. They'd say United is fourth in the Premier League, still has three trophies to play for this season and that it's too soon to make judgments, especially with another transfer window looming.

Critics counter by saying it would be tough not to be in what appears to be the most open Premier League title race in years — although Chelsea somehow has managed to be out of contention already. They'd say being in the Europa League is humiliating — former United defender Rio Ferdinand called it "embarrassing" — for a club of United's wealth and stature.

As a ManUtd player I was embarrassed going from the Champions league to the Europa league.

RIO FERDINAND  
(ON TWITTER)

And then there's the cash United has spent under Van Gaal, which is the biggest gripe about the Dutchman.

How, for its biggest match of the season and having spent that much money, did Van Gaal end up with one fit striker (Anthony Martial) available? How was it that United ended the game with two young full backs (Guillermo Varela and Cameron Borthwick-Jackson) making just their second appearances for the team, and a 21-year-old midfielder in Nick Powell whose last match for United came 18 months ago in the English League Cup?

Injuries played a part, sure, but Van Gaal has let go of players like Adnan Januzaj, Javier Hernandez, Danny Welbeck and Rafael da Silva since he took charge, weakening the squad's overall strength. Last month, he loaned out one of the three genuine strikers in his squad, James Wilson, to leave him with just Martial and the now-injured Wayne Rooney.

"At the moment, I cannot defend myself because we are out of the Champions League," said Van Gaal, who has 18 months left on

his contract.

He still gave it a try, though, by saying that "facts" proved United was better than last season because the team had gone further in the League Cup — to the third round — and had reached the group stage of the Champions League after missing out on Europe entirely last season.

That will not satisfy United's demanding fans, many of whom are struggling to tolerate the defensive style of play Van Gaal has brought to a club known for its expansive, attacking approach down the years.

Before the Wolfsburg game, five of United's previous outings had finished 0-0. United actually went on the attack in Germany but that impacted on its previously stingy defense, which looked uncertain and conceded three goals for only the second time this season.

So, United has failed to advance from what initially seemed to be one of the least difficult groups of them all.

"I am not agreeing with any opinion that this was an easy group," Van Gaal said, even if the United of old would have had no problem getting through.

And now the club is faced with the schedule-clogging, energy-sapping competition that is the Europa League. For some reason, the Thursday-Sunday turnaround for Europa League participants seems to be tougher than the Wednesday-Saturday one for teams in the Champions League.

"As a ManUtd player I was embarrassed going from the Champions league to the Europa league," Ferdinand said on Twitter, "we expected more of ourselves."

In many ways, things just aren't the same at Manchester United anymore. AP



opinion

**HK Observer**  
 Robert Carroll



**KING ARTHUR, THE ROUNDTABLE AND WHITE ELEPHANTS**

The appointment of a new deputy head of the University of Hong Kong has reappeared in the news again, with more leaks from the University Council meeting on the subject and an official HKU alumni meeting on the issue. At the latter, alumni voted overwhelmingly against the appointment of the Chief Executive's apparent choice of deputy head, Arthur Li Kwok-cheung. Nicknamed King Arthur, for his high-handed manner while Vice Chancellor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, he has further antagonized many in the male student body with his condescending remarks. Among these, he controversially claimed that their reason for attending demonstrations during Occupy was only to pick up girls. He was recently appointed as one of the knights of HKU's roundtable, the Council.

Ironically, what emerged from the leaked recordings of the University Council meeting was that Lo Chung-Mau, one of the most vocal opponents to the University's first choice, Johannes Chan Man-Mun, said that he was not a unifier but instead that the famously abrasive King Arthur is! Really? Anyway, who stoked the fires of divisiveness?

Beginning as an appointment vetted through the usual time-tested means, the process was smooth and without controversy but has now, unfortunately, become a battlefield. This only eventuated after a deluge of articles - several hundred no less - in the local communist newspapers, which slammed the former outstanding dean of HKU's Law Faculty for his academic record! That the council, the university's highest decision-making body was reported to have been under intense pressure to reject the favored candidate, has led to great dismay among the body of HKU's teaching staff, who subsequently voted in three liberal scholars to the council, sending an unequivocal message in favor of academic independence.

On the one hand, the government splurges on infrastructure to a dubious value. On the other, the purse strings are tightened for education, health, clean air and aged care.

Shouldn't we get our priorities right? The latest announcements - or should that be concealments - about further extensive cost overruns for the Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai bridge, and the express rail to Guangzhou, highlight how big-budget, politically-motivated projects get fast nods, while more pressing and important issues which affect society as a whole, are neglected.

The saga of the endlessly delayed bridge has been going on for decades. It's hard to believe now that there was once hope for a pre-Macau handover 1999 completion date in the early days. The government's latest completion date is 2017, up from 2016. Based on history and the latest news, it's probably wishful thinking and may be a ploy to get another funding top-up. If, as some engineers have said, the base of an artificial island supporting the bridge has shifted more than predicted, and is desirable, it raises doubts about a 2017 completion date and for staying on budget, even with the extra cash now being demanded.

Many observers doubt whether the bridge will serve its initial intended purposes: to bring significant extra cargo business to Hong Kong's airport and to stimulate the Western Zhuhai economy. Nor is traffic expected to be high or are revenues expected to be generated anywhere near cost recovery. One recent estimate calculated every vehicle trip being subsidized many times the tolls that could be charged.

Physically linking the two SARs directly with Guangdong sends a political signal of unity between the three regions. Such a signal would perhaps be most highly weighed before 1999. While it will be a magnificent engineering achievement, and a marvelous travel experience, is it worth HK\$117 billion and rising? If past records are anything to go by, and if the technical issues are as bad as some engineers paint them, that could be a much higher figure.

We have similar issues with the express rail to Guangzhou with the proud record of being by far the most expensive railway in the world. We'll have a bullet train which won't be able to run here anywhere near its usual operating speed. But on the bright side, however, its grand terminus has developers salivating.

**THE WINE PHOTO EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT MUST TODAY**

French photographer, author and director, Jean-Yves Bardin is opening a photography exhibition at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) today, from 6 p.m.

Bardin received recognition in 2014 for his book, "Vignerons d'Anjou: Gueles de vigneron," which won awards for being the best book in France about wine and for lea-

ding the category of Best French Wine Book in the Yantai Gourmands Awards in China.

The exhibition opening ceremony will be held next to MUST's training restaurant, "The Seasons," following a masterclass held there on the topic of organic wine with Sylvain Potin, a French winemaker based in the Loire Valley in France. Mr Bardin's photos will be on display until December 23.

**Alibaba E-Auto signs 8-yr deal to sponsor Club WCup**



In this 2010 file photo Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, left, shakes hands with FIFA President Joseph Blatter after Russia was announced as the host for the 2018 soccer World Cup

Jim Armstrong, Tokyo

FIFA signed its first major new sponsor yesterday after a gap of more than two scandal-filled years.

Soccer's governing body announced an eight-year partnership deal with Alibaba E-Auto for the Club World Cup, starting this week. Alibaba E-Auto is the car manufacturing brand of Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Group, the world's largest online and mobile commerce company.

It's the first new sponsor contracted by FIFA since September 2013, when Russian state-controlled gas company Gazprom signed up only for the 2018 World

Cup in Russia.

"It is not easy to sell," FIFA marketing director Thierry Weil said at a news conference for the Alibaba deal. "You can imagine in the given period and given circumstance with what's going on at FIFA."

New sales have stalled because of the corruption scandal which has engulfed FIFA.

FIFA has 27 of its 34 sponsor slots vacant for the 2018 tournament, and 28 vacant for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. FIFA typically sells two-tournament packages, and existing sponsors Visa and McDonalds renewed last year for 2018-2022.

"We are in discussions with

different companies but we are also realistic to say this will not change before the reforms will be approved from the Congress, and before a new president is elected on February 26," Weil said.

The failure to sign deals has led FIFA to forecast a USD100 million loss this year, though it has cash reserves of more than \$1.5 billion.

FIFA's long-range budget called for \$5 billion revenue for the 2018 World Cup, but that seemed a conservative figure when broadcasting deals with Al Jazeera and Fox far exceeded previous rights sales for the Middle East and United States, respectively.

The value of the deal with Alibaba was not announced yesterday, but its branding will be all over both stadiums in Japan for the Club World Cup starting today.

FIFA's annual financial reports for 2013 and 2014 show revenue of \$40 million from each Club World Cup in Morocco.

"China is not a market which FIFA is strong in yet, to be honest," Weil said. "FIFA is especially looking into the market to help develop football in the market ... China cannot be neglected because it's a huge market." AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Jeremy Selwyn, Pool via AP



Royal LOL. Kate Duchess of Cambridge laughs on the phone as a trader in fancy dress looks on as the Duchess attends ICAP's 23rd annual Charity Day in London yesterday.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**JAPAN** Police in Tokyo arrest a South Korean man suspected of causing an explosion last month in a public restroom at a controversial shrine in Tokyo that honors Japanese war dead. [More on p12](#)

**MYANMAR** inaugurates a stock exchange with plans for six companies to start trading in March.



**SYRIA** Dozens of insurgents began evacuating their last stronghold in Syria's central city of Homs yesterday as part of a local deal with government forces that allows them safe passage to areas in the country's north.

**USA** Asian countries are aging faster than has been seen anywhere else in the world, and they need to urgently reform pension systems and encourage more women to enter the labor force, the World Bank says.



**GERMANY** Volkswagen said yesterday that a problem with carbon dioxide emissions is far smaller than initially suspected, with further checks finding "slight discrepancies" in only a few models and no evidence of illegal changes to fuel consumption and emissions figures.



**GREECE** A wooden smuggling boat carrying about 50 people sank yesterday in the eastern Aegean Sea. Greek authorities said at least 12 people drowned, including six children, and 12 others were missing.