



### ITALIAN GRAFFITI CREW IN TOWN

The Italian graffiti crew "Truly Design" produced 2 large murals decorated with bright tones and intricate details

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### TALIBAN KILL 20 IN ASSAULT ON UNIVERSITY

Gunmen storm a university in northwestern Pakistan, killing at 20 people and triggering a heavy battle with police

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## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** A deputy head of the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office is placed under investigation for apparent corruption amid renewed scrutiny of Beijing's policies toward the island following its election of a new independence-leaning president.

More on p11



**VIETNAM** It is clear that the Communist Party's eight-day Congress set to open today is the kind of political cliffhanger that would do a democracy proud, as a battle for power hinges on a last-minute procedural question

**AFGHAN** troops are fighting the Taliban across most of southern Helmand province and are in desperate need of reinforcements, an Afghan official says.

**NEPAL** Villages near the epicenter of a massive earthquake last year have been blanketed with snow, making life miserable for people still living in temporary shelters and huts.

**N KOREA** A cold snap in the North Korean capital has residents ice fishing on the Taedong River. The whole country was colder than minus 10 C, and the North's official weather forecaster predicted that Pyongyang would sink to minus 16 C.

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# Trade Union law wins supporters but fails to

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XINHUA



# Jones Lang LaSalle pessimistic on property market in 2016

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ALEXIS TAM

# Secretary for Social Affairs hails hospital improvements and praises cultural heritage

**T**HE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture hailed the improvements in staffing at major hospitals in his first year in office and praised the cultural legacy given to the city by the Portuguese.

Alexis Tam Chon Weng has a wide brief, with the four main sectors of medicine, education, culture and leisure. The Secretary has set short-, medium- and long-term objectives for these areas. "Our success and failure will be judged by people in the future – those before us plant trees, those after us enjoy the cool," he said in a recent interview with Exmoo News.

On medicine, Tam spoke of the "glorious five". In the first year of his term (2015), he oversaw the hiring of 529 medical personnel. Add to that the 62 hired in 2014 and this makes a total of 591. "All were hired through a public recruitment process, fair and just," he said, responding to criticism that he has taken medical talent from Kiang Wu Hospital. "It is a free labour market. People have high expectations (for their jobs), which is very normal. Staffing is still insufficient. We will continue to hire."

Thanks to the new hiring, the service time of four departments – cardiology, orthopedics, physiotherapy and imaging diagnosis – was extended. He said that this would also happen this year at four more departments – ophthalmology, oncology treatment, cosmetic surgery and general medicine. "At the Centro Hospitalar Conde de S. Januario, waiting times at specialist clinics have been greatly reduced – 50 per cent at the cardiology clinic, 30 per cent at orthopedics and physiotherapy and 80 per cent at imaging



**In his first full year of his term (2015), Tam oversaw the hiring of 529 medical personnel**

diagnosis."

Culture heritage is another important part of Tam's responsibility. He praised the work of the Portuguese colonial government in this area. "Very thankful to it for leaving behind the policy of preserving heritage and for today Macau's (mixed) East and West culture. This (heritage) is most important for Macau's status in the world. I am very proud of it," he said. "If you demolish everything (like Hong Kong), it would be really

awful. As long as Macau can preserve well (its heritage), there will be hope." He stressed that there should be no contradiction between urban renewal and preservation, adding that, with the right balance, the city would have vitality.

Tourism is one of Tam's responsibilities. Each year more than 20 million mainland visitors come to Macau, testing the city's ability to absorb them. They come not only for gambling but also to see the monuments left by the colonial government.

At the end of last year, the Chinese government ranked Macau as the second city nationwide with a distinct character, after Lhasa. "I was very happy to hear the news. Considering gambling revenue and the VIP business have been falling, but we succeeded in tourism, with no drop in numbers."

Tam added that 49 cities all over the country can send individual travellers to Macau. The question is that there are 300 county-level and another 300 local-level cities. One average county-level city alone has several million people. "Even the central government is concerned that Macau might not have the capacity to deal with it (the massive influx of mainland tourists)." The most effective solution is to pick cities with strong consumption power to promote individual tourism; Inner Mongolia is one example.

Tam is a success story of a 'Macau boy'. After graduating from Pui Ching Middle School and university, he was one of a first group chosen by the colonial government to study in Portugal with a scholarship. His subjects were Portuguese and the economy of Europe. During his four years there, he not only completed his studies but also found his wife.

He returned to Macau in the late 1980s, when few Chinese held administrative post in the government. He joined the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC); he has spent 30 years in government.

He works a 12-hour day but finds time to jog 20 minutes a day and play tennis with friends at weekends.

He has two daughters. The elder, 18, is studying medicine in Lisbon; the younger, 16, is studying at a secondary school in the same city. To ensure that they do not forget their Chinese roots, they spend time every year in Beijing studying Mandarin. Last Christmas, he and his wife went to Lisbon for a reunion with their daughters. "I haven't had a holiday for a long time," he sighed. **MDT/Macauhub/Exmoo**



ART

## Italian graffiti crew produce murals in downtown

**I**TALIAN graffiti crew "Truly Design" made their debut production in the MSAR last week at the Graffiti Square located in downtown Macau. Despite rain forcing the Torino-based group to relocate indoors on Friday and Saturday, the guest crew was able to produce two large murals decorated with bright tones and intricate details.

The murals were created as part of the Macau Graffiti Festival, which ran from January 11 until January 16. The festival was co-organized by the Macau Powers of Arts to Inspire Intelligence Association and the art group, Truly Design, and sought to bring together artists from abroad in order to inspire residents and enable graffiti artists to learn from each other.

Truly Design has been active since 1996 when they turned their passion into a profession. Upon landing in Macau last week, the crew headed to a conference at the UNESCO center in the NAPE area.

In March 2014, local graffiti group "Gantz 5" was commissioned to produce a work of art outside the Macao Museum of Art (MAM), but the piece has since been removed.

Contemporary graffiti has been regarded as street art for around 50 years, when it developed from an underground and illicit phenomenon into a recognized art form.

Controversy has arisen in recent decades, as critics claim that the movement of graffiti from the street to the exhibition hall undermines the origin and purpose of the art.

On the other hand, "authentic" graffiti remains equally controversial. In August, five men were arrested for what was described as "unauthorized vandalism," after they spray-painted on protected, heritage architecture in the St. Lazarus quarter. Incidents such as these continue to tarnish the reputation of the art form. **Staff Reporter**

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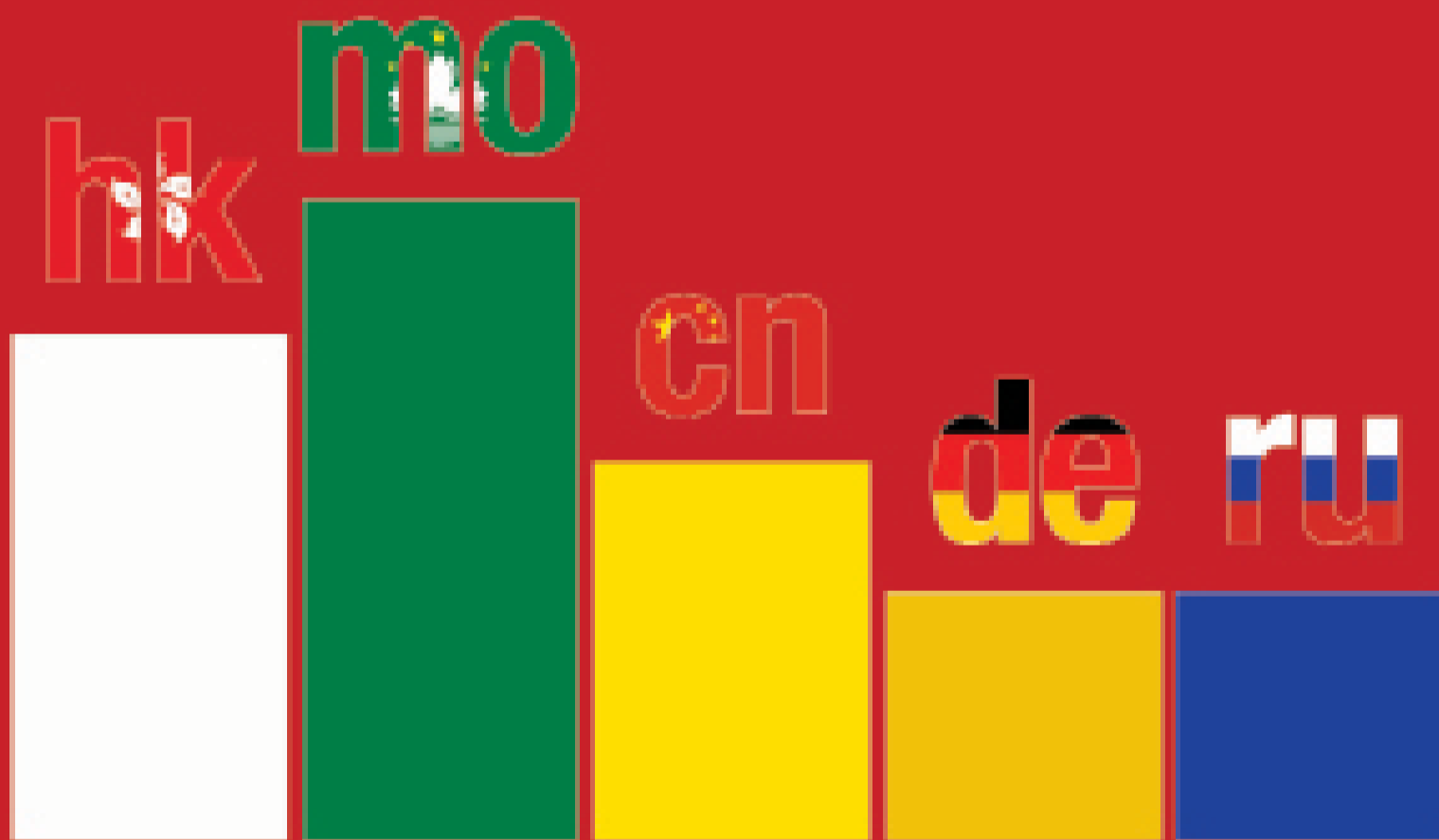
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GAMING ALERT

# Deutsche Bank highlights Sands China as top pick



The Venetian Macao resort and casino, operated by Sands China

**D**EUTSCHE Bank research house has said that its top pick for the Macau gaming sector is Sands China Ltd. due to its expected dividend yield of 8.8 percent.

It said that it expects for Sands China to declare an interim dividend of USD0.99

per share tomorrow, and an annual dividend of USD1.99, adding that the company could maintain this dividend level for the next three years.

The research house said that it expected Macau gaming stocks to show some short-term improvement next month due to the Chi-

nese New Year, but reiterated its caution on the gaming sector, which has experienced a number of false starts in the past two years.

Credit Suisse issued a report earlier this week saying that its top pick was Galaxy Entertainment, followed by Sands China. It rated the two companies equally as set to "Outperform," with target prices of USD35.7 and USD35.1, respectively.

Figures released this week from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) indicated that gaming revenue from the VIP segment declined 39.9 percent to MOP127.82 billion in 2015 compared to the previous year. On the other hand, mass-market gaming revenue shrank by 25.9 percent year-on-year to MOP103.02 billion. Last year, the mass-gaming market increased its share of total gaming to more than 44 percent, up from 41 percent in 2014.

ARTS

# MAM to celebrate 100 years of Austrian art, 1860-1960

**T**HE Macau Museum of Art (MAM) is launching an exhibition at the end of this month, showcasing a century of Austrian art.

The exhibition, entitled "One Century of Austrian Art 1860-1960," will feature nearly a hundred masterpieces by iconic Austrian artists of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The period covered in the exhibition highlights a renaissance in influential Austrian art. Many of the artists, painters, sculptors and playwrights from this period pioneered modern movements and styles that have in turn influenced other artists globally and have inspired architectural marvels - particularly within Austria, but also abroad.

Among those whose works will be shown is Austrian symbolist painter, Gustav Klimt - a prominent member of the Vienna Secession movement who opposed the late-19th-century rigid interpretation of what constituted art.

The works of Egon Schiele, a renowned painter and protégé of Klimt, will also be showcased in the exhibition, as well as those of his contemporary, Oskar Kokoschka, best known for his intense expressionistic portraits and landscapes.

Also set to be exhibited is Max



'Head of a Man from the Front' (1879) by Gustav Klimt

Oppenheimer's "String Quartet," Joseph Dobrowsky's celebrated "Corn Fields," and Aloys Wach's expressionist account of the Sermon on the Mount, "Jesus on the Mount of Olives."

The inauguration ceremony for the exhibition will take place on January 29 at 6.30 p.m. in MAM's Gallery of Special Exhibitions.

It will be open to the public from January 30 until April 3, between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., except on Monday when it is closed. Admission is normally MOP5, but is free on Sundays and Macau public holidays.

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# Trade union law stirs debate but fails to pass again

Paulo Barbosa

**T**HE Legislative Assembly (AL) vetoed the seventh attempt to pass a trade union law yesterday. Unlike in previous attempts, when proposals were vetoed without undergoing a debate, this time several lawmakers praised the proposal, while others said that its approval could disrupt companies' operations or even create chaos. The debate surrounding the bill was sparked by lawmakers linked to the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (Kwan Tsui Hang, Lam Heong Sang, Ella Lei) and ended with a split result: 18 against, 12 in favor, and lawmaker Leonel Alves abstaining from the vote.

A part of the discussion centered on what Melinda Chan labeled "a local peculiarity" – the fact that there are over 6,000 associations registered in Macau. "Politics in Macau are based on associations. In mainland China, there's only one association. In the U.S., the syndicate represents one labor sector. (...) We need to know which model we want to follow. China or the U.S.?" she asked. The lawmaker said that she approved the proposal but with some conditions, namely freedom of association. "In Macau, there are several associations of doctors, nurses, and so on," she explained. "Will these associations be forced to be united under a single trade union? Will they not be able to act independently? If that is the case, I don't



Kwan Tsui Hang was one of the proponents of the proposal

agree. We must respect the associations that are already established," she stressed.

Other than lawmakers being linked to business interests, there was no doubt about the pernicious-

**Do we need to resort to trade unions to solve problems? We have the government!**

FONG CHI KEONG

ness of the proposal. Fong Chi Keong was, as usual, the most vociferous: "Do we need to resort to trade unions to solve problems? We have the government!

(...) I don't want to have a radical power established in Macau," he said. Fong predicted that the trade unions would be used by some groups "to create chaos," and that no businessman would want to invest here if that was the case.

"After I read the proposal last night, I couldn't sleep," he concluded, raising laughter among some lawmakers, and warned that he still had 20 minutes left to speak.

Appointed lawmaker Ma Chi Seng said that the implementation of a trade union law "would create great pressure over the SMEs," adding that "social consensus is needed" before making such a move. Chan Chak Mo complemented that viewpoint, saying that the workers could engage in strikes if the proposal was approved.

As in previous occasions, the argument was again raised that it is poor timing to

attempt to approve the law in the face of current economic, social and industrial conditions. Au Kam San tried to counter-argue this view by asking: "But what is the favorable time to approve the trade union law? When the economy was better, the opponents to the proposal said that it was not a good time, now they are saying the same."

The proponents, headed by Kwan Tsui Hang, noted that there are notable differences between trade unions and associations, one of them being the fact that trade unions can represent workers in judicial cases. They added that the law is needed to compensate the imbalance between workers and employers. They also said that the government should assume the responsibility of filling the gap in legislation. But their arguments, once again, were made to no avail.

## ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

**INNER HARBOR LINK** The sudden closure of the ferry link between the Inner Harbor and Zhuhai's Wanzai Port on Sunday has left some lawmakers worried. According to lawmaker Mak Soi Kun, the local ferry terminal shut-down "has caused major inconveniences to both Macau residents and tourists" who use the link. In his spoken enquiry, the lawmaker found it strange that the closure announcement was made on the eve of the closure. "Is there a lack of communication between the administrations of Macau and Zhuhai?" he asked. The lawmaker finds it strange that such a sudden move could happen in a context where the cooperation between Macau and Guangdong province is being enhanced. Kou Hoi addressed the same issue, stating that the infrastructure of the Inner Harbor and the Wanzai Port should be revamped in order to be able to receive more passengers. He added that if the border reopens with better conditions, there is potential that an increased number of people would use it.

**GOVT RENTS** Song Pek Kei pointed out that the government is spending large amounts of money to rent offices. According to her, the value of rent paid to private owners will surpass one billion patacas. Stressing that her intervention was also on behalf of lawmaker Chan Meng Kam, Song said that she didn't understand why the rent paid by the public administration continues to increase despite the rental market downturn. "What does the government have to hide regarding these rental issues?" she asked. According to Song, "The population has an answer to that question." She concluded by saying that the government "isn't careful in the way it spends the generous resources available." Lawmaker Lei Cheng I also addressed the government rents, saying that more transparency is needed.

**POVERTY** Pereira Coutinho said that he recently visited several households in the northern district, where people live in a state of "hidden poverty." Enumerating the cases in detail, the lawmaker said that the cases of "hidden poverty" are growing. In his opinion, these cases are triggered by major disruption in a citizen's personal life (like the death of a family member), but also by the "brutal increase" in rent and other aspects that raise the cost of living.

# Tougher penalties for drug trafficking and consumption

**T**HE region's anti-drug laws are set to be amended after the Legislative Assembly voted yesterday on the first reading of the introduction of heavier penalties for both drug trafficking and consumption.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, told the lawmakers that there's a need to strengthen punishments given the rise in trafficking cases. "The penalties for drug traffi-

cking are relatively low, hence the dissuasive effect is minor," she said.

The bill sees the minimum prison term penalty for consumption grow from up to three months to a range of three months to a year. The minimum penalty for drug trafficking however will rise from three years to five in prison. The maximum limit would remain at 15 years of imprisonment.

Lawmakers Gabriel

Tong and Leonel Alves, both of them law experts, said that it wasn't clear under the new amendment how drug consumers and traffickers will be distinguished from each other. Tong said that the penalties seem to be too high for cases of mere consumption, saying that the focus should not be only on punishing infractions. "With regards to consumption, we should make consumers avoid the use drugs and pro-

mote their social reinsertion," he said.

The amendment sets the limit for the possession of drugs deemed to be for private consumption as that which does not exceed the quantity for "5 days use." If that is exceeded, the crime is classified as a trafficking offense.

Stating that "there should be a difference between trafficking and consumption," Pereira Coutinho questioned the method of obtaining urine samples

as evidence and inquired as to how a suspect will have the right to appeal.

The Judiciary Police (PJ) director Chau Wai Kuong said that the collection of urine samples will only occur when there is strong evidence of drug consumption, such as the discovery of tools used to facilitate drug consumption at the site. "When we stop a car, sometimes we can assess [if someone is on drugs] by the facial expression." The director

added that the evidence must be validated by a judge.

After the law was approved, Leonel Alves made a voting declaration saying that a "careful consideration of the penalties" should be made during the detailed discussion of the amendments. Otherwise, a minimal difference in the quantity of drug possession may mean the difference between consumption and trafficking crimes.

**JONES** Lang LaSalle (JLL) Macau released its summary of the property market for the year 2015, along with its forecasted outlook for this year at a meeting with the press yesterday.

Citing trends since the gaming slump began in February 2014, senior members of JLL Macau noted the sub-par performance of the property market last year and expressed concern about market pressures continuing into 2016.

Jeff Wong, head of residential properties, said that the company expects “further drops for capital and rental values for both commercial and residential units in 2016.”

This will be partly caused by “strong tenant bargaining power” and partly due to a substantial increase of supply penned for the next few years.

Around 16,287 residential units are expected to be completed between 2016 and 2020 – compared with an average of 2,253 residential completions per year between 2005 and 2015. Representatives from the company said that this might further saturate the market, especially as many of them are high-end properties looking to attract investors and tenants from an increasingly desolate VIP market.

While an excess of properties may be slated for completion in the coming years, they are not being sold nearly as quickly. The transaction volume of Macau’s residential market reached a record-low last year with just 5,431 residential transactions registered in the first 11 months of 2015,

## REAL ESTATE

# JLL pessimistic on property in 2016, hopeful beyond that

down by a dramatic 24.2 percent year-on-year.

And the poor performance of 2015 is likely to continue into this year.

“In view of the negative growth recorded in most of its economic indicators, the outlook for Ma-

## The outlook for Macau’s property market is expected to be uncertain in the short term.

JEFF WONG

cau’s property market is expected to be uncertain in the short term and may have downside pressure in 2016,” Wong told reporters.

“In general, investors are expected to remain cautious and adopt a wait-and-see attitude,” he added.

On the other hand, according to Oliver Tong, associate director of



Senior executives at JLL Macau Jeff Wong, Gregory Ku and Oliver Tong (left to right)

retail properties, the long-term trends may show positive indicators for the years beyond 2016.

Data released from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed that the labor market was generally stable throughout last year. The employment rate edged up slightly to 1.9 percent in November, upholding what is largely considered to be a healthy rate by most economists.

Furthermore, according to Tong’s colleague, Wong, “Government statistics showed that the numbers of marriage and birth registration have been increasing

in the last decade, following the implementation of the open-door policy in Macau [...] we expect it will provide solid support to the residential market in the long-term.”

Certainly, Macau shows no signs of slowing the import of foreign workers. November marked a historic high for the city, recording a 7 percent year-on-year rise to 182,246 workers.

However, the proportion of imported workers that are considered “skilled” declined over the course of last year, while the median incomes for all

workers simultaneously rose in the third quarter of 2015 by 15.4 percent year-on-year to about MOP15,000. The trends indicate that Macau locals are getting comparatively wealthier.

Another positive note was the government’s recent reversal of the stamp duty.

Managing director Gregory Ku said: “I think it’s a good time for the government to withdraw some of the stamp duties. It’s not fair that many of the buyers who bought a unit two years ago could not sell because of the stamp duty costs.” **Staff reporter**

## PJ director says Macau terrorist attack unlikely

**T**HE director of the Judiciary Police (PJ), Chao Wai Kuong, has stated that the threat of a terrorist attack in Macau remains low, in light of a recent report issued by Hong Kong-based risk consultancy Steve Vickers and Associates.

The Vickers report suggested that although the risk of an attack occurring in Macau remained low, the territory presented itself as “an attractive target given the nexus of Chinese, American and Jewish interests in the gaming sector.”

Gaming tycoons Sheldon Adelson and Steve Wynn both have Jewish origins and extensive stakes in Macau’s gaming industry, holding two of the six gaming licenses in the MSAR between them.

PJ director Chao said that Macau’s security forces regularly train with their counterparts in Hong Kong and in mainland China, althou-



gh he stressed that the likelihood of an attack occurring was very low.

He added that Macau has been developing mechanisms for dealing with such an event, and has focused resources on preventing the spread of terrorist activities to the region.

“The Secretary for Security once said that the risk [of a terror attack] is quite low in Macau, but we do have a mechanism to deal with that,” Chao told TDM reporters.

“We are actively carrying out preventive measures such as collecting data and participating in joint anti-terror drills with police forces in Hong Kong, mainland China, and even Guangdong Province,” the director added. “We hope to strengthen our cooperation through these drills in order to prevent any kind of terrorism.”

Eric Sautedé, a political commentator and contributor to the Times, noted that he has “strong reservations

about a possible convergence of so-called ‘Chinese, American and Jewish interests’ [making Macau a target].

“From what I know,” he said, “it was never a concern in the past for Adelson.”

“It is always possible, of course, but bringing the war to Chinese territory would be a clear suicidal move,” Sautedé added. “ISIS is already withdrawing part of its assets to Libya.”

The Vickers report made reference to the terrorist attack in Guangzhou in March last year, which left at least six injured from a knife assault at a major train station in the city.

Chinese state media Xinhua reported that the perpetrators were Muslim Uighurs from Xinjiang Province – a region where Xinhua says Chinese intelligence has monitored a significant growth in radical Islam.

Chao Wai Kuong reiterated that Macau’s security forces have remained vigilant and have been holding consultancy meetings over security matters in recent years to prevent this sort of attack from occurring in the SAR.

## TAIWAN

### Macau student punished for killing stray cat

**A** student from Macau was punished at the National Taiwan University (NTU) on Monday after having been linked to a case in which a cat was abused, triggering public outrage.

NTU’S Student Disciplinary Committee decided to give the student, bearing the surname Chen, two demerits and two minor demerits, according to NTU Chief Secretary Lin Ta-te. He added that the punishment was equivalent to placing Chen on probation.

Chen was accused of torturing and killing a well-known stray cat named “Big Orange” near the school late last month, which had generated anger among the public. Over 14,000 netizens endorsed a petition demanding the accused to be expelled from NTU.

The student issued a statement through the university admitting his mistake and apologizing to the public. He also begged for forgiveness from the residents in the neighborhood and hopes that the incident would raise awareness of the safety of stray animals. He added that he will acknowledge the punishment given by his university and will participate in volunteer activities in the future to make up for his mistake.

Chen admitted that he lost control emotionally, which led him to hurt a helpless creature.



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## Goldman revenue tops estimates, profit falls on legal costs



In this October 16, 2014, file photo, a screen at the NYSE is juxtaposed with the Goldman Sachs booth.

Dakin Campbell

**G**OLDMAN Sachs Group Inc.'s fourth quarter revenue beat analysts' estimates as fees from advising on mergers jumped 27 percent. Net income dropped 65 percent on costs to settle a mortgage probe.

Revenue fell 5 percent to USD7.27 billion, better than the \$7.17 billion estimate of 16 analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. Net income declined to \$765 million, or \$1.27 a share, from \$2.17 billion, or \$4.38, after an agreement to settle a U.S. probe into the bank's handling of mortgage-backed securities reduced earnings by \$1.54 billion, the New York-based company said Wednesday in a statement.

Goldman Sachs's merger-advisory business benefited from a record \$3.8 trillion of deals globally in 2015, surpassing the previous record set in 2007, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The firm said last week it reached a \$5.1 billion agreement in principle on the mortgage case, cutting fourth-quarter profit and closing out a year of record legal and litigation costs.

"Our diversified business mix allowed us to deliver solid results in a year characterized by uneven global economic activity," Chief Executive Officer Lloyd Blankfein said in the statement. "Our strong global client franchise leaves us well positioned to generate superior returns over the long term."

Goldman Sachs shares fell 1.7 percent to \$154.14 at 8:47 a.m. in New York. The stock had dropped 13 percent this year through Tuesday, trailing the 10 percent decline of the 88-company Standard & Poor's 500 Financials Index.

On Tuesday, Morgan Stanley and Bank of America Corp. said profit improved as expenses shrank. Cost cuts also bolstered results at JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Citigroup Inc., which reported earnings last week. **Bloomberg**

## GAMING

# Atlantic City bills rejected by Christie as takeover looms

Romy Varghese

**N**EW Jersey Governor Chris Christie on Tuesday rejected legislation intended to shore up the finances of Atlantic City, a move that could hasten the state's takeover of the struggling casino hub.

Christie vetoed a bill that would have established fixed payments from casinos instead of levies based on real-estate values, which would prevent tax appeals that strain the city's finances. He declined to take action on bills that that would have diverted some gambling funds to the city.

Without those measures, the city will run out of cash in April, according to a report released on Friday by Kevin Lavin, the emergency manager appointed by Christie.

Christie's actions "reinforce the pressing need for Atlantic City to get its finances in order and to get it done as soon as possible," said Senate President Stephen Sweeney, the highest-ranking Democratic legislator, in a statement. "The best way to get that done is to have the state assume management of the city's finances."

Last week, Sweeney introduced legislation that would place the city's operations under state control



People waling on the boardwalk in Atlantic City, U.S.

for 15 years.

The rejection of the bills by Christie, who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, comes after he sent them back to the legislature in November with a conditional veto. The legislature complied with his requests to modify them with provisions such as having the state's local finance board collect revenue from the casinos and make its release dependent on the city's fiscal progress.

"Once again, our absentee governor has shown a brazen disregard to putting Atlantic City back on the road to fiscal reco-

very," said Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo, a Democrat who represents the community of 39,000, in a statement.

Atlantic City's fiscal crisis was precipitated by the closure of a third of its casinos in 2014 as competition from neighboring states eroded its onetime dominance over gambling in the East Coast. The city's gaming revenue last year was less than half its 2006 peak of USD5.2 billion.

Bankruptcy is now a possibility, said Mayor Don Guardian.

"If the state is not able to come up with the funding we need within the next few weeks, we will have

no choice but to declare bankruptcy," he said in a statement on Tuesday. The state's Local Finance Board must approve any filing.

Unless it comes with more subsidies, "it is unlikely that a state takeover will meaningfully improve the prospects" for Atlantic City's future, Matt Fabian, a partner at Concord, Massachusetts-based Municipal Market Analytics, said in a report on Tuesday. Fabian says bankruptcy remains a risk.

Joelle Farrell, a spokeswoman for Christie, didn't comment on his decision during an interview in Trenton. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

Royal Dutch Shell has announced that it is rolling out a year-round rebate program for Macau drivers this year, which will ensure customers are granted a MOP50 Shell fuel voucher for every MOP1500 spent on gasoline and Shell lubricant products.

The rebate program is available to customers using a Shell Bonus Card.

In addition, the company says that purchases on Shell V-Power Nitro+ using a Shell Bonus Card will allow customers to accrue the equivalent of MOP1.25 eligible spending for every MOP1 actually spent.

Under this new system, customers will be able to receive their MOP50 rebate by spending just MOP1200,

### SHELL ROLLS OUT REBATE PROGRAM



when purchasing Shell V-Power Nitro+ gasoline. This means customers can earn rewards up to 25 percent faster than from purchasing conventional gasoline.

A number of other rewards

are being simultaneously rolled out. For example, for every MOP1 spent on Shell lubricant products, customers can accrue MOP2 towards the MOP1500 needed for the rebate.

### CANTOPOP SINGER HINS CHEUNG TO PLAY COTAI ARENA

Cantopop singer Hins Cheung is bringing his latest show, "Hins Live in Passion - Macao," to the Venetian Macao on January 30 (Saturday, next week).

The concert will see Hins Cheung bring a range of beautiful and creative costumes and stage props to the Venetian's Cotai Arena, as he entertains fans with hits from his back catalog, including "My Way" and "Hurt So Bad."

With his range of musical styles, the Cantopop singer will thrill fans with a mix of his ballads and electronic dance music, featuring tracks from his 2001 debut album, "Hins First," right up to his latest 2014 album,



"Morph".

Sands China is offering fans an exclusive package (MOP2,688), which includes two tickets to the performance, one night's accom-

modation in either the Venetian Macao or the Sheraton Grand Macao, and round-trip tickets on a Cotai Water Jet between Hong Kong and Macau.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

# State TV airs confession from detained Swede



A petitioner with her grievances written on her clothes walks along a street in Beijing

CHINESE state television has aired a confession made in detention by a Swedish co-founder of a human rights group, who said he had trained and funded unlicensed lawyers in China to take on cases against the government "in clear violation of the law."

In a 10-minute segment aired early yesterday, state broadcaster CCTV detailed how Peter Dahlin established an activist organization in Hong Kong

with the help of employees from the human rights-focused Fengrui Law Firm in Beijing, whose lawyers have been recently charged with subverting state power.

Dahlin's group has called the confession "apparently forced" and rejected accusations that it manufactured or escalated conflicts inside China.

In the past year, China's government under President Xi Jinping has aggressively cra-

cked down on the country's increasingly assertive legal rights groups, framing their advocacy as a destabilizing force to state security. Authorities formally charged four well-known Fengrui lawyers last week, six months after hundreds of lawyers nationwide were rounded up and accused of stirring up hostility toward the government and manufacturing cases to enrich themselves.

Dahlin was arrested Jan. 3 on his way to Beijing's international airport, becoming the first foreign worker to be entangled in the crackdown that has drawn widespread condemnation from foreign governments and overseas human rights groups, which have urged Beijing to abide by its promise to rule by law.

Dahlin's organization in Hong Kong, which was not legally permitted to operate in mainland China, accepted foreign funding and paid lawyers and petitioners within China, who in turn provided negative information that tarnished the country's image, according to the state media reports.

"Certain people that we have supported in one time or another have gone on to do acts in clear violation of the law," Dahlin said in his televised confession, while apologizing for hurting "the Chinese government and Chinese people."

He also said he had "no complaints to make" and that he had been treated fairly while in detention and provided medication he needed.

The official Xinhua News Agency cited witnesses as saying Dahlin had been planted by "Western anti-China forces" to gather negative information about China and fan opposition to the ruling Communist Party.

The CCTV segment about Dahlin came one day after the Chinese government released a taped confession by another detained Swede, Gui Minhai, a Hong Kong-based publisher of sensitive books banned on the mainland who disappeared in October.

Swedish Embassy spokesman Sebastian Magnusson said the embassy had no comment on the CCTV report, but said that Swedish representatives had met with Dahlin and that he was "OK considering

the circumstances."

Chinese authorities since 2013 have frequently used televised confessions of dissidents and activists on state TV ahead of their trials, swaying public opinion against them, although legal experts say the tactic violates Chinese law. The confessions are filmed by the state broadcaster CCTV and appear to be voluntary, though they often are believed to be coerced by police.

At least 18 such confessions have been made by high-profile activists, bloggers and journalist.

Whistleblowing journalist Liu Hu, accused of spreading falsehoods and detained in 2013, said in an interview he was cajoled for months to give such a confession, but that he refused. Liu, who had reported on corruption in his home city of Chongqing, eventually was released in 2014 and later cleared of charges.

Dahlin's group says it has been working since 2009 to help advance the rule of law by organizing training programs by lawyers for rights defenders focusing on land rights and administrative law. It also releases practical guides on the Chinese legal system.

China has a huge number of petitioners who have unresolved complaints against local governments, often involving land seizures.

Dahlin's group says it "has only ever advocated nonviolent, informed reliance on Chinese law," and that Dahlin was "arbitrarily detained on spurious accusations."

Endangering state security is a category in China's criminal law that includes a number of offenses, including subversion of state power, separatism and espionage. The maximum sentence for some is the death penalty, although it also allows for foreigners to be deported. AP

AVERAGE concentrations of air particulates in 189 Chinese cities fell by 10 percent in 2015, according to a new Greenpeace report, a sign that pollution overall was decreasing even as catastrophic levels of smog this winter in northern China effectively shut down schools and roads.

Overall pollution levels in Beijing were down for the second consecutive year but skyrocketed in December, when a thick gray soup enveloping the capital prompted the government to issue a first-ever "red alert" warning, limiting automobile use and closing schools.

The Greenpeace study released yesterday found the northern Chinese region surrounding Beijing

## GREENPEACE

## Air 10 percent less polluted last year

has seen concentrations of microscopic PM2.5 particles drop by a quarter since 2013. Similar improvements were seen in the Yangtze and Pearl river delta areas around Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Still, 80 percent of Chinese cities did not meet national air quality standards, the group found, pinning blame on coal consumption. China, the location of the vast majority of coal power plants added in the last decade, has been the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, although the



A man walks through a shopping and office complex on a blue-sky day in Beijing

United States far exceeds it on a per capita basis.

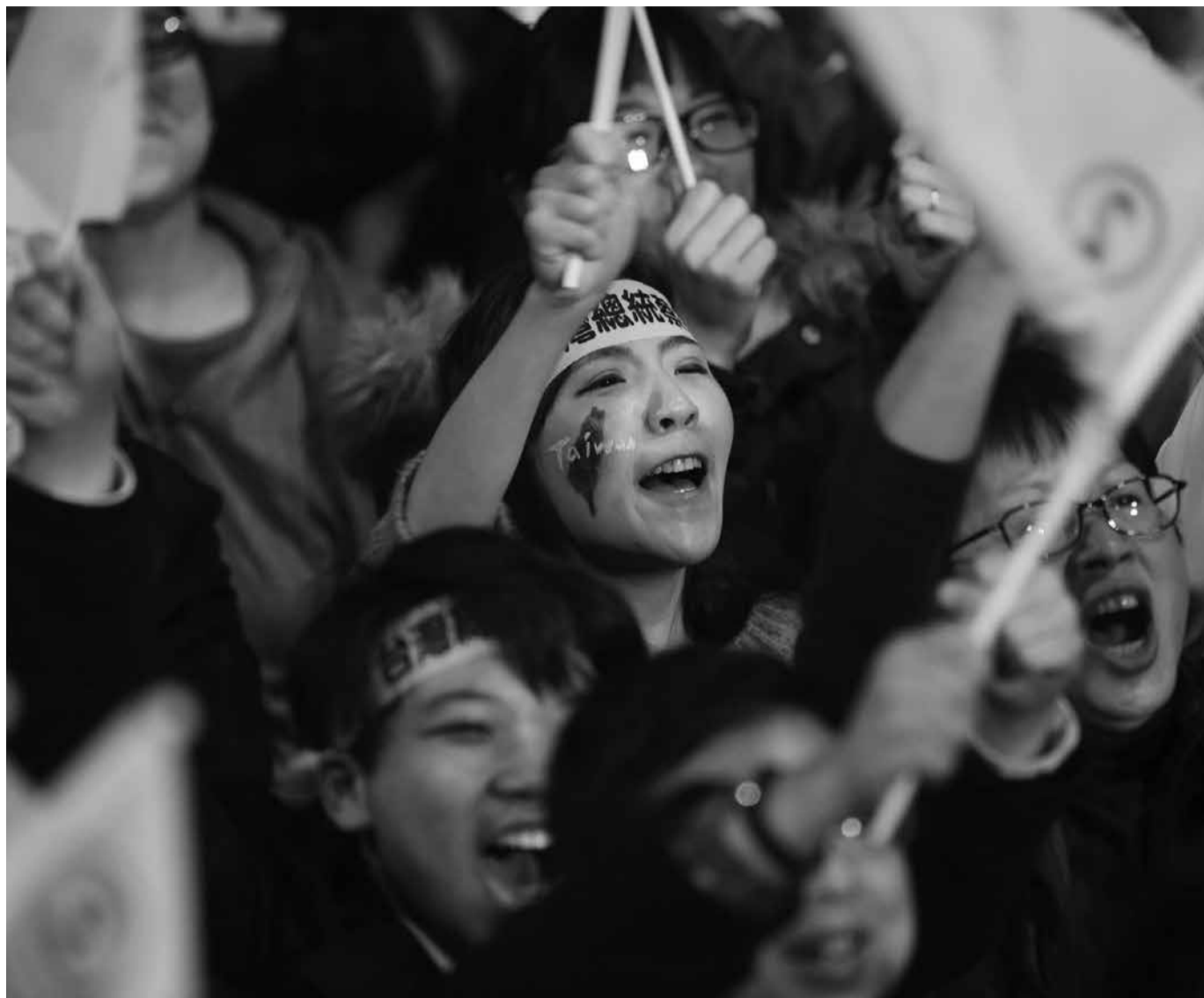
Chinese leaders have vowed in recent years to seriously confront pollution and the trail of environmental damage left by decades of runaway growth. The central government has passed a series of legislative measures since Premier Li Keqiang declared a "war" on pollution at China's annual parliament meeting in 2014 and continued to push renewable energy technology, but changes have not always trickled down to local authorities under pressure

to meet economic output targets.

China said in September it would put a price on greenhouse gas emissions under a cap-and-trade system during a White House summit, a year after it pledged to cap emissions before the year 2030.

Researchers at Germany's Max Planck institute have estimated that smog has led to 1.4 million premature deaths in China every year, while the non-profit group Berkeley Earth in California had a higher figure, 1.6 million. AP

# Taiwan party that won election wants US help with China



Supporters of DPP, presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen cheer at the campaign headquarters as polling numbers arrive in her favor on Saturday

Matthew Pennington,  
Washington

**T**AIWAN'S new government will carefully manage relations with mainland China and it wants Washington to keep encouraging reconciliation, a senior official of the victorious party said yesterday (Macau time).

Joseph Wu is secretary-general of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party. He is meeting with senior U.S. officials this week following the party's commanding victory in elections on the self-governing island Saturday. The DPP defeated the Nationalist Party that has forged closer ties with the mainland during its eight-year tenure.

The result was widely seen as a setback to Beijing, but Wu said his party's presidential nominee, Tsai Ing-wen, has made clear she wants to main-

tain the status quo and safeguard peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

"We will do our utmost to find a mutually acceptable mode of interaction between Taiwan and the mainland, one that avoids confrontation and prevents surprises," Wu told the Center for Strategic

**■ ■**  
**We will do our utmost to find a mutually acceptable mode of interaction between Taiwan and the mainland.**

JOSEPH WU  
SECRETARY-GENERAL, DPP

and International Studies think tank.

Those remarks will be welcomed by the Obama administration. The United States is Taiwan's most important ally and source of defensive arms but it has applauded the easing of cross-strait relations under the outgoing Nationalist government. China claims the island as its own territory and threatens to use force if Taiwan declares formal independence.

"We would need the United States to continue to encourage the two sides to speak with each other," Wu said, adding that Washington can play a "balancing role" so Taiwan is "not dangling out there alone dealing with China."

Wu characterized Beijing's reaction to the election as "measured," but it has already warned that it will not budge on its bottom line that Taiwan's leader must agree that the communist mainland and

democratic island are part of a single Chinese nation. Tsai has refused to endorse Beijing's "one China principle" but hasn't publicly repudiated it either.

Wu said a top priority for the new administration would be for legislation laying out the guiding principles for cross-strait relations so there is more transparency in its dealings with Beijing. Opposition to a services trade agreement with China spawned major protests in 2014 by Taiwanese students and civic groups who occupied the national legislature.

Wu said Taiwan would look to strengthen relations with the U.S., Japan and the European Union, and pursue membership of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, a U.S.-backed free trade pact. He said if China sought to pressure smaller member of the 12-nation pact to oppose Taiwan's inclusion it would hurt cross-strait relations. **AP**

## Beijing's Taiwan office deputy head under investigation

**A** deputy head of the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office has been placed under investigation for apparent corruption as Beijing's policies toward the island come under renewed scrutiny.

The ruling Communist Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a brief statement that Gong Qinggai was suspected of "serious violations of discipline," which is usually a euphemism for graft. No other details were given.

The announcement came three days after Taiwanese voters elected an independence-leaning president in a landslide, although there was no indication of any connection between the two events.

Multiple online reports speculated that Gong's problems related to his hiding of personnel assets and feuding within his family. However, President Xi Jinping is believed to be deeply unsatisfied with the office's failure to obtain results in Beijing's quest to win over the Taiwanese to China's goal of political unification.

Rumors have also long circulated about the office facilitating private deals between Taiwanese and Chinese businesses, side-stepping the sort of checks usually required for approval.

Taiwanese voters on Saturday elected Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party as president following the eight-year term of Ma Ying-jeou of the China-friendly Nationalist Party.

Skepticism over Ma's push for closer economic ties with China was a major factor in the result, with young voters in particular fearful of an erosion of the island's competitiveness and their future earning potential.

The sides are now entering in a wait-and-see period in the months before Tsai, Taiwan's first female president, is inaugurated in May.

She has pledged no change in the status quo of de facto independence, but has refused to accept Beijing's "one China principle" asserting that the island and mainland are part of a single Chinese nation. **AP**

JIANGXI

## Fireworks factory blast kills three, injures fifty-three

**C**HINESE state media say three people have been killed and 53 injured in an explosion at a fireworks plant in the southern province of Jiangxi.

The official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday that one person was missing from the blast that shook Hongsheng Fireworks Plant in a village outside the city of Shangrao.

A local government confirmed the incident on its official website.

Last week, an explosion at a fireworks factory in the central Chinese province of Henan killed 10 people and injured seven.

China is about two and a half weeks away from Lunar New Year celebrations, when holiday revelers set off fireworks. There are frequent fireworks-related incidents at factories in the weeks leading to the holiday, as China generally has a poor record in workplace safety.

Riaz Khan, Zarar Khan, Pakistan

**T**ALIBAN gunmen stormed a university in northwestern Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 20 people and triggering an hours-long gunbattle with the army and police before the military declared the assault in a town near the city of Peshawar was over.

The attack stirred grim echoes of the horrific 2014 Peshawar school attack that killed more than 150 people, mostly children, and shocked the nation. It also prompted the Pakistani prime minister to pledge the country will wipe out the 'menace of terrorism.' Police said four attackers were also killed.

Yesterday's attack began shortly after the Bacha Khan University opened for classes in the town of Charsadda, some 35 kilometers outside Peshawar, said Deputy Commissioner Tahir Zafar.

As police and soldiers rushed to the campus, the attackers traded gunfire with the troops and several explosions were heard from the area of the university. The attackers were later contained inside two university blocks where the troops killed four attackers, the army said.

A chemistry professor and a student were among those killed, said Zafar, adding that it was not initially clear how many attackers managed to penetrate the campus.

Television footage showed heavy military presence at the university, troops rushing in and people fleeing. Ambulances were at the scene and the wounded were taken to hospital.

The attackers entered the university compound by climbing over back walls and shooting at a security guard before they made their way to the administration building and the male students' dorms, police official Saeed Khan Wazir said.

A witness, botany teacher Mohammad Ishtiaq, said he jumped out from the second floor of the building when he heard gunshots and broke his leg. Two attackers were on first floor and three on the

# Taliban kill 20 in attack at northwest Pakistani university



An ambulance transports the body of a victim



Pakistani troops and rescue workers gather at the main gate of Bacha Khan University

ground floor, he said, adding that they were using automatic assault rifles. The students ran in different directions, he said.

"I locked myself in a washroom," he said. "I jumped out when I saw one of the attackers coming toward me and shooting straight ahead of him."

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed to fight to the end and destroy the Taliban and other militants.

"We are determined and resolved in our commitment to wipe out the menace of terrorism from our homeland," Sharif said in a statement.

A Taliban leader, Khalifa Umar Mansoor, claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack in a phone call to AP from an undisclosed location.

Mansoor, who was the mastermind behind the Peshawar school attack, said a four-man Taliban team carried out the assault in Chasadda. He said it was in revenge for the scores of militants the Pakistani security forces have killed in recent months.

However, a spokesman for the main Taliban faction in Pakistan later disowned the

group behind yesterday's attack, describing the assault as "un-Islamic." Mohammad Khurasani also denied earlier reports that he had endorsed Mansoor's claim and said that those who carried out such attacks would be tried before an Islamic, or Sharia, court.

Such statements from among the Taliban are not uncommon since the group has many loosely linked factions and is indicative of the deep divisions and splits among the insurgents.

Khurasani also said the Taliban "consider the students in non-military institutions the future of our jihad movement" and would not kill potential future followers. He insisted Mullah Fazlullah, the head of the Pakistani Taliban, had nothing to do with the assault.

Yesterday's attack was the second major attack in as many days in the volatile northwest. A suicide bomber riding a motorcycle struck a crowded police checkpoint on the outskirts of Peshawar on Tuesday, killing 11 people in an attack that was also claimed by the Taliban.

Later in the afternoon, pro-

vincial governor Sardar Mehtab Abbasi declared that the military operation on the campus grounds had been completed and that the attack was over. The troops were combing the nearby areas, searching for more possible attackers, he said.

Pakistani army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif visited the campus and a town hospital where the wounded were brought to.

The Bacha Khan University is named after the founder of a liberal, anti-Taliban political party. The Pakistani Taliban have in the past targeted the party for its anti-militant policies.

Pakistan's northwest and its lawless tribal regions bordering Afghanistan is a highly volatile region. Pakistani forces have been carrying out a major operation against the Taliban and other militants there since 2014.

Last month, as the country marked the first anniversary of the Peshawar school attack, the military claimed "phenomenal successes" in the war and said it has killed around 3,500 insurgents since launching the operation.

Though authorities say ove-

ral violence has declined since the wide-ranging military offensive was launched in North Waziristan, the Taliban still manage to carry out ma-

**I locked myself in a washroom [and] jumped out when I saw one of the attackers coming toward me and shooting.**

MOHAMMAD ISHTIAQ  
BOTANY TEACHER

major attacks.

The Peshawar school attack horrified the country and led the government to lift a 2008 moratorium on the death penalty. Pakistan hanged four militants last month who were sentenced to death over the attack. **AP**

## Japan Economy Minister Amari to explain graft claims

Keiko Ujikane, Maiko Takahashi

**J**APANESE Economy Minister Akira Amari said he would provide an explanation about allegations of financial impropriety to be published in a tabloid magazine article today.

"I want to thoroughly investigate the matter and then fulfill my responsibility to explain myself so as not to arouse suspicions among the public," Amari told reporters in Tokyo yesterday.

"I personally haven't done anything that would make the people point at

me behind my back."

The article, to be published in the weekly Shukan Bunshun magazine, says that Amari and his secretary took money from an unnamed Chiba prefecture-based construction company in an alleged violation of a political funding law, accor-

ding to a summary published on the magazine's website.

The payments amounted to 12 million yen (MOP830,000), the magazine said, adding that there are no details of them in Amari's political funding record.

Public broadcaster NHK

reported that an unidentified spokesman for the construction company said the article was correct.

Amari, Japan's point man in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade talks, spearheads Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's strategy to boost the na-

tion's competitiveness. If true, the report would be a setback to the government's bid to pull the world's third-largest economy out of more than a decade of deflation, and could prove a headache for Abe in the run up to elections this summer. **Bloomberg**

A senior U.S. diplomat stepped up pressure on China yesterday to play a leading role in punishing North Korea for its recent nuclear test that raised worries about advancements in its bomb program.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in South Korea on a diplomatic push for tougher sanctions and punishment that can force change in the North. Key to those efforts is whether China, the North's last major ally and a veto-wielding U.N. Security Council member, will join in such moves.

"We believe that China has a special role to play given the special relationship that it has with North Korea," Blinken told reporters after meeting with South Korean officials.

He said Beijing has "more influence and more leverage" over Pyongyang than any other country because most its trade goes from, to or through China. "We are looking to China to show leadership on the issue," Blinken said.

He flew to Beijing late yesterday for talks on North Korea.

During a meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se, Blinken said Seoul and Washington are working closely in New York with the United Nations Security Council.

Yun said it is time for the international community to stand united to make North Korea face the consequences for its bomb test. "This

NORTH KOREA

# US piles pressure on Beijing to help with sanctions



US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken

is North Korea versus international community," he said.

China is expected to join in some U.N. sanctions, but won't likely go as far as to take steps that might

lead to the collapse of the North's authoritarian government. China fears the onslaught of a wave of refugees and violence surging across the border, analysts say. AP

## Vietnam warns over oil rig activities

VIETNAM said China has moved an oil rig into disputed waters in the South China Sea in a move that could result in a repeat the 2014 stand-off between the communist neighbors.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Hai Binh said in a statement posted on the ministry's website this week that Vietnam has raised concerns with China over the movement of Haiyang Shiyu oil rig, and has demanded that China stop any drilling and remove the oil rig from the area where the two countries' continental shelves overlap that have not been demarcated.

"Vietnam demands that China not conduct any drilling activities and withdraw Hai Duong 981 oil rig from this area," he said, using the Vietnamese name for the oil rig.

"Vietnam reserves all its legal rights and interests in the area in accordance with international law," he said.

The oil rig was at the center of a stand-off between the countries in May 2014 when China parked the rig off Vietnam central coast. It was towed away more than two months later, but the incident sparked deadly anti-China riots in Vietnam and plunged bilateral relations to their lowest point in years.

The move of the oil rig into disputed waters also comes as more than 1,500 delegates from Vietnam's ruling Communist Party gather in Hanoi on Wednesday for a once every five-year congress that will select the country's new leaders and set development plans for the next five years. AP

AD

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AP EXCLUSIVE

# Oldest Christian monastery in Iraq razed

Martha Mendoza, Maya Alleruzzo & Bram Janssen, Irbil

**SATELLITE** photos obtained by The Associated Press confirm what church leaders and Middle East preservationists had feared: The oldest Christian monastery in Iraq has been reduced to a field of rubble, yet another victim of the Islamic State group's relentless destruction of heritage sites it considers heretical.

St. Elijah's Monastery stood as a place of worship for 1,400 years, including most recently for U.S. troops. In earlier millennia, generations of monks tucked candles in the niches, prayed in the chapel, worshipped at the altar. The Greek letters chi and rho, representing the first two letters of Christ's name, were carved near the entrance.

This month, at the request of the AP, satellite imagery firm DigitalGlobe tasked a high resolution camera to grab photos of the site, and then pulled earlier images of the same spot.



U.S. Army soldiers tour St. Elijah's Monastery on Forward Operating Base Marez on the outskirts of Mosul, Iraq

Before it was razed, a partially restored, 27,000-square-foot stone and mortar building stood fortress-like on a hill above Mosul. Although the roof was largely missing, it had 26 distinctive rooms including a sanctuary and

chapel. One month later photos show "that the stone walls have been literally pulverized," said imagery analyst Stephen Wood, CEO of Allsource Analysis, who pinpointed the destruction between August and September 2014.

"Bulldozers, heavy equipment, sledgehammers, possibly explosives turned those stone walls into this field of gray-white dust. They destroyed it completely," he said from his Colorado offices.

On the other side of the world, in his office in exile, in Irbil, Iraq, Catholic priest Rev. Paul Thabit Habib, 39, stared in disbelief at the before- and after- images.

"Our Christian history in Mosul is being barbarically leveled," he said in Arabic. "We see it as an attempt to expel us from Iraq, eliminating and finishing our existence in this land."

The Islamic State group, which now controls large parts of Iraq and Syria, has killed thousands of civilians in the past two years. Along the way, its fighters have destroyed whatever they consider contrary to their interpretation of Islam.

St. Elijah's joins a growing list of more than 100 religious and historic sites looted and destroyed, including mosques, tombs, shrines and churches.

Ancient monuments in the cities of Nineveh, Palmyra and Hatra are in ruins. Museums and libraries have been pillaged, books burned, artwork crushed — or trafficked.

U.S. troops and advisers had worked to protect and honor the monastery, a hopeful endeavor in a violent place and time.

"I would imagine that many people are feeling like, 'What were the last 10 years for if these guys can go in and destroy everything?'" said U.S. Army reserve Col. Mary Proffit, who was deployed there in 2004 and again in 2009.

Built in 590, tragedy struck at St. Elijah's in 1743, when as many as 150 monks who refused to convert to Islam were massacred by a Persian general.

Roman Catholic Army chaplain Jeffrey Whorton, who celebrated Mass on the monastery's altar, was grief-stricken at its loss.

"Why we treat each other like this is beyond me," he said. "Elijah the prophet must be weeping." AP

AD



## RRC Electronics (Macau) Ltd.

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Jill Colvin, Ames (Iowa)

USA ELECTIONS

# Donald Trump receives key endorsement from Sarah Palin

**R**EPUBLICAN presidential front-runner Donald Trump received the endorsement yesterday of conservative firebrand Sarah Palin, giving the billionaire businessman a potential boost less than two weeks before Iowa's kick-off caucuses.

The endorsement comes as Trump is locked in a dead heat with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in Iowa. The two have been ramping up their attacks against one another as the election has neared.

In the statement announcing the endorsement, Trump's campaign described Palin as a conservative who "helped launch the careers of several key future leaders of the Republican Party and conservative movement." The statement also quoted Cruz as once saying he "would not be in the United States Senate were it not for Gov. Sarah Palin. ... She can pick winners."

"Media heads are spinning," Palin said after taking the stage at a Trump rally at Iowa State University. "This is going to be so much fun."

Palin, the former governor of Alaska and 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate, said that, with Trump as president, America would no longer apologize.

"No more pussy-footing around," Palin said.

Campaigning in New Hampshire, Cruz said, "Regardless of what Sarah intends to do in 2016, I will remain a big, big fan of Sarah Palin."

Palin endorsed Cruz in his 2012 Senate race in Texas and said as recently as last month that he and Trump were both in her top tier of candidates, making the endorsement a symbolic blow to Cruz who says Trump is not a true, consistent conservative and represents "New York values."



Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, left, endorses Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during a rally at the Iowa State University

Palin's remarks in Ames, Iowa, were signature Palin, combining the folksy charm and everywoman appeal that initially made her a Republican superstar with defiant taunting of a "busted" party establishment that she slammed for counting both Trump and herself out.

Palin offered her full-throated support for Trump and slammed President Barack Obama as the "capitulator in chief." Trump, she said, would be a commander in chief who would

let "let our warriors do their job and go kick ISIS' ass!"

She also took aim at the Republican establishment for "attacking their own front-runner" and offered a challenge to those who have suggested that Trump, whose positions on issues like gun control and abortion rights have shifted over the years, isn't conservative enough.

"Oh my goodness gracious. What the heck would the establishment know about conservatism?" she said. "Who are

they to tell us that we're not conservative enough? ... Give me a break."

Trump, whose team had been touting a major, surprise announcement, praised Palin as "a friend, and a high-quality person whom I have great respect for" in a statement.

"We're going to give 'em hell," he said after her speech.

Palin will also be joining Trump at two events today, including a rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Palin was a virtual newcomer

to the national political arena when Arizona Sen. John McCain named her as his running mate. She has since risen to prominence as one of the most outspoken conservatives in the party. She signed on as a Fox News commentator after resigning as Alaska's governor in 2010, a job she held until last year.

Trump and Palin did not discuss how the endorsement had come about, but Trump's national political director Michael Glassner previously worked for her.

The event came a day after Palin's oldest son, Track, was arrested in Wasilla, Alaska, in a domestic violence case in which his girlfriend told police she was afraid he would shoot himself with a rifle. Track Palin was charged with assault, interfering with the report of a domestic violence crime and possessing a weapon while intoxicated in connection with the incident.

Earlier, Trump received an endorsement from the daughter of movie star John Wayne.

Standing in front of a life-size, rifle-toting model of the actor in full cowboy gear, Trump accepted the endorsement of Aissa Wayne at the John Wayne Birthplace Museum in Winterset, Iowa.

"America needs help and we need a strong leader and we need someone like Mr. Trump with leadership qualities, someone with courage, someone that's strong, like John Wayne," she said. **AP**

DAVOS

## DiCaprio rips Big Oil at confab of business leaders

**F**RESH off his Golden Globe win, Leonardo DiCaprio drew ooohs, ahhs and smiles from a crowd as he was honored for his work against the climate crisis at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Then he ripped into Big Oil.

The Hollywood star of "The Revenant" traded the North American snows for white Alpine slopes at a ceremony where he announced his foundation was donating another USD15 million to environmental projects, and pleaded with business leaders and other notables on hand to help battle climate change.

"We simply cannot allow the corporate greed of the coal, oil and gas industries to determine the future of humanity," DiCaprio said to polite applause. "Those entities with a financial interest in preserving this destructive system have de-



US Actor Leonardo DiCaprio smiles as he was awarded the Crystal Awards during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland

nied and even covered up the evidence of our changing climate."

"Enough is enough. You know better. The world knows better. History will place the blame for this devastation

**“**We cannot allow the corporate greed of the coal, oil and gas industries to determine the future of humanity

LEONARDO DICAPRIO

squarely at their feet."

DiCaprio joined rapper and entrepreneur Will.i.am, Danish artist Olafur Eliasson and Chinese actress Yao Chen as laureates of WEF's culturally-oriented "Crystal Awards."

In their speeches, both DiCaprio and Will.i.am mentioned Bill Gates — a Davos staple, who is set to take part in a session this Friday. DiCaprio hailed the Microsoft co-founder for his support of a "zero-emissions" future; the hip-hop star imagined the impact on a downtrodden community if a Gates-like entrepreneur were to emerge from one.

Chen, who was said to have 78 million followers on Sina Weibo, China's answer to Twitter, was recognized for her work on behalf of the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR.

## what's ON



## 10TH MACAU DESIGN BIENNIAL

TIME: 10am to 7pm

(Closed on Monday, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: February 14, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Adult MOP5, free for Children under 12

years old, elderly over 65 years old (Admission is

free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 7588

## MANUEL CARGALEIRO-PINTURA: 1954-2006

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 3, 2016

VENUE: Casa Garden Orient Foundation

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 4691

## 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

## CREATIVE &amp; COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: January 31, 2016

VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel

Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

## TUTTI COLORI

- ARTS, CRAFTS &amp; SKETCHES EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-6:30pm

UNTIL: February 18, 2016

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Calçada Da Barra, No. 16 R/C LJ A,

Edif. San Chak, Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

## "FOAM TIP" BY ARLINDA FROTA

TIME: 12pm to 8pm (closed on every Tuesdays)

UNTIL: January 31, 2016

ADMISSION: free

VENUE: Signum Living Store,

Rua do Almirante Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8925

## Offbeat

## EMIRATI PROSECUTORS FILE WARRANT FOR MEN DANCING IN UNIFORMS

Prosecutors in the United Arab Emirates have filed an arrest warrant for two men who wore military uniforms and danced in an Internet video.

The state-run WAM news agency announced that Abu Dhabi prosecutors had filed the warrant for the men.

It described the video as showing "two men donning military uniforms and making outrageous physical movements that did not respect the uniform, the morale and the value of national service."

The country has suffered dozens of casualties in the ongoing Saudi-led war against Shiite rebels in Yemen, making authorities especially sensitive about its military.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:50	Criminal Minds S.7
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repeat)
19:30	Soap Opera
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	Television Film
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

21 JAN - 27 JAN

## THE 5H WAVE\_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J Blakeson

Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson,

Maika Monroe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min

## STEVE JOBS\_

ROOM 2

2.30, 7.15 pm

Director: Danny Boyle

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet,

Seth Rogene

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min



## THE BIG SHORT\_

ROOM 2

4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Adam McKay

Starring: Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 130min

## THE BIG BEE\_

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Yukihiro Tsutsumi

Starring: Yosoke Eguchi, Masahiro Motoki,

Yukie Nakama

Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 139min

## IP MAN 3\_

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun

Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang

Language: Cantonese (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 110min

## MACAU TOWER

14 JAN - 10 FEB

## THE 5H WAVE\_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J Blakeson

Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson,

Maika Monroe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min

## this day in history



## 1950 ACCLAIMED AUTHOR GEORGE ORWELL DIES

The writer, George Orwell, has died after a three-year battle against tuberculosis.

Until the last, news had been positive and it was hoped Mr Orwell was improving.

On Friday morning he had a long talk with a friend about his plans for the future.

However, a few hours later he suffered a fatal haemorrhage in a London hospital.

But illness had not dimmed George Orwell's enthusiasm for writing.

His last novel, 1984, published last summer was written in between periods spent in hospital.

The controversial book - like Animal Farm - was widely viewed as an attack on the Communist system.

However, it brought George Orwell widespread critical acclaim including the award of £357 by the influential Partisan Review for the year's most significant contribution to literature.

George Orwell was born Eric Arthur Blair in June 1903 into a family of relatively prosperous civil servants working in India on behalf of the British Empire.

He is said to have assumed his pseudonym, inspired by the River Orwell, near his parent's house in Suffolk, to spare his family embarrassment.

Orwell's early writings often drew on his own experiences of poverty which were in marked contrast to his privileged background.

He spent time living as a tramp in the East End of London and as a dishwasher in Paris - events which inspired his first book in 1933, Down and Out in London and Paris.

It was followed in 1934 by his first novel, Burmese Days.

And in 1938 after returning wounded after fighting for the socialists in the Spanish Civil War he wrote Homage to Catalonia.

But it was only five years ago that the book which made him world-famous, Animal Farm, appeared.

In reaction to the sudden glare of fame, Orwell moved to the island of Jura, off the coast of Scotland.

The move aggravated his tuberculosis which had developed after his return from Spain.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

George Orwell's work has remained popular over the years, especially Animal Farm and 1984.

He began writing 1984 after resigning from the BBC World Service in September 1943 where he had been employed writing and producing news for India.

It was his increasing frustration with the Ministry of Information, which censored the news during World War II, which led to his resignation and subsequently became the central theme of 1984.

Words and phrases from the novel have passed into everyday usage, particularly "Big Brother".

The book was also made into a film released in 1984.

George Orwell's name itself has become an adjective - "Orwellian" - meaning an oppressive system.

1984 and Animal Farm frequently appear in lists of the world's best-ever selling novels.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Take a look around your home. Are the possessions you see the ones you want to slowly grow old with? If not, then let that be the fire under you to start making sure your hard work pays off, sooner rather than later.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You may not have much money at your disposal these days, but you still have some old standbys in your arsenal. Flattery comes to mind, as does happiness and, of course, sex appeal. Do some self promotion.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Don't let something like bills get the better of you. Deal with things quickly and effectively. Why save the best for last? Pull out some of your hidden strengths before you think you need to and tackle them head on.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If you've been meaning to socialize for a while now, it's a good time to follow through. That doesn't mean you have to spend more than you have. People are receptive to any invitation you extend, even if it's just for a beer.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You may not have much to show off these days, but you're having a hard time convincing your heart of that fact. It's just as well. Your big ego is an excellent defense against reality, so don't bother deflating it just yet.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Make sure you don't spend any time with people you aren't compatible with. You have enough on your plate, or not enough as the case may be, to deal with any unnecessary stress. Surround yourself with friends.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your life seems either great or awful, depending on which books you're looking at. If that's too rocky a ride for you, don't look at any long term projections. Stick with the day to day accounts instead.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Things haven't gotten their ugliest yet. To keep them from getting there, enjoy the beauty of the circumstances you find yourself in, instead of thinking they could be better. That should give you the peace of mind to forge on.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Nothing is too mundane to ask for, because the universe is listening. While you have its undivided attention, throw in some requests for things that have nothing to do with money. Small details are as valuable as gold.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Don't be tempted to slack off. You'll have plenty of time for relaxation tomorrow. For today, stay disciplined. Bills are piling up and you won't be getting any discounts any time soon.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Is it true that the rich are eccentric and the poor are just plain weird? You don't want to find out. Curb your odder tendencies at least long enough to get a paycheck.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 The pen might be mightier than the sword but is it mightier than the dollar? Words are still free, and some are even beautiful. Surround yourself with anything resembling a love letter instead of tackling your bills.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

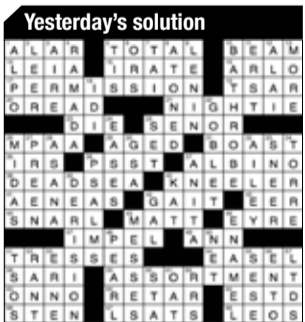
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for 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- Biting; 6- Part of an ice skate; 11- Actor Vigoda; 14- Capital city of Yemen; 15- Reykjavik coin; 16- Sun. speech; 17- Woman who sails a yacht; 19- "ãCand seven years..."; 20- Compass point opposite WSW; 21- Comparison word; 22- Showered; 24- Fleshy fruit; 25- Resembling a feather; 26- Rebirth; 30- Architectural piers; 31- Addams Family cousin; 32- Stepped; 36- Avg.; 37- Most profound; 41- Spring mo.; 42- Freelancer's encl.; 44- Singing syllable; 45- Actress Zellweger; 47- Astonishingly beautiful; 51- Component parts; 54- Icicle site; 55- Out of bed; 56- Weak, as an excuse; 57- Diddle and Derek; 60- El...; 61- Greenish; 64- Nipper's co.; 65- Musical study piece; 66- Private student; 67- Western Hemisphere org.; 68- Church council; 69- Brewer's need;

DOWN: 1- \_\_\_ sow, so shall...; 2- James of "The Godfather"; 3- Suffix with exist; 4- Encouraging word; 5- Locked down; 6- Careful; 7- City on the Rhine; 8- Human limb; 9- Keepers of daily records; 10- Verdi title bandit; 11- Yoga posture; 12- Father; 13- Eat into; 18- Layered hairdo; 23- Technical sch.; 24- Actress Zadora; 25- Sneaky guy?; 26- Get an A, say; 27- Architectural pier; 28- Former Fords; 29- Try to bite; 33- Rajah's wife; 34- Dentist's request; 35- Remnant; 38- Infinite time; 39- Periods of history; 40- Grotesque likeness; 43- Recedes; 46- Squeeze (out); 48- "Speed" star; 49- Directed a course; 50- Domesticated; 51- Computer shortcut; 52- Writer Jong; 53- King with a golden touch; 56- Adriatic resort; 57- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 58- Wallet fillers; 59- Editor's mark; 62- Flee; 63- White ball, in pool



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Fire department 28 572 222
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PJ (Open line) 993
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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
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PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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BOXING

# Pacquiao insists he'll retire after Bradley rematch

Greg Beacham, California

WITH a beatific politician's smile on his face, Manny Pacquiao calmly insisted he'll step out of a boxing ring for the final time on April 9 after his third fight with Timothy Bradley.

After all, the eight-division champion has a senatorial campaign to plan and a loving family to please. The 37-year-old Filipino phenomenon quietly claims the spring is a good time to take his last punch.

"I'm so happy hanging up my gloves after this fight," Pacquiao said Tuesday. "I'm sure I'll feel sad after that, but that's life. It's time, I think."

That note of uncertainty is familiar to Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum. After a half-century in the fight game, the Top Rank boss knows a boxer's word on retirement is hardly ever the last one.

"I will not promote it as



Manny Pacquiao takes questions during a news conference in Beverly Hills, California

Manny's last fight," Arum said. "He says he's going to retire, and maybe he will. The truth is that you never know with any boxer, but I haven't known Manny to say things he doesn't mean. But we all realize this could be the last time he fights."

Nearly nine months after he failed to hurt Floyd Maywea-

ther Jr. in the most lucrative fight in boxing history, Pacquiao is back stateside to promote his grand finale. His camp insists Pacquiao is recovered from shoulder surgery required to repair a rotator cuff injury that affected the Mayweather bout, and he'll be ready for a full training camp

with Freddie Roach.

Pacquiao realizes that if he looks impressive in beating Bradley, he could stoke interest in a healthy rematch with Mayweather, who retired last fall. Even after their anti-climactic first meeting, a second bout would be another enormous financial windfall for the two biggest stars in boxing.

Pacquiao insists it's irrelevant

**I started this boxing just to help my mother, and I'll end my boxing career to help the country.**

MANNY PACQUIAO

to look beyond Bradley.

"[Mayweather] retired already, so I'm going to retire also after this fight," Pacquiao said. "I never regret. In fact, I thought I won the fight. A lot of people, my fans, believe I won the fight. ... I know (it's time to retire) because after this, I have another big responsibility in the Philippines, which is serving the people. My family wanted me to retire before I fought Mayweather. I started this boxing just to help my mother, and I'll end my boxing career to help the country."

Pacquiao will face Bradley at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, completing a trilogy between two of the world's top welterweights. Bradley won a hotly disputed split decision over Pacquiao in their first meeting in June 2012, but Pacquiao earned a unanimous decision victory in the April 2014 rematch.

With a guaranteed \$20 million payday, Pacquiao happily agreed to take on Bradley for a third time.

He claims the reasons weren't just financial: Pacquiao believes Bradley "has changed" since their last two fights, and he wants to see how he'll do against the revamped version of an already tenacious opponent. AP

AD

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Rob Harris, London

## FOOTBALL

# Infantino seeks regional World Cup if elected FIFA president

**T**HE World Cup could be spread across entire regions, emulating the continent-wide 2020 European Championship, if Gianni Infantino wins the FIFA presidential election next month.

The UEFA secretary general used his manifesto, which was published on Tuesday, to say FIFA should not limit the tournament to be held in one or two countries. The 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea was the only time the event has been co-hosted.

Infantino, working alongside Michel Platini at UEFA, spearheaded spreading Euro 2020 across 13 countries.

In November, Infantino told AP of his plan to expand the World Cup to 40 teams. Allowing several countries to stage matches in about a dozen stadiums would ensure the tournament is not limited to just a few wealthy potential hosts.

"FIFA should investigate the possibility of organizing the World Cup not only in one or two countries but in a whole region, so enabling several countries to enjoy the honor and benefits," Infantino's manifesto says.

The first World Cup bidding after the Feb. 26 election is

AP PHOTO



In this February 22, 2014 file photo UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino gestures during a press conference. Infantino used his manifesto, which was published on Tuesday, to say FIFA should consider hosting the tournament across multiple countries.

**FIFA should investigate the possibility of organizing the World Cup [...] in a whole region, so enabling several countries to enjoy the honor and benefits.**

INFANTINO'S MANIFESTO

for the 2026 tournament. The launch of the contest has been stalled since last year when FIFA was swept up in a global soccer corruption scandal, which led to Sepp Blatter announcing plans to quit before being banned.

Infantino, who is Swiss, is one of five presidential candidates seeking votes from FIFA's 209 member associations.

In an attempt to entice federations, Infantino is also offering them a greater share of FIFA's wealth, saying a "proper risk analysis must be conducted" into whether the governing body requires cash reserves as high as USD1.5

billion.

Each of FIFA's members will be offered \$5 million to invest in development projects and running costs — a huge increase on the \$2.05 million per federation 2011-2014 — and another \$1 million, if required, for travel, which would be attractive to small nations in remote regions.

Additionally, each of the six confederations will be handed \$40 million to invest in development projects and their regional offshoots in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Central America can request another \$4 million to organize youth tournaments.

The amounts are all within a

four-year cycle.

"If the target of 50 percent of distribution of FIFA's income is reached, these amounts will further increase significantly," Infantino said.

Infantino entered the race only after Platini, his boss at UEFA, was initially suspended by FIFA in October before being handed an eight-year ban last month.

Distancing himself from Platini, who blocked high-tech goal-line aids being used in the Champions League, Infantino champions expanding technology in the game.

"FIFA shall start an open debate with all stakeholders on the further use of technology

in the game," the manifesto says. "Proposals should be fully tested and the potential impact on the flow of the game should be studied in detail. Finally, this has to be an objective assessment based on the best interests of football."

The International Football Association Board is already preparing to approve trials with a type of video replay for referees.

One idea Infantino proposes, which seems unique in an election campaign with few differences between the candidates, is starting a globe-trotting team of the game's greats. Legends games, organized by third-parties, have attracted big crowds in recent years.

Infantino envisages that the FIFA Legends Team would organize matches "against local lineups throughout all continents to promote football, social projects and charitable aims."

"Players who wish to give something back to the world of football should be positively encouraged to do so, and FIFA should provide a platform for them," writes Infantino, who is best known to soccer fans as the face of Champions League draws.

The 45-year-old Infantino, a lawyer who has risen to UEFA's top administrative job since joining in 2000, was born in Brig, close to Blatter's birthplace of Visp.

For the FIFA presidency, Infantino is competing against Asian Football Confederation President Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al Khalifa of Bahrain, former FIFA vice president Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, former FIFA official Jerome Champagne and South African businessman Tokyo Sexwale. **AP**

## Porto hires a Portuguese coach to replace fired Spaniard

**F**C Porto says it has hired Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro on an 18-month contract to replace Spaniard Julen Lopetegui.

The announcement was confirmed on the club's official website on Tuesday and he will take charge

of his first match against Maritimo on Sunday.

Peseiro has been in charge at Egyptian club Al Ahly for the past three months. Before that, he coached several Portuguese clubs as well as Panathinaikos, Dynamo Bucharest and the Saudi

Arabian national team.

The 55-year-old has won just one trophy in his coaching career, leading Braga to the Portuguese League Cup in the 2012-13 season.

Porto fired Lopetegui on January 8 after a three-game winless streak and

the club is currently third in the league, five points adrift of leader Sporting Lisbon.

Sporting Lisbon dealt Porto a 2-0 loss on January 2, with the former's Islam Slimani scoring both goals, one in each half. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Sporting's Islam Slimani (center) scores the opening goal against Porto at the Alvalade stadium on January 2.

opinion

**HK Observer**  
Robert Carroll



**F-WORDS FOR BOOKSELLER'S STORY: FAKE AND FRAMED**

Let's use an f-word: "fake." And another? How about "framed." Fake is how the edited, inconsistent confession of publisher Gui Minhai appears to his daughter and to most Hong Kongers. Typical of the style of televised pre-trial confessions on the mainland, Gui's appearance did nothing to assuage strong doubts in Hong Kong about the true nature of the publisher's disappearance.

Raising more doubts is one of the latest twists: how Gui disappeared from Thailand. There has been no record at any Thai immigration control points of him leaving Thailand, which is where he was last known to have been, according to his daughter who was informed by Swedish authorities.

That Thai authorities appear to have come up empty in their supposed investigations into the matter smacks of a cover up. However, there have been investigations by British newspaper The Guardian and by Gui's friends, which, unlike those of the Thai police, did not come up empty.

The Guardian obtained CCTV footage of Gui entering and leaving his building in Pattaya for the last time, along with witness accounts of what happened from staff members on the block. They also traced down a taxi driver who drove Gui and other unidentified individuals on that day. The picture reveals a series of highly suspect events surrounding Gui's mysterious departure, certainly involving Chinese individuals, which point to an abduction via China-friendly Cambodia.

During Gui's arrival back at his complex from a shopping trip, CCTV at the building gate shows a casually dressed man appearing from the security area apparently watching the car's progress. A management employee at the condominium recalled a man who spoke poor Thai waiting at the gate, where he was speaking in Chinese on his phone; then, he claimed to see Gui speaking to the same man and shortly afterwards asking for his shopping to be taken up to his flat. Gui was never seen at the complex again, but made two suspicious calls to his daughter. The first was two weeks later to ask her to her to put food away and secure the flat – no explanation of why he had vanished, despite her several messages asking about his welfare. The second call was the day after to say a friend would come by to pick up his computer.

The "friend" turned out to be four men, only two of whom spoke Thai, who entered Chinese names in the visitor log book. They went to the flat and spent almost half an hour there but did not take the computer.

The saga continued with another highly suspicious turn. The condominium manager, who discovered that Gui was unreachable, called the number the flat's visitors had used. A taxi driver answered, saying that the four men had left the phone in the cab but had been negotiating a ride to a border town with Cambodia – a place with a reputation for immigration officials who take bribes. The Guardian reported that, soon after, two Beijing-dispatched airplanes were about to arrive to deport some Chinese people who were allegedly fraudsters.

The Guardian then called all of the numbers Gui had used since he vanished. One was from Croatia, another from Togo and the last was from Poland – all were disconnected.

Of course, we had to leave open the possibility that the publisher arranged his own disappearance. On the other hand, going shopping the same day, and not saying anything to his wife and daughter, the latter of whom he was supposed to meet a couple of days after he disappeared, remains suspicious. And why all the trouble – and expense – for a highly secretive, illicit flight to China when he could have handed himself in at the Chinese embassy or the China Liaison Office in Hong Kong?

The case in China against Gui is also suspicious: a hit and run driving accident where a student was killed. Firstly, the driver was reported to have two different ages. Secondly, that was thirteen years ago. Why so long before any action?

F for "fake" and F for "framed" comes to mind. He was said to have just been about to publish a book about Chinese president Xi Jinping.

**THE BUZZ** LIN, CURRY, HARDEN IN NBA TV SPOT FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR

The NBA is celebrating the Chinese New Year with a TV spot featuring Jeremy Lin, Stephen Curry and James Harden.

The ad is called "Dining Table" and shows the stars sharing a New Year meal with a Chinese family. It is being broadcast until Feb. 22 across all of NBA China's television and digital partners' platforms.

The Chinese New Year is Feb. 8 and celebrates the year of the monkey. Lin plays for the Charlotte Hornets and is the first American-born NBA player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent.

Fifty-one games will be broadcast or streamed in China, showcasing all 30 NBA teams for the first time.

TRAVEL

**Chinese Garden at SoCal's Huntington Library**



The Love for the Lotus Pavilion and Pond of Reflected Greenery at the Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif.

Solvej Schou, San Marino (Calif.)

ON a typical day at the Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library in San Marino, the smell of flowers – jasmine, camellias – floats across the garden's man-made lake in the center, flanked by limestone rocks, airy pavilions and hand-carved bridges.

It's no mere coincidence, then, that the garden – one of the largest traditional Chinese gardens outside China, encompassing 12 acres – is officially named the Garden of Flowing Fragrance, and its 1.5-acre lake the Lake of Reflected Fragrance. Pavilions with gray swooping tiled roofs all face the water, surrounded by pine, maple, plum and California oak trees. Inspired by the Ming dynasty, the garden opened

at Southern California's massive, 207-acre Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in 2008. A new rock grotto – part of a continuing expansion – includes a waterfall.

As a nearby Pasadena resident and Huntington member, I started spending time at the Chinese Garden three years ago. It remains my go-to oasis, and especially during off-peak days and times, when it's not as packed with visitors.

I sit alone, usually in a pavilion with circular wooden arches called Love for the Lotus, stretch my legs on a stone bench, close my eyes, breathe in the scent of flowers and listen to koi fish and ducks swishing through the lake. Then I stare at the water and the enormous, curving San Gabriel Mountains north of the garden,

and I write.

That incorporated view of the mountains – so symbolic of California – makes the Chinese Garden even more special. A tea house with a stone-patterned courtyard at the south end of the lake has a terrace called Terrace that Invites the Mountains that purposefully faces the San Gabriels.

Also, every Wednesday, a solo musician comes and plays a traditional Chinese instrument, from the four-stringed pipa to the two-stringed erhu fiddle, in one of the pavilions. On a recent Wednesday, I sat in my usual spot at Love for the Lotus, listening to an erhu player perform, her bow stretching across the narrow wooden instrument.

The erhu's twangy notes mingled with the sound of chirping birds and the grotto waterfall splashing against rocks imported from China's Lake Tai region. As the afternoon sun shot out orange rays, the lake's sand-colored Jade River Bridge mirrored itself in the water.

The scene looked like a painting – colorful, soothing, serene – a world away from cars, streets and stoplights only minutes outside the garden. I breathed in the smells, slipped my cell phone into my purse, and listened. AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Xinhua/Zhu Zheng



Policemen from Yangma Island Frontier Police Station help sea cucumber farmers to break ice yesterday in Yantai, Shandong Province.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



**BURKINA FASO** France's prime minister said three attackers remain at large following the attacks in Burkina Faso's capital, though authorities there insist that all those who carried out the assault had been shot dead.

**USA** Secretary of State John Kerry is hoping to move aside obstacles that threaten to delay the start of peace talks to end Syria's war, seeking compromise with Russia's foreign minister on which Syrian opposition groups should be eligible to participate.



**HAITI** For a second straight day, opposition protesters erected burning roadblocks and shattered windows in a section of Haiti's capital Tuesday to press for new elections less than a week before a Jan. 24 presidential and legislative runoff.

**MOLDOVA** Hundreds of protesters broke through police lines yesterday to get into Moldova's Parliament after it approved a new government to end months of deadlock between the president and the legislature.

**GERMANY'S** finance minister is floating the idea of a European tax on gasoline to help finance the continent's efforts to manage the migrant crisis. The EU has struggled to find common ground amid the huge influx of people seeking safety and a better life. Germany and Sweden have allowed in large numbers of refugees but many other countries are reluctant to share the burden.

**INDIA** Violent clashes between police and protesters erupted Wednesday in Indian-controlled Kashmir, leaving a man dead and two others wounded, officials said.