



CNY ENTRIES INCREASE BY 4.7PCT

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JETSTAR SUSPENDS MACAU-DA NANG ROUTE
Jetstar Pacific Airlines is suspending flights between Macau and Da Nang between February 22 and March 26

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TSANG URGES ACTIVISTS TO 'RETREAT FROM CLIFF'
The perpetrators of violent clashes in Hong Kong last week shattered the region's values in one night, its financial secretary said

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A nationalist newspaper says American politicians are resorting to petty actions following a unanimous bill approval by the Senate to rename the plaza in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington after an imprisoned Chinese political dissident. [More on p11](#)



BRAZIL The Zika outbreak and its suspected link to microcephaly set off calls for Brazil to loosen its near-ban on abortion, and that has brought a backlash, particularly among families with disabled children, who are taking to social media to say all babies have a right to be born.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Banking turmoil: a rout for rationality **F1**



Animal cruelty abounds in Macau, association claims

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'Academy of Medicine' does not gather full consensus **P3 MDT REPORT**

Cat poisoning cases are frequent, association claims

Renato Marques

A group of cats found dead at the 'Montanha Russa' Garden in Macau stirred up outrage on social media after pictures were published online. The cats were reportedly poisoned: something that, according to the President of the Society for the Protection of Animals, Macau (Anima), Albano Martins, "is quite frequent" in Macau.

"Areas like Flora Garden and Guia Hill are on the top of the list of the locations where this happens frequently," he told the Times.

Martins rejected the idea that the cats might have been poisoned by the rat poison that the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) uses, since that poison is not strong enough to kill a cat. "So, it must be that someone deliberately did it."

Anima's head blames "the lack of a real and updated law to protect animals," recalling that the current law dates from 1975 and establishes only a small fine as penalty for people caught killing ani-

mals, ranging from MOP20 to MOP200.

Martins commented that other cases of animal abuse have arisen recently, including one where "a dog was beaten almost to death and then thrown out of a car."

The organization suspects that "the animal was to be eaten by a group of five men from mainland China who were also responsible for beating it up. They just did not manage to do it because someone saw and alerted us to it."

"It is becoming an increasingly common practice in Macau due to the increase in the number of people who come from China and are used to



these habits, and because there is no law to protect the animals from this," Martins said, recognizing that "it is not easy to create a law in a short pe-

riod of time that really covers all the situations."

Mr Martins recalls that "Anima, more than three years ago, issued a proposal for an

administrative regulation to at least regulate the cases of cruelty while a complete law has not yet been drafted."

In his opinion, "there is no reason to not do this, since it is very simple and needs only the approval of the Chief Executive."

"We drafted that regulation. We categorized all the aspects of cruelty and took into consideration the law from another country, namely Singapore. We did all the work; we even had it done in Chinese, Portuguese and English and delivered all that to the government, but there were no developments [that might lead to the creation of] the law in the short term, which we do not believe will happen, at least not this year for sure," he said.

"But we will not give up and we will strive at least for cruelty to be penalized. We will once more send a newly updated version to the secretary within the coming week," Martins concluded.

Canidrome closure tops Anima's concerns

THE closure of the Canidrome is still on the top of the agenda for Anima, Albano Martins says. To back the proposal, Anima has the support of "an international collaboration of more than ten organizations, together with another few hundred in China," he said.

"What we are doing is blocking from every possible way the export of

greyhounds to Macau from every possible source. We have already blocked Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. Our only concern now is the UK, but we are working on that with the local organizations, namely the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), that will help us in our goal," the Anima president said. He added, "For

about two months, the Canidrome has not been able to import any dogs! It has all been blocked, including through the airlines like Qantas, Cathay Pacific and Malaysian Airlines, which will not allow any transport of this kind."

"If the government does not make this decision, we make it on our own and through our own means," he concluded.

Entries during CNY increase by 4.7 percent

ACCORDING to the data from the border crossing points made available by the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the number of people entering the territory between February 7 and 12 was not far from reaching the one million mark (908,247).

In comparison to the same period last year, the figures show an increase of 4.7 percent. Wednesday (February 10) and Friday (February 12) registered the largest movements of people across the borders, with a record number of 182,878



entries on Wednesday.

These figures, in contrast to those from the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), do not include only tourists, but are also made up of non-resident workers

and students. However, it is not expected that the numbers from the MGTO will differ by much since during the relevant period many of the region's companies and all schools were on holiday break.

GAMING

Melco reportedly installing face recognition technology

MELCO Crown has reportedly installed special face recognition technology to prevent banned individuals from re-entering its casinos. German biometric firm Cognitec developed the system, calling it FaceVACS-VideoScan. It is capable of detecting people's faces in live video streams and comparing their faces with images stored in a database. Security staff are then alerted when a banned individual is detected, thereby potentially preventing casino losses and deterring criminal activities.

According to a statement on Cognitec's website, Stephen Meltz, Managing Director Asia Pacific, said: "Melco Crown's security team welcomed Cognitec's technical specialists to work determinedly toward the completion of these projects." "We are proud to deliver the first system of its kind in the casino market [in Macau]," he added.

The implementation of the new systems comes at a time when Macau's gaming-related crime is on the rise. A total of 1,553 related crimes were committed in 2015, representing a more than one-third increase over the previous year. According to local police reports, most of these occurred inside casinos.

FaceVACS-VideoScan will be used to prevent the entry of undesirables – such as criminals. Gaming addicts that volunteer their identity for so-called "auto excluded" lists may also be detected and prevented from entering the premises.

The South China Morning Post published a report on Saturday stating that Melco Crown "steps up security against banned customers with facial recognition technology." The Times contacted Melco Crown yesterday, but the report could not be verified by the gaming operator's representatives by press time.

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Renato Marques

'Academy of Medicine' does not gather full consensus

THE recent proposal by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, to set up a postgraduate medical training facility – the Academy of Medicine – “will not solve the problems of the territory in the short term,” according to Rui Furtado.

The surgeon and former president of the Association of Macau Portuguese Speaking Physicians admits he does not know the full extent of the project that, in his opinion, should be considered more as an “idea, for the moment.”

Dr Furtado thinks that the government’s idea is to create a similar project to the one currently existing in Hong Kong, which besides offering medical



people from different areas.”

Dr Furtado thinks that this “idea” has not yet reached the “project” stage and that it “will take a long time to put this [Academy of Medicine] to work as it is needed.” He suggests that “in the short term, the government should establish cooperation protocols with Hong Kong institutions that have good reputations to commence this formation process.”

Mário Évora, President of the Macau Cardiology Association and on the board of directors at the Macau Public Hospital (CHCSJ), said that the future academy is a way for the territory to “fulfill some of its needs in terms of specialists.” He pointed out that “Macau does not have a Faculty of Medicine and is totally dependent on external training providers in terms of resources in this field,” adding that “these professionals come from various places around the world. Some are foreigners, others locals who went abroad to study and then returned to Macau, and we need to have a way to integrate their knowledge and practices.” Évora commented that “the ideal solution would be to have a local Faculty of Medicine, but that would take too much time, so this academy can work as a first step toward that [Faculty being established] in the future, I hope.” He is in favor of the creation of the academy as a way to “promote and elevate the quality of medicinal practice in the territory.”

Like Furtado, Évora also supports the idea that the government should “conceive of a routine structure in that field that can boost the start of the academy.” For that purpose, he suggested the University of Lisbon’s Faculty of Medicine, “since it is an institution that already has its modules of academic teaching and research perfectly tested.”

Macau does not have a Faculty of Medicine and is totally dependent on external training providers.

MÁRIO ÉVORA

training also functions as a professional association.

“It is definitely something ambitious for Macau,” says

the professional, adding that the importance of the academy justifies the “involvement of the whole communi-

ty and under the direction of highly competent people, with the scientific and pedagogical council to be comprised of

Physicians’ salaries deemed insufficient

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, recently said that “the salaries of physicians in Macau are too low,” and that this is contributing to the difficulty in “attracting talented individuals from abroad to Macau” in this field.

Two physicians interviewed by the Times share the opinion that embarking on a career in medicine “needs to be carefully considered.” According to Rui Furtado, “Medical staff have a very specific function in society and their job cannot be fitted easily onto a salary scale like any other.” In his opinion, “the government should decide, based on its importance and value to society, a fair price for that job and apply it ac-

cordingly.”

Mário Évora agrees with this sentiment and says, “the medical profession should be removed from the general scale used for public servants and have its own, like what happens with judges or teachers at the University of Macau.” He added that “the way that it is now, [the profession] will not be able to attract good professionals to work in Macau. We need to elevate the standards and widen the recruitment base,” he said.

Rui Furtado stated: “When compared to Hong Kong or Australia, the salaries are definitely low.” He gave the example of the neighboring SAR, in which “a few years back a head of service would earn around MOP60,000 [per month in Ma-

cau], while in Hong Kong the same position would pay around HKD100,000.”

Furtado concluded by saying, “On the day the government decides that they want to have excellent professionals from Hong Kong working here, they will come! But for that, the government must remunerate them well.”

A human resources specialist operating in greater China said that a “Head of Service Doctor” working in Macau currently earns a little over MOP100,000, while someone holding a similar position in Hong Kong earns approximately double that (a little less than HKD200,000) and a doctor working in mainland China in Beijing or Shanghai earns around RMB133,000.

TRANSPORT

23 percent more abandoned cars in 2015

IN 2015, 4,830 vehicles that had either been abandoned or had their registrations canceled were removed from public roads, according to a Transport Bureau (DSAT) statement.

This figure represents a year-on-year increase of 23.3 percent when compa-



red with the same period in 2014. The bureau also stated that it will continue to perform this task in order to ensure the optimal use of public parking facilities, and pointed out that owners who would like to cancel the registration of their vehicles should go to the service counters of

DSAT and complete the necessary formalities. A failure to comply with the regulations will result in fines of MOP3,000.

DSAT explained that the enforcement of this measure, together with the enforcement of public car park management and the fight against illegal

parking, is aimed at regulating the use of public parking, and alleviating the pressure caused by a lack of parking facilities in the territory felt by many local residents.

At the same time, DSAT also advised vehicle owners to pay, on time, the “annual road tax.” The bureau also reminded them that regardless of where the car is parked, the penalty for paying the tax late is three times the original tax payable.

Jetstar to implement one-month suspension of Macau-Da Nang route

JETSTAR Pacific Airlines is suspending flights between Macau and Da Nang between February 22 and March 26, according to customers of the low-cost carrier.

The airline reportedly told customers that it is canceling all scheduled flights because of "operational reasons," but would ensure that affected passengers are repaid in full.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Macau told Radio Macau that they have not received any official notification from the carrier, and the information that they did receive made no mention of the period of suspension or the reasons behind it.

Under the current rules, airlines are not required to justify the suspension of operations.

In 2014, Jetstar suspended flights between Macau and the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi, less than three months



after the company launched the daily trips. The route was suspended following safety concerns due to escalating violence against Chinese nationals in Vietnam in relation to territorial issues in the South China Sea.

Later that year, a representative of the Macau International Airport Company Ltd (CAM) told the Times that the route would "be re-launching soon." The carrier continued to list the Hanoi route

on its webpage but search results indicated no available flights. The route has since been removed.

According to the company's website, the remaining direct flights between Macau and Vietnam are to the cities of Hai Phong and Ho Chi Minh. However, search results revealed no availability at any time, indicating that the carrier may no longer be operating these routes either. **Staff reporter**

STATISTICS

SMEs credit rebounds

LENDING approved by local banks for new small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) rebounded in the second half of 2015. According to statistics released by the Monetary Authority of Macau, the approved credit limit totaled MOP20.6 billion, up by 14.5 percent from the first half of the year, but down 17.9 percent from the same period last year.

As at end-December 2015, the outstanding value of total SME loans increased by 2.3 percent from end-June 2015, or 11.3 percent from a year earlier, to MOP66.7 billion.

When compared with end-June 2015, SME loans to "non-monetary financial institutions", "restaurants, hotels and similar activities" and "construction and public works" increased at respective rates of 51.5 percent, 14.7 percent and 11.4 percent, whereas those to "wholesale and retail trade" and "manufacturing" dropped by 18 percent and 10 percent respectively.

The utilization rate, defined as the proportion of outstanding credit balance to the credit limit granted, dropped 3.5 percentage points from six months ago to 61.2 percent.

At end-2015, the outstanding balance of delinquent SME loans increased by 87 percent from six months ago to MOP366.2 million. Compared to a year ago, the balance has grown by 168.5 percent.

NEW LOANS CONTINUE TO RISE

NEW APPROVALS of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) and commercial real estate loans (CRELs) increased in December 2015, as did their respective outstanding balances. For the month of December, the number of new RMLs approved by Macau banks increased by 104.3 percent over November to a value of MOP5 billion. As much as 99.4 percent of these loans were extended to residents. The value

of resident loans increased by 98.3 percent, driven by other loans granted to enterprises in the territory. According to statistics released last week by the Monetary Authority of Macau, the non-resident component soared by 317.8 percent, which the Monetary Authority attributes to the low comparison base in the previous month. New RMLs increased by 34 percent year-on-year.

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A-MA TEMPLE

Gov't calls on heritage staff to prioritize electrical safety

THE government has announced plans to conserve and restore parts of the A-Ma Temple pavilion and relics that were damaged in a accidental fire that occurred last week during the Chinese New Year celebrations.

In a statement, the government said that it is highly concerned about the incident – believed to have been caused by an electrical fault – and that the government calls on all owners, managers and staff members at Macau's heritage sites to ensure close attention is paid to fire and electrical safety.

The statement also indicated that the government would offer its complete support to the temple's management during the restoration process by providing a thorough fire safety inspection of the site, assisting with the safeguarding of its architectural structure and



The inside of the temple sustained extensive damage

offering consultative advice for the works.

Last week a government inspection of the damaged site, undertaken by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), revealed that the initial restoration work might take two to three months. However, it was estimated that it could be at least one year before the structure is fully repaired and the interior restored.

Other experts and engineers, such as those from the Macau Institution of Electrical and Mechanical

Engineers (AEEMM), conducted further damage assessments at the A-Ma Temple, uncovering faults in the site's electrical system that may have been responsible for the outbreak of the fire.

A lead engineer in the inspection told TDM that, worryingly, basic safety standards were being overlooked.

"The size and use of some metal wires was not thought through. Calculation of circuits was not even made. The possi-

bility of a faulty situation was not considered," said Lei Chi Chio, a member of AEEMM. "[Temple management] should take Beijing's palace museum as a reference and have regular maintenance inspections conducted every five years."

The fire, which broke out at the World Heritage Site in the early hours of Wednesday morning, resulted in severe damage to some of the pavilion's interior, including an altar, some wall plaques, and wooden furniture.

According to the IC, the statue of the Goddess A-Ma – regarded as the item of the greatest historical value in the damaged pavilion – suffered no major damage. Additionally, the damaged portions of the pavilion including the main beams, walls and roof can all be comfortably repaired. **Staff reporter**

Haze causes trouble for maritime and air transportation

The screen of dense fog that has been hovering over the region the last couple of days has brought problems for both air and maritime transportation. The effects of the haze were felt most intensely on Friday (February 12), leading the Marine and Water Bureau to implement restrictions on maritime traffic, namely by establishing a one-way traffic system at all ferry piers from about 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on that day. This protective measure caused delays that in some cases exceeded 30 minutes. The fog also affected the air traffic in and out of Macau, especially on Friday afternoon. This resulted in detours for at least four flights, which were forced to land at neighboring airports, and delays for at least seven other flights that were scheduled to take off from the local airport.

Run to the top of Macau Tower attracts 600



As part of the celebration activities for the Lunar New Year in the territory, a long-distance run to the top of Macau Tower took place yesterday morning.

A group of about 600 runners participated in the event, which included a 4,000-meter road run before the participants climbed 1,298 steps to the 61st floor of Macau Tower. As for the results, the winner of the men's category was Gi Ka Man from Hong Kong with the total time of 22 minutes and 43 seconds. In the women's category, the win was awarded to Macau runner Hoi Long, who completed the distance in 26 minutes and 15 seconds.

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GAMING

Wynn Resorts shares surge on Vegas growth, Macau stabilization

WYNN Resorts Ltd. shares jumped after fourth-quarter earnings beat analysts' estimates, with revenue growth in Las Vegas partially offsetting a decline in the Macau business.

Earnings excluding some items fell to USD1.03 a share, the Las Vegas-based company said last week in a statement, compared with the 76-cent average of estimates compiled by Bloomberg. January was the Macau business's "best month in a long time," billionaire founder Steve Wynn said in a post-earnings conference call.

Wynn Resorts, like other Macau casino operators, has suffered through a two-year slump in betting by high-rollers. Betting revenue in the Chinese enclave fell 27 percent to MOP54.8

billion (USD6.8 billion) in the fourth quarter. Still, that was smallest quarterly decline of 2015, leaving some analysts to suggest the market may be bottoming out.

Shares of Wynn Resorts surged as much as 13 percent. Other casino companies shares also rallied, with Las Vegas Sands Corp. climbing as much as 7.3 percent, its highest intraday rise since Oct. 5, and MGM Resorts International soaring as much as 6.1 percent. The company is seeing some pickup in hotel occupancy and stabilization of some retailers as well as visits to its Macau casino, said Wynn Resorts President Matt Maddox.

Shares of Wynn Macau rose 3.6 percent to HKD7.77 at the close in Hong



Kong. The other four casino companies listed in the city also climbed, with MGM China Holdings Ltd. up 3.4 per-

cent and Sands China Ltd. up 2.1 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng Index lost 1.2 percent.

Wynn said he expects the number of junket operators, which bring in high rollers to its Macau casino, will drop to as low as four, about half of the current number because of weakness in some operators. Still, there's no shortage of wealthy gamblers in China and he expects to draw them to his casino, the gambling mogul said.

The company said it's working with its contractor in Macau and still hopes its new casino in Cotai will open on June 25. The \$4.1 billion Wynn Palace is one of three new casinos expected to open in 2016 from the U.S. based companies operating in the MSAR. **MDT/Bloomberg**

New 3D mapping show kicks off

THE Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) kicked off its 3D mapping show, a highlight of "Valentine's Day Fantasia 2016 - The Fairytale of Lights," with an opening ceremony at the Amphitheater of the Taipa Houses-Museum on Friday. The program of events is centered around Valentine's Day and the Chinese Lantern Festival.



Spectators enjoy the electrical decorations currently on display at the Taipa Houses-Museum

"Valentine's Day Fantasia 2016 - The Fairytale of Lights," on display until February 22, presents light installations at over ten locations, an interactive game and a 3D mapping show following a "Cinderella's Glass Slipper" theme. The show is staged from

7 p.m. until the last show at 9:55 p.m. every night during the aforementioned period. The story of Cinderella will come to life in a brand-new way through an extravaganza of lights.

The 14 groups of light installations, including 9,999 rose-shaped illuminations, will blaze across the Taipa Houses-Museum area and

the Carmel Parish between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. until February 29.

The office said in a press release that after the success of its "Macau Light Festival 2015 - Journey of Lights" last December, they have decided to create another lighting event, in the hopes of enriching the calendar of festive activities in Taipa.

TAIWAN

Macau, HK, mainland nationals barred from museum

TAIWAN'S newly completed Aviation Education Exhibition Center will not permit entry by PRC nationals (including those from Macau and Hong Kong) due to security concerns, say center authorities, because it is located inside Taiwan's Air Force Academy, which is part of the Gangshan Air Base.

The exhibition center features a UFO-shaped exterior that is intended to represent an advanced high-tech aircraft. It will display a total of 36 decommissioned planes from the Air Force, Navy and Army, 19 of which

will be suspended from the ceiling. The center is the first museum in Taiwan to exhibit historical aircraft in such a manner.

Among those that are planned to hang from the ceiling are an AT-6 fighter trainer, an F-84G fighter, a U-3A liaison aircraft and other planes from the period between 1945 and 1967 when Republic of China forces were fighting communist forces on the mainland.

The museum will also exhibit three MiG fighters from China that were flown to Taiwan by Chinese defectors, according to

the center, as well as four other planes delivered the same way. They include an IL-28 bomber, and three more MiG fighters.

The new building will also feature an exhibition paying tribute to the Republic of China's War of Resistance against Japan between 1937 and 1945, and the subsequent development of Taiwan's military during the Cold War.

According to Taiwan's Central News Agency, the Air Force Academy has said that it will commission a private company to run the 2.8-hectare center before it is formally opened to the public.

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Airlines in Southeast Asia may defer plane deliveries

Kyunghee Park and Anurag Kotoky

AIRLINES in Southeast Asia may need to push back delivery of aircraft after a decade of economic growth and optimism about a surge in air travel prompted them to order hundreds of jets from Airbus Group SE and Boeing Co.

Carriers in the region that includes Indonesia and Malaysia are now confronted with challenges such as overcapacity and intense competition, Tony Tyler, chief executive officer of the International Air Transport Association, said in Singapore yesterday ahead of Asia's biggest airshow. IATA is a global industry body representing about 250 airlines.

"It's easy to place these orders when times are looking good. I wouldn't be surprised if some of them are pushed back," Tyler said. "I'm sure all the planning departments of all the airlines are now studying their orders in the context of what the market is telling them."

A decade of economic growth enabled a new class of first-time flyers from Vietnam to the Philippines, prompting a flurry of orders from start-up budget carriers and legacy airlines. With budget airlines in the region garnering 54 percent market share, more than twice the global average, fares and profitability have declined, posing a challenge

to the industry.

While its economy is slowing, air travel continues to remain robust in China, Tyler said. China is seeking to shift the economy away from capital investment and more toward consumer spending, which benefits airlines, Tyler said.

Economic growth in Asia Pacific is boosting the number of middle class families, enabling them to spend more on air travel. Passenger traffic in the region is expected to rise nearly 5 percent a year for the next two decades, and China is poised to become the world's biggest travel market, according to IATA.

Airline earnings are set to increase 10 percent to a record USD36.3 billion in 2016, helped by cheap fuel and a growing U.S. economy, IATA said in December. For 2015, their profit is expected to more than double to \$33 billion, from \$17.4 billion a year earlier. The industry grouping will revisit its profit forecasts when it assembles in June, Tyler said yesterday.

Profitability in Asia lags other regions, however. Asia-Pacific operators should grow earnings to \$6.6 billion in 2016, from \$5.8 billion last year, according to IATA. Average forecasts for overall profit per passenger of \$5.13 in Asia will remain well behind the U.S. and Europe, where profit per passenger is expected to be \$21.44 and \$8.80, respectively, according to the organization. **Bloomberg**

CHINA

Central Bank says no basis for continued Yuan slide

CHINA'S central bank governor said there's no basis for continued depreciation of the yuan because the balance of payments is good, capital outflows are normal and the exchange rate is basically stable against a basket of currencies, according to an interview published Saturday in Caixin magazine.

Zhou Xiaochuan dismissed speculation that China plans to tighten capital controls and said there's no need to worry about a short-term decline in foreign-exchange reserves, adding that the country has ample holdings for payments and to defend stability.

The comments come as Chinese financial markets reopen today after the week-long Lunar New Year holiday. The country's foreign-exchange reserves shrank in January to their lowest level since 2012, signaling that the central bank sold dollars to prop up the yuan as it fell to a five-year low. The weakening exchange rate and declining share markets in China have fueled global turmoil and helped send world stocks to their lowest level in more than two years.

"Zhou's remarks are timely, filling a void in the market's understanding of China's strategy on the exchange rate at a critical moment," said Tom Orlik, Bloomberg Intelligence's Chief Asia Economist. "Zhou appears to signal that a shift to a more flexible exchange rate may go on hold through the current period of market stress."

China is committed to making progress with exchange-rate reform during its 13th Five-Year Plan, relying more on the market to determine prices, Zhou said in the interview.

The draw-down of China's re-



BLOOMBERG

serves has continued since the devaluation of the currency in August, with holdings falling by USD99.5 billion in January to \$3.23 trillion, the central bank said Feb. 7. The stockpile slumped by more than a half-trillion dollars in 2015.

"Zhou has effectively ruled out any devaluation," said Shen Jianguang, chief Asia economist at Mizuho Securities Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong. "If they do, it's effectively acceding to speculators who want the yuan to weaken further."

Shen said Zhou's reference to the 13th Five-Year plan, which starts this year and ends in 2020, points to the time horizon for China to move toward exchange-rate policy reforms.

China has no incentive to depreciate the currency to boost net exports, and there's no direct link between the nation's gross domestic product and its exchange rate, Zhou said in the interview. Capital outflows need not be capital flight, and tighter controls would be hard to implement because of the size of global trade, the movement of people and the number of Chinese living abroad, Caixin quoted him as saying.

Capital outflows from China are estimated to have hit \$133 billion in January, the 22nd consecutive month of outflows from the world's second-largest economy, the Insti-

tute of International Finance said in an e-mailed note Feb. 10. Capital outflows increased to \$158.7 billion in December – the most since September – and were \$1 trillion last year, according to estimates from Bloomberg Intelligence. That's more than seven times the amount of cash that left the country in 2014.

The PBOC has stepped up efforts to stem the exodus, warning speculators they'll be punished. It intervened in the Hong Kong market last month after the yuan's offshore exchange rate sank to a record 2.9 percent discount to the onshore rate. Apart from selling dollars, the monetary authority also gave guidance to some Chinese lenders in the city to suspend yuan lending to curb short selling, a move that contributed to the surge in the overnight interbank lending rate to 66.8 percent on Jan. 12, an all-time high.

The bank will not let "speculative forces dominate market sentiment," Zhou told Caixin.

The country will not peg the yuan to a basket of currencies but will seek to rely more on a basket for reference, while managing daily volatility versus the dollar, Zhou said in the interview. The bank will use a wider range of macro-economic data to determine the exchange rate, Caixin quoted him as saying.

"The central bank remains unwilling to give up its space for discretion in management of the exchange rate," Orlik said. "The critical tension is between allowing the market to play a greater role, and maintaining basic stability in the exchange rate. As long as it's unclear which of those the central bank gives priority to, the market may continue to challenge its control." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS HANDS OUT FLOWERS TO CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY

Sands China Ltd. celebrated Valentine's Day by handing out hand-carved flowers made by the Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped. This marks the fourth year that the company has distributed the flowers across all of its properties. It does so as a gesture to express love, warmth and kindness on Valentine's Day to Sands' guests and visitors, while supporting a local community organization.

According to a press release issued by the gaming operator, the bulk flower purchase benefits association families whose children are moderately to severely mentally handicapped. "Sands China engages in initiatives like this one as a way to su-



pport some of Macau's disadvantaged groups. It is part of the company's efforts toward increasing public awareness and promoting better care for minority groups in Macau," states the press release.

The Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Hand-

icapped is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1992 by a group of parents whose children have intellectual disabilities. The association provides support and care to its members through a variety of activities, family visits and counseling services.

VISA DISCLOSES STAKE IN DORSEY'S COMPANY, SQUARE

Shares in the mobile payment services company Square rose sharply Friday after Visa disclosed the details of its ownership stake in the company.

While Visa's stake amounts to about 1 percent of the company, and the stake was established at least 5 years ago, investors interpreted the announcement as a major endorsement of Square by Visa, the world's largest payment processing company.

According to a regulatory filing, Visa owns 4.2 million of Square's Class B shares. While Class B shares are not traded publicly, Visa could convert up to 3.5 million of its Class B shares to Class A, which would give Visa a 9.99



A Square credit card reader

percent ownership of that class of shares. That conversion would amount to just 1 percent of Square's total outstanding shares, however.

Visa's calculation of a 9.99 percent ownership is based on the assumption that no other Square's Class B shareholders did a similar conver-

sion before Visa did.

The disclosure, known by its regulatory filing name 13G, is how major investors disclose an existing stake in a company. Because Square only went public three months ago, this is the first time the public is getting details about Visa's ownership.

UK: Bookseller 'removed' in breach of China treaty

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

BRTAIN says a missing Hong Kong bookseller was likely abducted to mainland China, calling it a "serious breach" of the treaty under which Beijing took control of the city.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said in a twice-yearly report on Hong Kong affairs released Thursday that Lee Bo was "involuntarily removed" to the mainland.

Britain's Foreign Office said it was the first time that Britain has accused China of a "serious

This constitutes a serious breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong and undermines the principle of 'one country, two systems'

REPORT



A tourist takes a photo of the closed Causeway Bay Bookstore besides a poster featuring an image of Chinese President Xi Jinping

breach" of the 1984 treaty, although it has previously raised concerns about Chinese compliance.

Lee, a British citizen, is one of five men linked to Hong Kong publishing company Mighty Current Media and its Causeway Bay Bookshop who have gone missing in recent months only to turn up later in mainland China. Their disappearances have raised international concern.

Lee is chief editor of Mighty Current, which specialized in

books critical of China's communist leadership that were banned in the mainland but popular with visiting Chinese tourists.

Hammond said while visiting Beijing last month that he made urgent inquiries with Chinese authorities about Lee's whereabouts.

Lee's disappearance at the end of December sparked international concern because he was last seen at his company's Hong Kong warehouse and didn't have his mainland China

travel permit with him, raising suspicions he was snatched by Chinese security agents who crossed over from the mainland. He later sent letters to his wife saying he was helping with an investigation on the mainland, though some believe he was coerced.

"The full facts of the case remain unclear, but our current information indicates that Mr. Lee was involuntarily removed to the mainland without any due process under Hong Kong SAR law," the report said.

"This constitutes a serious breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong and undermines the principle of 'one country, two systems' which assures Hong Kong residents of the protection of the Hong Kong legal system," the report added.

The Joint Declaration is the treaty signed in 1984 between Britain and China safeguarding Hong Kong's rights and freedoms after Beijing took power in 1997. Under the "one country, two systems" principle, Hong Kong retains a high degree of control over its own affairs, including law enforcement.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China was strongly displeased by the British report, the official Xinhua News Agency said. He said the report contained groundless accusations against China, and urged Britain to stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs, Xinhua said.

The Hong Kong government said in a statement Friday that while its police are continuing to investigate and have sought assistance from mainland authorities, "Any suggestion that 'Mr. Lee was involuntarily removed to the mainland' remains speculative."

Lee's colleague, Swedish citizen Gui Minhai, disappeared from Thailand in October and turned up last month on Chinese state TV to confess to a decade-old fatal drunk driving accident. Hong Kong police said last week the three other men are being held on the mainland for an investigation into unspecified "illegal activities." AP

Spring Festival holiday retail sales spike 11.2 percent

CHINA'S retail sales over the Spring Festival holiday rose 11.2 percent from the same vacation period a year earlier, with cinemas posting sharp increases in box-office sales, the country's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement Saturday.

Retail sales and restaurant receipts in the world's second-largest economy totaled about 754 billion yuan (USD115 billion) in the week-long holiday period that started Feb. 7, the eve of the Lunar New Year, according to the statement. This year's growth was similar to the 11 percent increase posted in last year's holiday period.

Services for the first time generated more than half of China's gross domestic product last year, at 50.5 percent. Higher household incomes allow families to embrace



a middle-class life as the country's leaders continue to engineer a shift toward services and consumption, and away from manufacturing and investment. Services generate more jobs per yuan of output than China's factories, which is crucial as the country adjusts to a slower economic growth rate.

Box-office sales at China's

cinemas over the first three days of the Lunar New Year surged about 80 percent from a year earlier, to nearly 1.7 billion yuan, the statement said. Total ticket sales over the first three days of this year's Lunar New Year almost equaled the total for the whole week-long holiday last year, according to the statement. Bloomberg

114 bodies pulled from toppled Taiwan building; one missing

WORKERS have pulled out 114 bodies from the rubble of a high-rise apartment building that collapsed in an earthquake in Taiwan's oldest city, leaving only one missing, authorities said Saturday, a week after the disaster.

All but two of the 116 bodies recovered in Tainan after the magnitude-6.4 quake struck the city on Feb. 6 were found in the ruins of the Weiguan Golden Dragon building. A total of 327 people in the 17-story building survived.

According to Taiwan's Interior Ministry, workers extracted more than 60 more bodies on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. One person is still unaccounted for, local authorities said Saturday.

Authorities have detained the building's developer, Lin Minghui, and two architects on suspicion of negligent homicide amid accusations that Lin's company cut corners in the building's construction.



Rescue workers guide a man from the rubble of a toppled building after an earthquake in Tainan

Tainan city officials said they will inspect several dozen other developments built by Lin, as well as other buildings in the Weiguan compound that did not collapse.

Earthquakes frequently strike Taiwan, but usually cause little or no damage, particularly since more stringent building regulations were introduced following a magnitude-7.6 quake in 1999 that killed more than 2,300 people. AP

Natasha Khan

Hong Kong's Tsang urges activists to 'retreat from cliff'

THE perpetrators of violent clashes in Hong Kong last week shattered its values in one night, the city's financial secretary said, urging those involved to "turn their horses back from the cliff."

The "small group of people who lost rationality" marred the city's interests and tarnished its image, and their actions are a departure from Hong Kong people's respect for the law, John Tsang said in a blog post yesterday. He referred to the biblical story "The Judgment of Solomon," where two women who claim to be the mother of a baby were advised to cut the infant in two.

"A mother who truly loves her son would not saw him in half, and would never themselves be the executioner," Tsang wrote. Addressing those involved in the clashes, he said, "if you continue wading deeper into the mud, it's the Hong Kong you claim to protect that will lose in the end."

Tsang's comments come less than a week after attempts by government officials to clear illegal food stalls escalated into a violent face-off between police and protesters, result-

AP PHOTO



Hong Kong's Financial Secretary John Tsang

If you continue wading deeper into the mud, it's the Hong Kong you claim to protect that will lose in the end.

JOHN TSANG

ing in injuries on both sides. Officers used batons and pepper spray to disperse the protesters, some of whom threw bricks and started fires in the city's Mong Kok district. On Friday, police said they would charge more than 30 people for rioting, while continuing to detain others.

Coverage of the fallout has dominated newspapers during the Lunar New Year period. Zhang Xiaoming, director of

the Chinese government's liaison office in Hong Kong, said yesterday he was shocked and saddened by the incident, which he said contained "terrorist tendencies."

In a statement posted on the liaison office's website, Zhang said he believed "justice will prevail over evil" and that the Hong Kong government would handle the situation in accordance with the law.

Benny Tai, a leader of the Oc-

cupy Central With Love and Peace movement, said in an open letter Saturday that Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying bears the most responsibility for the events. While denouncing the violence and saying peaceful protest is the way to achieve political goals, Tai said Leung was accountable for discontent among the people he governs.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Leung said many of those

charged for the violence were unemployed or involved in extremist political organizations, and as such "don't reflect society's opinions." He wasn't responding directly to Tai's comments. Sixty-five people have been arrested in connection with the incident, he said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei attributed the events to a "local radical separatist organization," according to a Feb. 11 statement from the foreign ministry. The stronger language sparked speculation that security laws could be strengthened.

Asked yesterday whether the Mong Kok incident would be used to revive so-called Article 23 anti-secession laws - shelved after massive protests against their implementation in 2003 - Zhang said, "right now these two issues aren't linked," according to a broadcast of his comments on the local Cable News channel.

Tsang noted in his post that tourism is an anchor of Hong Kong's economy. The number of tourists from the mainland declined 2.5 percent last year, he said, citing tourism department data, but the number of visitors from Southeast Asia has grown. He said the city must continue to improve itself.

"Feeling a sense of love for Hong Kong is normal," Tsang said. Even if people have different perceptions of what allegiance to Hong Kong means, "we still hope to see Hong Kong thrive and won't accept it being damaged." **Bloomberg**

Media in uproar over US move to honor dissident

Didi Tang, Beijing

A Chinese nationalist newspaper says American politicians are resorting to petty actions following a unanimous bill approval by the Senate to rename the plaza in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington after an imprisoned Chinese political dissident.

The Communist Party-controlled Global Times called the move yesterday provocative and said it's intended to outrage Beijing, although China would not consider it a big deal.

"The U.S. has been at

its wits' end in dealing with China as it is reluctant to employ military threats or economic sanctions that may backfire," the newspaper wrote. "The only option for Washington seems to be petty actions that disturb China."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

Senate Bill 2451, as proposed by Republican presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, wants to rename the plaza after Liu Xiaobo, a Nobel Peace laureate serving an 11-

year sentence on the conviction of inciting state subversion.

The bill still needs to clear the House of Representatives and must be signed by the president before it can beco-

me a law, and make "1 Liu Xiaobo Plaza" as the official address of the Chinese Embassy. Its current address is 3505 International Place.

Cruz's office said the bill expresses solidarity

with Chinese dissidents.

The Global Times says the bill is driven by Western jealousy and is unlikely to disturb China, which has grown confident to brush aside ill-intended moves by the West.

"This latest move by Congress cannot change the fact that Liu jeopardized China's national security and was sentenced to jail," the paper wrote in its editorial. "Whether Liu feels proud of such turbulent embraces from the West or not, he has become a tool of the West against China." **AP**

Whether Liu feels proud of such turbulent embraces from the West or not, he has become a tool of the West against China

GLOBAL TIMES EDITORIAL



Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo

Jim Gomez, Manila

Obama faces challenge in forging front vs. China sea actions

WITH the symbolic handshakes and unity photo-op, President Barack Obama's high-profile summit with Southeast Asian leaders in California this week aims to step up pressure against China's increasingly worrisome behavior in disputed waters.

Forging a common front and encouraging bolder rhetoric against Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea, however, will be a challenge among the diverse collection of VIP guests, who did not criticize China by name in past joint summit statements as the disputes flared on and off in recent years.

Decisions by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the bloc they lead, can easily be stalled. ASEAN includes governments aligned either with Washington or Beijing. Only four of its 10 member states are locked in the disputes with China and Taiwan, leading to sometimes conflicting views on handling the long-simmering rifts.

The regional bloc decides by consensus, meaning just one member can effectively shoot down any statement detrimental to China.

In recent years, summit statements have expressed concern over the escalating conflicts and called for freedom of navigation and overflight in the disputed territories, but they have rarely gone to specifics.

"I think it will be hard for the U.S. to convince the 10 ASEAN states to adopt any language on the South China Sea disputes that go beyond what ASEAN statements have said in the past," said Dr. Malcolm Cook of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

With Obama in his last year in office, certain ASEAN member states would probably not concede on any security or economic issue that might antagonize China, an economic lifeline to them, Cook said.

A Southeast Asian diplomat told The Associated Press that

AP PHOTO



President Barack Obama shakes hands with Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha in Manila

government envoys in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, where the ASEAN secretariat is located, have been negotiating the text of a possible joint statement to be issued by Obama and his Southeast Asian counterparts at the end of the two-day summit, which opens today at the sprawling Sunnylands estate.

There have been initial differences among the governments on the wordings of the statement, said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss details of the negotiations with reporters.

Vietnam and the Philippines, whose disputes with China have intensified in recent years, prefer a more detailed reference to the territorial disputes, including mention of international arbitration as an option to resolve the conflicts.

Cambodia and Laos, which have close ties with China, have asked the reference to arbitration to be deleted, the diplomat said.

In 2012, Cambodia refused to mention discussions in an ASEAN foreign ministerial summit statement about a shoal disputed by China and the Philippines. An ensuing argument caused the summit to end without a joint statement for the first time since the bloc was founded in 1967.

While the statement can be restrained, the diplomat said any leader can speak freely at the informal talks in Sunnylands.

The Philippines brought its territorial conflicts with China to international arbitration in early 2013 after Beijing refused to withdraw its ships from a disputed shoal under a U.S.-brokered deal. China has re-

fused to participate, but an arbitration tribunal based in The Hague has proceeded to hear the case and plans to hand down a decision this year.

The U.S. summit will showcase Obama's years long effort to reassert American leadership in Asia, where China has risen as a security and economic powerhouse.

Although it's not a claimant state, the U.S. has declared that it has a national interest in the peaceful resolution of the disputes and maintenance of freedom of navigation and over flight in the South China Sea, a major passageway for global trade.

Obama will emphasize U.S. resolve to promote the rule of law and give assurances that America is a stabilizing presence in the region, U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes told reporters last week.

"The U.S. will be underscoring the importance of resolving any territorial disputes consistent with international norms and international law [...] and not through bigger nations bullying smaller ones," Rhodes said in a veiled reference to China and smaller neighboring countries along the South China Sea rim.

■ **The U.S. summit will showcase Obama's years long effort to reassert American leadership in Asia**

Tensions have escalated in recent years after China transformed seven disputed reefs into islands, some with runways, that could be used to project China's military might into the heartland of the disputed region. China has claimed it has the right to undertake the massive construction in what it calls its territory, but the U.S. Navy deployed a guided-missile destroyer near one of the islands last year in defiance of China's territorial claims.

China has been accused of delaying the start of negotiations for a legally binding code of conduct that can deter aggressive actions such as its island construction work. U.S. and ASEAN leaders have sought the early conclusion of such a pact for several years, and those calls are likely to be repeated in this week's summit. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

Magnitude-5.8 quake shakes Christchurch

Nick Perry, Wellington

A magnitude-5.8 earthquake shook the New Zealand city of Christchurch yesterday but there were no immediate reports of serious damage, nearly five years after a deadly, more powerful quake destroyed much of the city center.

AP PHOTO



Cathedral Square panorama, Christchurch

The quake was strong enough to prompt some stores to evacuate customers and shake items from shelves. Police said there were some rock-falls on Scarborough Hill in the city's east and were advising people to stay away from affected areas.

The St. John ambulance service reported that several people had suffe-

red minor injuries from falls as they ran from the quake.

The earthquake came close to the anniversary of the Feb. 22, 2011, magnitude-6.3 temblor that leveled much of the center of New Zealand's second largest city and killed 185 people.


The U.S. Geological Survey reported that

yesterday's quake was centered 17 kilometers east of the city at a relatively shallow depth of 8 kilometers. Shallow earthquakes tend to be felt more strongly. No tsunami warning was issued.

The quake was one of the largest since 2011, and people from across the South Island reported feeling the ground shaking.

New Zealand sits on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes are common. **AP**

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Negotiator wins 'greedy' tag in EU spat over London banks

As preparations for this week's European summit enter their final stretch, France is leading resistance to U.K. demands for a deal to shield British banks from the rules governing lenders in the euro area. French negotiator Philippe Leglise-Costa pushed back against British Prime Minister David Cameron's insistence on fencing off financial regulation for the City of London at a meeting of European officials in Brussels Thursday. While his stance throws up a potential obstacle to a deal between European Union leaders, it earned him the rueful respect of Martin Selmayr, chief of staff to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

Egypt policeman's conviction overturned



Egypt's highest appeals court yesterday overturned the conviction of a police officer sentenced to 15 years in prison for the killing of a female protester in a January 2015 shooting captured on video and photos. Cassation Court Judge Taha Qassim also ruled that a new trial be held for the officer, Yassin Hatem Salah Eddin, who was convicted and sentenced in June last year for premeditated manslaughter. Salah Eddin was 25 at the time of the killing.

Syrian opposition figure slams Russia

A top Syrian opposition figure criticized Russia yesterday for continuing with its bombing in Syria, insisting that people in the country need to see action rather than words. The head of the Saudi-backed Syrian opposition's High Negotiations Committee, former Prime Minister Riad Hijab, also stopped short of declaring a clear commitment to implement a planned temporary truce. "You ask me if I accept a ceasefire or a cessation of hostilities. I ask you: why is the onus on the opposition and whether it has preconditions for negotiations?" Hijab said. "I would like to see a single day of a cessation of hostilities in order to give a chance for real political movement."

Fresh Clinton e-mails include 84 with security-rating update

Ben Brody

THE U.S. State Department released another 551 of Hillary Clinton's e-mails from her time as President Barack Obama's secretary of state, including about 15 percent that had been given updated security classifications after the fact.

More than 1,000 pages of documents sent from Clinton's private e-mail account and released on Saturday included 81 messages upgraded to "confidential," which is the lowest level of classification, and three to "secret," said a State Department official.

The e-mails, which included deliberations on topics including policy toward Syria, Libya and the South China Sea, had not been tagged as classified at the time they were sent, according to the official, who asked not to be identified. None of the latest messages had been labeled "top secret," a designation that had been given to 22 e-mails withheld from release in January.

Saturday's release pushes the tally of Clinton's e-mail disclosures to more than 45,000. Clinton, a Democratic presidential candidate, relied on a private e-mail account and home-based server to conduct



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton

government business as the top U.S. diplomat from 2009 to 2013. Republican critics have said the practice constituted a mishandling of classified information, and could return to that subject in a candidates' debate in South Carolina on Saturday.

Clinton has repeatedly said she didn't mishandle information and sent no information marked as classified at the time. Two more interim releases are

scheduled this month, following a U.S. district court judge's order, with all remaining documents to be disclosed by the close of business on Feb. 29.

The three "secret" e-mail strings released on Saturday included a nine-page exchange on Egypt's Sinai peninsula from August 2012, an exchange on an unknown subject from September 2012, and a May 2011 request for Clinton to speak with then-Massachusetts Sena-

tor John Kerry, who succeeded her as secretary of state in 2013. All were heavily redacted.

A spokesman for the Clinton campaign didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The e-mails included deliberations on topics including policy toward Syria, Libya and the South China Sea

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus faulted Clinton's handling of the documents again on Saturday. "This court-ordered release is another reminder that Hillary Clinton's attempt to skirt transparency laws put our national security at risk," Priebus said in a statement. "Buyer's remorse must be growing amongst the Democrat establishment who have gone out of their way to rig the nominating process in her favor." **Bloomberg**

Pope gives tough love to Mexico's political, church elite

Nicole Winfield, Mexico City

POPE Francis challenged Mexico's political and ecclesial elites on Saturday to provide their people with security, justice and courageous pastoral care to confront the drug-inspired violence and corruption that are wracking the country, delivering a tough-love message to Mexico's ruling classes on his first full day in the country.

The raucous welcome Francis received from an estimated 1 million cheering Mexicans who lined his motorcade route seven-deep contrasted sharply with his pointed criticism of how church and state leaders here have often failed their people, especially the poorest and most marginalized.

"Experience teaches us that each time we seek the path of privileges or benefits for a few to the detriment of the good of all, sooner or later the life of society becomes a fertile soil for corruption, drug trade, exclusion of different cultures, violence and also human trafficking, kidnapping and death, bringing suffering and slowing down development," he told government authorities at the presidential palace.

In a subsequent hard-hitting speech to his

own bishops, Francis challenged church leaders known for their deference to Mexico's wealthy and powerful to courageously denounce the "insidious threat" posed by the drug trade and not hide behind their own privilege and careers.

He told them to be true pastors, close to their people, and to develop a coherent plan to help Mexicans "finally escape the raging waters that drown so many, either victims of the drug trade or those who stand before God with their hands drenched in blood, though with pockets filled with sordid money and their consciences deadened."

The speech was met with tepid applause, with only a handful of bishops standing in ovation.

Francis' entire five-day trip to Mexico is shining an uncomfortable spotlight on the church's shortcomings and the government's failure to solve entrenched social ills that plague many parts of the country — poverty, rampant drug-inspired gangland killings, extortion, disappearances of women, crooked cops and failed public services.

Over the coming days, Francis will travel



People attend Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City

to the crime-ridden Mexico City suburb of Ecatepec, preach to Indians in poverty-stricken Chiapas, offer solidarity to victims of drug violence in Morelia and, finally, pay respects to migrants who have died trying to reach the United States with a cross-border Mass in Ciudad Juarez.

The grueling schedule appeared to be already taking a toll: By Saturday evening, Francis seemed tired and winded. He appeared to doze off during Mass and lost his balance and fell into a chair set up for him to pray before the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. **AP**



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TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
3pm-8pm (Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: February 22, 2016
VENUE: Albergue SCM, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau Gallery A2
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

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VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral
ADMISSION: Free
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MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & 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
(Except Thursdays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: Macau Science Centre, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen
ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre MOP25; Planetarium MOP60-80
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

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TIME: 10am-6:30pm
UNTIL: February 18, 2016
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Calçada Da Barra, No. 16 R/C LJ A, Edif. San Chak, Macau
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THE MASTERY OF SHIPBUILDING – FISHING JUNK MODELS BY WAN CHUN

TIME: 10am-6pm
(Closed on Sundays and public holidays)
UNTIL: April 9, 2016
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ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919
ADMISSION: Free

Offbeat

UNLUCKY IN LOVE, ELEPHANT DAMAGES 15 CARS IN CHINA

After losing out on his love interest, a wild elephant has turned his attention to cars. The elephant wandered out of a nature reserve in southern China on Friday following a failed courtship and started playing with cars parked along a highway, slightly damaging more than a dozen vehicles, authorities said.

The government of Xishuangbanna prefecture said that the animal had recently lost to another male elephant in a battle for the affections of a female, and that his temperament was moody. Staff at the nature reserve thought the animal might have become playful at the sight of the cars, the government said in a posting on its social media account.

The elephant did not hurt any of the tourists who had crowded the area during the Lunar New Year holiday, and who were very excited to see the elephant, the government said. The animal's public appearance lasted about 20 minutes before he returned to the nature reserve.

"The tourists were quite excited to see a real wild elephant, and they were using their cellphones to take photos and videos," the government said. "Even the owners of some damaged cars found the experience to be thrilling and very interesting, although their cars got scraped."

The owners of the 15 cars that were damaged by the elephant will be compensated, the government said. AP

TV canal macau

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:28 | Chief Executive Chui Sai On's Lunar New Year Message |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | Inside China's Biggest Gala |
| 15:20 | Documentary Series |
| 15:50 | Documentary Series |
| 16:30 | Zig Zag |
| 16:50 | Castle S.5 |
| 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 |

cinema



CINETEATRO

12 FEB - 18 FEB

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: ROAD CHIP

ROOM 1
2.00, 5.30, 7.30 pm
Director: Walt Becker
Starring: Jason Lee, Jesica Ahlberg, Josh Green
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 92min



MERMAID

ROOM 1
2.00, 5.30, 7.30 pm
Director: Stephen Chau
Starring: Deng Chao, Show Lo, Zhang Yu Qi
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 92min

FROM VEGAS TO MACAU III

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Andrew Lau, Wong Jing
Starring: Chow Yun-fat, Andy Lau, Nick Cheung, Jacky Cheung
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 112min

THE GOOD DINOSAUR

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.30, 7.15 pm
Director: Peter Sohn
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 93min

THE MONKEY KING 2

ROOM 3
9.15, 11.30 pm
Director: Pou-Soi Cheung
Starring: Aaron Kwok, Gong Li, Feng Shaofeng
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 120min

MACAU TOWER

04 FEB - 02 MAR

THE GOOD DINOSAUR

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Peter Sohn
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 93min

this day in history



1942 SINGAPORE FORCED TO SURRENDER

British forces in Singapore have surrendered unconditionally to the Japanese seven days after enemy troops first stormed the island.

A war correspondent of the Japanese News Agency in Singapore reported that fighting ceased along the entire Malayan front at 2200 local time.

The British and Japanese commanders-in-chief, Lieutenant-General Arthur Percival and Lieutenant-General Yamashita Tomoyuki met in the Ford motor plant at the foot of Bukit Timah Hill to sign the surrender documents.

The British capitulation comes one week after Japanese forces invaded Singapore and only two weeks since their onslaught on the Malay Peninsula forced the British troops' withdrawal to the island.

According to reports from Japanese headquarters the final deal was signed at 1900 local time and the ceasefire came into effect three hours later.

Under the terms of the surrender, 1,000 British troops will be left in Singapore city to maintain order until the Japanese Army complete their occupation.

The invasion began under cover of darkness on the night of 8 February when at least 50 boats laden with members of the 5th and 18th Japanese army divisions crossed the narrow Johore Straits, which is all that separates Singapore from the Malay Peninsula.

By morning thousands more troops had landed. The well-trained and battle-hardened Japanese forces were also supported by aircraft and tanks.

Although they met some spirited counter-attacks, it was soon clear the island's defence had been poorly planned. In attempting to defend the island's entire coastline, the General Officer Commanding, Lieutenant-General Percival had spread his forces too thinly.

The Allied force consisting of Australian, Malay, Indian and British soldiers, many fresh from defeat on the Malay Peninsula, were also short of weapons and poorly trained and with inadequate air support.

Against them, the Japanese troops moved swiftly across the island. The last line of defense, Singapore City, fell earlier today.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Prime Minister Winston Churchill described the fall of Singapore as "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history".

The Japanese claimed to have taken 60,000 Imperial troops in Singapore - 16,000 British, 14,000 Australian and 32,000 Indian soldiers. They also captured a large amount of equipment.

The high number of prisoners was not surprising as the troops had been ordered to defend Singapore until the last possible moment so no major evacuation had been ordered.

Lt-Gen Percival, the British General Officer Commanding, said he had been forced to surrender when the loss of food, water, petrol and ammunition made it impossible to carry on the struggle.

The Japanese advance continued, taking US held Guam, Wake Island and the Philippines. The heroic resistance of the US garrison at Corregidor ended on 6 May 1942.

In Burma Japanese forces reached the Indian border before pausing for breath.

The Japanese advance in the Pacific was only finally halted in June when all four of its aircraft carriers were destroyed by the US in the Battle of Midway. An attempt to invade India from Burma was halted by British and Empire troops in 1944

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Use your smiles and charm to get your way today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Too much of a good thing is still too much, so make sure you don't overdo it today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Stray thoughts are winners right now - make sure you've got some way to record them...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You can't rely on other people to the same extent as usual today...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your romantic side is out in force right now, so make a play for someone new or let your sweetheart know how you really feel about them...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Impulse buying can be dangerous today, so see if you can get your friends to restrain you...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Art and design are highlighted today, so you should either hit a museum or check online for some new way to spruce up your pad...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your eyes open to something - or someone - with more aspects than you had previously believed...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You may have to deal with a lawyer - but with luck, it's just a formality. If not, your social energy is just right for dealing with big issues...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your ability to push things forward is making life move faster - and your initiative is sure to make life a lot more appealing!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You hit it off with someone you don't usually see much of - or maybe someone you'd normally avoid!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your active social life is finally more or less balanced - but it may not stay that way for long!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Work up lather; 5- Cries of discovery; 9- Let's just leave ___ that; 13- ___ fact; 14- Pisa place; 15- Ho Chi ___ City; 16- Cemetery; 18- Bausch & Lomb brand; 19- Cavern; 20- Literate; 22- Really bother; 23- Continue a subscription; 24- Sites; 26- Aria; 31- Wanted poster abbr.; 34- Feel sore; 37- Refrain in a children's song; 38- In spite of; 42- Bubbling; 43- Ornamental case; 44- China's Chou En-___; 45- Native drum; 47- June 6, 1944; 50- Like Eric the Red; 53- Ruler of Hyderabad; 57- Chinese language; 61- Comfortable; 62- ___ breve; 63- Missionary zeal; 65- Threadbare; 66- Brown and white Eurasian falcon; 67- Bond classic; 68- Singer McEntire; 69- Butter alternative; 70- Cong. meeting;

DOWN: 1- Burn slightly; 2- Musical drama, usually sung in Italian; 3- Cravat; 4- Door; 5- From ___ Z; 6- Actress Berry; 7- Outsider; 8- Method; 9- Former Hungarian premier Nagy; 10- Stadium level; 11- Singer Murray; 12- Dull sound; 14- Wall St. debut; 17- Conductor Klemperer; 21- Twix's partner; 23- Nouveau ___; 25- Cmdr Data's was named Spot; 27- Pot top; 28- Trompe l'___; 29- Actress Merrill; 30- Hanna-Barbera bear; 31- Med. school subj.; 32- Monetary unit of Nigeria; 33- Elemental unit; 35- DDE's predecessor; 36- Chopin piece; 39- Intelligence; 40- Actress Massey; 41- Assist; 46- To a greater extent; 48- Initial stake; 49- Cedes; 51- Competitor; 52- Reptile; 54- Congo, formerly; 55- Orgs.; 56- Office notes; 57- Bryn ___ College; 58- Skin cream ingredient; 59- Workers' rights org.; 60- Comedian Carvey; 61- Cabinet dept.; 64- Prefix with classical;



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BASKETBALL

LaVine exits All-Star stage for Kobe and the NBA's best



Orlando Magic forward Aaron Gordon slam dunks the ball during the NBA all-star skills competition in Toronto

Brian Mahoney, Toronto

ZACH LaVine called it the best dunk contest ever, a showdown with Aaron Gordon that rivaled what Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins did. Maybe they will come back next year and do it again.

"In Charlotte, yeah, if they want me to come back, I probably will," Gordon said.

For now, it's time to turn the attention at All-Star weekend back where it started: Kobe Bryant and the rest of the NBA's best.

The All-Star Game tips off today [Macau time], when the crowd might still be buzzing over the performances LaVine and Gordon put on to cap off All-Star Saturday.

LaVine finally won after extra dunks were needed, joining

Jordan, Jason Richardson and Nate Robinson as the only back-to-back winners of the dunk title.

He knows people might still talk about Jordan or Julius Erving, great dunkers of the past. But even they didn't pull off what LaVine and Gordon did Saturday, so LaVine was asked if it was the best.

"Like half the dunks we did were like professional dunker dunks, and it takes them four or five times to try it and make it, and we did it on the first try," LaVine said. "It was crazy. In my opinion, yes."

So good that people forgot about the Splash Brothers' shootout in the three-point contest that Klay Thompson won to prevent Stephen Curry's repeat, and the All-Star Game today [Macau time] that will feature

Bryant's final appearance.

All-Star weekend so far has belonged to LaVine and the Minnesota Timberwolves, as rookie Karl-Anthony Towns showed big guys have skills, too.

The night — and the first two nights of this first All-Star weekend held outside the U.S. — ended with a celebration for LaVine, who won the MVP award in Friday night in the Rising Stars Challenge for rookies and second-year players.

He outlasted Gordon in a duel that needed two overtimes and ended only when there was literally no ball to use. Curry batted it down to other end of the court after he and the other NBA stars who were as captivated as the fans and celebrities sitting courtside charged onto

All-Star weekend so far has belonged to LaVine and the Minnesota Timberwolves

the court after LaVine leaped from just inside the free-throw line, put the ball between his legs in midair and slammed it down.

He and Gordon traded perfect scores of 50 for the previous few rounds after advancing to the final, but the Orlando Magic rookie mustered only a 47 in his last attempt.

But he may have had the most memorable dunks of the night

with some help from the Magic's mascot — aptly named Stuff the Magic Dragon.

On Stuff's first assist, Gordon took the ball with one hand from the mascot, who was spinning around on a hoverboard, and did a 360-degree dunk. He got another assist from Stuff on the next one, leaping high to take the ball, putting it under his legs — nearly in a sitting position in midair — and slamming it down with his left hand.

"Me and him are now like best friends, me and Stuff," Gordon said. The only boos went to the judges, with the crowd thinking Shaquille O'Neal was a little stingy with a couple of 9s instead of perfect 10s.

"We were kind of mind-boggled a couple times because we got 49s and they were 50s," LaVine said.

Earlier in the three-point contest, Curry wasn't even the best on his own team after setting a final-round record last year.

This time, Thompson was so good, he had clinched it even before the final ball on his final rack. He started to walk away after making first four — then turned and made that one, anyway.

"He definitely shot well tonight," Curry said. "I still think I can hold my own in the competition, but the way that he finished off that second round was amazing. So trust me, the pressure of knowing what number he had to hit and making five out of five was fun to watch."

Towns beat Boston Celtics point guard Isaiah Thomas to win the Skills Challenge, further validating the evolution of the big man from a plodding post player to a playmaking force.

"I'm glad I was able to help the bigs come out with this trophy," said Towns, the No. 1 overall pick in the June draft. "This is bigger than me. This is for all the bigs out there, with the game changing the way it is, to show that bigs can stand up with guards and skill-wise." **AP**

SKIING

Neureuther wins men's World Cup slalom in Japan

FELIX Neureuther of Germany won the men's World Cup slalom in Japan yesterday, edging Andre Myhrer of Sweden.

Neureuther, fifth after the first run, clocked a time of 56.96 seconds in the second run to finish 0.05 seconds ahead of Myhrer. Marco Schwarz of Austria was third, 0.24 off the pace.

"It was a tough race today," said Neureuther. "It started raining

in the second run. You guys were so unlucky with the weather, one meter of fresh snow and then it became so warm and you guys did a really great job."

Neureuther's father Christian was on the podium here 41 years ago.

"It's of course a very, very good feeling," said Neureuther.

With his first slalom World Cup win of the season, Neureuther moved into third place in

the standings with 323 points, 393 behind leader Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway, who was seventh.

Alexis Pinturault of France, who won Saturday's giant slalom at the same venue, was disqualified during the second run.

Overall World Cup leader Marcel Hirscher of Austria was disqualified for straddling a gate during the first run.

Myhrer earned his first

podium since December's giant slalom in Alta Badia, Italy.

"It was a tough day," said Myhrer. "First run was good visibility and second run we had really bad visibility and water on the goggles and didn't see much. I've been struggling for a while in slalom and I feel happy to be back on the podium."

The next World Cup event will be a downhill and alpine combined in Chamonix, France. **AP**



Felix Neureuther of Germany

CRICKET

NZ 178-4 in 2nd innings, trailing Australia by 201 runs

NEW Zealand's chances of avoiding defeat in the first test ebbed away as Adam Voges completed a double century yesterday and Australia's bowlers claimed important wickets in the final session of day three.

At stumps New Zealand was 178-4 in its second innings, still trailing Australia by 201 runs after starting its second innings 379 runs in deficit.

Henry Nicholls, in his first test, was 31 not out at stumps but New Zealand lost Brendon McCullum (10), in his 100th test, to the last ball of the day's play.

Tom Latham (63), Martin Guptill (45) and Kane Williamson (22) all made decent contributions but none went on to make the big score required if the hosts were to stymie Australia's victory push.

Voges was the last man out in Australia's first innings of 562, caught and bowled by off-spinner Mark Craig 15 minutes before lunch. By that time, it had been 1,115 minutes and 614 runs since he was last dismissed in a test match.

Voges' innings, the third-highest by an Australian batsman in New Zealand, followed his unbeaten 269 and 106 in tests against the West Indies in December. His average after 14 tests is 97.46, vindicating Australia's decision to hand him a test debut last year at age 35.

The average from 19 innings is the second-highest by a batsman in tests behind Don Brad-

A year ago I probably didn't think I'd be here to be honest. It's not going to last forever so I'll enjoy it while I can.

ADAM VOGES



Australia's Adam Voges celebrates getting his double century against the West Indies during their cricket test match on Dec. 11

man's famous 99.94 in 80 innings and ahead of Sid Barnes' 63.05, also from 19 innings.

By the end of his innings, Voges' teammates were calling him Sir Voges — a reference to the knighted Bradman — but the veteran was taking it in his stride.

"It took me a long time to get to test cricket and I just want to try and make every innings count," he said. "I'm hungry to keep scoring runs and get as many as possible."

"A year ago [I] probably didn't think I'd be here to be honest. It's not going to last forever so I'll enjoy it while I can."

Voges 614 runs between

dismissals broke the record held by former India great Sachin Tendulkar.

"You don't play the game for records," Voges said. "You play it for wins and we're in a good position and maybe I can sit back at the end of my career and have a look at that. But we're in a good position and that's the main thing."

Voges' innings lasted 504 minutes, comprised 364 balls and included 30 fours and three sixes, infuriating New Zealand players because Voges was bowled when on 7, only for the umpire to incorrectly call no ball.

Voges went on to add 232 more runs in partnerships

of 168 for the fourth wicket with Usman Khawaja (140), 96 for the sixth wicket with Peter Nevill (32), 99 for the seventh wicket with Peter Siddle (49) and in small but productive partnerships with Josh Hazlewood, Nathan Lyon and last man Jackson Bird.

New Zealand made a solid start with a partnership of 81 for the first wicket between Guptill and Latham, its best against Australia since 1993. But the loss of Guptill and Williamson put it again on the back foot and when Latham and McCullum fell before stumps, hopes of avoiding defeat all but vanished. **AP**

GOLF

Bernhard Langer opens 7-stroke lead in Chubb Classic

KENNY Perry calls Bernhard Langer "The Germinator."

"Is he human?" Perry asked.

PGA Tour Champions rivals have to be wondering about the 58-year-old German star.

Langer followed his opening 10-under 62 with a 66 on Saturday to increase his lead to seven strokes in the PGA Tour Champions' Chubb Classic at TwinEagles.

Langer's lead is the largest in the event after 36 holes. At 16-under 128, he's closing in on the tournament-record 20-under total that he set in 2011 and Perry matched in 2012.

Langer won the event in 2011 and 2013. The two-time Masters champion has 25 victories on the 50-and-over tour.

"I know when things go great, it's unbelievable the scores that can be produced," Langer said. "I once won a tournament by 17 shots. When everything gets going, you know, I can go low. But there's still a couple of hiccups out there, which I got away with. Like the tee shot on 18 and the tee shot on 17, I wasn't happy with."

However, he said his 5-iron shot to 12 feet on No. 17 and bunker shot over water onto the green on No. 18 to save par gave him a lot of confidence.

Langer made a 15-foot putt on No. 3 for eagle that got his day going. He also had a 25-footer for birdie on No. 16. He also had a few putts he just missed in earlier holes. He's had to change from the anchored-putting stroke he used the past 17 years because a rule change this year.

"He looked at me last year at the end of the year and he told me, 'I'll figure it out,'" Perry said.

Langer said players asked him last year when he was going to make the putting change and he said "Not until the season's over." There was a Schwab Cup to be won.

And this year, the adjustment is progressing.

"I had some fantastic two putts from long distance and made a few and really I didn't miss any short ones," he said. "What else can you expect from a putting, right?"

Perry and Scott Dunlap were tied for second. Perry had a 67, and Dunlap shot 66. Perry had three birdies and a bogey from Nos. 14-17. Only a bogey on No. 7 stopped Dunlap's birdie run from Nos. 3-8. He also birdied Nos. 16 and 17. **AP**

TENNIS

Venus Williams beats Misaki Doi to win Taiwan Open

TOP-SEEDED Venus Williams overpowered Misaki Doi of Japan 6-4, 6-2 yesterday to win the Taiwan Open without dropping a set in the tournament.

Williams saved six of nine break points in her first meeting against the second-seeded Doi.

The seven-time major winner, a surprise first-round loser at the Australian Open last month, earned her 49th career WTA title.

Doi was bidding for her second WTA career title following last year's win in Luxembourg. **AP**

opinion

Insight
 Paulo Barbosa



WELCOME TO THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY

In the early hours of the first day of the Year of the Monkey (February 8), I visited the A-Ma Temple and witnessed a memorable moment. The night was misty and there was the occasional sound of firecrackers, which are thought to scare away evil spirits. The square facing the temple was crowded with families coming from their CNY-eve dinners.

People were buying joss sticks, altar candles and pinwheels from the stalls facing the temple and dutifully proceeding inside in order to pray and make wishes for good fortune, prosperity, and wellbeing.

For someone who comes from the West – where religion and superstition nowadays have, let's say, more contained expressions – it's puzzling to see grown men and women making their beautiful, newly-bought pinwheels spin around and around in the breeze inside the temple and bowing to the goddess.

Both tradition and faith say that praying brings blessings and that pinwheels may help "to turn one's luck around," or turn obstacles into opportunities. That's why they are a revered symbol during the Spring Festival.

"Pinwheels are made with a number of pinwheels and auspicious elements affixed to a frame. As the pinwheels revolve in the wind, the individual pinwheels secure and multiply the states of being or the spiritual benefits desired by the worshiper. Those who suffer from bad luck, are dissatisfied with their living conditions, or are concerned about family and personal issues, hope to effect a change in their fortunes, or at least, an easing of difficulties, from the good effects of the pinwheel," explains Janet Lee Scott in her book "For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors: The Chinese Tradition of Paper Offerings."

Those who believe in the benefits of the pinwheel are in the realm of magical thought. But who said that allowing ourselves a certain degree of magical thought every now and then is wrong or childish? It was precisely that eruption of tradition and superstition that brought about the fairylike atmosphere at the A-Ma Temple on the first day of the first lunar month.

My foreign eyes see the Chinese New Year as a blend of Christmas and New Year's Eve. There's the moment of family reunion, gift exchange ("lai see"), and also the countdown to midnight and passage to another season. There are promises of good luck and well wishes in the air, with cheerful people dressed in their best clothes, celebrating together with their loved ones, making wishes for a better future, shouting "kung hei fat choi!" In the fast-paced world we live in, where so many families are disrupted and greed rules, the brief moment of CNY benevolence is worth all the magical thought.

In Macau, the lunar year started with mixed feelings. On the positive side, the number of tourists who entered the region during the festive week totaled 908,000. The official data released by the Public Security Police Force indicates that this is an increase of 4.7 percent when compared with the 2015 CNY, but my impression when walking downtown is that there have been busier years in the past. Anyway, tourists, especially those from the mainland, still like to visit this "charming and quiet place," as they say. Time to make a profit while that perception lasts...

The bad news was the fire at the main pavilion of the A-Ma Temple, rightly considered to be one of the city's top attractions. According to the initial assessment, the damage is not irreversible and the major repair works will be concluded within three months. But those who are prone to the above-mentioned magical thought would certainly say that it is a bad omen for Macau.

Knock on wood.

THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES BUZZ CABINET RESHUFFLE

Australia's prime minister on Saturday announced a Cabinet reshuffle after three ministers resigned over scandals and two announced that they will retire at elections due within months.

It is the second major reshuffle for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull since he came to

power in September. It introduced six new ministers among 42 who must prove themselves ahead of elections due around September.

Turnbull said he did not expect to make any further ministerial changes ahead of the election. The reshuffle revitalized the government through the promotion of younger ministers, he said.

HK hosts Valentine's Day with 25,000 LED roses



LED light roses are lit up at the "Light Rose Garden", against the backdrop of Central, the business district of Hong Kong

IT'S like a romantic scene out of one of South Korea's sappy soap dramas – tens of thousands of illuminated roses forming an impressive backdrop for the lead actor and actress to declare their love for each other.

The Light Rose Garden, a public art installation featuring a sea of white roses made with light-emitting diode, or LED, is also a perfect venue for Valenti-

ne's Day in Hong Kong.

Originating in South Korea, the Light Rose Garden is on a world tour with its first stop in the southern Chinese city.

Organizer Jung Yong Jin said he's thrilled to see people outside of Seoul enjoying the garden, made up of 25,000 waterproof white roses arranged tightly in Hong Kong's landmark Central and Western District Promenade, with

25 roses planted every 3 square meters.

The roses light up each night and instantly illuminate the park against the backdrop of Hong Kong's skyline. Couples, families and friends flock to take photos.

"I created this LED rose garden because I wanted families, friends and lovers to come out to parks at night," Jung said.

A woman from Taiwan, who was visiting with her boyfriend, said the romantic setting reminded her of Korean dramas.

"I don't feel anything," the boyfriend, who identified himself only as Lee, laughed. "She showed me those scenes. Korean dramas are like that. So when I read about it, I wanted to bring her here."

For Valentine's, he gave her roses made of Lego bricks.

The light garden's next stop is Singapore on Feb. 22. AP



THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Magenta-robed religious officials escort an effigy of Christ in Macau's annual Procession of the Passion of Our Lord, journeying from the Cathedral to St. Domingo's Church.

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Roadside | 30-50 Good |
| High Density Residential Area | 20-40 Good |
| Ambient | 20-40 Good |

SOURCE: D5M/G

WORLD BRIEFS

HAITIAN lawmakers yesterday chose the country's Senate chief to lead a caretaker government that will fill the void left by last week's departure of former President Michel Martelly and perhaps ease lingering tensions that recently pushed the deeply polarized nation into political crisis.

SWEDEN Five British men, reportedly including members of British indie band Viola Beach, were killed when their car drove through a barrier and plunged into a canal near Stockholm. The accident on Saturday afternoon occurred when the men's hire car crashed through a barrier that was closed to stop vehicles as a drawbridge was opening up ahead. The victims were British and aged between 20 and 35, he said.

US Antonin Scalia, the influential conservative and most provocative member of the U.S. Supreme Court, has died, leaving the high court without its conservative majority and setting up an ideological confrontation over his successor.

PORTUGAL It's been quite the wild ride for investors in Portuguese government bonds in 2016 and, with history seeming to repeat itself, there's no end in sight. Portugal's 10-year bond yields moved in a range of 143 basis points last week amid concern that lawmakers' plans to speed up the reversal of state salary cuts and increase indirect taxes will hit its reform program.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC went ahead with a presidential runoff vote yesterday that many hope will solidify a tentative peace after more than two years of sectarian fighting left untold thousands dead and forced nearly half a million people to flee to neighboring countries.

AP PHOTO