

### EXHIBITION BLENDS NEW AND OLD

A new exhibition has opened at the Macau Design Centre, seeking to reunite the old and new aspects of Macau

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### NO MORE QUEUES FOR KINDERGARTEN APPLICANTS

DSEJ centralized individual application procedures for kindergartens in a bid to address the issue of parents queuing around schools

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### CHINA TO HALT NEW COAL MINE APPROVALS

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# Times

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## WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA** Rescuers using infrared cameras at a wrecked mine found eight surviving miners who were trapped for five days after a collapse so violent it registered as a seismic event.

**NORTH KOREA's** top official in charge of relations with South Korea, Kim Yang Gon, died in a traffic accident, potentially dimming the prospect for ties between the rival countries. *More on p12*



**UK** Heavy rains and gusty winds are causing more problems for residents in large swaths of Britain. Officials say 5,500 homes in Scotland lost power Wednesday as gale-force winds hit. About 3,000 homes in England and Wales were also reported to be without electricity.

**JAPAN** Mountaineer Kei Taniguchi fell to her death while climbing this week in the snowy Daisetsuzan range in northern Japan's Hokkaido. She was 43. Taniguchi, who climbed Mount Everest in 2007, became the first woman to win the prestigious Piolet d'Or (Golden Ice Axe) mountaineering award in 2009.



**RUSSIAN** President Vladimir Putin, in a New Year's message to U.S. President Barack Obama, has called for cooperation between their countries to respond to international challenges.

More on backpage

# China, Taiwan launch hotline to ease tensions

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## HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published on Friday. The Times will be back on the stands on January 4. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times. Happy New Year!

## Report on AL election proposes longer campaign period

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# Extra

times  
weekend Guide  
INSIDE

**T**HE process of urbanization and modernization in Macau has transformed a once idyllic, sleepy town into the congested and international gaming hub that it is today.

Elements of Macau's distinct blend of eastern and western cultures are inevitably lost in the process, despite the best efforts of local artists and government initiatives.

Now a new exhibition has opened at the Macau Design Centre, seeking to imbue the MSAR's exceptional architectural characteristics within modern furniture, while simultaneously recycling old materials.

The exhibition, titled "City Inspire: Macau Culture Regeneration Product Exhibition," features collaborations by local artists including Calvin Sio, founder of "Hylé Design," Dave Wan, founder of carpentry company "Zawood" and Eric Fok, a local artist renowned for the use of fine brushstrokes in his art.

At the exhibition's opening ceremony on Tuesday night, one could not help but be impressed by the striking creations, which are made almost entirely out of wood.

There is a cabinet in the shape of a 1990s handheld gaming console, a wooden tray with detailed carvings inspired by an old map of Macau, and a drinks cabinet-cum-table, adorned with stools infused with traditional Portuguese ceramic tiles.

Taking center stage is a narrow but long dining table, with an antique and genuine arcade door for its base, estimated to be around a century old.

In fact many of the pieces in this exhibition have been inspired by, and contain parts of,



A drinks table and chairs with Portuguese-style tiles



Local artist Calvin Sio beside the wooden tray he co-created with Eric Fok

## Recycled art blends new and old in latest local collaboration

Macau's historical architecture. The artifacts represent a precious link to Macau's past, but would end up being discarded if not for the exhibition, as they are often considered to be dangerous or unstable.

Sio, who wanted to reunite the old and new aspects of Macau, came up with the concept for the project. He and his collaborator Wan undertook numerous expeditions to source these genuine artifacts and repurpose them into modern, stylish furniture.

**I want people to experience the old Macau.**

CALVIN SIO

Sio told the Times that his purpose "is to deliver the culture of Macau in an authentic way. I want people to experience the old Macau."

The Design Centre, which

seeks to support the commercialization and sustainability of Macau's design community, said the exhibition will run until January 6.

The Macau Lifestyle Association also added that they hope the exhibition will teach more people about the lifestyle and essence of Macau.

"To make these products commercial, we need to sell [them] around the world. An exhibition [like this] makes the products more well-known," explained Sio.

"There are many famous brands in Macau," he added, "but what we are trying to do now is bring them together. These products and brands should be connected together in a single environment – that's how you create an industry – it's just like bringing a family together."

Asked why he works with wood, Sio said, "it's personal [to people], and can deliver the feeling of warmth. But maybe next time we will work with copper." **Staff Reporter**

## Mountford retires from Road Racing after Macau GP crash

Renato Marques

**T**HIRTY-THREE-year-old British driver Russell Mountford was involved in a serious accident at the 62nd Macau Grand Prix in November, and has now announced his retirement from all racing activities, namely the road racing championships.

Mountford, who hails from Wigan, UK, made the difficult decision after speaking with the surgeons who performed his seven-hour operation to repair his injured pelvis.

On December 21, Mountford said on Twitter that the operation had been successful but his surgeon had told him he would take three to four

months to walk again.

He also tweeted that the decision to quit racing was based on the surgeon's warnings that "even the smallest of crashes could result in problems with the metal parts used to put his pelvis in place," and could leave him unable to walk again.

Mountford stated that he has achieved and sur-

passed his career goals, and that it is now time to be with his family and move on to the next chapter in his life.

"For me to be able to race at the level I have and on the circuits I have, I'm very proud to have done it. I have more than achieved all my goals through the years and I've always put 110



Russell Mountford's bike is exhibited in Macau ahead of the GP

percent into everything I have done," he tweeted.

Mountford, in his debut on the Guia circuit, crashed on the first day of this year's Macau Grand Prix. He sustained several

injuries, the worst of which was to his pelvis, effectively ending an eight-year road racing career that started at the Ian Watson Spring Cup Road Races at Oliver's Mount, 2007.

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### New dep't heads appointed in gov't reshuffle

**H**OI Chi Leong, director of the Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation, will take the helm of the Office for the Development of the Energy Sector (GDSE) from January 1 next year.

The news of the appointment was broken according to an order of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosario, published yesterday at the Official Gazette (BO).

The office's coordinator, Amaldo Ernesto dos Santos, will be appointed to head the Housing Bureau (IH) instead. The current IH head, Ieong Kam Wa, will be demoted to vice president as a result.

The officials will hold their new post for at least one year, according to the BO.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works also finalized the appointment of two officials to the vacant vice coordinator positions at the Transportation Infrastructure Office, both of which have been unattended for some time.

## Report on AL election proposes longer campaign period

Aries Un

**T**HE members of the Electoral Affairs Commissions that supervised the 2013 election for the Legislative Assembly are now arguing that candidates should be allowed to publicize their political platforms for longer periods.

The proposal was included in one of two reports released yesterday that focuses on possible improvements to the operation of elections for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Assembly.

The 39-page report recognized the challenges of preventing illegalities in campaigning, given the "varying civic quality among locals."

"The objective difficulty lies apparent within the measure that demands ordinary citizens, voters and prospective candidates retain composure and stay away from any promotional activities for manifestos related to the election," the Commission report reads.

Such activities are strictly banned during the campaign



Staff assist electors during the latest AL election in Macau

ning period, which runs for about half a year between the official announcement of the election date and the election itself.

The proposal indicates that the effective campaign period could be longer, although the official campaign would still run for around two statutory weeks. During this period, lawmaker candidates are permitted to establish physical, virtual and roving platforms to disseminate manifestos.

In addition, the report argues that all campaign activities should shut down 34 hours before the election, as per current regulations.

The report also suggests that

candidates should seek locally registered audits over their accounts before they are submitted to the management committee for funding.

Current regulations stipulate that each party's budget should not exceed 0.02 percent of the total income anticipated by the government for that year. However, all parties in the running are allowed to receive unlimited financial donations to sustain or even reinforce their campaigns. The authors of the report found it difficult to identify the source of candidates' financial support.

Of the MOP5.64 million budgeted for each group in the

**■ The report claims it is difficult to trace source of candidates' financial support**

last edition, MOP17,400 was said to be the smallest amount spent by one candidacy, while the biggest spender's expenditure reached up to MOP3.88 million.

Taking into account the voting patterns of the elderly population and those with lesser education, the report also called for changes to the ballots' design so as to lower the number of invalid ballots. Compared to the total of 6,498 invalid vote tickets received in the fourth election, only 4,280 ballots were identified as null.

In another 39-page report regarding the 2014 election for the region's Chief Executive, the authors argue that the contacts of the 400 electoral committee members, composed of a further 400 voters, should be easily available.

The reports also suggest that the Electoral Affairs Commissions should be assembled beforehand or put on a permanent basis, so as to facilitate fluid coordination with other government agencies.

According to the reports' authors, a long-standing electoral body might be able to cope with frequent enquiries and requests, such as the regular complaint of managerial bodies about the limited time in which to prepare for elections.

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ONE in every seven patacas received as income in Macau makes its way to non-resident earners, the Statistics and Census Service has revealed. The new data represents a significant income outflow but marks a slight decrease from a year before.

The new information, compiled from 2014 data, puts Macau's Gross National Income (GNI) at MOP380.23 billion at current prices, denoting a 14.2 percent "leakage" to non-resident earners; either to foreign workers based in the MSAR or to non-residents investing from abroad.

At the same time, the GNI figure represents a shortfall of MOP63.07 billion compared to Gross Domestic Product, ascertained to stand at MOP443.3 billion at current prices.

Gross National Income for

## 1 in 7 patacas go to non-resident earners

2014 increased by 6.7 percent in real terms (after adjusting for inflation) while per-capita GNI saw a marginal increase of 1.8 percent in real terms.

For non-resident enterprises and investors earning from investments within Macau – otherwise known as total outflow of the external factor income – 2014 recorded an increase of 11.9 percent year-on-year, mainly due to a 7.7 percent rise in direct investment income.

In contrast, the inflow of income earned by MSAR residents investing in overseas enterprises rose a staggering 53.5 percent year-on-year to MOP35.06 billion, largely attributed to an 85.9 percent increase in portfolio investment income.



Additionally, direct investment income (MOP829 million) and income on reserve assets (MOP1.34 billion) increased by 170.2 percent and 11.8 percent

respectively.

In 2014, per-capita GNI was at MOP611,999, up by 4.3 percent from the recorded MOP586,681 from a year earlier. The latest

data indicates a slowdown in the growth of incomes in Macau when compared with the 2012-2013 period, which saw a rise of more than 14 percent.

Meanwhile, last year's data showed that non-resident earnings amounted to 15.9 percent of Gross Domestic Product, meaning that 2014's leakage (14.2 percent) records a slight decrease in the proportion of total income earned by non-residents as opposed to MSAR residents.

As export prices of goods and services have grown at a faster rate than import prices, the Statistics and Census Service noted a rise in Macau's external real purchasing power. **Staff Reporter**

## 2014 tax refund to start next April

Aries Un

**STARTING** April 2016, around 134,000 taxpayers can expect to receive refunds on some of their career taxes. The Finance Services Bureau (DSF) has called on tax-

payers to register accounts on designated banks, in order to shorten the administrative procedures involved in tax returns.

According to the announcement yesterday at DSF headquarters, the new round of registra-

tions also targets non-resident employees, who are required to register their local currency accounts for the transfer at eight local banks – which have partnered with the MSAR government – before February 29, 2016.

The government tax in 2014 comprises of up to 60 percent of individual taxes to be returned. Individuals will receive maximum returns of up to MOP12,000.

Around 67,000 people completed the registration during the first two months of 2015. However, according to the authorities, only 48,000

taxpayers have received part of their 2013 returns, since some of the subscribers were not among the 100,000-odd taxpayers eligible for the refund.

The DSF officials called on eligible taxpayers to complete the registration procedure as soon as possible in order to receive the refund in a more timely fashion.

"Most importantly, [this] makes it easy to receive the financial services bureau's tax refunds and other refundable payments," said DSF official Leong Sio Lin.

Individuals with registered accounts will also become permanent recipients of cash handouts, as part of the wealth partaking scheme.

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STATISTICS

# November sees imports down, exports up

**I**NFORMATION from the Statistics and Census Service indicated that total imports of goods for November 2015 fell 17.4 percent year-on-year, while total exports of goods are up 6 percent for the same period.

Excluding the import and export of services, the goods trade deficit widened to MOP68.02 billion for the first eleven months of 2015.

The data also indicated that total imports of goods, which amounted to MOP6.67 billion in November, saw a fourth consecutive month of decline, resulting in a figure 17.4 percent smaller than recorded in November 2014.

By country of origin, imports from mainland China (MOP29.19 billion) slipped 9.3 percent year-on-year, while imports from the European Union (MOP17.25) fell 13.1 percent.

Total exports of goods for November constituted MOP9.79 billion. While the value of re-exports increased 14.6 percent, domestic exports fell by more than 10 percent.

By destination, the export of goods to Hong Kong (MOP5.83 billion) and to mainland China (MOP1.67 billion) increased by 11.3 percent and 19.3 percent year-on-year, respectively, for the first eleven months of 2015.

Meanwhile, exports to the EU (MOP203 million) and the USA (MOP184 million) tumbled by 23.1 percent and 34.8 percent, respectively.

EDUCATION

# No more queues for first-time kindergarten applicants

Aries Un

**A**UTHORITIES have centralized individual application procedures for kindergartens, in a bid to address the issue of parents queuing around schools during application periods to secure classroom seats for their children.

From January 5 to 25 next year, applicants will be allowed to register on the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau's website. All admission information will be available starting January 1.

During a media briefing yesterday over the new initiative for next year's 5,900-odd prospective students, Kong Chi Meng, who heads the bureau's division for pre-school and primary education affairs, urged the parents to stay calm throughout the four-month application process.

"All the applications can be made at anytime during the three-week period and it



won't make any difference," the official stated, stressing that no priority will be given to early applications.

The central application system, said to be subject to a technological task force's monitoring, allows applicants a maximum of six choices of schools.

The authorities also emphasized that the system would guarantee interview opportunities for applicants' preferred schools, which do not have an upper limit.

"The measure this time will

primarily save parents' time on lining up and looking into schools," Kong further clarified. "Yet the schools, as before, have the autonomy to admit students after interviews."

Children must be at least three years old to apply. Non

**■ No priority will be given to early applications**

-local citizens' children must possess a grant for a stay of more than 90 days in Macau in order to be eligible for the kindergarten application.

All the scheduled interviews will be conducted between February 26 and March 31.

Between April 1 and 14, applicants who completed the online applications and interviews will have to obtain their unique registration slip at any of the government's self-service kiosks. In the meantime, the schools' lists of admitted students will be made available in due course.

Unsuccessful applicants will have to continue their search after April 15, while standby candidates will also be notified of their final status around the same time.

Parents who are unfamiliar with the Internet can also register at one of the bureau's four counters, with two in the region and the rest in Taipa.

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2015 IN REVIEW

# WSJ: A 'rotten' year for the gaming industry

**T**HIS year has been a wild and unpredictable one for Macau's gaming industry, which has suffered from repeated complications and is now mired in the worst recession of its short history.

In a yearly review of the gaming industry published yesterday by the Wall Street Journal, it's mentioned that the upcoming release of the gross gaming revenue indicators for December will provide a full picture of the damage done this year. WSJ's Kate O'Keeffe notes that by then, "Macau's rotten 2015 will become official."

Gross gaming revenue, by most forecasts, is expected to fall by approximately a third year-on-year. Although some investors hope that a recovery will materialize in early 2016, others warn that long-term trends in mainland China could mean that the VIP sector – historically the "moneymaker"



This photograph taken with a tilt-shift lens shows part of the Cotai

in Macau – is gone for good.

According to the WSJ, investors who had been bullish on Macau's casinos have grown frustrated with the prolonged recession. As of Tuesday's closing price, the shares of the five major Hong Kong-listed casino operators had fallen by an average of 48 percent over the course of 2015.

Indeed, the effects of President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption crackdown and the new,

tighter banking regulations have compelled casino operators and junkets to adapt to a whole new ball game.

The MSAR's gaming enterprises are expected to shoulder the recession with minimal long-term consequences, even as they make significant, costly investments to improve mass-market facilities, such as Melco Crown's Studio City.

Junket operators, however, fared far worse throughout

2015. Some analysts, having observed the value of gaming revenue from VIP clients tumble by up to 44 percent this year, are questioning whether their Macau operations could be abandoned in the near future.

"The situation in Macau is like it was in the late 1990s ahead of the handover," said Agnes Lam, a scholar at the University of Macau and pre-

## The situation in Macau is like the late 1990s

AGNES LAM

sident of the Macao Civic Power. She declared to the Wall Street Journal, "something big is going to change. The power will shift."

The first few months of 2016 are expected to set the tempo for the rest of the year. While some are predicting a gradual recovery, others are far less optimistic.

Analysts at Daiwa Securities Group forecast another 5 percent drop in gambling revenue in early 2016. **Staff reporter**

## Light Festival extended to New Year's Day



The Tourism Office has announced the extension of the "Macau Light Festival 2015 – Journey of Lights" to January 1, 2016, so that visitors and residents can celebrate the New Year at leading local attractions. In view of the expected crowds, spectators are advised to follow the instructions of police officers on site in order to ensure their personal safety.

## MPI Alumni Association visits HK



The Macau Polytechnic Institute [MPI] announced in a press release its Alumni Association's exchange visit to Hong Kong Airlines and Hong Kong Lingnan University, headed by Wong U Kei, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association. The visit took place over two days last week, with the aim of building and strengthening the network of relationships amongst its alumni.

## UM scholar awarded



Prof Inocência Mata from the University of Macau's (UM) Department of Portuguese received the FEMINA Prize 2015 for her research and teaching work in Lusophone literature, according to a UM press release. Prof Mata has published an extensive body of work in Literature of the Portuguese-speaking World and Postcolonial Studies. She has served as a visiting professor at universities all over the world, where she also teaches African Literature and Cultures. The FEMINA Prize recognizes women from Portuguese-speaking countries who work in different fields of professional, cultural, and humanitarian activities around the world.

**A**USTRALIAN-LISTED casino empire Crown Resorts can expect "a few more years of declining earnings," according to Fitch Ratings.

The international ratings agency said that James Packer's company will continue to suffer from dwindling dividends from its Macau-based Melco Crown Entertainment.

Fitch added that the Chinese government's anti-corruption campaign, together with global macroeconomic uncertainty, had resulted in Macau's gross gaming revenues declining by 39 percent year-on-year to USD22.64 billion in 2015. Fitch analyst Nandini Vijayaraghavan expects Melco Crown's dividends to continually decline in 2016 and 2017, and offered ambiguous views on the Macau gaming industry's chances of a quick recovery.

Crown Resorts owner James Packer announced last week that he would step down from the board of Crown Resorts,

GAMING

## Fitch expects Crown Resorts revenue decline to continue



James Packer

but will remain the co-chairman of Melco. His private investments firm, Consolidated Press Holdings, will also remain the majority shareholder with a 53 percent stake. Crown Resorts will reportedly proceed with the expansion plans and new projects

despite the crisis, as they have a significant funding pipeline for the next four years.

"Crown's pipeline of development projects, when complete, will diversify earnings and its portfolio of assets, and position Crown as a global gaming company with significant scale and diversity," Mr Vijayaraghavan said.

Although studies show that the expansion is likely to result in increased financial leverage, it is still expected to comply with Fitch's guidelines in the lead-up to project completion. The new projects include Crown Towers Perth, Alon Las Vegas, Crown Sydney and Queensbridge Melbourne.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Your Financial Health In The New Year - Part 1

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



JULIET RISDON

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With 2015 behind and 2016 looming, many of us are reflecting on what has happened over the past year and how we can make 2016 a better year in every respect.

Yes... Its that time again. We are contemplating our New Year Resolutions! What are your resolutions for this upcoming year? We may take a look at relationships, travel ambitions, work, health and fitness, and of course we must pay attention to our financial health.

Have you thought of giving your finances a review against the goals you set last year? Is your portfolio as balanced and strong as you would like it to be?

Now may be a good time to make some promises to yourself for 2016, and although you may not need any prompting, here are a

few points that might help provoke some thoughts; Where do you start?

1. Identify your Goal - It's widely accepted that a good place to start is with the end in mind!

So what is it that you want to achieve? What will you use the funds for? Possible goals may include; A house of your own. Money for a deposit or furnishings would be handy or maybe even redecorating or renovating.

Education for the kids. Do you need to provide school fees or University funds? A Pension / Early retirement Travel / Sabbatical Once you have identified your end goals you can ask yourself some more questions.

2. Identify WHY your Goal is important - what is the primary reason you

want to make your money grow?

The thought of financial independence?

To provide security in your retirement?

To leave a legacy?

3. Make your Target Specific and Measurable - How much exactly do you have to invest and by how much are you aiming to increase your investment by?

Remember to keep it realistic, fantasy amounts will only frustrate you.

You can then look at what you have available and the return you could get, and then ask "Is this going to help me meet my goals?"

NEXT WEEK: Please do get your copy of MDT next week to see the unique reader offer in Part 2 of Your Financial Health in the New Year.

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## China's domestic MICE on rapid growth

IN a recent study on China's MICE market, the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) Foundation found that 138.5 million domestic trips were used for business purposes last year, with MICE business travellers spending approximately USD110 billion during those trips.

The study, titled "Market Assessment of MICE Business Travel in China," shows that domestic business travel for MICE purposes comprises 42 percent of trips. The first ever assessment of China's business events market reveals that the majority of business event trips in the country were hosted by Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou, which accounted for 27, 25 and 24 percent respectively, followed by Hong Kong (11 percent) and Macau (6 percent).

Joseph Bates, GBTA Foundation Vice President of Research, said the MICE segment presents a large opportunity for travel suppliers and that they expect more rapid growth as China's economy expands, surpassing the United States' domestic MICE travel expenditure. According to the study, 86 percent of business travellers have taken trips in China for MICE purposes, with an average stay length of 2.9 days. Moreover, around 29 percent of Chinese business travelers expect an increase in MICE meetings in 2016.

2015 IN REVIEW

# Chinese stocks sink in Hong Kong to extend Asia's biggest losses

Kyoungwha Kim

CHINESE shares in Hong Kong extended the biggest sell-off in Asia this year over concern the nation's deepening economic slowdown will sap corporate earnings. The offshore yuan weakened to a five-year low and bonds fell.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index slid 1.3 percent at the close, completing a third day of losses. China Life Insurance Co. and GF Securities Co. led declines by financial stocks. The Shanghai Composite Index closed 0.3 percent higher. The offshore yuan depreciated 0.4 percent after earlier falling to 6.6094, the weakest level since December 2010. China's 10-year bonds dropped the most in two weeks.

The Hang Seng China gauge has decoupled from mainland equities this year for the first time in a decade as the government intervened to support shares in Shanghai and Shenzhen and foreign investors turned bearish on the nation's earnings prospects. While the index of Chinese stocks in Hong Kong has fallen 19 percent in 2015, the most among Asian benchmark indexes tracked by Bloomberg, the Shanghai Composite Index has climbed 10 percent.

"The China market is likely to remain volatile in the first half as growth will slow further and the yuan is expected to weaken," said William Wong, head of sales trading at Shenwan Hongyuan



The Stock Exchange buildings in Hong Kong

## The China market is likely to remain volatile in the first half

WILLIAM WONG  
SHENWAN HONGYUAN GROUP

Group Co. in Hong Kong. "H shares are vulnerable as more U.S. rate hikes will affect the economy in Hong Kong as well as market sentiment."

Investors have been driven away from Chinese shares in Hong Kong by weak economic growth, surging volatility in mainland equities and an anti-graft campaign that led to the disappearance or arrest of some of the nation's most high-profile corporate executives. A weaker

yuan also cuts the value of corporate earnings by H shares, which are priced in Hong Kong dollars.

The Hang Seng gauge trades at 7.2 times reported earnings, the biggest discount to the MSCI All-Country World Index since 2003, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The CSI 300 index rose 0.1 percent as telecom and technology companies advanced, offsetting losses in financial and utilities stocks. ZTE Corp. rallied 1.9 percent, rising for a second day, while SDIC Power Holdings Co. slid 1.2 percent.

While H shares extend an annual tumble, a degree of normalcy has returned to mainland equity markets. A gauge of 50-day price swings has fallen to the lowest level in seven months, while the Shanghai Composite is poised for the best performance among major global indexes this quarter. Regulators have removed some support measures

implemented at the height of a \$5 trillion rout, while a ban on selling by major shareholders is due to expire next week.

The People's Bank of China has tolerated a 1.4 percent drop in the onshore currency this month, after propping up the exchange rate in the weeks leading up to the International Monetary Fund's Nov. 30 decision to grant the yuan reserve status. The monetary authority has become more hands-off of late and allowed a "significant depreciation" in December, Malaysian Banking Bhd. strategists led by Saktiandi Supaat wrote in a note dated Tuesday.

The yield on sovereign bonds due October 2025 climbed three basis points to 2.85 percent, after the central bank's chief economist damped speculation lenders' reserve-requirement ratios will be eased by saying any adjustments should avoid causing too much volatility to short-term rates. The benchmark 10-year yield sank to 2.80 percent this week, the lowest since January 2009, ChinaBond data show.

The nation's manufacturing sector probably contracted for a fifth straight month in December, according to the median forecast of analysts in a Bloomberg survey. The official purchasing managers index is due to be released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Jan. 1. Gross domestic product growth will slow from an estimated 6.9 percent this year to 6.5 percent next year, according to a separate Bloomberg survey.

In Hong Kong, Sinotrans Shipping Ltd. jumped 2.7 percent after the State Council approved a strategic restructuring of China Merchants Group and Sinotrans & CSC Holdings Co. The move, which comes after State-Owned Assets Supervision & Administration Commission agreed on a reorganization of China Ocean Shipping Group Co. and China Shipping Group Co., is part of a push to streamline the state-owned enterprises sector. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### JW MARRIOTT ANNOUNCES FIRST CNY MENU



JW Marriott Hotel Macau announced a wide range of dishes for the upcoming Chi-

nese New Year, which will be available from January 15 to February 22.

"Man Ho" Chinese Restaurant has designed two menus for CNY that include "Steamed Garoupa with Shredded Pork and Black Mushroom" for six and ten people at MOP2,888 and MOP5,688 respectively.

The auspicious Chinese New Year cuisine includes a variety of seafood, ranging from prawns to protein-rich six-head Australian abalone worth MOP2,288.

JW Marriott is also launching the Chinese New Year Puddings box set, which comes in two flavors: Low-sugar Maltitol and Almond Milk, both priced at MOP398.

Furthermore, "Man Ho" also offers an exclusive 8-course "Chef at Your Home" menu for guests who prefer a more intimate and private gathering, priced at MOP8,888.

### MIA JOINS CHINA CIVIL AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION

Macau International Airport Company Limited (CAM) was voted to be eligible to join the China Civil Airports Association (CCAA) during the organization's third meeting.

Macau International Airport (MIA) is the first organization from the Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan regions to join the Association, which aims to further the development of regional aviation.

Mr Xia Xinghua, Director of MIA, said that the meeting was held with the support and encouragement of all member airports, whose representatives shared ideas on the work of the Association. The members hope to coordinate with other airports and integrate resources to build a platform



for the development of China's civil aviation.

CCAA was established in August 2006. Its member organizations include civil airports

in China, as well as national, industry-based and non-profit community organizations formed by various legal and judicial entities.

**CHINA** will stop approving new coal mines for the next three years and continue to trim production capacity as the world's biggest energy consumer tries to shift away from the fuel as it grapples with pollution.

China will suspend the approval of new mines starting in 2016 and will cut coal's share of its energy consumption to 62.6 percent next year, from 64.4 percent now, Xinhua News Agency reported on Tuesday, citing National Energy Administration head Nur Bekri. It's the first time the government has suspended the approval of new coal mines, according to Deng Shun, an analyst with ICIS China.

The world's biggest producer of carbon emissions is seeking to boost the use of renewable fuels as smog has blanketed cities from Shanghai to Beijing, forcing factories and schools to close and intensifying pressure on public officials to cut pollution. This month China suspended price adjustments for fuel as a way to curb automobile exhaust and it has pledged to peak carbon emissions around 2030, by which time it aims to derive 20 percent of the energy it uses from clean sources.

"This new policy, along with efforts to eliminate inefficient mines, may help to ease the severe domestic oversupply" of coal, Deng said by phone from Guangzhou. "It will take several years to take effect."

The country will also close more than 1,000 coal mines next year, taking out 60 million metric tons of unneeded capacity, according to the Xinhua report. China shuttered a similar number of mines this year, wiping out 70 million tons of production, according to a separate statement from the NEA dated Dec. 29. The country is on track to produce 3.58 billion tons of coal this year, down 0.5 percent from 2014, according to the NEA.

China plans to increase wind and solar power capacity by

## ENVIRONMENT

# China to halt new coal mine approvals amid pollution fight



A coal mine in Jingtai county in northwest China's Gansu province

more than 21 percent and have at least 20 gigawatts of new wind power installations and 15 gigawatts of additional photovoltaic capacity next year, according to the NEA statement.

Beijing officials on Friday raised the city's air pollution alert to orange, the second-highest on the four-grade scale, warning children and the elderly to avoid outdoor activities as limited visibility from the thick smog forced the air-

port to cancel 227 departures. The chronic air pollution has renewed calls for the government to make better forecasts and act faster to help clear the skies over the city of 21.5 million.

Coal demand in China has slid as its economy slows amid a shift toward consumption-led growth and while it intensifies efforts to rein in pollution. China plans to ask companies to replace electricity generated from

their own coal-fired plants with renewable energy, the National Development and Reform Commission said last month.

Thermal coal at the port of Newcastle in Australia, a global benchmark, dropped to \$50.63 a ton in the week ended Dec. 25, the lowest since December 2006, according to data from Globalcoal. Prices have declined 18 percent this year.

China's total coal production capacity including mines un-

**Total coal production capacity including mines under construction is estimated at more than 5 billion tons**

## Wind, solar power capacity to increase in 2016

**CHINA**, the world's biggest clean energy investor, plans to increase wind and solar power capacity by more than 21 percent next year as it works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by cutting its reliance on coal.

The nation is targeting at least 20 gigawatts of new wind power installations and 15 gigawatts of additional photovoltaic capacity next year, the National Energy Administration said in a statement on Tuesday.

China has pledged to peak carbon emissions around 2030, by which time it aims to derive 20 percent of the energy it uses from clean sources. China will also stop approving new coal mines in the next three years, the Xinhua News Agency reported on Tuesday, citing National Energy Administration head Nur Bekri.

The world's biggest producer of carbon emissions is expected at the end of this year to have a total of 120 gigawatts of wind power, 43 gigawatts of solar, and 320 gigawatts of hydro power, the NEA said. To accommodate the clean energy additions, China will promote the construction of electricity networks, the agency said.

China will also accelerate hydropower construction in the southwest, the NEA said. To subsidize renewable energy projects, the nation plans to raise a surcharge slapped onto electricity bills by about 27 percent to 0.019 yuan a kilowatt-hour, China's top-economy agency, the National Development and Reform Commission, said yesterday.

The move, which will come into effect on January 1, could help ease the mis-



Workers assemble solar panels at a factory in Hefei, in central China's Anhui province

match between the surcharges and what the government pays out to renewable power developers. At the moment, the gap is threatening the nation's plans to use more clean energy as part of efforts to combat climate change. **Bloomberg**

der construction is estimated at more than 5 billion tons while its coal output for next year will probably reach 3.7 billion tons, leaving more than 20 percent of its capacity idle, according to David Fang, a director with China Coal Transport and Distribution Association in Beijing.

"We expect to see less downside pressure on coal prices in view of ongoing production cuts in 2016 and demand recovery, albeit at a slow pace," said Helen Lau, an analyst with Argonaut Securities (Asia) Ltd. "China is still oversupplied."

The NEA estimates China next year will consume 3.96 billion tons of coal, 550 million tons of oil and 205 billion cubic meters of natural gas, according to the Xinhua report. **Bloomberg**

# China, Taiwan inaugurate upgraded hotline between sides

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**C**ABINET officials from China and Taiwan have spoken for the first time using a newly inaugurated hotline, the latest effort to build trust between the longtime rivals.

The link that went into service yesterday represents an upgrade in contact between the sides by connecting the heads of the two Cabinet-level agencies responsible for their relations, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council and China's Taiwan Affairs Office.

Existing hotlines already connect the agencies' deputy directors as well as the semi-official organizations that have negotiated a series of agreements in the absence of formal ties.

The new hotline was among the few takeaways from a historic November summit in Singapore between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Taiwanese counterpart, Ma Ying-jeou. The one-day event marked the first



In this Nov. 7, 2015, file photo, Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, left, shake hands at the Shangri-la Hotel in Singapore

meeting between leaders of the sides since they split amid civil war in 1949.

Taiwan Affairs Office spokesman Ma Xiaoguang told reporters in Beijing that the new hotline would ease communication on important issues and help enhance mutual trust and

understanding.

"We hope the two authorities will make efforts to maintain and promote the peaceful development of cross-strait relations," said Ma, who also referenced China's demand that Taiwan recognize it is a part of China.

Bitter hostility between the sides has eased considerably over the past two decades, especially under the pro-China policies of Ma Ying-jeou, who was elected as Taiwan's president in 2008. Direct trade and travel links have been fully established, and the sides' economies are growing

increasingly intertwined.

However, China and Taiwan are now moving into a period of uncertainty, with Ma leaving office next year and opposition Democratic Progressive Party candidate Tsai Ing-wen touted to win next month's presidential election.

Tsai's DPP backs Taiwan's formal independence, and she has

■ The hotline was among the few takeaways from a historic November summit between Xi Jinping and Ma Ying-jeou

refused to endorse Beijing's demand that she recognize the island and mainland as part of a single Chinese nation.

In keeping with majority public opinion, however, Tsai has said she plans no changes to the status quo of de facto independence while seeking stable relations with Beijing. China, which threatens to respond to any independence declaration by Taiwan with military force, has yet to comment publicly on the Jan. 16 Taiwanese election. **AP**

## 8 survivors found 5 days after Chinese mine collapsed



Rescuers try to contact the trapped people at a collapsed mine in Pingyi County

**R**ESCUERS using infrared cameras to peer into darkness at a wrecked mine in eastern China yesterday found eight surviving miners who were trapped for five days after a collapse so violent it registered as a seismic event.

The disaster on Christmas Day at the gypsum mine in Shandong province killed at least one worker. Nine others remain missing, and 11 made it to safety or were rescued early on.

Infrared cameras detected the surviving miners waving their hands yesterday, and rescuers were

■ Infrared cameras detected the surviving miners waving their hands

drawing up plans to pull them to safety, said state broadcaster China Central Television, or CCTV. The rescuers sent provisions underground to the trapped men, China's official Xinhua News Agency said.

The workers were weak with hunger but otherwise were in good health, CCTV reported. They told rescuers they were in passages underground that were intact.

Two days after the collapse, the owner of the mine, Ma Congbo, jumped into a well and drowned in an apparent suicide. Four top officials in Pingyi county, where the mine is located, have been fired.

The collapse at the gypsum mine was so massive that the national earthquake bureau detected a quiver with a magnitude of 4.0 at the mine site.

Gypsum is a soft sulfate mineral that is widely used in construction.

China's mines have long been the world's deadliest, but safety improvements have reduced deaths in recent years. Last year, 931 people were killed in mine accidents in China, drastically down from the year 2002, when nearly 7,000 miners were killed. **AP**

## McDonald's supplier trial concludes in Shanghai

**A** Shanghai court concluded a trial of OSI Group LLC, the U.S. meat supplier that sells to McDonald's Corp. but got ditched by Yum! Brands Inc. in China for allegedly selling out-of-date products, according to a court official.

No schedule for a verdict on the case has been announced and the information will be published on the court's website, according to an official from Shanghai Jiading district court surnamed Yang, who wouldn't give her full name.

Shanghai and Hebei Hushi Foods Ltd., along with 10 employees, had been charged by prosecutors in September, according to a statement posted on a Shanghai government website.

The trial comes more than a year after a Chinese TV channel report that alleged Hushi workers were repackaging and selling expired chicken and

■ A TV report that alleged Hushi workers were repackaging and selling expired chicken and beef



beef. The ensuing fall-out prompted China and Japan-based fast-food chains from Yum-owned KFC to McDonald's to halt supplies from OSI and pull products from menus, hurting earnings.

Ding Ying, a Shanghai-based spokeswoman at OSI, declined to comment.

Yum, which gets more than half of its revenue from China, has been struggling to recover from the OSI scandal in the country and an avian-flu outbreak while trying to combat a rising competition from local restaurant brands. Its troubles have forced the fast-food chain to separate its China business from its U.S. operations, the biggest shake-up at the company since it was spun off from PepsiCo Inc. almost two decades ago. **Bloomberg**

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

# N. Korea says top official on S. Korea dies in car accident

**N**ORTH Korea's top official in charge of relations with South Korea has died in a traffic accident, the country's state media announced yesterday, potentially dimming the prospect for ties between the rival countries. He was 73.

Kim Yang Gon, head of the United Front Department at the ruling Workers' Party, died on Tuesday morning, the Korean Central News Agency reported. It said a state funeral will be held today but gave no further details about his death.

While North Korea's road conditions are poor, the lack of detail helped feed speculation in South Korean media that Kim's death was suspicious, though South Korean officials declined to comment.

Similar speculation arose in past years following reported traffic deaths of high-level North Korean officials. It's almost impossible to verify what is exactly happening among the North's secretive, authoritarian ruling elite.

Before his death, there had been no signs that Kim Yang Gon was engaged in any major factional feuding with other officials. He was among officials who most frequently accompanied Kim Jong Un during his inspection visits to army units and factories, a strong indication that he was one of the leader's trusted aides.

Yesterday's KCNA dispatch described him as the leader's "closest comrade-in-arms and steadfast revolutionary comrade" who had made "dedicated" efforts to push for unification with South Korea.

Analysts in Seoul say strained ties between the rival Koreas could continue following the unexpected death of Kim, who had long handled relations with South Korea. KCNA did not say who would replace him.



In this Oct. 4, 2014 file photo, Kim Yang Gon arrives at the Incheon International Airport in South Korea

Earlier this month, the rival Koreas ended rare high-level talks without any agreement.

"I worry that we cannot avoid [a] long suspension of a dialogue between South and North Korea" following Kim's death, said Cheong Seong-chang, an analyst at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea.

In August, Kim Yang Gon attended marathon talks at the Korean border that defused a military standoff triggered by land mine explosions blamed

on North Korea that maimed two South Korean soldiers.

The two Koreas subsequently resumed their first reunions of families separated by war since early 2014, but hopes of improved ties subsided after this month's inter-Korean talks failed to reach any breakthrough.

South Korean Unification Minister Hong Yong-pyo sent condolences yesterday, according to Hong's ministry. South Korea has previously offered si-

imilar condolences when senior North Korean officials died.

Kim Yang Gon visited South Korea in 2009 to pay his respects to late President Kim Dae-jung, who held the first inter-Korean summit with Kim Jong Il in 2000. He was believed to have played a key role in arranging a second summit in 2007. Most rapprochement agreements signed after the two summit talks remain stalled or have never been implemented after animosities flared again

■ KCNA dispatch described Kim Yang Gon as the leader's 'closest comrade-in-arms and steadfast revolutionary comrade'

between the rivals.

The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

A list of people forming Kim Yang Gon's funeral committee includes Choe Ryong Hae, another close associate of Kim Jong Un who South Korea's National Intelligence Service said last month was banished to a rural collective farm for re-education. The spy agency, which has a mixed record on tracking North Korea, said yesterday it was trying to check details about Choe.

Choe's reported banishment had been seen as the latest in a series of executions, purges and dismissals that Kim Jong Un has orchestrated in what outside analysts say was a further strengthening of his grip on power. AP

## Thailand sees government spending up, exports down

**T**HE Thai economy is recovering at a gradual pace, the Bank of Thailand (BOT) said yesterday. November was marked by an expansion in government spending and the tourism sector, as well as contracted merchandise exports and imports.

Last month, government spending increased by 17 percent year-on-year, the BOT said in a statement. Furthermore, state-owned enterprises spending also improved, especially on power plant projects.

The value of merchandise exports dropped by 6.6 percent year-on-year. "This reflected both a decline in quantity and a decrease in export prices due to the economic slowdown in China and ASEAN coun-



A Buddhist temple in Bangkok, Thailand

tries and lower prices of oil-related products as a result of slumps in global oil prices," the statement said.

Nevertheless, the BOT added, ex-

ports of certain goods registered modest growth, namely automobiles and electronic parts used as raw materials for new models of mobile phones. In November, the value of merchandise imports contracted by 8.5 percent year-on-year, according to the bank.

Meanwhile, Thailand's tourism sector improved, reflected by a continued increase in the number of foreign tourists for the second consecutive month after contracting in the aftermath of the bombing incident in Bangkok in mid-August.

The number of foreign tourists increased by 2.5 percent from the previous month as a result of a pick-up in East Asian tourist arrivals, especially Chinese tourists.

Nevertheless, the BOT said, the number of foreign tourist arrivals from other countries such as Australia, Russia, Indonesia and Malaysia has not recovered. MDT/Xinhua

## PHILIPPINES

### Troops battle militants in south, at least 9 dead

**O**FFICIALS say Philippine troops have clashed with about 100 Abu Sayyaf gunmen suspected of plotting attacks on New Year's Eve, leaving eight militants and one soldier dead.

Regional military spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan said the fighting was still continuing late yesterday in a hinterland village off Patikul town in Sulu province. He said at least one soldier and seven

militants were wounded.

Tan said the militants were believed to be led by Abu Sayyaf commander Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan, who has been blamed for several kidnappings, including of foreign tourists.

A police report, citing intelligence information, said the militants were planning to carry out bombings in downtown Jolo town and to attack police and military detachments on New Year's Eve. AP



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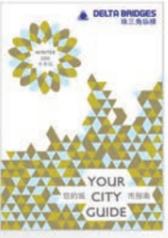
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Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016



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1 pm: Lunch  
1.45 pm: Presentation by Oliver Tong  
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Alexander Polegenko and  
Nataliya Vasilyeva, Sevastopol

# Crimeans enter 2016 struggling, but optimistic

AS New Year's Eve approaches, the central square of Crimea's largest city is festooned with bright festive decorations, including a soaring artificial tree that flashes and winks. But areas just a few steps away are sunk in darkness, the street lamps turned off because of an electricity shortage.

Sevastopol and the rest of Crimea are slowly recovering from a blackout that hit the Russia-annexed peninsula in late November when unidentified attackers blew up pylons of the lines from mainland Ukraine that supplied nearly all its electricity. The blackout underscored how dependent Crimea remained on Ukraine, which lost control of the Black Sea Peninsula in March 2014. Following the ouster of Ukraine's former Russia-friendly president, Moscow sent in troops to take over the mostly Russian-speaking region and annexed it after a hastily-called referendum.

For about two weeks after the pylon bombing, the peninsula's 2 million people were almost entirely without power, and critical establishments such as hospitals relied on their own emergency generators. Conditions eased somewhat after Ukraine restored one of the power lines and after the first of several underwater electricity cables from Russia went into service. That so-called "energy bridge" had been under development before the blackout.

While Ukrainian nationalists and Crimean Tatars who oppose Russian annexation vengefully cheered the blackout, most of Crimea's people appear to see it as confirmation they did the right thing by voting to split off from Ukraine.



People take pictures at Nakhimov's Square in Sevastopol, Crimea

Businessman Artyom Kryuchkov said he and his wife had to buy an electric generator and stand in lines to get petrol. But the hardships did not make him or his family want to go back to Ukraine.

"The two-week long black-out brought us closer to each other," Kryuchkov said.

"By punishing Crimeans, Ukrainian officials have lost Crimea and played right into Putin's hands," Andrei Kolesnikov of the Moscow Carnegie Center said in a recent article. "By pursuing revenge against the regime they have hurt ordinary people instead. This will only make the regime stronger, and the besieged fortress will become even more besieged."

Crimea faces an array of problems, including a severe decline in tourism, a key piece of

## Foreign investors fled after the peninsula was slapped with Western economic sanctions

its economy. Crimea's tourism minister, Sergei Strelbitsky, bragged in October that some 4 million people had come to the region's beaches and mountains in 2015 — but that's far below the 5.7 to 6 million recorded in the two years preceding the annexation.

Many residents complain that

the region is poorly run. "The main negative thing is the work of local authorities: heaps of garbage around, bad roads and the inability or unwillingness (of officials) to tackle the issues," Kryuchkov said.

While local schools and hospitals have received expensive equipment and funds for refurbishment from Russia in recent months, Moscow's investment in Crimea is not evident when driving on Crimea's potholed roads or walking by crumbling building facades.

In December, Crimean Governor Sergei Aksyonov complained that Moscow had not sent "a single kopeck" from the billions it had promised. Aksyonov accused the government of seeking too much control over how the peninsula spends the money. Russian state news agencies in

turn quoted an unnamed government source saying that Moscow has sent 2 billion rubles (USD28 million) to Crimea, but that local authorities simply don't know what to do with it.

Foreign investors fled after the peninsula was slapped with Western economic sanctions, casting doubt on the region's future. Major Russian companies including cell phone operators, oil firms and banks closed their branches in Crimea fearing the backlash of Western sanctions, leaving the region's banking and telecommunications to obscure private-owned firms.

These days, even ardent supporters of the annexation like former Sevastopol mayor Alexei Chaly admit that federal incentives to restart the economy, such as a plan to establish a free economic zone in Sevastopol, have failed.

"Sea, warm climate, a free economic zone — that's an advantage," Chaly, speaker of the Sevastopol parliament, said in an interview with the RIA Novosti news agency last week. "But the disadvantages are the collapsed infrastructure and an unpredictable government."

But Kryuchkov and his wife, who both work in tourism, are somewhat optimistic.

"The prices are going up, we see lots of problems with getting new documents, the banks are still few in number," Olga Kryuchkova said. "But for people who went through the 1990s it's nothing. We've seen worse times." AP

# Belgium, Netherlands to exchange territory without a fight

THROUGHOUT history, borders have caused unfathomable bloodshed, ageless feuds and decades-old legal disputes, which makes plans for a friendly exchange of land between the Netherlands and Belgium all the more remarkable.

The reason for such magnanimity? "Because it makes sense to do so," says Marcel Neven, the mayor of Vise, Belgium.

Well, that and perhaps a little help from a headless body. While Belgium will be losing a splendid piece of nature that juts into the Meuse River dividing the two nations, it will also unburden itself of a

jurisdictional nightmare that developed over time as the river meandered to turn the portion of land belonging to Belgium — about 15 soccer fields worth — into a peninsula linked only to the Netherlands.

Over time, the area was rumored to be increasingly lawless, a haven for drug dealers and illicit sexual escapades. Then, some three years ago, passersby stumbled onto a headless body. "They alerted Dutch authorities, who told them it was Belgian territory," said Jean-Francois Duchesne, police Commissaire of the Lower Meuse region.

In short, the Dutch could not go there because it was Belgian territory, and Belgian police and judicial authorities found it extremely tough to get there. They are not allowed to cross into the Netherlands without special permission and the peninsula had no proper landing zone for boats or equipment coming in by water.

"So we had to go there by boat with all that was needed — the prosecutor, the legal doctor, the judicial lab — we had to do round trips over the water. It really was not very practical," Duchesne said.

And beyond that, Neven

remembered: "You had to jump from the boat onto the shore. You needed to be in shape for this."

But soon there will be no more wading in water, and a peaceful swap should be reality.

"We should have done it a long time ago," Neven said.

Preparatory work has been done and the two nations' parliaments should be able to complete a deal sometime in 2016, Neven said, almost two centuries after the 1843 border posts were set. And all with a smile on everyone's face, even though Belgium will get only a tiny part around a



The Belgian and Dutch flags flap in the wind at the ferry port of Lanaye, Belgium

lock that has been built to promote traffic between the two nations.

"In essence, it is very rare but it can happen," said barrister Malcolm Shaw, an expert on international border dispu-

tes. He highlighted how complicated history has woven the borders in the area close to where Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany touch, leaving enclaves and strangely twisted borders. AP

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## THURSDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:45	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Fillers
23:50	Count Down 2015/2016
00:15	Portuguese Music
01:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Religious Program
16:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News
16:50	Seasonal Program
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Seasonal Program
22:00	Publicity
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## SATURDAY

10:30	Boonie Bears - Sr.2
11:35	Young Adult
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
18:30	Contest
19:20	Miscellaneous
19:50	Non-Daily Portuguese News
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	The Chronicles of Wu Li - In St. Paul's College
22:25	Jazz Music
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Single Blog
01:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## offbeat

## PRIEST REBUKED FOR RIDING HOVERBOARD DURING MASS



Philippine Roman Catholic Church officials have reprimanded a priest for riding a hoverboard and singing a song during Christmas Eve Mass.

The Diocese of San Pablo, south of Manila, said the Rev. Albert San Jose apologized for his action, which was caught on

video and widely shared on YouTube.

The video shows the priest in a white cassock gliding up and down the church's aisles on the two-wheeled electric scooter while singing a Christmas song. Some members of the surprised congregation applaud as he pivots and moves backward.

The performance came just before the final blessing in the Mass at the church in Binan city in Laguna province.

"That was wrong," the diocese said in a statement late Tuesday, emphasizing that celebrating the Mass is the church's "highest form" of worship and "demands utmost respect and reverence."

"It is not a personal celebration where one can capriciously introduce something to get the attention of the people," it said.

The priest could not immediately be reached for comment.

Philippine church officials have urged priests to live simply and humbly as they minister to the poor in the Asian bastion of Catholicism, especially under the leadership of Pope Francis, who is known for his frugal lifestyle.

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

31 DEC - 06 JAN

## YO-KAI WATCH THE MOVIE\_

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.15, 5.15 pm

Director: Shigeharu Takahashi, Shinji Ushiro  
Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)  
Duration: 91min

## IP MAN 3\_

ROOM 1

(2D) 4.00, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun  
Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang  
Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)  
Duration: 110min

## SNOOPY: THE PEANUTS MOVIE\_

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 7.30 pm

Director: Steve Martino  
Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)  
Duration: 88min

## STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS\_

ROOM 2

(2D) 9.30 pm

Director: J.J. Abrams  
Starring: Teresa Palmer, Luke Bracey, Édgar Ramírez  
Language: English (Cantonese)  
Duration: 135min

## THE LITTLE PRINCE\_

ROOM 2

(2-6 JAN) (2D) 4.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Mark Osborne  
Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)  
Duration: 113min

## THE LITTLE PRINCE\_

ROOM 3

(2D) 2.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Mark Osborne  
Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)  
Duration: 113min

## THE BOY AND THE BEAST\_

ROOM 3

4.30 pm

Director: Mamoru Hosoda  
Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)  
Duration: 105min



## SHERLOCK: THE ABOMINABLE BRIDE\_

ROOM 2

(2-6 JAN) (2D) 2.15, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Douglas Mackinnon  
Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman  
Language: English (Cantonese)  
Duration: 89min

## MACAU TOWER

17 DEC - 6 JAN

## STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS\_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J.J. Abrams  
Starring: Teresa Palmer, Luke Bracey, Édgar Ramírez  
Language: English (Cantonese)  
Duration: 135min



## this day in history



## 1999 PUTIN TAKES OVER AS YELTSIN RESIGNS

Boris Yeltsin has resigned as Russian president, taking the country and the rest of the world completely by surprise.

Mr Yeltsin made the shock announcement live on Russian television and said Prime Minister Vladimir Putin will take over as acting president, with elections now due to take place on 26 March 2000.

"I am going. I am going earlier than my established time," he said. The 68-year-old had repeatedly said he would serve out his second and final term in office, which was meant to continue until June 2000.

Mr Yeltsin asked for forgiveness for what he called the errors of his administration, and said Russia needed to enter the new century with new political leaders. He said: "I want to beg forgiveness for your dreams that never came true. And also I would like to beg forgiveness not to have justified your hopes."

It was an unusual admission from a man who, during his eight years as president, rarely said he was wrong. Mr Yeltsin's time in office has been a traumatic one for Russia which, since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, has had to transform itself from a state-run economy into a free-market one.

He spearheaded economic reforms that have favored some but seen the living standards of many worsen. In 1998 the ruble lost 70% of its value against the dollar and 29% of the population (42 million people) were living below the poverty line.

But US President Bill Clinton praised Mr Yeltsin for bringing democracy to Russia, and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair said the world was "more stable and secure" as a result of the former president's leadership.

The briefcase which contains the codes that control Russia's nuclear arsenal has been handed over to Mr Putin. Once an intelligence officer with the KGB and then in 1998 head of Federal Security (the new title for the KGB), he was a little known figure until he became prime minister in August.

But with a 60% opinion poll approval rating, Mr Putin is now widely seen as Russia's most popular politician who offers strong leadership. Following last year's economic crisis and his tough handling of the war in Chechnya, Mr Putin's no-nonsense approach has appealed to many Russians.

In a New Year's address, which has been broadcast in Russia's Far East, Mr Putin said: "There will be no power vacuum even for a moment."

Mr Putin is not bound to find a successor but has indicated he will continue in the post at least until next month. The Russian stock market rose sharply on news of the resignation, up nearly 17% by mid-day on heavy trading.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

**Boris** Yeltsin's presidency had become increasingly unpopular as well as unpredictable. The country suffered from widespread corruption and enormous political and social problems.

Mr Yeltsin played a key role in bringing down the Soviet Union in 1991 but this euphoria was short lived.

By the time he left office his radical economic reforms had led to the irreversible destruction of the Soviet economic system. One third of the country was living below the poverty line, free healthcare was for most a distant memory, and the country's population was rapidly shrinking.

He later described his decision to send the Russian army into the breakaway republic of Chechnya, at the end of 1994, as his greatest mistake.

An estimated 100,000 people lost their lives and in 1996 the Russian army was forced into a humiliating withdrawal - before it was sent back again in 1999.

But Mr Yeltsin did manage to carry the rest of Russia through a turbulent transformation with far less bloodshed than many had feared.

And the West saw him as the best guarantor of stable East-West relations.

His decision to choose Vladimir Putin as his successor provided Mr Putin with a springboard to launch his campaign in the 2000 election - which he won.

He was re-elected in 2004.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to start something new today - it's in your blood. Try to dig deeply into your well of ideas, as there's a good one that's been dormant for far too long. Push forward and have fun!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today is all about communication, so make sure that you're keeping the flow moving with grace and speed. You should find that it's easier than ever to pass along the most important info.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You just aren't sure what to think - which is a rarity for you! It's a good time to let things proceed on their own while you try to make up your mind one way or the other. Let the process go on its own.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to deal with an important personal issue today. Don't panic - it's not the end of the world; in fact, you should find that you've got what it takes to turn it into a real asset!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're feeling a sense of power and control that may be new to you. It's a great time for you to get your people to rally around a new cause or to just cease fire long enough to celebrate something wonderful.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've got to get better organized - and yes, that is possible! See if you can get your people to rally around a cleaning effort, or maybe you could just tackle your filing system once and for all.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The smaller things in life are more important than you realize today - so make sure that you're focused on the details! It may be hard with everything going on in your life, but it's a mental health break.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Control is a problem for you, and today you have a new opportunity to let go. See if you can find a good way to just ease into your new situation without having to know everything ahead of time.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You and your colleagues or family members are out of sync, but it's not the end of the world. You just need to step up and make sure that they don't see this rough patch as a symbol of anything bad.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to avoid the temptation to take offense today - someone lets fly with a comment that can be taken in many different ways. You are much better off assuming they mean it to be harmless.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to get out in the world and work your muscles! Some kind of exercise is vital - but don't overdo it, of course! You just need to make sure that you're on top of your fitness.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Try not to worry too much about your romantic situation today - you are in a good place, and whether you're single or seeing someone, you can expect things to get a lot better by the end of the day!



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Ball girl; 4- Took on; 9- Sunscreen ingredient; 13- Opposite of WSW; 14- In \_\_\_ (unborn); 15- Attorney Melvin; 16- Productive of heat; 18- Thespian; 19- Leaning; 20- Study of human settlements; 22- Empathize with; 25- Nothing special; 26- Examine account books; 28- The communication system of the body; 32- Western Hemisphere org.; 35- Beau; 37- Spoil; 38- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 40- Charged; 42- Stow, as cargo; 43- Student tables; 45- Divulge; 47- D-Day craft; 48- Detective; 50- Prongs; 52- Neighbor of Cambodia; 54- Subtle absorption; 58- Tries; 62- Omit in pronunciation; 63- Actress Oberon; 64- Listen secretly; 67- Extraterrestrial; 68- Video game pioneer; 69- New Haven student; 70- Capone foe; 71- Home and Oil; 72- D.C. advisory grp.;

DOWN: 1- Coffee choice; 2- Maternally related; 3- Contradict; 4- Injurious; 5- Lord, is \_\_\_?; 6- TKO caller; 7- Sandusky's lake; 8- Wharves; 9- Thoracic; 10- Prefix with meter; 11- Coalition; 12- Broadcasts; 15- Hunting dog; 17- Spanish stew; \_\_\_ podrida; 21- Charged particle; 23- Air freshener target; 24- Competitor; 27- Belief; 29- Antidote holder, maybe; 30- Concludes; 31- Editor's note; 32- Part of REO; 33- "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author; 34- Freelancer's encl.; 36- Rate; 39- Small guitars; 41- Heaps; 44- Pollen producer; 46- Agent of retribution; 49- Short trip; 51- Auctioneer's cry; 53- Great bargain; 55- Seductively beautiful woman; 56- Graven images; 57- Photographic tone; 58- \_\_\_ for All Seasons; 59- Prefix with conference; 60- Speaker of note; 61- Fill to the gills; 65- Covered vehicle; 66- Period of history;

Tuesday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words. Words include SEAU, STAGS, ABBA, CAMP, PELEE, TNON, ASET, TEAM, RANT, PBLOR, TRICH, INA, PLANE, LASSIE, OLEO, NATA, AL, SKEW, TRW, REDEYE, EER, NEED, RED, ARMADA, DEC, LISA, TRASH, JESU, SOPHIA, ATLAW, LUK, EW, ARM, ADHERE, YSER, POETS, EVES, RENT, ASTOP, REST, ADO, LSATS, NETS.

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-72 indicating starting positions for clues.

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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
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Stephen Wilson, London

**S**PORTS organizations must work harder than ever in 2016 to clean up their act after a year of corruption and doping scandals that tarnished the Olympic movement, IOC President Thomas Bach said yesterday in a New Year's message.

Bach said the entire Olympic world must live up to the public's expectations of integrity and heed his call from a year ago to "change or be changed."

"One just needs to look at the events over the last 12 months to realize that this message is even more urgent today to safeguard the credibility of sports organizations and to protect clean athletes," Bach said. "Undoubtedly, recent developments in some sports cast a shadow across the whole world of sport."

While Bach didn't cite any sports by name, he was clearly referring to the corruption scandal that has enveloped soccer governing body FIFA and the allegations of bribery and doping cover-ups involving the IAAF and Russia's track and field program.

Noting the public's growing demand for ethical behavior by athletes and sports bodies, Bach said: "It is our shared responsibility in the Olympic movement to provide new answers to new questions."

FIFA is reeling from a corruption scandal that has led to the arrests of dozens of soccer and marketing officials and eight-year bans for outgoing FIFA President

# Bach: Sports bodies must clean up to protect credibility

Sepp Blatter and UEFA head Michel Platini. Blatter is a former member of the International Olympic Committee.

Russia's athletics federation was suspended following a damning report by a World Anti-Doping Agency panel that alleged widespread, state-sponsored doping in the country. Russia's track and field athletes could miss next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The IAAF's former president, Lamine Diack, was arrested and charged by French authorities with corruption and money-laundering, stemming from allegations that he took money to cover up positive tests in Russia. The IAAF's former anti-doping manager was also arrested.

The IOC went through its own major corruption scandal in the late 1990s, with 10 members ousted for receiving cash and other favors during Salt Lake City's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Games.

Bach said sports federations and national Olympic committees must implement the IOC's "Olympic Agenda 2020" reform program, approved last year, and apply rules of good governance.

"We have called on and we expect all sports organizations to



IOC president Thomas Bach

follow our lead," Bach said.

He noted that the IOC has proposed taking drug-testing out of the hands of sports organizations to make the system more independent and credible. The IOC wants an independent anti-doping system in place ahead of the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

"We are convinced that all these changes are necessary to

better protect the clean athletes and enhance the integrity of sport," Bach said.

Looking ahead to the Olympics in Rio, the first in South America, Bach said he expects Brazilians to welcome the world "with their joy of life and their passion for sport."

The buildup to the games is taking place amid Brazil's worst recession in decades, an impea-

chment process against President Dilma Rousseff and a vast corruption scandal centered on state-owned oil giant Petrobras.

"We know the current economic and political situation in Brazil will make the next months of final preparations more challenging," Bach said.

The Olympics, he said, "will bring the world a message of hope and joy during difficult times." AP

## Resorts find new way to pamper skiers



The Handle Bar at the Four Seasons Resort Jackson Hole, where a gourmet food cart steps from the ski area's lifts and gondolas

**S**KI resorts are upping the ante, finding new ways this season to pamper guests who barely want to leave the slopes.

Ski-in, ski-out used to just refer to prime lodgings that didn't require a shuttle — or even a walk — to get to the trails. Today that

coveted designation has been expanded to bars and even spa treatments. It's the ultimate in luxury — or laziness.

"Resorts want to differentiate themselves from one another," says Jennifer Rudolph, spokeswoman for Colorado Ski Country

USA. "It's a stand-out perk that guests both want to try — and appreciate — at the same time."

Helping this movement is the changing geography of resorts. Base areas have been reshaped in the past decade, with trails and lifts realigned to better suit real

### Resorts want to differentiate themselves from one another.

JENNIFER RUDOLPH

estate developers and expand the number of ski-in, ski-out properties. Those new properties are leveraging their location as a perk to their rich clientele who have already seen and done everything.

"Magical moments with friends and families are the goal and destinations are doing it up big," says Vicki Varela, managing director of the Utah Office of Tourism. "There are only so many hard assets resorts can upgrade within a property, but experiences create lifetime memories." AP

## Swiss freeze USD80m, hand over FIFA case evidence

Catherine Bosley

**S**WISS authorities have frozen roughly USD80 million worth of assets and handed a batch of bank documents to their U.S. counterparts to be used in criminal proceedings against high-ranking functionaries of soccer's global governing body, FIFA.

Having received a U.S. request for legal assistance earlier this year, Swiss judicial authorities ordered a large amount of bank documents be collected, according to a statement from the Federal Office of Justice yesterday.

"It relates to bank accounts allegedly used for bribes connected with the grant of marketing rights to soccer tournaments in Latin America and the USA," it said.

The frozen assets stem from 13 bank accounts, the FoJ said in the statement. They will stay frozen until the legal assistance proceedings have been concluded, and U.S. authorities can then apply for them to be handed over.

FIFA's problems began with the arrest of seven soccer officials in Zurich in May, part of the U.S. Department of Justice's indictment of 14 people for bribery, racketeering and money laundering. Two FIFA vice presidents were arrested in Zurich on Dec. 3 as U.S. and Swiss prosecutors widened their investigations into corruption in the sport and more specifically, allegations of bribery in the selection of Russia and Qatar to host the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

The corruption probe now also includes banks and national sport associations involved in transactions linked to FIFA. **Bloomberg**

**editorial**

Paulo Coutinho



**2015: ANOTHER YEAR ON THE WAITING LIST**

THE city was shocked in 2015 by the tragic death of Ms Lai Man Wa, the Customs Chief, who allegedly committed suicide by asphyxiation, according to the government's account of police and forensic investigations. Many questioned the official preliminary report by authorities including lawmakers Pereira Coutinho and Au Kam Sam.

Indeed the circumstances publicly revealed by the government leave reasonable doubt about the case: the place her body was found (a public toilet near her residence) and the clumsy process Ms Lai - a 30-year career policewoman - allegedly used to put an end to her life (apparently, she used drugs, a blade and a plastic bag). Also communication of her death to the public was deemed "inappropriate" due to the delay (3 odd hours after the body was found) and then there was the "intriguing" presence of Chui Sai On at the press conference on October 30. Chui, notably shocked by the tragic news, expressed his "great sorrow" at the death of "a close friend."

At the Policy Address debate later in the year, in December, the government, namely Secretary Wong Sio Chak, was asked by legislators to produce a conclusive and in depth report on the incident. It seems nobody in this town trusts the official version and it is vital that authorities come up with a credible report ASAP to put an end to widespread rumors.

2015 was also marred by the continuous steep decline in gaming revenue, which led to problems in the sector, more so in the exclusive and complex world of junkets and VIP gamblers.

The impact of Xi Jinping's policies against corruption and "vice" reverberated badly in Macau and upon its particular brand of lavish lifestyle leading an observer from the Financial Times to comment ironically that "even the most honest of rich folk" in China is afraid to be seen anywhere near a Macau casino.

The worst case was with the Dore junket operation at Wynn, where a "trusted employee" with access to the cage escaped with over HKD300 million in cash. The theft led to a spiral of problems with dozens of investors, mostly locals who lost their money "deposited" with the junket in this high stakes' game, taking their frustration to the streets and petitioning higher authorities.

Other citizens were ripped-off by the millions in the disastrous pre-sale of Pearl Horizon apartments in northern Macau, the land-use rights being taken from the developers, rescinded by the government.

Besides the atrocious fact of the matter, what was worrying about those demonstrations of people claiming legitimate rights is that in most of the occasions, they took to the streets wearing masks - something that is common practice in the mainland but has been a novelty here. What are they afraid of?

Also in the context of the "new norm," the city was stunned by the arrest of Alan Ho, Stanley's nephew and protégée, for allegedly being the head of a prostitution ring netting 400 million per year in what was seen as an attack at the heart of the "old school," kind of sleazy Macau.

All the while we witnessed the launching of the so-called Cotai 2.0 with the openings of Galaxy phase 3 and, especially, Melco's Studio City, which opened with fanfare and an emphasis on non-gaming entertainment. But visitation to the new properties have so far failed to impress the analysts.

2015 was also the first full year of the new 5 policy secretaries. Chui revamped the whole team with new blood. The most active in the public eye were certainly Alexis Tam and Raimundo do Rosário, both dealing by default with the most pressing issues affecting day-to-day life: health, education and social welfare; public transportation, traffic and housing.

The results? Macau's sitting another year on the waiting list.

**THE BUZZ CHINA TELECOM CHAIRMAN RESIGNS AMID CORRUPTION PROBE**

The chairman of one of China's three main state-owned phone carriers resigned yesterday following an announcement he is the target of an anti-corruption investigation.

China Telecom Ltd. chairman Chang Xiaobing is the latest in a string of dozens of executives at major state-owned companies to be

detained or questioned in a steadily expanding, 3-year-old anti-graft crackdown led by President Xi Jinping.

Chang also resigned as chief executive, China Telecom announced. It said its chief operating officer, Yang Jie, would serve as chairman and CEO until a permanent replacement is named.

**Authorities find storm caused sinking of cruiser that killed 442**

Louise Watt, Beijing

CHINESE authorities blamed freak weather for the capsizing of a cruise ship that killed hundreds earlier this year, but also recommended that the captain be further investigated and representatives of the shipping company and local authorities be punished for management flaws, state media announced yesterday.

The disaster on the Yangtze River on the evening of June 1 killed 442 people and left just 12 survivors. The Eastern Star was carrying many elderly tourists on a 10-day cruise from Nanjing in China's east upstream to Chongqing.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the Cabinet's investigation team concluded that the Eastern Star was brought down "by strong winds and heavy rains" associated with a downburst, a strong downdraft that is "a very rare weather phenomenon."

The conclusion backs up the initial finding that the disaster was caused by strong winds, although passengers' relatives have raised questions about whether the ship should have continued its voyage despite a weather warning.

Xinhua said the inves-



The ship Eastern Star

tigation team found that 36 local government and Communist Party officials and seven people from the shipping company should be given administrative punishments for flaws in management, which would likely include demotions and firings.

The seven included the captain and the officer in charge at the time, who died in the disaster. The investigation found the pair responded inadequately to the emergency and had not properly ascertained the threat posed by the dire weather conditions, Xinhua said.

It recommended that the ship's captain, Zhang Shunwen, have his license revoked and his contract terminated, and that his case be sent for further investigation to determine whether he should face criminal charges.

The captain was arrested after he was rescued from

the river, with investigators looking into why he chose to sail into the storm instead of dropping anchor. Investigators had also been expected to focus on alterations made to the ship. A government agency had earlier cited the ship for safety violations.

Qin Meiping, who lost her 73-year-old father and 49-year-old brother, questioned whether the modifications to the vessel had been safe.

"If you blame it on the weather, why were the other two boats that were also traveling at that time safe? Why was this boat modified three times before? Were the modifications done properly?" asked Qin, who said she has had "tears in my eyes every day since" the sinking. "We are not experts, but is the report by the experts the truth?"

She pointed to other deadly disasters in China in the past year, including a stampede in Shanghai on New Year's Eve 2014, explosions at a chemical warehouse in Tianjin and the toppling of a mountain of construction waste that buried a large area in Shenzhen.

"It will happen again if people do not face the truth and don't admit there are management problems," she said. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	65-95 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**PORTUGAL** The central bank is imposing losses on some senior bondholders at Novo Banco SA, the good bank that emerged from the breakup of Banco Espírito Santo last year. The central bank ordered it to transfer about 2 billion euros (USD2.2 billion) of bonds to the bad bank, which is being liquidated.

**SPAIN** A judge has named Jordi Pujol, former longtime leader of Spain's powerful northeastern Catalonia region, as a suspect in a money-laundering probe. Judge Jose de la Mata summoned Pujol and his wife, Mercedes Ferrusola, to appear before the National Court in Madrid on Feb. 10.

**USA** Police in New Hampshire say four on-duty Secret Service agents have been involved in a head-on collision that killed the driver of the other car. The accident happened in the town of Wakefield.



**USA** Bill Cosby was charged Wednesday with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his home 12 years ago - the first criminal charges brought against the comedian out of the torrent of allegations that destroyed his good-guy image as America's Dad.



**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** Thousands in the country's capital voted yesterday in national elections with hope that a new president will lead to greater stability after years of violence. Voters are choosing a president from a list of 30 candidates to replace transitional leader Catherine Samba-Panza, who was put in place in January 2014. More than 1.8 million people are expected to vote at more than 500 polling stations nationwide.

**times square by rodrigo**



MacauDaily Times rodrigo