



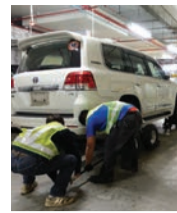
**CATHOLICS OF MACAU, UNITE**  
Upon assuming office as the Bishop of Macau on Saturday, Stephen Lee called for unity among Catholics

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**SAT TESTS CANCELLED OVER CHEATING CONCERNS**

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**DSAT REMOVES 'ABANDONED VEHICLES'**  
The Transport Bureau announced that it is monitoring the use of parking spaces on a daily basis

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**WORLD BRIEFS**

**CHINA** Eight people died and five were injured after a fire broke out at a residential township in Beijing, Xinhua news agency reported, citing emergency services. The blaze broke out early yesterday in a bungalow in the Sunhe Township's Chaoyang District in east Beijing, according to Xinhua.

**THAILAND** A large chunk of metal that could be from an aircraft washed ashore in southern Thailand, but Malaysian authorities yesterday cautioned against speculation of a link to a Malaysia Airlines flight missing for almost two years. More on p12



**USA** Officials say the 26.8 inches of snow that fell in New York City's Central Park is the second-most recorded in the city since 1869. That narrowly misses tying the previous record of 26.9 inches from February 2006. Officials began keeping records on snowfall totals in 1869.

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**FINANCIAL TIMES**

**France: Hollande's travails**

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# Macau sees coldest weather since 1949

P3



PAULO BARBOSA

## Hong Kong expected to grow at a slower pace this year

P10

**T**HE Secretary for Security warned of the increasing sophistication of high-tech and computer crime and the difficulty of laws to keep pace with it. At the end of 2014, Wong Sio Chak took responsibility for law and order as security chief in the SAR, nearly 16 years after joining the police force.

"The criminals want a 'big dinner'," he said in a recent interview with Exmoo News. "They have put away their knives and guns for violent crime. Hackers have entered the accounts departments of the casinos and the personal computers of people to steal individual information and use false credit cards.

"There are the huge under-the-table gambling syndicates controlled by remote phones. There are others who help mainland customers to withdraw money at POS (point-of-sale) machines."

He and his colleagues are fighting many kinds of 'knowledge-based' crime – such as bank card fraud, telephone scams and withdrawing money from ATMs with false identities. "There will be more and more kinds of computer crime and they are harder and harder to prevent," he said.

He said that, in the face of all these different forms of IT crime, the police had set up an 'Internet Security Centre' to guarantee the safety of information of Macau citizens and companies. "We also have two weapons – a computer certification unit and IT investigation team. In addition, the economic and finance division has a finance intelligence office and is planning a special team to at-

WONG SIO CHAK

## Secretary for Security talks of pre-1999, mafia days and high-tech crimes



tack money-laundering and all kinds of IT crime.

"It will co-ordinate with government departments, companies, the police, customs, banks, real estate, finance and major gambling firms. Its scope will be very wide. Nothing of this scale existed before 1999," he said.

Wong said that the legal system had difficulty keeping pace with the increasing sophistication of these new criminals. "Before the handover, there were no regulations on computer crime. Drafting of the law only began in 2001 and it was passed in 2009. But computer technology advances too fast. Even after revisions of the laws, it is still lagging behind the new criminal situation."

"Most serious is the case of those who come from outside to commit crimes in Macau. Whether or not to use to 'summary litigation procedure' is not up to the police to decide. It is the prosecutor or judge who decides. There are conditions – a sentence of less than three years, the person over 18 and with adequate evidence and the decision must be made wi-

thin 48 hours. If not, the person could just be expelled from the SAR. But the complexity of some cases is such that the prosecutor basically cannot collect sufficient evidence in 48 hours. If the evidence is not enough, we cannot use this procedure," he said.

Wong was invited to join the police in June 1998 by then police chief Antonio Marques Baptista. One month earlier, Baptista had survived a bomb attack, when his dog sniffed explosives in a car he was about to enter. Wong took up his post in November 1998.

"That was the most difficult period," Wong said. "The situation in the force was very complicated. The social situation was also complicated and difficult – most important was that the citizens did not have confidence in the police!" In 1999, there were 65 kidnappings and 47 homicides, of which 20 were related to Triads.

He has two daughters, one studying law and the other at primary school. Each day he takes the younger one to school. "I do not have high demands of them." **MDT/Macaubub/Exmoo**

## PJ Investigator tells of source in Lisboa prostitution ring

Renato Marques

**T**HE trial of six defendants who were accused of collectively participating in a prostitution ring operating inside Hotel Lisboa, and which includes the former executive director of the hotel, Alan Ho, continued on Friday with several testimonies.

The highlight of the day was the hearing of Fong Kam Chiu, the Judiciary Police (PJ) investigator who initiated the investigation of this case.

### Several anonymous letters were sent to police

Fong revealed that the tip-off was given to him in person when he went to Hotel Lisboa in search of three other people.

After being insistently questioned by judge Rui Ribeiro, Fong finally revealed that the tip-off came

from one of the managers in the hotel - Leo Ieong. Ieong is already a witness in this case, although his statements have not yet been heard.

According to Fong, the tip corroborated the two or three anonymous letters they had previously received.

Fong mentioned that there had been a change in the attitudes of Hotel Lisboa management towards the police. This allegedly occurred after Wong started working there. "The hotel staff stopped providing help

to the police investigators during their raids in the hotel and started requesting search warrants which would allow them inside the hotel rooms," he said.

Another of the highlights was the hearing of Yang Chao Yu, one of the few witnesses residing in mainland China, who was in attendance to give her testimony in the courtroom.

The witness was visibly uncomfortable as she identified the defendants whom she knew. She revealed a few more details

of the case, namely the procedures related to the way the number of prostitutes were controlled in the "walking area". According to Yang, a "lucky draw" of the room cards was used to achieve this end. Although she was unable to specifically identify the individuals responsible for this task, she was able to reveal the presence of the second defendant Kelly Wong in the draw.

She was also able to identify both Alan Ho and Kelly Wong as the people

in charge of the "check-in counter", where the girls had to request and renew the rooms, despite claiming to have no prior knowledge of them or their positions and functions at the hotel.

She also claimed that she never provided payment to anyone in order to be able to provide sexual services, saying that she learned the rules from her own intuition and from information she obtained from other women in similar roles.

The trial resumes today.

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# Region records lowest temperature since 1949



**A**CCORDING to weather monitoring stations in Taipa, yesterday was the coldest day since 1949 – and possibly earlier – with one monitoring unit recording a low of 1.6 degrees Celsius at Big Taipa Hill.

Today the temperature is expected to drop even further, with estimates last night suggesting a drop to between 1 and 7 degrees Celsius. In response to this drop, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL REPORTS HYPOTHERMIA CASES

**THE HEALTH** Bureau (SSM) reported that three cases of hypothermia were reported. All of the cases involved senior residents. Since low temperatures are expected to continue over the next few days, the director of the Health Bureau (SSM), Lei Chin Ion, called on all residents – par-

ticularly the elderly and those suffering from chronic illnesses – to adopt special measures to protect themselves against the cold weather. SSM has also made an appeal for caretakers of senior citizens, children and the chronically unwell to take appropriate measures.

issued a warning last night, urging primary, kindergarten and special education schools

close for the day.

The Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) issued an “Orange (cold)” alert for yesterday and today, adding that both days will be subjected to “Force 4 to 6 northerly winds with gusts.”

Other unconfirmed reports last night suggested that there was light snowfall yesterday in Taipa and Coloane. According to some sources, the air temperature was low enough in other areas to partially freeze the rain, thereby resulting in sleet even in urban areas.

In addition, according to

TDM, the Social Welfare Bureau’s temporary winter shelter in Ilha Verde has been opened for homeless citizens and people in need of temporary accommodation. It can provide shelter and hot meals for up to 120 people.

The bureau encouraged social services to pay extra attention to vulnerable groups such

## Today the temperature is expected to drop even lower than anticipated

as the elderly and the sick.

According to the bureau, temperatures are expected to return to normal toward the end of the week, and will be accompanied by a corresponding increase in humidity.

On the other hand, rain is likely to persist until the weekend.

These temperatures are part of a cold snap sweeping across the southern and eastern parts of China. Some locations are observing record-low temperatures as has been the case in Macau, with some claiming it is the worst winter in over 30 years – especially in more north-eastern parts of China, that have recently registered lows of minus 30.

The accounts are striking in contrast with last week’s report, which claimed that, according to most authorities, 2015 held the record for the warmest year.

The SMG told the Times last week that on average, only eight days in a given year see temperatures dip below 12 degrees.

**Staff reporter**

## Pearl Horizon buyers march again

Hundreds of Pearl Horizon pre-sale buyers braved the cold and once again took to the streets yesterday, demanding that the Pearl Horizon project should be finished in 2018. A representative of the buyers said that delays to the Pearl Horizon project may affect thousands of people, which is why members of civil society should be concerned about the issue. While protesters claim that 1,000 people marched yesterday, the Public Security Police Force reported 600. The 25-year term of land-use for the high-end Pearl Horizon expired in December. Polytex – the company responsible for the project – failed to complete the projects during the term of their land-use agreement. The government refused to renew the contract.

## Transmac maintains fares in agreement with the government



Following a contract signed with the government, Transmac will maintain the current price of bus fares for the next three years, TDM reported. The vice-manager of Transmac, Guan Rong Jian, said that maintaining the current prices will put pressure on Transmac, but the stress is believed to be bearable. Mr Guan has expressed his belief that the company is now facing a potential human resource crisis: the average age of their current drivers is 53, with 15 percent of the drivers aged between 60 and 65. He believes that the number of staff retiring will peak in 2017. Transmac has already increased wages of drivers by 4.5 percent since the beginning of this year.

## Tang Dynasty colored porcelain offered for auction

A historic colored porcelain item from the Tang dynasty was put up for sale by a Japanese collector at an auction that took place yesterday at the Macau Tower. The porcelain pan offered for auction is 4.1cm high, with a 16cm wide opening and a 15.5cm diameter base. It has been claimed that the pan was sent to Japan more than one hundred years ago, because the origin of the gold used to repair cracks in the artifact.

## BELOW ZERO TEMPERATURES IN HK

**HONG KONG** has been subjected to the same bitterly cold temperatures as those in Macau, recording single digits even in urban areas. In areas of high elevation and the New Territories, the temperature dipped even lower than those in the urban areas. According to a report on TVB Pearl, tempera-

tures in Tai Mo Shan dropped to minus 2 degrees yesterday, and a frost warning was issued. Authorities also encouraged elderly residents and other vulnerable groups to take extra precautions in the cold weather. There were more than 40 cases of hypothermia treated in the neighboring region yesterday.

# Bishop Lee expects Catholics to be united

**S**TEPHEN Lee may have dispelled rumors that he would bring a healthy dose of Hong Kong-style political activism to his new role as the Bishop of Macau on Saturday at a ceremony marking his installation in the post.

Upon assuming office of his new role, Bishop Lee reminded the congregation of the importance of “unity with God, unity with the Pope, unity with the city of Macau and unity with China.”

“And above all, live with unity within the Diocese of Macau,” he added.

In a ceremony marking the resignation of former Macau-born bishop, José Lai, and coinciding with the 440th anniversary of the Diocese of Macau, Stephen Lee stressed the importance of unity and pledged to strengthen Pope Francis’ message of overcoming indifference.

“I’m expecting the Catholics to be united, to live [charitably ...] with all others [and] to overcome the indifference, as Pope Francis reminded us at the beginning of the year,” he told TDM reporters outside

the Cathedral.

“[We must] overcome indifference and produce peace,” he added, “peace is so important for each one of us.”

Meanwhile, former bishop José Lai, who is stepping down due to health reasons, told a congregation of hundreds of Catholics that he was grateful for having served in the post.

“We also want to thank Pope Francis for accepting my resignation and also [for] the nomination [of] our Stephen Lee, bishop from Hong Kong, to come to Macau to help our Diocese,” Lai said. “Thank you God and thank you very much.”

José Lai will now become the city’s Bishop Emeritus; a prestigious title reserved for those who retire from the service of the Diocese.

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, met on Friday at the government’s headquarters with the new Bishop of the Macau Diocese to welcome him ahead of his inauguration.

Also present at the meeting was José Lai, who Chui thanked for his work and contri-



**Chui Sai On met with the new bishop, Stephen Lee (left), and with the 70-year-old José Lai (right), who has decided to step down for health reasons and also due to his reaching the age of retirement**

butions to the MSAR.

The CE took the opportunity to reiterate that the government will continue to respect the freedom of religious beliefs consecrated in the Basic Law, as well as promising to maintain close ties with the Diocese in order to continue serving local people.

According to Chui, the Macau Diocese is a historical institution that has greatly contributed to the progress of the territory in areas such as social welfare and education, as well as at a humanitarian level. **Staff reporter**

EDUCATION

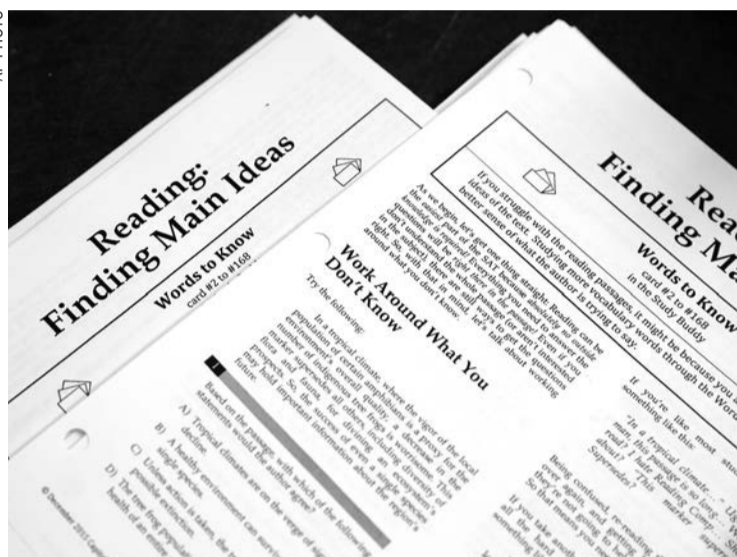
# SAT tests cancelled over cheating concerns

**T**HE College Board has cancelled college entrance exams on Saturday in China and Macau after the company learned that many of the applicants might have seen the exam paper for the upcoming SAT.

The now-cancelled Scholastic Aptitude Test was to be held at over 45 testing centers across mainland China and Macau. However, students in Hong Kong sat the test on Saturday as scheduled.

The cancellation is the latest blow for the non-profit New York-based testing firm, which has experienced security problems in Asia in the past.

In an email sent to the registered students, the College Board apologized for the "significant inconveniences" inflicted on students who had "worked hard to prepare," according to University World News. The College Board spokesman Zachary Goldberg said that they would email students this week



to arrange a make-up test, which may be scheduled in a month or so.

The College Board has also apologized to counselors, saying that disclosing details about its investigation and security measures "would compromise its effectiveness and integrity measures."

"This is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the integrity of the SAT and to deliver

valid scores to colleges and universities. We take a range of action steps to identify and mitigate [against security breaches]," says Goldberg.

Last year, federal prosecutors in Pittsburgh charged 15 Chinese citizens after they allegedly participated in a conspiracy to have impostors take the SAT and other college entrance tests on behalf of registered Chinese studen-

ts. The suspects were caught while attempting to take the tests, which is assumed to be in exchange for USD6,000.

In 2013, the administration of the SAT tests was called off in South Korea due to an alleged widespread cheating scandal, which caused delays in releasing the SAT scores of students in various parts of Asia, including South Korea.

Bob Schaeffer, Public Education Director for FairTest, noted that the exams taken overseas have previously been administered to students in US, which increases the possibility of students in Asia obtaining the recently administered exam. Based on confidential sources, coaching companies, mainly those located in China and South Korea, are selling complete duplicates of upcoming SAT exams.

Sitting the SAT is a prerequisite for acceptance into U.S. universities. China boasts the highest number of students enrolled in U.S. colleges. **Staff reporter**

## Tourist arrivals down 2.6 percent in 2015

**A** minor monthly increase of visitor arrivals in December could not offset the overall 2015 decrease. Macau received over 30.7 million visitors in 2015, 2.6 percent down year-on-year, according to a press release issued by the region's Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) on Friday.

Visitors to Macau stayed an average of 1.1 days in 2015, up by 0.1 day year-on-year, according to DSEC. The number of visitors from the mainland, which accounted for 66.5 percent of the total, decreased by 4 percent on a yearly basis to 20.41 million. The data indicated that visitors came mainly from Guangdong Province, followed by Fujian and Hunan provinces.

The number of mainland visitors traveling as part of the Individual Visit Scheme declined by 0.5 percent year-on-year to 9.52 million, with 71.2 percent of mainland visitors coming from Guangdong Province and 4.8 percent from Shanghai, DSEC figures showed. According bureau, the number of visitors from Hong Kong and Taiwan increased by 1.7 percent and 3.6 percent respectively, while those from the South Korea edged down by 0.1 percent.

The release further highlighted the fact that long-haul visitors from the United States and Canada rose marginally, while those from Australia and Britain experienced a decline by 12.8 percent and 1.3 percent respectively.

Due to the drop in mainland visitors, overnight visitors in 2015 lessened by 1.8 percent compared to a year earlier, while those from Hong Kong and Taiwan increased by 9.9 percent and 10.0 percent, DSEC stated.

Overnight visitors accounted for 46.6 percent of the total number of visitors, up by 0.4 percent, with the average stay period increasing by 0.2 day. **MDT/Xinhua**

TRANSPORT

## DSAT frees public car parks from 'abandoned vehicles'

**I**N order to promote the best use of public car parking space, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and the public car parks management companies are monitoring the use of parking spaces on a daily basis in order to fight parking abuses and speed up the way vehicles are dealt with when infringements occur.

According to the figures from DSAT, in 2015 a total of 198 vehicles were found to be infringing parking codes in the 38 public car parks. Of those non-com-

pliant vehicles, 59 were moved by the owners after paying fines; the other 139 were removed by DSAT and the management companies in order to free up space.

According to the "Public Car Parks Service Regulations" any vehicles left for a period of over eight consecutive days, except in cases where a previous agreement was made in writing with the management company, may incur penalties such as a parking fine or having their



vehicle impounded by the Financial Services Bureau. Those cars may then be sold at a public auction. **RM**

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Renato Marques

**FIFTEEN** films were selected for the 2016 competition of the prestigious 66th Berlin International Film Festival. Among those distinguished choices is "Letters from War," directed by local resident Ivo Ferreira. The movie portrays historical events from the Portuguese colonial war, with the story told through letters written from writer António Lobo Antunes to his pregnant wife Maria José between 1971 and 1973. These were originally published in the book "D'este Viver Aqui Neste Papel Descrito." The Times spoke with Ivo Ferreira about the significance of being honored in one of the world's most prominent film festivals.

**Macau Daily Times - What inspired you to do this particular movie? Why this topic now?**

**Ivo Ferreira** – Well, the main point was the fact that I wanted to pick up those letters and use them to tell a story. The story is one of people whose lives were being "amputated" as a result of an absurd political situation that was interrupting people's lives, as we know. But above all, and since the beginning, I have seen in this a huge love story based on a historical and biographical document, which was also of great quality in literary terms.

**MDT – Who will be seen at this world premiere of the movie in the Berlinale? What does that represent for you and for the movie?**

**IF** – This represents a level of visibility that is absolutely fantastic and completely unique. We are talking about people participating in the contest who are the best movie directors in the world, some of whom I have been following since I was young. And then we have the other side – of having, for example, my wife [Margarida Vila-Nova] competing for Best Actress with names like Nicole Kidman and Juliette Binoche. It is really reaching a step that has never been reached before. Above all, this, for sure, will give the movie a great promotional opportunity; it's a movie that

**Q&A** IVO FERREIRA  
FILM DIRECTOR

# Premiere at Berlin Festival seen as milestone



Ivo Ferreira

will have premieres all over the world, and a commercial distribution process that will reach many places. It is getting away from the simple 'niche' markets and joining something big.

**MDT –Do you think the movie's setting will easily reach parts of the public that are not as well informed about the Portuguese colonial war? How do you think the public will react?**

**IF** – I cannot really predict the future [laughs], but I think

that the fact the committee has expressed early interest in the movie, and that all plans for commercial distribution of the film have been handled even before this news, says something about its potential. All the major distributors, especially in Europe, showed interest in distributing this movie, and there has even been some interest from several countries to co-produce the final stages of the movie.

Besides, I think there is a universal appeal to the movie that supersedes historical facts or authorship. I am sure there will be some locations where drawing crowds to screenings will be more difficult than others, depending on the local cultures, but I think that sometimes the more unique and peculiar the movie, the better they can communicate with the public.

**MDT – Besides this movie, are there any other ongoing projects you would like to tell us about?**

**IF** – Yes, I do have another ongoing project that I am

currently preparing to film in Macau over 2016. We are beginning work on this. Surprisingly, Macau has proven to be a place where it is very difficult to find financing, and where there is an apparent lack of interest in doing something serious.

The only way to film in Macau seems to involve resorting to Asian co-productions. And honestly I am a bit upset with this idea of Macau liking to play this role of "Ugly Duckling," and, from another perspective, the lack of sensitivity from people in Macau about how much it costs to

**I do have another ongoing project that I am preparing in Macau.**

IVO FERREIRA

produce a serious movie.

Some time ago, I read in a newspaper a person saying that with 150,000 euros we can make a perfectly good movie. This kind of comment is not positive for the industry, because it reveals that these people have no idea what they are talking about – they are not from this 'métier'.

Of course, we can even make a movie with our smartphone and that can be great, but that is not what we are talking about when we mention quality cinema that we can export. It makes no sense to me to produce things that are "still-born" and fated to be watched in a single session attended by 20 people.

We pass that phase of life in the early stages, but then we need to move forward.

**MDT - Is the local government giving enough support to promote a local film industry?**

**IF** - Although the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has been making some effort to support the industry over the last couple of years, it is clearly still falling short. This is especially because it seems like the "chops" [support] of IC do not appear to be well valued when you try to approach other ways of financing. But it seems like it works the other way around, with many important institutions not supporting projects if they are, for instance, already being supported in some way by others.

For me, it is definitely important for Macau to be known outside its borders and to define its own identity. This can only be achieved by having local people thinking about their own reality, their streets and their lives. That is the way I see it, at least. That is the way to be stronger and to earn more respect from others.

It is very important that people start to look at this art in a different way. We need to have quality products, and to have quality, we need to spend some money. Then we need to export these. The internal market is a drop in an ocean; no amount of [filmmaking] money can be financed just by the ticket booths of Macau, even if the whole population each paid for a ticket to watch the film. This has to become an export product from a new, quality professional sector.



A still from "Letters from War"

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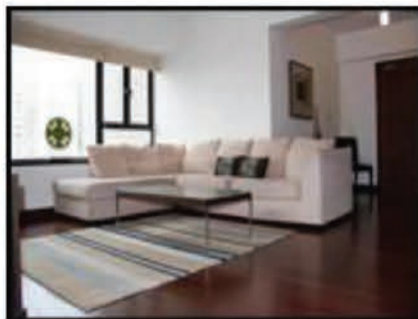


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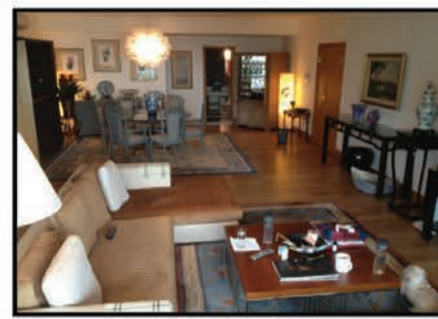
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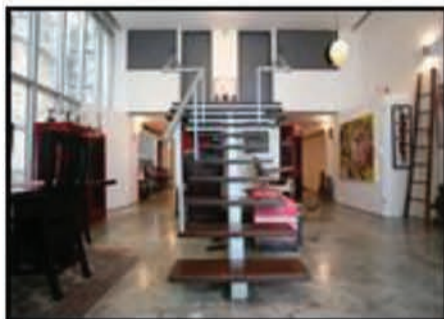
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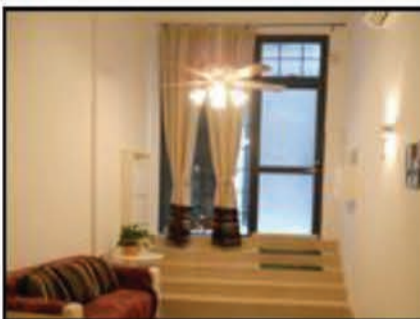
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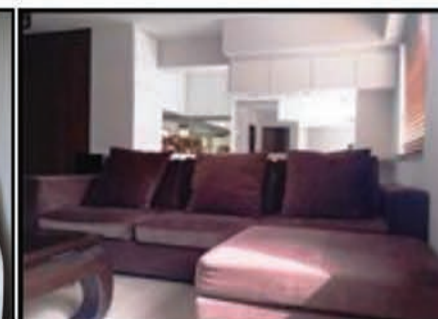
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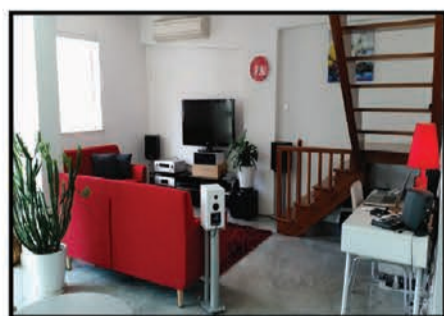
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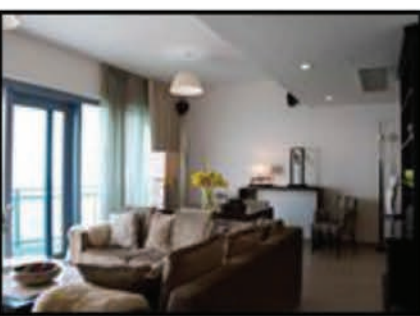


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MGM MACAU'S VALENTINE'S DAY FEAST



MGM Macau will offer a romantic Valentine's Day celebratory meal featuring scrumptious dishes at Aux Beaux Arts, Rossio and Pastry Bar.

"Imagine a Valentine's Day celebration with a distinctly Parisian ambience, surrounded by the warm glistening lights of Grande Praça or nestled amidst the cozy haven of luxury inside the restaurant. Chef de Cuisine, Elie Khalife and his team at Aux Beaux Arts will create a truly romantic affair with an exceptional five-course dinner menu designed for 'Him' and 'Her'."

The menu begins with the magnificently crafted "Aphrodisiac Experience," consisting of French oysters served with mojito foam, cucumber, kiwi and a beef cigar for "Him." As for "Her," pink champagne foam, mild lemon, rose and a prawn cigar will be served along with a fresh French oyster. The menu concludes with desserts with a touch of raspberry snow, symbolizing lasting romance and love.

A two-hour Sweet Valentine spa package is also available throughout February. MGM suggests that "the romance on Valentine's Day can't end without a nightcap cocktail" served at Lion's Bar.

# Chao: AL disregards public opinion on sex assault bill

**T**HE New Macau Association (ANM) issued a statement last week saying that they are disappointed by the Legislative Assembly's (AL) neglect of public opinion concerning the defeat of the proposed law to criminalize sexual harassment.

The bill, which opposed indecent assault, officially known as "Amendment to the Criminal Code," was presented to the AL by lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San in October after a draft was delivered to the two former ANM legislators earlier in the year.

According to lawmaker Ng, the proposed bill aimed to put an end to impunity for acts of sexual harassment that may not be regarded as sexual assault. Such incidents are treated as cases of injury, where victims must engage their own lawyers.

The proposals outlined in the bill sought to revise the chapter on sex crimes in the criminal code by criminalizing the offence. However, this propo-



Jason Chao

sed revision was defeated last week in the Legislative Assembly (see box).

Jason Chao of ANM wrote in a statement that the failure to pass the bill will condemn "victims of sexual harassment to inadequate legal protection

against the [sexual] predators for months, perhaps years, to come."

The number of reports of incidents of sexual harassment have been on the rise in Macau over the past few years. In February last year, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture announced his shock over the number of sexual harassment cases that allegedly involved faculty members at the University of Macau.

The president of the ANM, Chao, said that the bill's defeat in spite of overwhelming public support as articulated at a public consultation meeting in March 2015 represented a deliberate disregard for public opinion.

### AL DEFEATS BILL

**LAWMAKERS DEFEATED** a bill submitted by lawmakers Ng and Au to criminalize sexual harassment, with eight votes in favor, five abstentions, and 16 votes against. Several lawmakers voted against the bill on the basis that the government is already pending a public consultation to review the entire criminal code.

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# Remy Cointreau sales beat estimates on China, U.S. demand

Thomas Buckley

**FRENCH** distiller Remy Cointreau SA reported third-quarter sales that beat estimates as appetite for cognac grew in the U.S. and rebounded in China.

Sales rose 3.2 percent on an organic basis in the three months through December after a first-half decline, the Paris-based company said in a statement Thursday. Analysts expected a 2.3 percent increase, according to the median of 16 estimates. The stock rose as much as 5.4 percent in Paris, the biggest gain in the stock in more than three months.

Mainland China is driving the return to growth in the region, while Hong Kong and Macau remain in decline, Chief Financial Officer Luca Marotta said on a call with investors. The timing of the Chinese New Year, which is 11 days earlier in 2016 than in 2015, also probably boosted sales ahead of the holiday, according to Hermine de Bentzmann, an analyst at Raymond James.

"Overall good numbers from Remy and the positive commentary on China is very welcome given the recent market concerns," wrote Jonathan Fyfe, an analyst at Mirabaud.

The maker of Remy Martin



cognac has changed distributors in China amid a government crackdown on graft that has dented sales of high-end spirits. It's also been trying to shore up growth of its partner brands after losing a distribution contract for Piper and Charles Heidsieck champagnes in the U.S. Remy Martin continued an "excellent" performance in the Americas and Europe, helped by a new marketing campaign.

The company reiterated it expects a return to growth in full-year adjusted operating profit, excluding currency shifts.

Total revenue reached 298 million euros (USD325 million), compared with the estimate of 294 million euros. Remy Cointreau said last year that it intends to become the global leader in spirits sold for \$50 a bottle or more – an \$18 billion market which is growing at more than twice the pace of lower-priced alcohol. **Bloomberg**

# Slow economy affects luxury watch brands

**SEVERE** declines during the 2008-2009 financial crisis have caused high-end watchmakers to change tactics and expand their range of affordable products.

Demand has slowed in China, the luxury sector's biggest growth engine, partly due to increasingly sluggish growth and the government's crackdown on gift-giving among civil servants.

Van Cleef & Arpels, one of the fastest-growing jewelry and watch brands, has felt a slowdown in Hong Kong, Macau and the United States, according to a report published by the Bangkok Post.

A sharp drop in Chinese tourist spending has hit Hong Kong and the United States, two of the world's biggest luxury markets. The industry's global growth has slowed since peaking at the end of 2012, leading to job cuts.

Cartier, Richemont's main source of profit, previously only offered new models in gold and leather, with prices starting at more than USD10,900 (MOP87,500). However, Cartier's new Drive model, a steel-cased men's watch, is priced at just around USD5,430 (MOP43,600). Meanwhile, Piaget, whose timepieces start no lower than USD10,900, has launched a women's line with prices starting at just over USD7,630.

Swiss watch exports dropped 3.3 percent in the 11 months to last November over 2015, after two years of modest growth of close to 2 percent.

With the combined effects of record-low oil prices and signs of economic weakness in China, executives said that the industry has to adapt to a market with fewer Russian, Middle Eastern and Chinese buyers than the previous year. **Staff reporter**

ADVERTORIAL

## SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Team Members Celebrate 10 Years of Service

Company honours 750 long-serving team members

Sands China Ltd. recently congratulated 750 team members in December 2015 for having reached their 10-year anniversaries with the company.

At commemorative events at Sands Cotai Central and Sands Macao, team members and executives marked the career milestones, celebrating the achievement together with dinner, entertainment and lucky draws. As a token of the company's gratitude, Sands China Ltd. President Wilfred Wong presented each of the 750 team members with a 10-year service award.



Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd., congratulates team members for reaching 10 years of service with the company, at celebration events at Sands Cotai Central (pictured) and Sands Macao in December 2015.

"Sands China is Macao's largest private employer and its leading integrated resort operator," said Wilfred Wong, addressing the gathered team members. "Our success is founded on the dedication and excellence of amazing team members like you, who have helped this great company reach higher heights year after year. We appreciate the efforts of our team members, especially those who have stood with us and continue to stay with us through all the ups and downs that are inevitable while working in this industry and in this market. Throughout it all, you have remained committed to providing unparalleled service to our guests, aiming for excellence and helping the company achieve its goals."

Macao native Ao Chi Weng began her career with the company as a host in the casino marketing department in 2005, and is now executive director of market development. She said, "In the 10 years that I've been here, we've gone from just one property with Sands Macao, to an entire integrated resort city on Cotai. The changes have been incredible and I'm honoured to have been a part of such a transformation in Macao's tourism offering."

"Since joining Sands China, I've had so many opportunities for professional and personal growth," she added. "Besides taking part in extensive training to elevate my business knowledge and management skills, I've also had the chance to work with and learn from colleagues from different fields and different backgrounds across the whole company. All this exposure has shaped my professional career and I'm thankful for that."

Lam Yiu Cho, who joined Sands China in 2005, is another local team member who has risen through the ranks from a project manager in the facilities department to director of facilities. "I have had a lot of support from the company," he said. "Sands China has definitely been an environment conducive to growth and development. The company has always offered an abundance of opportunities for me to enhance my skill sets and further develop my management and senior leadership skills. What's more, my supervisors are very supportive and they always encourage me to seize every opportunity to attend training and equip myself with more knowledge. What I've learnt not only helps me better coordinate my team's work efforts, but also contributes to my personal growth and my career development."

Of the 750 team members celebrating 10 years with the company, 99 per cent are Macao locals, 235 of them are currently serving in managerial roles, and over one-third have been promoted at least twice. To date, more than 2,500 team members have now been with the company for 10 years or longer, representing 11 per cent of Sands China's current workforce.



Sands China Ltd. executives and team members celebrate the 10-year company anniversaries of 750 team members at Sands Cotai Central (pictured) and Sands Macao in December 2015.

# Hong Kong's economic growth to slow from 2015

Jill Mao

HONG Kong is expected to grow at a slower pace this year than in 2015 as the city's economy is constrained by difficulties in its exports sector and lower spending by visiting tourists, according to the city's top financial services official.

"Growth rate will be worse than last year," K.C. Chan, Hong Kong's secretary for financial services and the treasury, said in an interview with Commercial Radio Hong Kong on Saturday. "Our currency is expensive and economies in surrounding markets are starting to slow, so it's clear that downward pressure on the economy is huge."

Hong Kong's GDP is estimated by economists to have grown 2.3 percent in 2015, the most sluggish since 2008 amid rising concerns about China's slowdown and instability in global markets. The city's currency spiked Friday as prospect of more stimulus from Japan and Europe ignited a global stocks rebound and curbed bets its peg to the greenback will end.

Hong Kong releases its 2015 GDP figures on Feb. 24. The government will announce its growth forecast for 2016 on the same



day, Financial Secretary John Tsang said Friday.

An increasing proportion of Hong Kong's businesses expect the current quarter to be more difficult than in the final three months of 2015, according to a survey by the Census and Statistics Department released Friday, with those in retail, import and export trading, and wholesale the most pessimistic.

The International Monetary Fund said in a Jan. 20 statement that risks to Hong Kong's economy have limited impact given fiscal and financial buffers that are in place, and it forecast the ci-

ty's GDP to grow by 2.5 percent in 2016.

Meeting the IMF's projection would be a "big

## Growth rate will be worse than last year.

K.C. CHAN

challenge," Chan said in Saturday's interview. Delays by lawmakers in the Legislative Council in approving government infrastructure

projects would make it difficult to meet the IMF estimate, he said. LegCo has so far approved one project, worth HK\$100 million (USD12.8 million), out of 72 totalling HK\$67.5 billion, Chan said.

"In the past, when the economy was weak, the government very much relied much on public works projects to stimulate the economy," Chan said at a media session after the radio interview. "If the projects aren't approved, many construction workers and professionals may have no job to do. This is serious," he said. **Bloomberg**

# Beijing seeks 'new chapter' with Iran after sanctions end

Ali Akbar Dareini, Tehran

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said Saturday he hopes to open a "new chapter" in relations with Iran after the lifting of international sanctions under a historic nuclear deal, as he paid the first visit by a Chinese leader to the Islamic Republic in 14 years.

"In cooperation with the Iranian side and by benefiting from the current favorable conditions, China is ready to upgrade the level of bilateral relations and cooperation so that a new chapter will start in bilateral relations," Xi said after meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, according to Iranian state TV.

Trade between the two countries stood at some USD52 billion in 2014, but that figure dropped last year due to plunging oil prices. China is Iran's biggest trade partner, and continued purchasing oil from Iran after nuclear-related sanctions were tightened in 2012, despite U.S. pressure.

"China has always stood by the side of the Iranian nation during hard days," Rouhani said, in comments posted on his official website.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, told Jinping later Saturday that Iran will continue its policy of bolstering ties with the "East." He praised China's "independent" stance in global issues, saying it helps deepen strategic ties with Tehran.

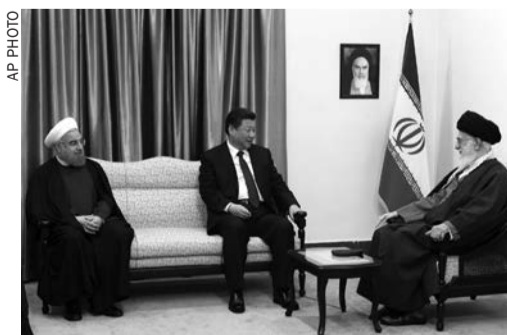
"Westerners have never obtained the trust of the Iranian nation," he said. "The government and nation of Iran have always sought expanding relations with independent and trustful countries like China."

Khamenei said Iran won't forget China's support at the time of sanctions.

"The Islamic Republic will never forget China's cooperation during the sanctions era," state TV quoted Khamenei as saying.

Officials from the two countries signed 17 documents and letters of intent to broaden bilateral cooperation in industry, transportation, railways, ports, new technology, tourism, the environment and energy.

China is one of six world powers — along with the U.S., Germany, France, Britain and Russia — that reached a landmark agreement with Iran last summer to lift international sanctions in exchange for Tehran curbing its nuclear program. The deal was implemented a week ago after the U.N. nuclear watchdog certified that Iran had fulfilled all its commitments. **AP**



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (right), meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping (center), and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, in Tehran

# New-energy vehicles subsidies after 2020

CHINA plans to gradually reduce the amount of subsidies for new-energy vehicles and will stop providing financial assistance after 2020, according to Finance Minister Lou Jiwei.

Chinese automobile companies are overly reliant on government subsidies and the government will instead hasten the establishment of a points-based system similar to that used in California to encourage production and use of new-energy vehicles, the minister said at a conference in Beijing Saturday.

The government will cut 2017-2018 subsidies by 20 percent from those granted in 2016, and 2019-2020 subsidies will be 40 percent less than this year, Lou said.

President Xi Jinping has designated the development of electric vehicles as a strategic initiative in a bid to upgrade the auto industry, curb pollution and cut dependence on imported oil. The government is stepping up its support after signs the combination of research grants, consumer subsidies and infrastructure investments is

## Xi Jinping has designated the development of electric vehicles as a strategic initiative in a bid to upgrade the auto industry

yielding results as new-energy vehicle sales surged more than fourfold last year.

China invested about 37 billion yuan (USD5.6 billion) into the new-energy vehicle segment over the past five years, according to Gao Feng Advisory Co., which estimates the government will provide another 63 billion yuan by 2020.

Buyers of electric cars at present get as much as 55,000 yuan in central government subsidies, depending on the vehicle's range with a single char-

ge. Local governments often match those incentives. In addition, users of new-energy vehicles including hybrids, plug-in hybrids and electric cars are exempt from registration and usage restrictions.

Despite these incentives, electric-car sales have lagged behind government targets amid concerns about the lack of access to charging facilities. China, which aims to have five million new-energy vehicles in use by 2020, reported sales of 331,092 units of such vehicles last year.

Still, the more than fourfold growth in demand from a year earlier has benefited automakers such as BYD Co., Zoyte Auto and BAIC Motor Corp., which have led in sales of electric cars.

BYD, backed by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc., would have turned a loss in 2014 and this year if not for the subsidies for electric vehicles from the central government, according to Barclays Plc. Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd. said in November it would target new-energy vehicles to make up 90 percent of sales by 2020. **Bloomberg**

Didi Tang, Beijing

# Chinese journalist who defected is missing from Thailand

A Chinese journalist who said he was fed up with a life as a government informant and fled China last year has been missing from Thailand since Jan. 11, his wife said Friday, raising concerns he might have been abducted by Chinese agents.

He Fangmei said she last spoke to her husband, Li Xin, when he was riding a train from Bangkok to Nong Khai in northeastern Thailand. She said she fears the journalist was taken back to China.

Li, formerly a website editor for a Chinese media group, fled last October to India, where he told The Associated Press that he could no longer bear working as a secret informant for the Chinese government. He later traveled to Thailand.

Li's wife said he was planning to seek asylum before he went missing.

The journalist's vanishing is the latest in a string of disappearances of China-related activists in Southeast Asia that have raised suspicions of Chinese government involvement.

Last October, Hong Kong publisher Gui Minhai suddenly disappeared from his apartment in Pattaya, a Thai beach resort. Gui reappeared this week on Chinese state TV, where he said he returned to China to turn himself in for an old crime. His friends insist Gui was forcibly taken away.

Four other people connected to the same Hong Kong publishing company, which sells books banned in China about Chinese politics and politicians, have disappeared.

One of them, Lee Bo, said he returned voluntarily to mainland China in notes to his



Chinese journalist Li Xin talks to an Associated Press reporter over Skype, at the Associated Press office in New Delhi

wife, but supporters believe he was kidnapped and smuggled to the mainland.

Beijing also took back the teenage son of a detained rights lawyer after he fled from China to Myanmar.

After arriving in India, Li,

37, revealed that he was an informant for the government.

He said he was coerced into gathering information about fellow activists and journalists after the government detained him for sharing information with the rival Taiwanese go-

vernment and threatened to imprison him.

Li began his activism when he set up a website devoted to building civil society in 2007. The next year, he signed the '08 Charter, a pro-democracy document written by No-

Li, formerly a website editor for a Chinese media group, fled last October to India

bel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo. The document landed Liu an 11-year prison sentence on a conviction of inciting to overturn the state, and many signees went on the government's blacklist.

An active member of China's circle of activists, Li worked as an opinion editor for the website of the influential newspaper Southern Metropolis.

Compelled by a desire to change China, Li said he fed information to the Taiwanese government about China's control of the Internet, although Taiwan's foreign ministry declined to verify Li's claim.

Li said he attracted the attention of state security, who asked him to be an informant. After he provided no useful information, Li said he was detained in June 2013 for involvement with Taiwan and had to cave in or risk going to jail.

But he said he was still reluctant to report on other activists and journalists.

"I was very fearful. They could drag me back [to jail] anytime," Li said in an interview in New Delhi. "I did not want to work for them, but I felt I had no choice."

"I believe there are many people like me who are working on behalf of the authoritarian government. But I cannot be one of them," Li said.

Untold numbers of informants help China's government keep tabs on anyone who may pose a threat to the regime, a task authorities have pursued more intensely under President Xi Jinping than they have in decades.

Last year, six Canadian citizens who are members of the Chinese ethnic Uighur Muslim minority told the Globe and Mail newspaper that they were detained while visiting China, blackmailed and bribed by Chinese authorities to spy on activists sympathetic to the Uighur cause in Canada. Uighurs in China have long complained of discrimination and suppression of their religion and culture. AP

## Missing HK publisher's wife says she met him in China

THE wife of a missing chief editor of a publisher specializing in books banned in mainland China has told police she has been able to visit him on the mainland, Hong Kong police said yesterday.

It is the latest twist in the disappearances of British citizen Lee Bo and four of his colleagues that have intensified fears that Beijing is clamping down on Hong Kong's freedom of speech. Lee has previously written that he returned voluntarily to mainland China in letters to his wife, but his supporters believe he was kidnapped and smuggled to the mainland.

Hong Kong police said in a statement yesterday that Lee's wife had told them she had met him on Saturday afternoon at a guesthouse on the mainland. She said he was healthy and in good spirits, and that he was assisting in an investigation as a witness. She gave no further details regarding the location of the meeting or the nature of the investigation.



She also handed over a letter from Lee addressed to Hong Kong police. The police statement said its content was similar to his previous letters.

The latest development raises more questions than it answers. It is still unclear where Lee and the other four men linked to Hong Kong publishing company Mighty Current and its Causeway Bay Bookshop are exactly, what the investigation involves, and whether Lee is detained or there voluntarily, as he has purportedly said in his letters.

Hong Kong police said they are continuing to investigate Lee's case and had again asked police in Guangdong province, over the mainland border, to assist in arranging a meeting with Lee.

The circumstances of Lee's case have led many to suspect Chinese security agents crossed into Hong Kong to abduct him, in breach of the "one country, two systems" principle Beijing promised to uphold after taking control of the city from Britain in 1997. According to local news reports, he was last seen at his company's warehouse on Dec. 30 and didn't have his mainland travel permit, but days after he went missing he called his wife to say he was in Guangdong.

The other four men have disappeared since October from mainland China or Thailand.

Mighty Current specialized in racy but thinly sourced titles on Chinese political intrigue and scandals and other topics Beijing deemed off limits for mainland Chinese publishers. AP

# Large metal chunk investigated after washing onto Thai beach

Grant Peck, Bangkok

A large chunk of metal that could be from an aircraft washed ashore in southern Thailand, but Malaysian authorities yesterday cautioned against speculation of a link to a Malaysia Airlines flight missing almost two years.

Flight MH370 lost communications and made a sharp turn away from its Beijing destination before disappearing in March 2014. It is presumed to have crashed in the Indian Ocean, and only one piece of debris has been identified as coming from the plane, a slab of wing that washed ashore on Reunion Island in the western Indian Ocean last July.

Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said he instructed Malaysian civil aviation officials to contact Thailand about the newly found wreckage, a curved piece of metal measuring



AP PHOTO  
Thai people look at a large chunk of metal found on a beach in Nakhon Si Thammarat province

about 2 meters by 3 meters (6 1/2 feet by 10 feet) with electrical wires hanging from it and numbers stamped on it in several places.

"I urge the media and the public not to speculate because it will give undue pressure to the loved ones of the victims of MH370," he said.

Thailand's Transportation Ministry said four Malaysian officials and two Thai experts will visit the site today.

Liow said the search for the

missing jet, which carried 239 people, is ongoing in the southern Indian Ocean and that its second phase is expected to be completed by June. Australia has led a multinational search that has so far cost more than USD120 million.

Australian Transport Safety Bureau spokesman Dan O'Malley said the agency was awaiting results of an official examination of the debris.

The debris was found on

the eastern coast of southern Thailand's Nakhon Si Thammarat province, about 370 miles (600 kilometers) south of Bangkok on the Gulf of Thailand.

While debris can drift thousands of miles (kilometers) on ocean currents, that location would be a surprise based on the data from Flight MH370.

The plane was tracked by radar flying over the South China Sea then making a sharp turn west for unknown reasons. It crossed the Malay Peninsula and Straits of Malacca, which would put it off Thailand's west coast.

Radar contact was lost shortly after the plane entered the airspace over the Indian Ocean. Analysis of exchanges between its engine and a satellite determined the plane flew south on a straight path for hours, leading authorities to believe it flew on autopilot until it ran out of fuel and crashed into the water. AP

## VIETNAM

# PM nominated to panel in key move to seek leadership

SUPPORTERS of Vietnam's prime minister have nominated him for a key Communist Party panel, a necessary step to contesting the post of the party chief, in a last-minute maneuver to secure the top job in the country.

Delegates at a Communist Party congress nominated Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung to the Central Committee in what amounts to open defiance of the party chief, General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, who for years has been trying to sideline Dung.

His nomination was announced by Vu Ngoc Hoang, a Central Committee member and deputy chair of the party's propaganda and education commission, state-run newspaper Tuoi Tre reported yesterday.

The move, while not completely unexpected, exposed the deep division between Trong and Dung. It was all the more striking as it was revealed during the ongoing party congress to choose the new general secretary and other leaders in the Politburo, the collective leadership that will govern Vietnam for the next five years. AP

AD

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Princípios de vida com cortesia  
Courtesy Living Charter

Matthew Lee, Vientiane

# In Asia, Kerry to focus on maritime disputes, N.Korea nukes

**U**.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is pressing for peaceful resolutions to increasingly tense maritime disputes in Asia and urging China to take a firmer stand on North Korea's nuclear program after its recent bomb test.

Kerry arrived in the Laotian capital yesterday, with later stops planned for Cambodia and China, extending an around-the-world diplomatic mission that began with a heavy emphasis on the Middle East, particularly Iran and efforts to bring an end to Syria's civil war.

Laos is the current head of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, whose members are becoming more vocal in complaints about China's growing assertiveness over competing claims in the South China Sea.

Next month, President Barack Obama will host the ASEAN leaders in California.

Before that summit, U.S. officials say, Kerry will make the case to the leader of the 10-nation bloc to present a unified stance in dealing with China on the disputes. They have intensified as China steps up construction of man-made islands and airstrips in contested areas.

The United States and governments with rival claims with China in the disputed region, including the Philippines and Vietnam, have expressed alarm over the Chinese construction. They say it raises tensions and threatens regional stability and could violate freedom of navigation and over flight.

But ASEAN unity has not always been possible because China wields great influence among some of its smaller neighbors, such as Cambodia. Cambodia held the ASEAN leadership spot in 2012, blocked the group from reaching con-



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says goodbye to Saudi Arabian military personnel yesterday as he leaves Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

## ■ Kerry will wrap up his Asia tour in Beijing

sensus on the South China Sea issue and frequently has sided with China on the matter.

A senior U.S. State Department official accompanying Kerry in Asia said the U.S. had heard from regional leaders that problems related to Cambodia's chairmanship "left a black mark on ASEAN and are not to be repeated." The official said the

U.S. believed that Laos would do a better job in balancing ASEAN interests with China.

Recent developments, including China's movement of an oil rig into a disputed zone and warnings against over flight of what it claims to be its territory, have raised levels of concern in the region to a point where the official said it would be very difficult for an external power like China to manipulate individual ASEAN countries in a way that paralyzes the broader group. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the details of Kerry's visit publicly.

Kerry is only the second secre-

tary of state to visit Laos since 1955; Hillary Clinton visited in 2012.

Obama will become the first U.S. president to visit the landlocked nation later this year. Laos has moved away from a communist system in the past two decades, but like its close ally Vietnam, it retains a one-party political system and its government has been criticized for being intolerant of dissent.

Laos was targeted heavily by U.S. bombing during the Vietnam War and still has large amounts of unexploded ordnance littering its countryside. The U.S. has stepped up efforts to help clear Laos of those bombs

and Kerry is expected to commit to expanding and upgrading such programs with details to be announced when Obama visits later in 2016, the U.S. official said.

In Cambodia, Kerry is expected to note the country's strong economic growth but also raise concerns with longtime authoritarian Prime Minister Hun Sen about human rights and political freedoms. Kerry plans to meet representatives of Cambodia's opposition, led by a man who has been in self-imposed exile since November, when an order for his arrest was issued on an old conviction for defaming Cambodia's foreign minister.

Kerry will wrap up his Asia tour in Beijing, where he will renew concerns about China's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea and call for Chinese leaders to take more steps to press North Korea on its nuclear program.

Since North Korea's nuclear test earlier this month, U.S. officials have urged China to use its leverage to demand that the North Korean leadership end its nuclear weapons program and testing and return to six-nation talks aimed at denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.

The senior U.S. official said the U.S. believes that the pressure China has exerted on North Korea so far has not been enough to change the calculus of North Korea's young leader, Kim Jun Un, and that it is important for China to join the U.S., South Korea and Japan in presenting a united front. **AP**

## PHILIPPINES

# Miss Universe winner says next dream is to be a Bond girl

**T**HE reigning Miss Universe has her eyes set on her next big dream: being a Bond girl. Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach returned home to the Philippines for the first time since her crowning — and that awkward moment when host Steve Harvey mistakenly announced Miss Colombia as the winner instead of her. She said yesterday she's using the intense attention she got after that controversy to focus on her causes like fighting HIV and AIDS.

"I'm using the attention to talk about my causes. Now, I have everybody's attention," she said.

She told a news conference that she plans to be tested for HIV publicly in New York to encourage other people to be tested, including in the Philippines, where HIV cases have risen alarmingly in recent years.

Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo was briefly crowned Miss Universe at the pageant in Las Vegas last month before

Harvey returned to center stage to apologize and announced he misread the card, which had Miss Philippines as the winner and Colombia as the first runner-up.

Asked about her plans after her reign, Wurtzbach said she would consider possible job offers in the United States, adding: "I might be the next Bond girl, who knows? So, we'll see, that's the next dream."

Many international actresses have been cast

alongside actors playing British agent James Bond and are popularly known as "Bond girls."

Wurtzbach, 26, has worked as an actress and model in the Philippines before winning the crown. The Miss Universe pageant is a big deal in the Philippines, where two other women have brought home the crown before her, with the last one winning in 1973.

On Monday, Wurtzbach will meet President Benigno Aquino III, a ba-



Newly-crowned Miss Universe Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach is greeted by friends following a news conference at suburban Quezon city, northeast of Manila

chelor who is rumored to have gone on a date with her before. She'll receive a citation from the Senate for her victory then join a motorcade around Manila that will end with a fireworks show.

Wurtzbach told reporters she was so overwhelmed with her triumph that she constantly che-

cked on her crown in the initial days and even took a nap beside it but decided not to do that again because she might break it.

"God forbid that would happen, the Filipinos are gonna kill me. I haven't even done my homecoming yet," she said, repeatedly touching the diamond-studded crown. **AP**

# Egypt's president praises 2011 uprising, urges patience

**E**GYPT'S president paid tribute yesterday to the country's 2011 uprising that toppled longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak, saying that protesters killed during the 18-day revolt had sought to revive "noble principles" and found a "new Egypt." President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi delivered his remarks via a televised speech on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the uprising. A recent spate of arrests and a heightened security presence in the capital Cairo have made clear Egyptian authorities' determination that the occasion will not be marked by popular demonstrations—or militant attacks.

El-Sissi said the 2011 uprising had deviated from its course and was forcibly hijacked for "personal gains and narrow interests." That was a thinly veiled reference to the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been banned and declared a terror group after el-Sissi, as military chief, led the ouster in July 2013 of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, who hails from the Brotherhood.

The "June 30 revolution" — a reference to the day in 2013 when millions of Egyptians demonstrated on the streets



A woman walks past an Egyptian policeman, a day ahead of the fifth anniversary of the Jan. 25, 2011 uprising in Tahrir Square, Cairo

## The 'June 30 revolution' corrected the course of the 2011 uprising, el-Sissi said

against the rule of Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood — corrected the course of the 2011 uprising, el-Sissi said.

The June 30 revolution, he said, took place to "restore the free will of Egyptians and continue to realize their legitimate aspirations and deserved ambitions."

El-Sissi, who came to office in 2014 after a landslide election win, cautioned against high expectations for democracy and freedoms.

"Democratic experiences don't mature overnight, but rather through a continuing and accumulative process," he said, before emphasizing the need to

exercise "responsible freedom" to avoid "destructive chaos"—rhetoric harking back to Mubarak's 29-year authoritarian rule, when he repeated assertions that gradual democratization ensures stability.

"Egypt today is not the Egypt of yesterday, we are building together a modern, developed and civilian state that upholds the values of democracy and freedom," he said of the two and a half years since the removal of Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president.

El-Sissi has since presided over one of the harshest crackdowns seen in Egypt in decades, detaining thousands of Brotherhood leaders and supporters as well as scores of the liberal, pro-democracy activists who fueled the 2011 uprising.

Under el-Sissi, rights activists say, the country's highly militarized police have resumed the Mubarak-era practices that played a large part in igniting the uprising, including torture, random arrests and, more recently, forced disappearances.

El-Sissi supporters, however, say the ex-general has tirelessly worked to spare Egypt the chaos and bloodshed roiling regional neighbors like Libya, Syria and Iraq. **AP**

## 'No Crisis' Norway holds talks on oil's plunge cost

**N**ORWAY'S prime minister, finance minister and central bank governor are holding an extraordinary meeting to assess just how bad the deepening plunge in the price of oil will be for the overall economy of western Europe's biggest petroleum producer.

The premier and the finance minister will also later meet with economists today to "discuss the economic situation," according to a statement from the prime minister's office. The meetings start at 10 a.m.

Policy makers have so far avoided using the word crisis in assessing the state of the economy, saying that stabilizers such as the weakening krone, lower interest rates and record fiscal stimulus are kicking in to pick up the slack. Yet they have lately acknowledged that the nation's oil industry is in a crisis and that the almost 30,000 jobs now lost won't all come back.

"We still have economic growth in Norway," Prime Minister Erna Solberg said in an interview with Bloomberg Friday in Davos. "When the oil price falls our currency has depreciated, it means that other parts of our economy are picking up but of course it's at a lower level than it has been in the last years."

The economy is being helped by its weak currency, which is down about 15 percent from a high against the euro last year, to withstand a plunge in the price of oil. The country gets about one-fifth of its economic output from the petroleum industry. The price for the benchmark Brent oil blend reached a 12-year low of USD27.10 last week, compared with a 2014 high of \$115.

Solberg said that while the nation's oil industry is in a "crisis," the overall economy is not. The government is spending a record amount of its oil wealth this year to stimulate growth and is even dipping into its massive sovereign wealth fund for the first time. **Bloomberg**

# International community appeals for dialogue, calm in Haiti

David McFadden, Port-Au-Prince

**T**HE international community appealed for dialogue and calm in Haiti on Saturday after a presidential and legislative runoff was put on hold indefinitely.

The United Nations, international election observers and foreign governments urged the volatile Caribbean country's feuding political actors to negotiate a solution to an electoral impasse that threatens to soon become a constitutional crisis.

Haiti's charter requires a new government to take power Feb. 7, but election authorities say there is now no chance the country will meet that deadline to pick the next president. It is unclear whether an interim government will be set up, or another solution may be reached.

In a statement, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Haitians to work toward "peaceful completion of the electoral process without delay."

Government officials have not addressed the impasse publicly since Friday afternoon, when the Provisional Electoral Council postponed the runoff a second time without naming a new date for the vote.

The splintering council cited what it called a "deteriorating security environment"

to explain its decision, but there has also been widespread opposition to the vote on the part of civil society. The opposition presidential candidate had promised to boycott the runoff.

A day after protesters set fires and smashed windows, a few thousand anti-government demonstrators again took to the streets of Port-au-Prince on Saturday. Young men threw rocks and lit tire barricades on fire downtown, sending black smoke billowing into the air. Many called for new elections and the immediate removal of President Michel Martelly.

"He cannot stay a second longer," said Frantz Nephpa, an unemployed 24-year-old.

Ruling party candidate Jovenel Moise said he was mystified that electoral authorities would again postpone the runoff without immediately providing a new date. The vote was originally supposed to be held Dec. 27.

Moise, whose top finish in the first round prompted allegations of vote-rigging, told reporters he believes he is the people's choice and called for the runoff to be held soon and peacefully.

"Our generation has a responsibility to show other countries in the world that we



Residents watch a crowd protesting against President Michel Martelly's government, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

are a civilized nation," he said.

Many Haitians are exasperated by the political infighting and disruptive protests.

"It seems like politicians want to drag the Haitian people backward," said Karine Fanelon, as she picked out oranges at a roadside fruit stall.

Some blame the election mess on the international community and especially Washington, which they believe is far too involved in Haitian affairs.

"All of these so-called friends of Haiti are stopping us from moving forward," mechanic Patrick Augustin said. "Martelly's government is always taking dictation from the U.S." **AP**

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## what's ON

EXHIBITION OF ANTIQUE MAPS  
"GLOBAL MAPPING OF MACAU"

TIME: 10am-7pm (Mondays to Saturdays);  
11am-7pm (Sundays, closed on Public Holidays)  
UNTIL: January 31, 2016  
VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre,  
Avenida Xian Xing Hai, s/m, NAPE  
ADMISSION: Free  
ORGANIZERS: Sir Robert Ho Tung Library  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2877 1177

## "FANTASY" PAINTING EXHIBITION BY GRACE YEU

TIME: 2pm-7pm  
UNTIL: February 13, 2016  
VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre  
Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue  
ADMISSION: free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

## "FOAM TIP" BY ARLINDA FROTA

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)  
UNTIL: January 31, 2016  
ADMISSION: Free  
VENUE: Signum Living Store,  
Rua do Almirante Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8925

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ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

## MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM &amp; WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)  
VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement  
(Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

## MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily  
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Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen  
ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre MOP25;  
Planetarium MOP60-80  
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## Offbeat

JAPANESE WRESTLER WINS SUMO  
TITLE FOR 1ST TIME IN 10 YEARS

**Kotoshogiku (top), throws Goeido down in the ring to become the first Japanese-born wrestler to win a championship in 10 years**

Kotoshogiku won the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament yesterday to become the first Japanese-born wrestler to win a championship in 10 years.

Kotoshogiku, whose real name is Kazuhiro Kikutsugi, beat fellow ozeki Goeido to improve to 14-1 and secure the Emperor's Cup on the last day of the 15-day tournament.

Sumo, Japan's national sport, has been dominated by Mongolians over the past decade. The last Japanese-born wrestler to win a tournament was Tochiazuma who won the New Year tourney in 2006.

The sport hasn't had a Japanese grand champion since Takanohana retired in 2003.

Kotoshogiku beat current grand champions Hakuho, Harumafuji and Kakuryu en route to winning the title. Mongolian Hakuho finished with a record of 12-3 after losing to compatriot Harumafuji. AP

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:10	Criminal Minds S.7
17:40	Trail of Lies (Repeat)
18:30	Contraponto (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Oepra
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
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

2004 NASA ROVER LOOKS FOR  
WATER ON MARS

The second of two Nasa rovers sent to explore Mars has landed on the surface of the planet, where it will look for signs of water.

The Opportunity rover touched down at 0505 GMT, on the opposite side of Mars from where its sister rover, Spirit, landed three weeks ago. After a promising start sending back striking colour photographs of the Martian surface, the Spirit rover has run into difficulties and stopped working altogether last week.

Space scientists say they are making progress on fixing the probe, but that it could take days or weeks to put right. After a six-month journey from Earth, the Opportunity landed on a smooth, flat plain in the highest altitude landing ever attempted by Nasa.

It sent images back of its landing site showing an unfamiliar, largely featureless landscape except for a conspicuous outcrop of bedrock nearby. "This is a beautiful, alien place, a world unlike any we've seen before," said Professor Steve Squyres, principal payload investigator.

He added that Opportunity could have landed in a crater and that the bedrock could be the rim of that crater. The rock has a slab-like form which scientists say could have been created either by volcanic activity or by the action of water.

The rover's airbags have made distinctive imprints in the Martian soil, suggesting it may be fine-grained and multi-layered. It is also much darker in color than the soil at Spirit's Gusev Crater landing site, 10,600 km away.

Scientists believe the soil is rich in a mineral called grey haematite, usually formed on Earth in the presence of water. Opportunity approached the Martian surface at a speed of 19,000 km/h. It deployed a parachute to slow its descent and airbags to cushion its landing.

Rockets on the lander counteracted light gusts of wind during the descent. Because of this, it touched down with a force of between two and three Gs - an exceptionally gentle landing. The rover was designed to withstand a landing of up to 40 Gs. Nasa will now spend a week unpacking and testing the six-wheeled vehicle.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A week later, Opportunity rolled off its lander on to the Red Planet and began its investigations of the surface. Its twin probe, Spirit, returned to working order soon afterwards. In March 2004 Opportunity showed unequivocally that Mars had had the right conditions to support life at some time in its history.

Analysis of rocks at the landing site showed they had been exposed to water. Scientists now believe that the probe had come down on the shore of what had been a salty lake or ocean.

Both probes continued to work so well that their original 90-day missions were extended into late 2006.

In January 2006 Nasa celebrated two years on the surface of Mars in what has been the space agency's biggest successes of recent years.

Nasa launched a third probe, the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, in August 2005 to map and find water.

In March 2006 it joined two other orbiters, the Mars Global Surveyor and Mars Odyssey, and one European orbiter, Mars Express, circling the planet.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 They say that hard work pays off, but you're starting to feel a bit impatient...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Being artistic and being practical aren't mutually exclusive, especially for those with day jobs.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Birds of a feather flock together. If you're unreliable, don't expect your friends at work to be any different.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If you've always wanted to get the whole group together for an after-office event, now's the time to suggest it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Unless there's plenty to go around, taking on more work when you still have unfinished projects is just plain greedy.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You'll experience something foreign, but you won't necessarily have to travel to do it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Taking a break is mandatory, but keep the accoutrement. When you start bringing in all the comforts of home, you risk getting too snug and cozy.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You meet the rare stronger opponent, but most days are spent easily outperforming all of your colleagues.

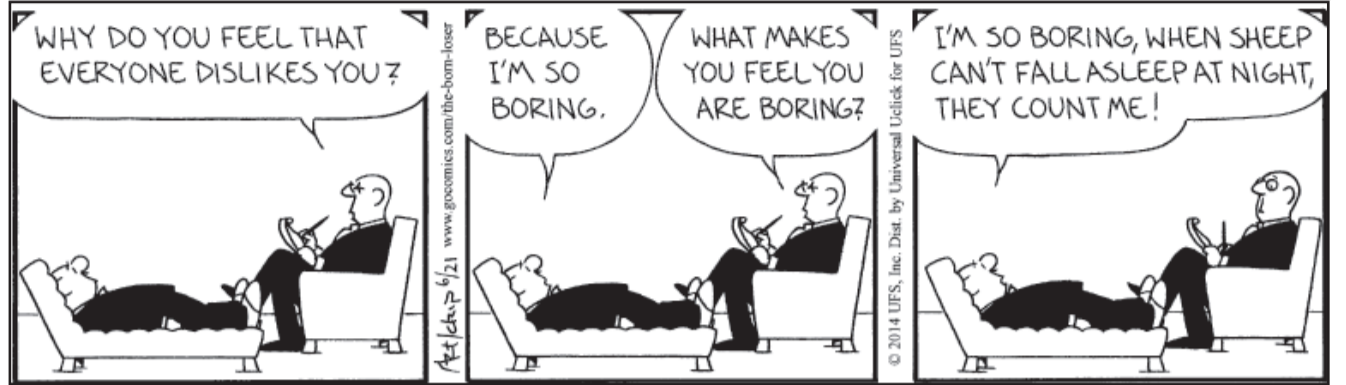
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Focusing on smaller issues can start to get tedious. When it all starts to feel too mundane, remind yourself why you're doing it in the first place.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Don't let yourself get burned out. You need some relaxation, so be sure to fit it into your busy schedule.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Stories from the past can be quite inspiring. It's amazing how people change. Think about what form you'd like to take in your own life.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to create enough mental space to be able to function effectively. If you're feeling hemmed in, imagine an evening of dinner and candlelight.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

5x5 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-9.

Easy+

5x5 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-9.

Medium

5x5 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-9.

Hard

5x5 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-9.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Snapshot; 4- Property claims; 9- Place for "stompin"; 14- Shade of blond; 15- Playground retort; 16- Oldsmobile model; 17- The Greatest; 18- Fishing net; 19- Made a hole; 20- Foosball and billiards place?; 23- "\_\_\_ Tu": 1974 hit; 24- Writer Fleming; 25- Of the backbone; 28- Slippery swimmers; 30- Spotted; 33- Ready \_\_\_; 34- Carbonized fuel; 35- Ethereal; 36- In spite of; 39- Singer Stefani; 40- Reformer Jacob; 41- Ancient Greek colony; 42- Camera type, briefly; 43- Helsinki resident; 44- Coarse sieve; 45- Sloth, e.g.; 46- Before long; 47- Embroiderer or quilter, e.g.; 54- Gave a measured amount; 55- Port-au-Prince is its capital; 56- Nipper's co.; 57- Staggering; 58- "The Age of Anxiety" author; 59- Trauma ctrs.; 60- Animal trap; 61- Flat surface; 62- Narc's employer;

DOWN: 1- Carson's predecessor; 2- Wight, for one; 3- Stylish; 4- Clerisy; 5- Sharon's land; 6- Les \_\_\_-Unis; 7- \_\_\_ lay me...; 8- Alone; 9- Native Israelis; 10- Crazy as \_\_\_; 11- \_\_\_ Beach, Florida; 12- Utah city; 13- 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 21- Fame; 22- Nabisco's \_\_\_ Wafers; 25- Pop pieces; 26- Go about stealthily; 27- Part of ICBM; 28- Red fluorescent dye; 29- Chows down; 30- Paris divider; 31- "LA. Law" lawyer; 32- Canvas-like fabric; 34- Lower jaw; 35- Decorates; 37- Singer Lopez; 38- Poisonous alkaloid; 43- Violin; 44- Cushion, as a blow; 45- Facial expression used by Elvis Presley; 46- You \_\_\_ mouthful; 47- Word with French or English; 48- On a cruise; 49- Fellow; 50- Actor Julia; 51- TV horse; 52- 160 square rods; 53- Cape Canaveral org.; 54- \_\_\_ Kapital



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CYCLING

# Simon Gerrans wins Tour Down Under for 4th time

**AUSTRALIA'S** Caleb Ewan won the first and last stages of the Tour Down Under but Simon Gerrans defended his overall lead in the final stage yesterday to win an unprecedented fourth tour title.

Ewan, Gerrans' compatriot and teammate, won the criterium prelude to the tour and the 130-kilometer opening stage from Prospect to Lyndoch to wear the tour leader's jersey for more than 24 hours.

He surrendered the lead to another Australian, Jay McCarthy, who won the second stage, then Gerrans won the third and fourth stages to establish an overall lead that survived Saturday's demanding queen stage up Old Willunga Hill.

The 35-year-old Gerrans took a nine second lead into yesterday's 91-kilometer final last stage over 20 laps of a street circuit in downtown Adelaide and held off his rivals to claim a fourth title.

Ewan won the stage from fellow Australian Mark



SIMONGERRANS.COM

Renshaw and Italy's Giacomo Nizzolo and, while Gerrans' leading margin shrank, he held on to win by three seconds from Australia's Richie Porte — winner of Saturday's fifth stage — and Colombia's Sergio Henao with McCarthy fourth.

Gerrans already held the record for tour wins with three, after his overall victories in 2006, 2012 and 2014. His last season was wrecked by crashes and injuries, one of which caused him to miss the 2015 tour, but he extended his record with his fourth

**[The team] had a dream run this race, I don't think we could ask for a heck of a lot more than that.**

SIMON GERRANS

win yesterday in the opening event of the 2016 WorldTour.

"[The team] had a dream run this race," Gerrans said. "Caleb bookending the race with the first and the last stage win, the overall title, plus I think we got the sprint jersey and I don't think we could ask for a heck of a lot more than that."

"I couldn't have asked for any more from the guys this week. They really did a sensational job."

"Today they kept me at the front and out of trouble. We tried to give Caleb the best run-up to the line as we could."

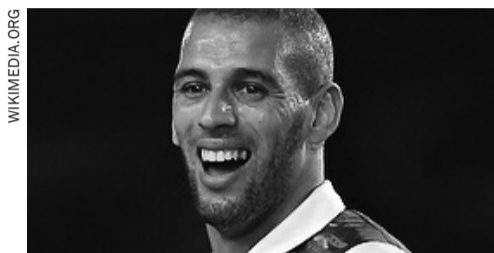
Gerrans' ability was already well known after two stage wins on the Tour de France and as the first Australian to win a stage on each of the world's three grand tours. But his 21-year-old teammate Ewan announced himself as a rising star of Australian cycling with his performance in the Tour Down Under, which followed his win in the national criterium championships.

"The team showed this week that they're the strongest," Ewan said. "It was always going to be hard going into the race with two ambitions, trying to win sprint stages and overall GC with Simon."

"But I think we did it perfectly. We came away with four stage wins and overall." **AP**

FOOTBALL

# Slimani leads Sporting to win, Benfica stays close



Slimani with Sporting Lisbon in 2015

**ISLAM** Slimani set up one goal before scoring two more to help Sporting Lisbon stay atop the Portuguese league with a 3-1 victory at Pacos Ferreira on Saturday.

The Sporting striker passed for Bruno Cesar to open the scoring before halftime and then added two more second-half goals, his second coming one minute after Bruno Moreira had given Pacos hope in the 83rd.

Benfica remained two points adrift in second place after a 3-1 win over Arouca.

Luis "Pizzi" Afonso set the defending champions on their way with a goal in the third minute.

Konstantinos Mitroglou added another goal before Jonas put the result beyond doubt in the second half.

Also, Uniao da Madeira routed Nacional 3-0 thanks to two goals by Toni Silva, while Estoril won 3-1 at Moreirense. **AP**

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Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

FOOTBALL

# Messi scores to help Barca take overnight Liga lead

**L**IONEL Messi scored an acrobatic goal to help Barcelona earn a hard-fought 2-1 victory at Malaga on Saturday, giving the defending champion the overnight lead of the Spanish league.

Showing no signs of any lingering muscle pain that kept him from playing midweek, Messi made a pass for Luis Suarez to set up Munir El Haddadi's opening goal in the second minute.

After Malaga's pressure led to Juan "Juanpi" Anor leveling, Messi restored Barcelona's advantage for good with a skillful scissor kick after halftime.

Yet despite Messi leading the way in attack, Barcelona still needed goalkeeper

Claudio Bravo to ensure it took three points from La Rosaleda Stadium.

"One bad half, one good one," Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta said. "We weren't comfortable in the first half and they were well positioned and took advantage of our poor passes. But in the second half we saw the solid team that we are used to."

Barcelona moved one point ahead of Atletico Madrid before it plays Sevilla today (Macau time). Barcelona, which also has a game to play, hosts Atletico in the next round in a highly anticipated clash between the last two champions.

Third-place Real Madrid will be five points behind Barcelona before visiting Real Betis today (Macau time).

Also Saturday, Mateo Musacchio's 88th-minute header salvaged fourth-place Villarreal a 2-2 draw at Espanyol. Espanyol lost scorers Felipe Caicedo to injury and Gerard Moreno to a second booking after Musacchio's goal.

Granada almost squandered a two-goal lead before Ruben Rochina's strike secured a 3-2



Lionel Messi (right), reacts after scoring with his teammate Luis Suarez during a Spanish La Liga match on January 9

win over Getafe, while Rayo Vallecano routed fifth-place Celta Vigo 3-0 to end a nine-round winless run. Both Granada and Rayo provisionally escaped the relegation zone, while Celta fell seven points adrift of the Champions League spots.

Barcelona took its undefeated streak to 24 games overall, and broke a mini-slump of two consecutive draws away from Camp Nou in the league.

But Malaga, which beat and drew with Barcelona last season in their two league meetings, outplayed the visitors for long stretches.

"I take away a feeling that we could have gotten a good result," said Malaga manager Javi

Gracia. "Even though they had fewer shots and poorer statistics than we did, they have the players that decided the match."

Barcelona scored on its first attack when El Haddadi, who started for the injured Neymar, got his fourth goal in his last three starts.

The goal was mostly the work of Suarez, who received Messi's pass, held off a defender, and poked the ball under goalkeeper Carlos Kameni. This took a deflection to become a perfect pass for El Haddadi to push over the line.

The rest of the first half, however, was dominated by Malaga, which disrupted Barcelona's attack and caused constant trou-

ble for a backline that included regular substitutes Adriano, Aleix Vidal, and Thomas Vermaelen, replaced by Jeremy Mathieu at halftime. Adriano left in the second half because of injury.

"It's difficult for us to play as poorly we did in the first half, with so many mistakes in our passing," said Luis Enrique. "It was unbelievable that we could score so quickly and yet soon find ourselves in such a horrible situation. We were better in the second half, but still erred in some passes."

Winter reinforcement Gonzalo "Chory" Castro produced Malaga's first threat when he forced Bravo to push his long strike off the post.

Vermaelen then stumbled to the turf and needed Javier Mascherano to rush back and impede Charles' shot. Shortly after, more pressure forced Masche-

## Third-place Real Madrid will be five points behind Barcelona before visiting Real Betis today

rano into a bad pass that ended in a quick Malaga attack finished off by Juanpi.

Messi missed a win at Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday after being substituted during last weekend's league match against Bilbao due to "muscle pain." He was subdued against Malaga until he looked set to score against the flow of play, only for Miguel Torres to save his goal-bound strike right before halftime.

That turned out to be a warning shot from the Ballon d'Or winner, who got his goal when he jumped and reached his left leg behind him to latch onto Adriano's cross and volley the ball past Kameni. The goal took his league tally to 11 and his 20th in all competitions this season. **AP**

MOTORSPORT

# World champion Ogier wins season-opening Monte Carlo rally

**T**HREE-TIME world champion Sebastien Ogier won the season-opening Monte Carlo rally in style yesterday, taking two of the three stages to clinch a third straight win at his favorite race.

The Frenchman led overnight from Andreas Mikkelsen of Norway, and finished nearly two minutes ahead of his Volkswagen teammate for his 33rd career victory.

"This rally is the most important of the season

for me," Ogier said. "So emotional to be able to do it here in Monte Carlo."

Just like on Saturday, Ogier won the day's opening stage — beating Hyundai drivers Dani Sordo of Spain and Belgian Thierry Neuville, who finished the race in third place overall.

Mikkelsen won the next stage, with Sordo again second, but clawed back only 13.6 seconds on Ogier, who was down in seventh spot.

Ogier won the final

power stage ahead of Sordo and Mikkelsen, collecting three bonus points to go with his win.

The power stage was a testing 12 kilometers from Col de l'Orme to St. Laurent in the French Alps.

It started with a climb up Col de l'Orme — a mountain pass that features on the Tour de France cycling race — on old and bumpy tarmac, followed by a fast downhill finish featuring several hairpin bends to test drivers' ner-

ves.

Ogier completed it in a little over eight minutes to cap a fine race.

"I'm very happy. I have to thank my team and especially my gravel crew; they've done a great job," Ogier said. "The car was perfect, I'm so happy to take this win for Volkswagen."

Meanwhile, Jari-Matti Latvala, who abandoned overnight because of front suspension damage to his Volkswagen, was given a suspended one-race ban

and fined 5,000 euros (USD5,400) after hitting a spectator on Saturday.

The spectator got straight back up after being clipped by the front of Latvala's car, but the Finnish driver was punished by race stewards — who viewed on-board images of the incident — for not stopping to check as he carried on driving.

The suspended ban is in force for the rest of the season.

"My visibility was hampered briefly by thick steam from the engine and mud that had sprayed up from the ditch. I saw a spectator jump to the side and drove slowly back to the road," Latvala said. "The team contacted me after



World champion Sebastien Ogier of France holds his trophy after winning the 84th Rally of Monte Carlo yesterday in Monaco.

the stage and informed me that I had touched a spectator. As I said, I am very sorry about the whole incident."

The next rally is in Sweden in three weeks' time. **AP**

opinion

**Rear Window**

Severo Portela



**MONSIGNOR STEPHEN LEE**

1. Unexpectedly the Bishop, who is almost 70 and is now known to have been dealing with some health issues and undergoing medical treatment, tended his resignation as the head of the Catholic Church in Macau; Pope Francis accepted D. José Lai's request (and to succeed the first and only Macau-born Bishop and the second Chinese after his predecessor Hong Kong-born D. Domingos Lam) and decided to appoint one of the three Auxiliary Bishops of Hong Kong, 58-year-old Stephen Lee Bunsang.

Bishop Stephen Lee, Opus Dei Vicar for East Asia, was one of the three Auxiliaries the Catholic Church appointed back in 2014; the first ones to be ordained since 1997. Nominated together with Bishop Lee were the Franciscan Joseph Ha, also Hong Kong-born, and Bishop Michael Yeung from Shanghai.

The Auxiliary Bishops of the Hong Kong Diocese began their ministry in a social and political context described by the French news agency Églises d'Asie as rolling in "a culminating moment of serious political crisis, just before a democratic movement protest broke out after a series of coincidences". The Catholic Church in Hong Kong, a half million strong flock, is a dynamic one and strategically important in bridging the Vatican and the PRC that houses a Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association and an underground Vatican-leaning Church.

Coincidentally the Vatican was to choose one of the three 2014 ABs to lead the peculiarities of the old Macau Diocese. Regarding experience of the Vatican State, we can quote emeritus Cardinal Joseph Zen when he says that Pope Francis is a master in diplomacy.

The new head of the Diocese of Macau, Bishop Stephen Lee, an OD Vicar since 2011, has a degree in Architecture. Before he entered the Seminary - he was ordained a priest in 1988 - he attended University in England, first at the Oxford Polytech and then at the School of Architecture in London, where he got his degree in 1981. He joined the John Harris Architecture Studio. Perhaps this expertise could serve better the needs of the Macau Diocese. However, when profiling Lee, the Vatican Insider World News underlines that he is an expert in Canon Law and has "leadership experience having worked in Catholic schools: this is another hot issue which has caused friction between the Church and the local government [Hong Kong] which is accused of trying to extend its power to control private institutions".

To conclude, we have to say that the unexpected call to one of the 2014 Auxiliary Bishops - given the obvious differences between the two Special Administrative Regions - to be Macau shepherd, will lure cynics into believing that Bishop Lee was given an easy chair and breathing space. The same mistake they made regarding some high officials who happen to exert profound influence in Macau.

2. Taiwanese voted massively to give the Democratic Progressive Party the second presidency ever to Lady Tsai Ing-wen and an absolute majority in the Legislative Yuan (68/113). It was a treble victory for the DPP that gave the top job to a woman for the first time, opposed Beijing's invitations to political unification and addressed the rules of engagement with China. Beijing through TAO speaks about national sovereignty and territorial integrity, Lady Tsai speaks about ingrained democracy and says that both sides have to look for mutually acceptable means of interacting... so Taiwan's international space must be respected. Neither talks about independence nor Ma Ying-jeou.

**THE BUZZ CAREY ENGAGED TO JAMES PACKER**

Mariah Carey's new "Vision of Love" is Australian billionaire James Packer. The singer's representative said last week that Carey and Packer got engaged in New York City last week.

The marriage will be Carey's third. She was previously married to actor-comedian Nick Cannon and record executive Tommy Mottola.

Forbes says 48-year-old Packer's net worth is USD3.5 billion. He was ranked fourth on the

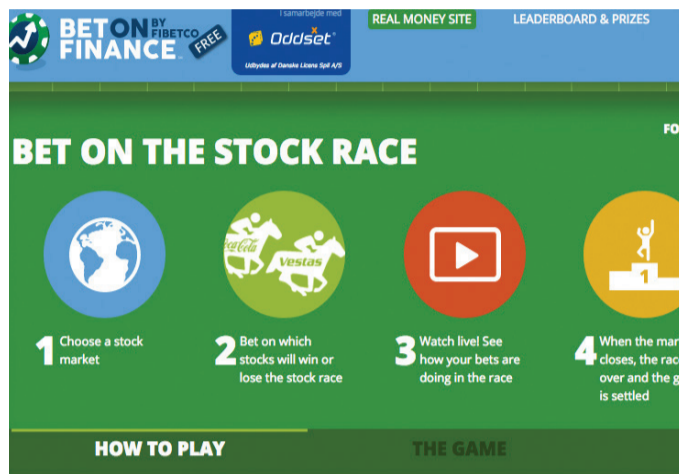
publication's 2015 list of Australia's richest people.

Packer has three kids. The 45-year-old Carey gave birth to twins in 2011.

Carey's hits include "Vision of Love," "We Belong Together" and "Hero."

Packer is the son of late Australian media baron Kerry Packer and is one of the country's leading casino executives.

**Gambling startup wins over Danish state**



Frances Schwartzkopff

A former gaming analyst from Denmark has started what he says is the world's first online gambling site for betting on share movements. And the government is keen to jump into the venture as stock-market watching goes mainstream.

"We are highly committed to following new trends in the gaming market, and we think that this game has potential," said Sofie Ustrup, spokeswoman for Danske Spil, the state-owned gambling company. "Regular people in Denmark are now starting to pay attention to the stock market, and it has become normal, not just for experts."

Fibetco, based in Copenhagen, hired the tech team that developed the Hitman third

**Regular people in Denmark are now starting to pay attention to the stock market**

SOFIE USTRUP

-person shooter game series to create BetOnFinance, said founder Jeff Saul, who also served on the senior management team at foreign exchange broker Saxo Bank.

Players can decide which companies in a basket of 30

they think will be the day's top performer, or among the top three. They can also bet on the losers. Among the stocks included are Tesla, Netflix and the biotech firm Gilead. Those that didn't make the cut because they're too stable: Berkshire Hathaway and Nike, Saul said.

The games aren't regulated by financial supervisors because players are entering a world akin to fantasy sports games and there's no correlation between winnings and the actual performance of the underlying stock, Saul said. In that way, the betting differs from binary options, he said.

"Our product isn't a financial product: It's a pool-betting product," he said.

The company has a license to operate in Denmark and is seeking another in Malta before expanding to the U.K. It's also targeting countries that don't require licenses, including Sweden.

Danske Spil provided help to develop the game, including testing, because the combination of finance and gaming "is really, really interesting," Ustrup said. "Now that they've gone live we're following it very closely, helping with, for example, banner ads. When it's up and running for some time, we will evaluate the nature of the future collaboration." **Bloomberg**

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**N KOREA** A China-based travel agency said Saturday an American university student recently detained by North Korea is being held over an unspecified incident at his hotel before he was scheduled to board a flight for Beijing.

**ITALIAN** comic Beppe Grillo is returning to the stage with a new show next month, but will continue his involvement in politics with the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement that he founded.

**IRELAND** A Turkish Airlines jet flying from Houston to Istanbul has landed safely in Ireland after a security scare. A handwritten threat was discovered on board Turkish Airlines Flight 34 as it crossed the Atlantic Ocean overnight, according to the BBC and the Guardian newspaper.



**MOLDOVA** More than 15,000 people gathered in the Moldovan capital yesterday to protest against the government and demand early elections in the impoverished East European nation.

**SOUTH AFRICA** A mayor has awarded college scholarships to 16 young women for remaining virgins to encourage others to be "pure and focus on school," her spokesman said yesterday.

**BRAZIL** Organizers say venues used in this year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro will be inspected daily during game times in a bid to prevent the spread of a mosquito-borne virus that has been linked to a rare birth defect and also a condition that can cause paralysis.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Paulo Barbosa



Portuguese citizens residing in Macau submitted their votes at the country's Consulate (pictured) for the presidential elections, which were held yesterday. The results of the vote were still unknown as the Times went to press. A record 10 candidates are running for the presidency. Polls suggest that the center-right candidate Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa could secure more than 50 percent of the vote. In Portugal, the president has no executive power - which is held by the government - but is nonetheless an influential voice.