



**TOURISTS KEEPING TIGHT HOLD ON WALLETS**

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**SOUTH KOREA WARNS OF NORTH'S COLLAPSE**  
South Korea's president warned yesterday that rival North Korea faces collapse if it doesn't abandon its nuclear bomb program

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**EU-WIDE BRACE FOR SCHENGEN SUSPENSION**  
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# Gaming stocks break through key level as outlook brightens

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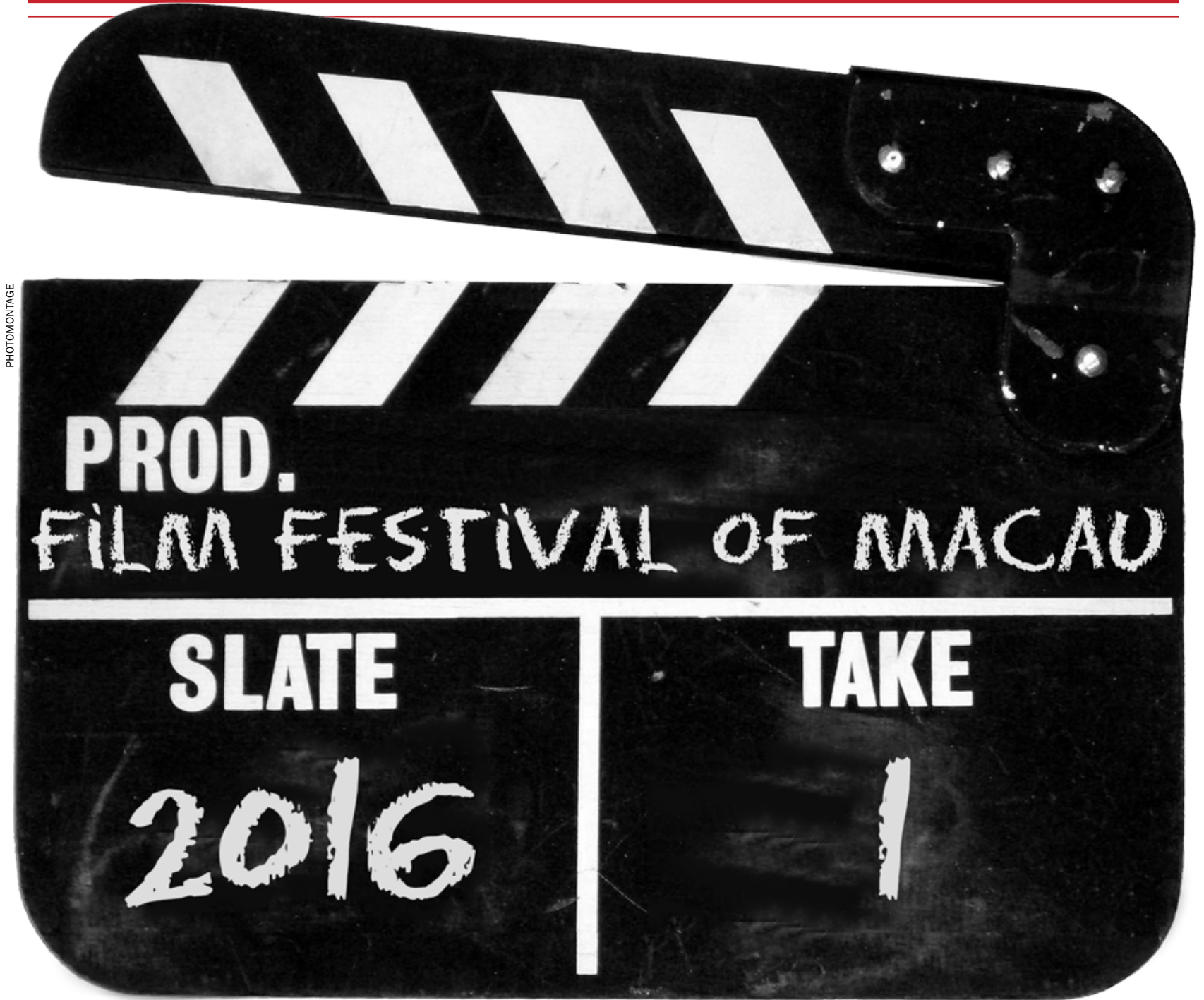
**WORLD BRIEFS**

**BANGLADESH** A court in Dhaka has placed a publishing house owner and two other people on remand for publishing books alleged to hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims. The court made the order yesterday after police produced publisher Shamsuzzoha Manik and two others. The arrests were made after some readers complained that the books discussed sex and perversion of Muslims.

**PHILIPPINES** Military officials say suspected communist guerrillas have killed six policemen and wounded eight others in an ambush in the northern Philippines in the latest flare-up of the decades-old Marxist insurgency.

**SYRIA** President Putin's spokesman denies claims Russian warplanes struck hospitals in northern Syria. France and Turkey have said that air strikes on hospitals in northern Syria constitute war crimes. Up to 50 people were killed in missile attacks on schools and hospitals in the region, the UN said.

More on backpage



# New film festival in December headed by former Venice director

P3 MDT REPORT



GAMING

# Visitors to Macau keeping tight hold on wallets

Daniela Wei

**M**AINLAND Chinese tourists poured into Macau in greater numbers during the week-long Lunar New Year holiday, even as many shunned neighboring Hong Kong again this year, but gambling revenues extended an almost two-year slump as high-rollers stayed home.

Macau had 793,598 visitor arrivals from mainland China during the Feb. 7-13 period, up 4.3 percent over the corresponding week last year in China's



to the improvement of gambling revenue, as the visitation growth is mainly driven by tourists with weaker spending power," Huang said of the Macau numbers.

Casino revenue in Macau has plunged for 20 straight months, following China's crackdown on corruption and the slowing economy that has kept high-rollers away and also dented mass market arrivals. Gross gaming revenue in Macau fell 34 percent in 2015, a second straight year of decline. Although revenues are still down, improved projections for the year helped lift gaming stocks.

Hong Kong fared even worse, with a 12 percent drop in mainland Chinese tourists arriving during the week, the second straight year of decline for the period. Chinese visitors are projected to fall 3.2 percent for the year, according to the Hong Kong Tourism Board, with average spending dropping 4 percent to HKD6,948.

Grant Govertsen, a gaming analyst in Union Gaming Group LLC, said the divergence in visitors to Hong Kong and Macau during Chinese New Year marked a departure from previous years when tourist arrival numbers for the two destinations have moved more in tandem.

Mainlanders are perhaps actively avoiding Hong Kong for political reasons, he said. Tourist numbers dropped off in the aftermath of the Umbrella Movement in 2014 when protesters blocked city roads for more than two months to demand the right to pick the city's leader.

Tensions flared again this year during the Chinese New Year holiday, when officials tried to clear illegal food stalls in the densely populated Mong Kok district, leading to a riot.

A sustained decrease in mainland visitors and the diminished buying power of a weaker yuan led to a second straight annual decline in Hong Kong retail sales in 2015. The overall sales fell 3.7 percent last year while the hardest-hit jewelry, watches, clocks and valuable gifts sales slumped 16 percent.

Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group, the world's largest listed jewelry chain, said last month that sales during Chinese New Year would be challenging. Emperor Watch & Jewellery Ltd blamed a preliminary 2015 loss on strong Hong Kong dollar, high rental pressure in the city and austerity initiatives in mainland China. **Bloomberg**

lunar calendar, a peak season for the city, according to the Macau Government Tourist Office. While that was good news for the world's largest gaming center, it didn't help much to narrow a protracted slump in casino revenues.

Average daily revenue at tables during the week was HKD790 million, a 20 percent drop from a year ago, according to Nomura Holdings Inc. gaming analyst Richard Huang. Still, that was slightly better than forecast and led Nomura to predict that revenues for the full month will fall 6-10 percent from year-a-go levels to HKD16.3 billion-HKD17 billion.

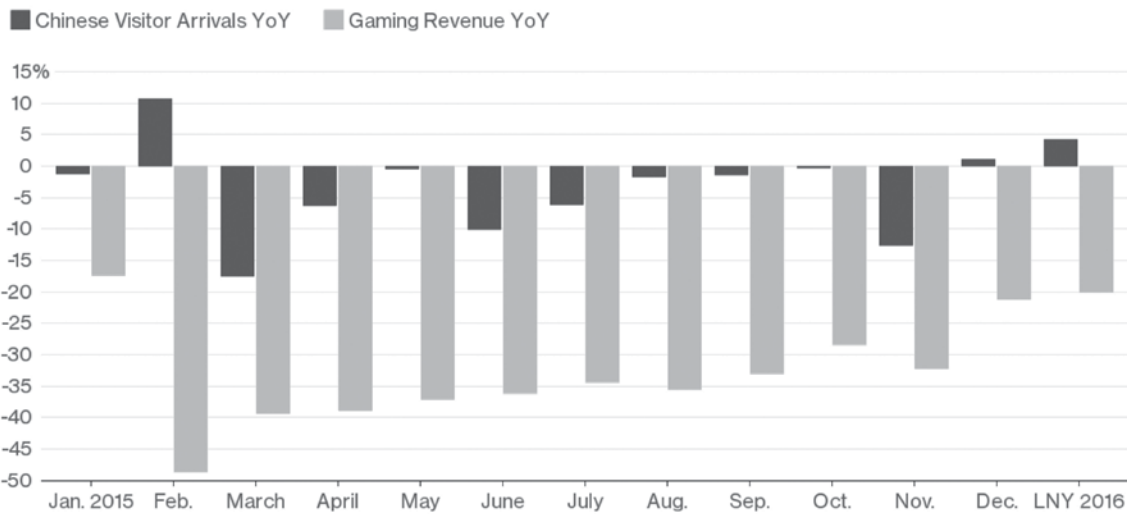
"The growing number of tourists as well as high hotel occupancy rate don't directly lead

**The growing number of tourists as well as high hotel occupancy rate don't directly lead to the improvement of gambling revenue.**

RICHARD HUANG

### Tight Wallets

More mainland tourists in Macau during Lunar New Year have done little to help revenue

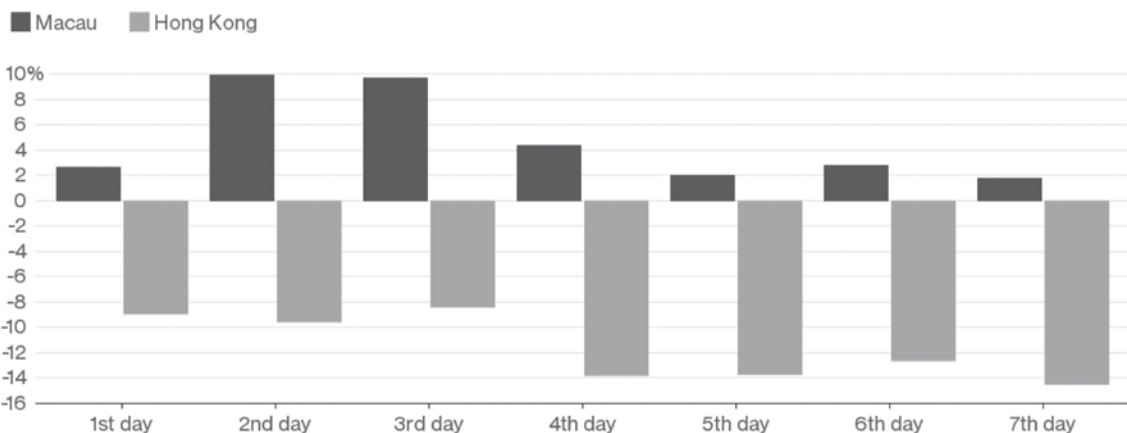


Sources: Macau tourism office, gaming regulator and analyst report  
 Note 1: LNY refers to Feb. 7-13 data during Lunar New Year compared with 2015 data  
 Note 2: Official data for January visitors haven't been announced

Bloomberg

### Opposite Trends

Mainland visitors to both Macau and Hong Kong during Chinese New Year



Source: Macau's tourism board, Hong Kong immigration department

Bloomberg

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Renato Marques\*

**T**HE first International Film Festival of Macau (IFFM) will run from December 8 to 13 this year.

Heading the event will be Marco Mueller, the former director of the Locarno, Venice and Rome festivals, as reported in U.S. magazine Variety and confirmed yesterday in a statement by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO). The bureau told the Times that the Macau Films & Television Production and Culture Association would organize the event.

Marco Mueller was recently associated with the Beijing and Silk Road film festivals in the mainland. Variety reported that Mueller "will make the IFF Macau his main job, but he also has a teaching role in Switzerland for one semester per year."

The festival's U.S. selector is Elvis Mitchell, a well-known critic and programmer.

The event, backed by the Social Affairs and Culture Secretariat, will hold its first screening sessions at the Macau Science Center, with later market screenings at the UA Galaxy Cinemas.

Forty-five titles will be chosen for the first edition of the festival, Variety reported. The event will also include galas, a film competition and a thematic sidebar.

The IFFM was timed to follow a similar event in the neighboring SAR. The CineAsia convention and trade show will take place in Hong Kong two days prior to the festival and is expected to draw many international figures to the region.

The festival has a budget of around MOP80 million, supported by the government with the help of a commercial sponsor.

Reflecting on the festival, local director António Caetano Faria remarked: "Any event related to film and filmmaking is potentially interesting." Nevertheless, to better form an opinion, he added that "we need to know what that target is, the size and also the program of this event."

"To have Macau in the worldwide film festival circuit is always a good thing, but all will depend on the way it will be done," he continued, recalling that "there are already some who are hesitant about festivals that maybe did not work so well,

# New film festival in December headed by former Venice director



António Faria



Thomas Lim

and some other people who are trying to do independent film festivals, but we need to understand the audience here."

"In Macau [and also in Hong Kong] there is a large community of independent film fans," he said, also expressing his wish for "a less commercial film festival, which would also include young-

**“To have Macau in a worldwide film festival circuit is always a good thing, but all will depend on the way it will be done.”**

ANTÓNIO FÁRIA

ger producers."

Faria – who won the Macao Indies jury award twice for co-directing "Into the Void" in 2013 and "Time Travel" in 2011 – believes more could be done to support the development of the film panorama in the territory, from festivals to workshops and TV-based promotions. But he stresses that "there are also things currently being done in this field."

The director cites the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) as an example, which in his opinion "is doing a good job at the independent cinema level, giving opportunities to new people to produce films and also help to direct those independent film festivals."

The Times also spoke to Thomas Lim, an actor and filmmaker originally from Singapore who was based in Macau for a long time, where he directed the film "Roulette City."

"I believe any film event – or in this case, a film festival – is

always good for the local industry. However, it will be even better if the festival is also keen to help promote films made lo-

**“I hope it will motivate Macau filmmakers to create more projects and encourage the festival to incorporate a ‘Macau section’ in future editions.”**

THOMAS LIM

cally," he said.

Lim, who is currently in town to conduct a two-week screenwriting workshop and intends to shoot a new film here soon, also noted: "Most festivals have a local section that supports local films and helps filmmakers to get more exposure and other benefits."

Although Lim believes the IFFM will "target only outsiders for its first edition," he added, "I believe that this can change in later years when the Macau industry becomes stronger."

The hardest part of filmmaking is "reaching an audience," he says, adding that the IFFM should "help to foster Macau productions in some way."

"I feel that a festival like this is definitely a great opportunity for local filmmakers to showcase their work, and I hope it will motivate Macau filmmakers to create more projects and encourage the festival to incorporate a 'Macau section' for their future editions, if they don't already have one in December," Lim told the Times.

"It takes two hands to clap. If there aren't enough local productions to showcase or compete, this [local section] cannot exist," he concluded.

MGTO announced in a statement that the IFFM aims to become a major film hub for the Greater China and international markets.

A formal announcement to introduce the content and concept of the festival will be released in mid-March, MGTO confirmed.

\*with Paulo Barbosa

## 57 Chinese theatres concealed box office sales

**T**HE China Film Copyright Association, together with several movie companies, announced that it is monitoring 57 mainland theatres following suspicions of concealed box office sales concerning three recent motion pictures, namely "From Vegas to Macau 3," "The Mermaid," and "The Monkey King 2," according to a Chengdu Business Daily report.

Starting on February 4, a cinema in Shandong province screened the three movies three days before their official release, which reportedly violated the producer's rights. Other cinemas were also reported to be guilty of inappropriate operations as to obtain more customers.

The announcement also disclosed the amount of sources providing links to pirated

movies. Until 12 a.m. on February 10th, the surveillance system monitored the whole network and spotted several "pirate links" to the movies, part of them found on YouTube.

According to a mainland survey, the rampant spread of piracy throughout the film industry has caused losses to China's domestic film producers of up to 55 percent.



## Cinematheque holds talk on film festivals

**T**HE Cinematheque Passion is hosting its second talk this year, titled "How film festivals are organized," on February 21 from 3 to 5 p.m., with the event to be conducted by Hong Kong filmmaker Jonathan Hung. According to a press release issued by the Cultural

Affairs Bureau, the Hong Kong critic, filmmaker and current director of InD Blue (Hong Kong) and InDPanda International Film Festival has years of experience in film festival organization and will discuss how to design, plan and organize film festivals with their

own distinctive character. The topics to be raised during the talk include criteria for film selection, program planning, film renting, screening venues, ticketing, promotion and education. Hung began his career writing film and theatre critiques in several newspapers,

magazines and columns in 1997, and has also worked as a development manager at the Film and Video Department of the Hong Kong Arts Centre. Interested parties can enroll until February 26 via email by providing their names, contact numbers and email addresses.



### Father Luis Xavier passes away

Father Luis Xavier, a member of the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Chief Executive Election from 2009 to 2014, has died at the age of 66 after succumbing to a chronic disease. Father Xavier was a priest at St Lazarus Church and had previously held an administrative post at the University of Saint Joseph.

### Cargo ship runs aground near Amizade Bridge

According to the Marine and Water Bureau, a mainland transport cargo ship ran aground east of the Amizade Bridge on Monday. The bureau officers contacted the crew via radio as the boat passed beneath the bridge. The crew informed them that the 100-meter freighter had departed from Guangzhou and was bound for Jiujiang, Jiangxi Province. The ship was believed to have run aground when it veered off course when passing under the bridge. No injuries were reported. The ship resumed its journey on Monday afternoon.

## IC reveals highlights of 27th Macau Arts Festival



A Midsummer Night's Dream



Krapp's Last Tape

**T**HE 27th Macau Arts Festival (MAF), which will be held in May, commemorates the 400th anniversary of the

death of western literary giant William Shakespeare and of Tang Xianzu, a Chinese opera playwright who lived during

the Ming Dynasty.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has picked six highlights of the program, the full version of which has been published on its website. Among these is the opening show, Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," a romantic comedy staged by the Shakespeare Theatre Company from the USA and helmed by renowned Broadway director Ethan McSweeney.

Another highlight is "Krapp's Last Tape," directed and performed by internationally acclaimed theatre and opera director Robert Wilson. The monologue is an adaptation of Samuel Beckett's famed work, and is considered a perfect match for Wilson's abilities as a contemporary theatre master and playwright.

Also on the list is Tang Xianzu's romantic tragedy "The Legend of the Purple Hairpin," performed by renowned Cantonese opera artist Chu Chan Wa and other local opera artists.

## Foreign exchange reserves up

**T**HE Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) yesterday released its preliminary estimate of the SAR's foreign exchange reserves, which amounted to MOP155.6 billion (USD19.39 billion) at the end of January 2016.

The reserves were up 3.2 per-

cent from the previous month's revised value of MOP150.8 billion (USD18.89 billion).

The region's foreign exchange reserves at the end of January 2016 represented 13 times the currency in circulation at the end of 2015.

According to AMCM, the trade-

weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca rose 0.36 points month-to-month and 4.68 points year-on-year to 107.64 in January 2016. This increase implies that overall, the pataca appreciated against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners.



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## Newborn baby rescued after dumped in garbage

A newborn baby was found yesterday morning in a garbage room in Taipa Lei Yip Building. A small amount of blood was seen both on the floor and in the cart where the baby was found, TDM reported. The Health Bureau confirmed that the baby has no life-threatening conditions.

The cleaner who discovered the baby said that the residents of the 17th floor had informed her that there was blood in the garbage room.

Upon entering the room, she heard a faint cry coming from a garbage cart. The baby was immediately sent to hospital.

According to the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), from 2011 to 2015, there were six incidents of abandoned infants aged between less than one

### The baby has no life-threatening conditions

month and two years old. The incidents are usually caused by parents' incapacity to look after their children.

Mr Li, a technician from the IAS Children and Youth Services, says that abandoned children are usually in need of special care or were born out of wedlock.

Miss Wang, a senior technician also from the IAS Children and Youth Services, said that if a mother chooses to give up her baby, she is legally required to complete a six-week period of reflection before making her final decision. **Staff reporter**



## IAS to conduct study on daycare center demand

**T**HE Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has commissioned the University of Macau's (UM) Faculty of Education to conduct a survey on the demand for the services of daycare centers, as well as policy plans for these institutions.

The study will be conducted between February 22 and March 31. Interviewers will conduct home visits to collect data from the parents of

infants and children aged six years and below, in order to understand their reasons for sending their children to daycare centers. The interviewers will also record participants' opinions and expectations for future daycare policies.

The IAS said in a statement that to increase the rigor of the study the data would be collected via three different methods: a questionnaire, individual interviews

and focus groups.

The IAS also stated that the government would be able to use the survey results as a reference for the development of daycare-related policies.

Selected households, which were chosen through stratified sampling, will receive letters from the UM before each visit. Interviewers can be recognized by their official identification cards and designated clothing. **RM**

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# Gaming stocks break through key level as outlook brightens



Index last broke above the 200-day moving average in August 2012, it climbed steadily to reach a peak in January 2014 as gaming shares more than doubled. Macau casino stocks are down 2.6 percent this year on average, versus a 13 percent drop for the Hang Seng Index. The casino-Hang Seng Index ratio traded above its 200-day moving average on Friday and extended gains Monday. Gaming shares slid 1.2 percent on average yesterday.

While gaming revenue fell 21 percent in January from a year earlier, it was better than analysts expected. The data are "definitely positive," Nomura Holdings Inc. analyst Richard Huang said in Hong Kong this month, noting it's too early to draw long-term conclusions. Wynn Resorts Ltd. founder Steve Wynn said in a post-earnings conference call that January was the Macau business's "best month in a long time."

Wynn Macau shares jumped 10 percent on Monday, the largest gain since July, as casino stocks rallied along with the broader Hong Kong market. The stock slipped 0.5 percent yesterday.

"The growth rate isn't getting any worse," Ben Surtees, a London-based money manager for Jupiter Asset Management Ltd., said by phone. "Macau's gaming revenue is stabilizing and during the year they'll run into easier year-on-year comparatives."

Year-on-year declines in Macau gaming revenue may narrow further this month to 5 percent, Credit Suisse Group AG said in a note this month. Data from the Macau Government Tourist Office show Chinese visitors to the city during the Lunar New Year holiday increased from a year earlier, though spending was down.

"The business model is not broken," said Chadha. "Reversal of the long-term trend is contingent on whether the Chinese economy stabilizes or not."

**Bloomberg**

Kana Nishizawa

**M**ACAU gaming stocks are signaling a change in fortunes after a two-year slump. A gauge measuring the performance of casino companies with operations in Macau versus Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng Index broke above its 200-day moving average for the first time in 3 1/2 years. When that last happened, gaming stocks embarked on a 162 percent rally. Shares of Sands China Ltd.,

Wynn Macau Ltd., Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd., SJM Holdings Ltd. and MGM China Holdings Ltd. have rebounded an average 22 percent since Jan. 21 as gaming revenue stabilized and earnings turned out better than expected.

Casino shares were battered in the past two years, falling as much as 75 percent, as China's slowing economy and anti-corruption policies weighed on earnings. A decline in the yuan also eroded mainland visitors'

**■ ■**  
**If the yuan and Chinese economy stabilize there's money making opportunity in Macau.**

RAHUL CHADHA

purchasing power, adding to concern Chinese tourist spending will dry up.

"Overall gaming numbers are bottoming," said Rahul Chadha, co-chief investment officer at Mirae Asset Global Investments, which oversees about USD75 billion. "If the yuan and Chinese economy stabilize there's money making opportunity in Macau. Macau went through a lot of pain over the last 12 to 18 months."

When the ratio of Macau gaming stocks and the Hang Seng

## corporate bits

### MERCEDES-BENZ HK INTRODUCES NEW COUPÉ MODEL



Mercedes-Benz is adding a Coupé to its C-Class family, which the Daimler AG's subsidiary, Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong will introduce to the Macau market.

The company says that the Coupé offers "a new take on modern luxury: sportiness without compromising on com-

fort and exquisite style."

It comes with a choice of three petrol engines from two-litre C 200 and C 250 models and the C 300. With an acceleration of 0 to 100 kilometers per hour in 3.9 seconds. Mercedes-Benz says that it is one of the quickest sport Coupés in Mercedes-AMG history.

### ETIHAD AIRWAYS TAKES HOME AIRLINE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Abu Dhabi-based national airline, Etihad Airways, was presented with the Airline of the Year 2016 award on Monday night by aviation industry publication Air Transport World (ATW). The accolade acknowledged Etihad Airways' strong executive leadership team in developing a profitable strategy or organic growth and their history of introducing innovative new products and services.

The editorial board opted for Etihad Airways as the top honor in a highly contested competition with entries from more than 100 airlines around the world. To earn the award, ATW said an airline must demonstrate exceptional achievements and capabilities across its operations, strong financial performance, customer service, and safety and employee relations.



### LOUIS XIII ANNOUNCES CNY BONUS UP TO 2 MONTHS' SALARY

Louis XIII Holdings Ltd announced a Chinese New Year bonus for all team members equivalent to up to two months' salary. The bonus was paid to general staff who have been with the company for the entire 2015 calendar year, while a pro rata bonus was paid to those employees who had joined the company during the year.

According to a press release, the bonus was issued in recognition of the team's effort and contribution to the development of the company's "ultra-luxury hotel," slated to open in Macau later this year.

"This bonus reflects our recognition and apprecia-



tion of the diligent, productive work of Louis XIII's team members," said Walt Power, CEO of Louis XIII.



MARKETS

# World stocks rise again on stimulus hopes, yuan's gain

**W**ORLD stock markets were mostly higher yesterday as a strengthening yuan and hopes for more central bank stimulus gave investors relief from the mauling that markets have suffered so far this year.

**KEEPING SCORE:** European stocks were higher in early trading. France's CAC 40 climbed 0.4 percent to 4,131.18 and Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.2 percent to 5,831.64. Germany's DAX dipped 0.3 percent to 9,181.45. U.S. benchmarks were poised to open sharply higher after a long weekend. Dow futures rallied 1.5 percent to 16,148.00 and broader S&P 500 futures jumped 1.5 percent to 1,886.40.

**STIMULUS HOPES:** Investor sentiment remained positive that central banks would continue to ease monetary policy thanks to comments from the head of the European Central



Bank. With the ECB set to discuss policy measures on March 10, Mario Draghi told the European Parliament on Monday that the bank has a range of instruments it can deploy if it decides more stimulus is needed. Earlier, a disappointing report on Japanese economic growth also raised hopes for more policy easing.

**RENMINBI RELIEF:** China's strengthening currency also helped boost sentiment. The yuan hovered near its strongest level so far this year a day after the central bank guided the currency, also known as the renminbi, sharply higher. Previous weakness in the yuan triggered worries the Chinese economy was in worse shape

than thought. Meanwhile, new yuan loans jumped 71 percent in January, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday, suggesting solid demand in the world's No. 2 economy.

**ANALYST'S TAKE:** "Since the start of January everything went south and we really needed some positive news," said Jackson Wong, associate direc-

tor at Huarong International Securities. "Factors that were affecting the markets negatively have turned positive now: the yen is weaker, the renminbi is stronger, global markets like the U.S. are stabilizing. All the negative catalysts from January are turning better."

**ASIA'S DAY:** Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.2 percent to close at 16,054.43 after soaring 7.2 percent the day before, which was its biggest daily gain since September. South Korea's Kospi rose 1.4 percent to 1,888.30 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 1.1 percent to 19,122.08. The Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China surged 3.3 percent to 2,836.57 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was up 1.4 percent to 4,910.00. Benchmarks in Taiwan and most of Southeast Asia also rose.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude rose USD1.28, or 4.4 percent, to \$30.72 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$3.23 to settle at \$29.44 a barrel on Friday. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, added \$1.38 to \$34.77 a barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar eased to 114.06 yen from 114.54 yen in Monday's trading. The euro edged up to \$1.1174 from \$1.1168. **AP**

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# Airbus chief brushes off downturn fears

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

**T**HE chief executive of Airbus said yesterday that growth in airline passengers in Asia is likely to remain strong despite the current uncertainty about global economic growth prospects.

Speaking at the Singapore Airshow, Fabrice Bregier said that Airbus and its competitors are not facing a downturn in orders from airlines. Stock markets and oil have slumped since the beginning of the year, in a sign of investor anxiety about the health of the world economy.

"I think it is simple and it is clear that there are tensions around the world. And so people try to project themselves into the future and impact on air traffic," he said. "As a matter of fact, we don't see it, our competitors don't see it, our customers don't see it. We've never been so healthy."

The company forecasts demand for 12,810 new airplanes



in the Asia-Pacific area, valued at USD2 trillion over the next 20 years. That represents 40 percent of forecast global demand for about 32,600 airplanes over the same period.

Passenger numbers in Asia are expected by Airbus to grow by 5.6 percent annually, with China forecast to post double digit growth.

Bregier was presenting the manufacturer's latest outlook on the first day of the Singapo-

re Airshow, which ends Feb. 21. More than 1,000 companies, including Airbus and Boeing are participants. The previous show in 2014 generated deals worth \$32 billion.

John Leahy, an Airbus chief operating officer, said the manufacturer was not seeing any deferrals of jet orders in the region, whose middle class is driving growth in the airline industry.

"They fly for business, they

have disposable income, they fly for pleasure, and they are the ones who are sitting in the seats of airliners around the world," he said. "There's a growing middle class in China. The middle class in Asia Pacific will be driving the world going forward."

Airbus adjusted its 2015 numbers, saying it had 1,080 net orders compared with the previously announced 1,036. It has a backlog of 6,831 orders worth \$1 trillion at list prices, though customers usually negotiate discounts.

Boeing said Monday that it had no deferrals in Asia and forecasts demand for 3,750 new airplanes in Southeast Asia alone, valued at \$550 billion over the next 20 years. Of the forecast demand, 76 percent will be for single-aisle aircraft such as the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320. AP

# Volkswagen sales show biggest contraction since scandal

**T**HE marquee Volkswagen (VW) brand saw its biggest sales contraction in January since the German carmaker was engulfed in its diesel emissions scandal.

The European carmaker's association ACEA reported that sales of Volkswagen brand cars dropped 3.8 percent compared with a year earlier, putting a drag on deliveries for the group, which also includes the Audi, Porsche, Seat and Skoda brands. VW group sales grew by just 0.8 percent, seriously lagging a European market that grew 6.2 percent for the 29th straight month of expansion.

ACEA said January sales topping one million cars were "encouraging for the near future, as the upward market trend remains stable."

Mass-market automakers Fiat Chrysler, Ford and Opel posted double-digit gains. Premium manufacturers BMW and Daimler grew by 4 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively.

## 12,810

Airbus demand forecast for new airplanes in the Asia-Pacific area over the next 20 years

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## Angola and Mozambique facilitate granting ordinary visas

**A**NGOLA and Mozambique agreed on the introduction of facilities to grant visas for ordinary passports of citizens of the two countries, in a document signed this week in Maputo.

The Interior Minister of Mozambique, Jaime Basílio Monteiro, said the agreement was in line with one of the fundamental objectives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to encourage the development of policies aimed at the progressive elimination of obstacles to the free movement between member states.

The Interior Minister of Angola, Ângelo Veiga Tavares, said in turn that the ratified agreement would allow the intensification of bilateral relations, particularly on the part of entrepreneurs. "Our wish is for businesspeople to have no more difficulties in transactions that involve both countries," said the minister, adding that the two governments were making efforts to increase the level of cooperation on security.

Initially the negotiations for the introduction of facilities in granting visas will cover multiple visas valid for 90 days.

Preparations are underway, however, for visas to be abolished between Angola and Mozambique, and a technical committee has been set up to monitor and assess the agreement that has just been signed. **MDT/Macauhub**

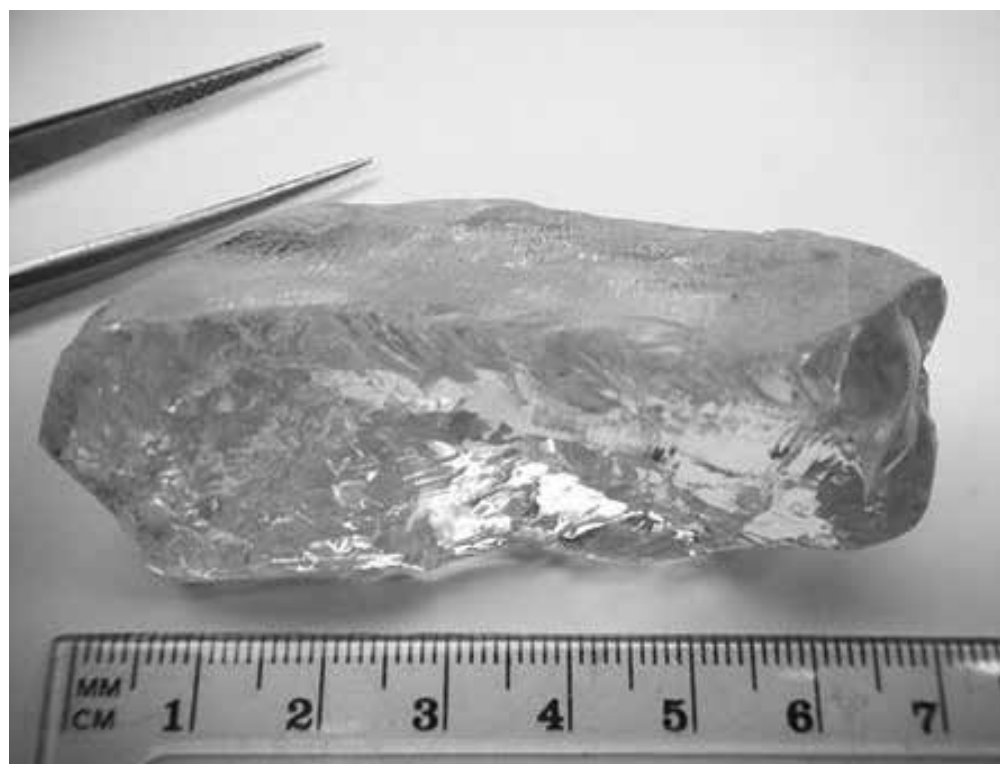
## Australian company discovers largest ever Angolan diamond

**A**USTRALIA'S Lucapa Diamond Company has discovered a 404-carat diamond (80.8 grams) in Angola, the largest ever found in the country and the 27th globally, the company said in a statement released earlier this week.

Stephen Wetherall, CEO of the company, noted the special nature that the Lulo diamond concession had for the Lucapa Diamond Company, adding that "this discovery, in addition to other diamonds of more than 100 carats found, is the biggest proof of that."

The previous record belonged to a diamond with 217.4 carats (43.48 grams), discovered in 2007 and which was named "Star of Angola".

The largest diamond ever discovered, "Cullinan", was 3,106 carats (621.2 grams) and was found in South Africa in 1905 and was later embedded in the



royal sceptre of the British Crown.

The Lucapa Diamond Company's Angolan partners in this project are state company Empresa

Nacional de Angola Diamonds (Endiama) and private group Rosas & Pétales.

The Lulo concession area is 150 kilometres from the Catoca diamond mine,

which has the largest kimberlite in Angola and the fourth largest in the world, both of which are located in the same geological area. **MDT/Macauhub**

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## opinion

## Views on China

Mac Margolis, Bloomberg

## CHINESE THIRST FOR WINE HAS CHILE RAISING A GLASS

Between a sharp economic downturn and corruption scandals, Chileans haven't had a lot to celebrate lately. So when Chilean authorities announced that China had become the country's biggest buyer of fine wines, it was welcome news indeed.

The national department of agriculture recently reported that Chile sold USD163 million in bottled fine wine to China last year, overtaking its sales to the United Kingdom and the United States. Now, that may not sound like a whopping sum; it's only a fraction of the estimated \$258 billion in global wine sales. But it means a lot to Chile, one of the so-called New World winemaking countries, which is aggressively trying to carve out its place in world markets. It's also a lesson for other Latin American nations still stuck on a Chinese-driven commodities treadmill.

China's breakneck industrial growth over the last decade drove production across the Americas, as nations rich in raw materials pumped iron ore, beef, soybeans and oil into the dragon's maw. But the commodities boom has passed, sending prices of copper, Chile's main source of export dollars, to a six-year low. Now most Latin American producers are sitting on inventory and dreaming of moving up the value chain.

That's where ambitious New World winemakers, such as Australia, South Africa and Chile, saw an opportunity. A few years back, the business media was flush with stories of newly rich Asians avid for luxury brands, and willing to pay top yuan to wash down their gourmet meals with the best of Bordeaux or Tuscany. Even now, the Chinese millionaire's dream du jour is to buy a chateau in France.

And yet as China's wealth trickled down, so did the taste for finer things. By 2012, China was drinking more than France. That's been a boon for low-end national brands; the best-known domestic label, Great Wall, may not win many blind tastings, but goes for a palate-cleansing \$5 or so a bottle.

Increasingly, however, it's the middle class that's driving China's consumer market: discerning college students and young professionals who are shopping for better but still affordable brands, something between a Petrus and plonk.

Enter Chile, a land of traditional and tech-savvy vintners, heralded for their highly regarded if lesser-known wines, and modest prices. Production is soaring, thanks to falling grape prices and a weaker peso, which makes the South American country's wine more competitive abroad. That combination has helped Chile grab market share from more august wine producers in global markets: In 2015, Chile sold more wine to Japan than France.

But the real prize is mainland China, which, despite the slow patch, is touted as the future of global wine sales. Barely 10 years ago, Chilean wines were hard to find in Beijing or Shanghai. Last year, Chile became China's fourth-largest supplier, selling 65 million bottles, a 43 percent jump in volume over 2014.

To build the brand, Wines of Chile, a fancy trade lobby, opened an office in Shanghai in 2014, and last year started a wine academy in Hong Kong that will initiate aspiring oenophiles into the secrets of wine's new world.

Arguably none of this would have been possible without Chile's other competitive advantage: free trade. Known as the most market-friendly country in Latin America, Chile has kept its borders open and avoided the sand traps of its quarrelsome neighbors in Mercosur, a South American trade union that has been dogged for years by protectionism and ideological bickering.

Chile was the first nation in Latin America to sign a free trade agreement with China. That was in 2005, and in the decade since, bilateral trade has quadrupled, reaching \$34.1 billion. A small but expanding part of that trade is Chilean wine, which thanks to the trade deal now enters China duty-free - which is something to toast.

# China turns on taps and loosens screws in bid to support growth

CHINA is stepping up support for the economy by ramping up spending and considering new measures to boost bank lending.

The nation's chief planning agency is making more money available to local governments to fund new infrastructure projects, according to people familiar with the matter. Meantime, China's cabinet has discussed lowering the minimum ratio of provisions that banks must set aside for bad loans, a move that would free up additional cash for lending.

Officials are upping their rhetoric too. Premier Li Keqiang said policy makers "still have a lot of tools in the box" to combat the slowdown in the world's No. 2 economy, days after People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan broke a long silence to talk up confidence in the nation's currency, the yuan.

And to ram the message home, the biggest economic planning agencies yesterday promised to reduce financing costs as they rein in overcapacity. Throw in a record surge in lending in January and a picture emerges of an administration determined to put a floor under growth.

"Policymakers are battling to prevent any further slowdown, which could escalate into a hard landing," said Rajiv Biswas, Asia-Pacific chief economist at IHS Global Insight in Singapore. "These additional measures will act to boost liquidity in the banking sector and increase local government spending on infrastructure development."

The nation's communist leaders are seeking to maintain economic growth of at least 6.5 percent a year through 2020 to meet their pledge of creating a "moderately prosperous society." China's annual National People's Congress meets in March, where delegates will sign off on a new five-year economic plan.

The latest measures are a clear escalation of policy support ahead of the NPC conclave, said Zhao Yang, the Hong Kong-based chief China economist at Nomura Holdings Inc.

"We see strong headwinds in the economy, and believe that the government needs more policy support to reach their growth target for this year, which is likely to be 6.5-7 percent," he said. "Every major central bank is easing as global economic growth weakens. China cannot tighten."

China grew by 6.8 percent last quarter, the slowest pace since the global financial crisis. The sluggish performance came against the backdrop of a stock-market rout and a sudden devaluation in the yuan



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (2nd R) speaks at a press conference after the closing meeting of the third session of China's 12th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

that roiled investors amid fears of further weakness.

Signs are now emerging that six interest-rate cuts by the People's Bank of China since November 2014, along with other measures to boost lending, are starting to flow through. PBOC data released yesterday showed that aggregate financing surged to 3.42 trillion yuan (USD525 billion) in January, compared with the median forecast of 2.2 trillion yuan in a Bloomberg survey.

Analysts cautioned that the jump in credit could be a signal the nation's state-run banks are being instructed to open up the lending spigots, even as authorities promise to rein in the nation's growing debt pile.

"Short-term prospects look brighter, but runaway loan growth will do nothing to ease concerns about China's over-extended banks and over-indebted corporates," Bloomberg Intelligence economists Tom Orlik and Fielding Chen wrote in a note.

In a more positive sign, companies are paying down their foreign debt. Over the past six months, corporates have shaved their dollar borrowings to USD820 billion from \$940 billion in July. Cutting back on U.S. dollar exposure brings down borrowing costs for companies in the real estate, energy and banking sectors especially, and removes risks should the yuan continue to weaken.

Instead, corporate borrowers have been turning to the domestic bond market for financing. The nation's firms sold 454.7 billion yuan of notes in January, 2.5 times the amount sold in the same month last year, as the yield on top-rated 10-year corporate notes dropped to a decade low. By contrast, they issued \$6.8 billion of dollar-denominated bonds so far this year, a decline of 42.9 percent from the

same period last year, according to Bloomberg-compiled data.

"Increased domestic corporate-bond issuance suggests corporate credit demand is there, but whether it's for cash-flow purposes or actual real economic value-added activity remains to be seen," said Donna Kwok, senior China economist at UBS Group AG.

Under the plan to juice infrastructure spending, the National Development and Reform Commission plans to offer 400 billion yuan this quarter under a special bond program so local authorities can finance infrastructure, people familiar with the matter said.

Making 400 billion yuan available in each of the next three quarters would mark a doubling in the pace of funding under the bond program. Economic planners offered 800 billion yuan in bonds last year. The NDRC unveiled the special bond program last year as part of efforts to boost spending.

For banks, the highest level of soured loans in a decade has hurt profits and cut their bad-loan coverage ratios close to the regulatory minimum. That's prompted lenders including Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. to urge regulators to ease the provisions requirement for bad loans, which would give banks more scope to lend and bolster an economy that grew last year at the slowest pace in a quarter century.

"Policy makers seem to be determined to make the economy grow above their bottom line of 6.5 percent," said Larry Hu, head of China economics at Macquarie Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong. "Although many fear the prospect of a hard landing in China this year, the big picture is that China will have another power transition in 2017. Before that, top leaders would try their best to maintain a relatively stable environment." **Bloomberg**



## 'TOMBSTONE'

# Beijing forbids Great Famine author from taking Harvard prize

Isolda Morillo, Beijing

A former journalist with China's official news agency says he has been blocked from traveling to the United States to accept a Harvard University prize for a 2008 book uncovering the devastating toll of the Great Chinese Famine of 1958-1961.

Harvard's Nieman Fellows in December awarded Yang Jisheng for "Tombstone," a 1,200-page account of the famine — which he estimated claimed at least 36 million Chinese lives — and a decades-long government effort to whitewash one of the worst man-made disasters.

Although more recent leaders have permitted, sometimes encouraged, re-evaluation of Mao-era policies, any substantial discussion of national traumas like the Great Famine can be highly sensitive. "Tombstone," for which Yang gained unprecedented access to restricted government archives, has been banned in Mainland China.

Yang said by phone yesterday that Xinhua had forbidden him to travel. He did not specify how Xinhua would prevent him from traveling or whether his pass-

port had been confiscated, but Chinese retirees often depend substantially on their former employers for benefits and pensions.

Yang successfully left the country in November because he did not inform the authorities beforehand, but "this time I gave them a heads up, that's why I can't leave," he said. He declined to comment further, saying

he was forbidden to speak to foreign media.

On that trip, the 76-year-old writer received the Stieg Larsson Prize in Stockholm, which he said he "accepted with grief."

"I grieve for the 36 million starved dead," he said in a speech. "I grieve that this human tragedy that occurred five decades ago is still being covered up, while those who uncover this human tragedy are pressured, attacked and slandered."

Aside from authoring books, Yang worked in retirement at a reform-minded history journal. He quit last year after being pressured by Xinhua party cadres, he wrote in a memo published online.

The news agency did not immediately respond to a fax requesting comment yesterday. AP



Yang Jisheng was awarded Harvard's Nieman Fellows in December for "Tombstone"

## UN rights chief raises concerns with China over crackdown

THE U.N. human rights chief says he has raised concerns with Chinese authorities over a crackdown against lawyers, advocacy groups and government critics in recent months.

Zeid Raad al-Hussein says there is a "worrying pattern" in China for civil society and notes that states have a

duty to protect lawyers, journalists and members of non-governmental organizations.

The office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a statement yesterday that police have detained about 250 human rights lawyers, legal assistants and activists since a "nationwide

crackdown" began in July, though many have since been released.

Zeid also expressed concern about recent disappearances of booksellers from Hong Kong, and noted that leading human rights lawyers Li Heping and Wang Yu are among those facing a "subversion of state power" charge.

## 2 Uighur suspects in Bangkok bombing plead innocent

TWO Uighur Muslims from China pleaded innocent yesterday to carrying out the deadly bombing of a Bangkok landmark last year, with one man's lawyer saying his client claims to have been tortured to elicit a confession.

The two men — Bilal Mohammad, 31, and Mieraili Yusufu, 27 — face eight charges related to the bombing, including conspiracy to explode bombs and commit premeditated murder. Twenty people, including 14 foreign tourists, were killed and more than 120 injured in the August attack, one of the deadliest acts of violence in Bangkok in decades.

Bilal, also known as Adem Karadag — the



Thai correctional officers escort Mieraili Yusufu (second from right) and Bilal Mohammad (second from left) from a military court in Bangkok

name on a fake Turkish passport he was carrying when he was arrested — faces two additional charges of violating immigration law by entering Thailand illegally. The defendants had refused to take a plea at an earlier court appearance because there was no Uighur translator available.

Both men told the court yesterday they were Chinese citizens of the Uighur minority, from the city of Urumqi in western China's Xinjiang region.

Thai authorities have said the bombing of the popular Erawan Shrine was revenge by a people-smuggling gang whose activities were disrupted

by a crackdown. However, some analysts suspected it might have been the work of Uighur separatists angry that Thailand in July had forcibly repatriated more than 100 Uighurs to China, where they may be persecuted. The Erawan Shrine is especially popular among Chinese tourists, and many were among the victims of the bombing.

"I couldn't say what my exact address in China is because I'm afraid of the Chinese government," Bilal told the court through a translator from Uzbekistan.

Police are hunting for another 15 suspects in the case, but no progress has been announced.

Bilal's lawyer, Chuchart Kanpai, told reporters

after the court session that his client said he had been tortured in late September, about three weeks after his arrest, to pressure him to admit that he was the person seen in surveillance video planting the bomb.

Bilal claimed his captors poured cold water into his nose, threatened to send him back to China and had a barking dog frighten him. Chuchart said he filed a complaint with the court last month over the torture allegations.

"He was tortured by officials. He didn't know if they were soldiers or police because they were non-uniformed," Chuchart told The Associated Press on Monday. "Back then, he confessed so that he wouldn't be tortured again. He

was just saying it."

The court appointed a military attorney to represent Yusufu, who said he wanted to find his own civilian lawyer, whose fees he would pay himself.

Police say the case against the two men is supported by closed-circuit television footage, witnesses, DNA matching and physical evidence, in addition to their confessions. Police believe Yusufu detonated the bomb minutes after a backpack containing the device was left at the shrine by Bilal.

The court set further hearings in the case to begin April 20.

Military courts in Thailand have handled criminal cases deemed to involve national security since a May 2014 coup. AP



# A new prize in Nevada caucuses: the Asian-American vote

Nicholas Riccardi, Las Vegas

AS Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders compete for every vote before Saturday's Nevada caucuses, they are looking for support among members of the nation's fastest-growing ethnic group. Asian-Americans comprise six percent of the U.S. population, and their numbers have increased 56 percent since 2000. In Nevada, Asian-Americans are nine percent of the population.

Asian-Americans encompass a diverse range of people, among them recent Chinese immigrants, Muslims from Pakistan, Filipino-American Catholics and U.S. citizens from Hawaii. Campaigns are paying attention.

"It's a fast-growing population, it's young, people are getting engaged," said Shu-Yen Wei, who helps with Asian-American outreach for the Democratic National Committee.

Since the 1990s, exit polls have found Asian-Americans voting increasingly Democratic during presidential elections, with 73 percent backing President Barack Obama in 2012. Analysts attributed that to Republican criticism of illegal immigration.

But in the 2014 midterm elections, Asian voters appeared to split evenly between Democrats and Republicans. Their numbers are small enough so that it's difficult to rely on polling



Cynthia Ameli (center) a Chinese-American, picks up materials from Sarah Gibson before heading out to canvass for presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Las Vegas

to determine their leanings. Analysts agree that most do not register with a political party, and they have among the lowest turnout rates of any group.

"There's a huge, unaffiliated voting bloc of Asian-Americans," said Jason Chung, the Republican National Committee's director of Asian Pacific American Initiatives. "We're working hard to grow our party and include Asian-Americans in our political process."

Nevada's Asian-American population shows why it's so hard to sum up the community's politics. It ranges from dedicated union activists to anti-abortion rights Filipino-American churchgoers, sprinkled with so many who have relocated from Hawaii that Las Vegas is often called "the ninth island."

Las Vegas financial planner Derek Uehara underscores that diversity. A registered Republican, he's sympathetic to

front-runner Donald Trump and thinks others may warm to the billionaire's businesslike approach. "That can appeal to the Asian-American community, if the focus is on hard work and getting things done," Uehara said. "There's a huge opportunity here, but no one knows how to tap into it."

Cynthia Ameli, a 57-year-old Chinese-American pharmacist, is a volunteer with the Clinton campaign. She sees the former Secretary of State as a natural fit with the Asian-American community.

"Asians are very family-oriented and want everything for their families, and I believe everything Hillary is for, is for our families," she said.

As Nevada's caucuses draw closer, there's been a surge in activity aimed at attracting Asian voters. The Sanders campaign held a "multiethnic" meeting Sunday that included Asian-American community leaders. But all agree the Clinton campaign, with a robust staff in the state for months, has had the most sustained outreach with a series of Asian-American themed events: dinners celebrating a Filipino holiday, Asian-American-themed phone banks and canvasses, and more.

Clinton last month kicked off her national outreach to Asian-Americans with an event in Los Angeles' heavily Asian eastern

suburbs with Olympic figure skater Michelle Kwan. At a recent caucus training for Asian-American Democrats in Las Vegas, the Clinton campaign's national director of Asian-American and Pacific Islander outreach, Lisa Changaveja, mentioned that Clinton's longtime aide Huma Abedin and campaign finance chairman Dennis Cheng are both Asian-American.

Changaveja argued that the former secretary of state was uniquely positioned to appeal to Asian-Americans. "She's been in Thailand more than I have, and my mother lives in Thailand," Changaveja quipped.

At the caucus training in Las Vegas, the Sanders campaign countered with an organizer who played a song about the Vermont senator on his ukulele, and a casino worker who is saddled with student debt and enthusiastic about the senator's free college plan. They contend Asian-Americans will embrace Sanders.

"Asian-Americans, as they're getting to know Sanders, they're gravitating toward the campaign," said Zaffar Iqbal, a physician who lives in Las Vegas and was drawn to Sanders by his call for a government-financed health care system. "This community has pretty much the same issues as any other community."

The attention is thrilling for a group often overshadowed by Latino and African-American voters. Normally in Nevada, Asian-Americans "are the last to get any benefit," said longtime activist Rozita Lee, 81. "We matter now, because we have the numbers." AP

## USA-ASEAN

# Obama wraps up summit with Southeast Asian leaders

PRESIDENT Barack Obama and leaders of Southeast Asian nations are wrapping up a two-day summit conceived to show U.S. seriousness about staying engaged and keeping a high profile in a region where a rising China has rattled American allies.

Obama and the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will spend today [Macau time] discussing regional security issues. They include counterterrorism and China's bold territorial claims to disputed waters of the South China Sea, moves that have sounded international alarms and heightened tensions with some association members.

The U.S. maintains

these disputes should be resolved peacefully according to international law, a stance Obama emphasized yesterday in welcoming leaders of ASEAN's 10-nation bloc: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

"Here at this summit, we can advance our shared vision of a regional order where international rules and norms, including freedom of navigation, are upheld and where disputes are resolved through peaceful, legal means," Obama said, opening the first ASEAN-only summit held in the U.S.

Obama was closing the summit with a news conference before returning

to Washington.

China says it has a historical right to virtually all of the South China Sea and has built seven artificial islands, including with airstrips, to assert its sovereignty. Taiwan and ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines also claim land features in these potentially resource-rich international shipping lanes.

Though not a claimant, the U.S. has spoken out against China's conduct and has angered Beijing by sailing Navy ships near some of the artificial islands in a show of support for its allies. The U.S. has argued for the maritime rights issue to be resolved peacefully and is looking for ASEAN to take a uni-



President Barack Obama (center) speaks at the plenary session meeting of ASEAN, the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations, at the Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands in California

fied stance and call for the disputes to be resolved based on international law. But unity could be hard to come by; ASEAN has avoided criticizing China by name in joint statements issued at past summits.

The diverse group of countries includes governments aligned ei-

ther with Washington or Beijing. Only four of its members are embroiled in disputes with China and Taiwan, leading to sometimes conflicting views on how to handle long-simmering rifts.

Summit statements in recent years 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.

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 refused to participate, but an arbitration tribunal based in The Hague heard the case and is expected to rule this year.

Susan Rice, Obama's national security adviser, said that negotiations were continuing on a potential joint statement that would cover various topics and not focus primarily on the South China Sea. AP



Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

# South Korea's president warns of North's collapse

**S**OUTH Korea's president warned yesterday that rival North Korea faces collapse if it doesn't abandon its nuclear bomb program, an unusually strong broadside that will likely infuriate Pyongyang.

President Park Geun-hye, in a nationally televised parliamentary address defending her decision to shut down a jointly run factory park in North Korea, said South Korea will take unspecified "stronger and more effective" measures to make North Korea realize its nuclear ambitions will result only in speeding up of its "regime collapse."

Park shut the park in response to the North's recent long-range rocket test, which Seoul and Washington see as a test of banned ballistic missile technology. North Korea last month also conducted a nuclear test. Both developments put the country further along its quest for a nuclear armed missile that could reach the U.S. mainland.

Without elaborating, Park said the North has diverted Seoul payments to North Korean workers at the factory park to the Pyongyang leadership, which is in charge of nuclear and missile development.



People watch a TV screen showing the live broadcast of South Korean President Park Geun-hye's speech, at the Seoul Railway Station

She also said the South has sent more than USD3 billion in government and civilian aid to the North since the mid-1990s.

South Korea's main liberal opposition party has criticized the government's decision to

suspend operations at Kaesong, saying the measure will only deepen tension with North Korea and raise more fear among South Koreans. Liberal lawmakers also said the Kaesong shutdown isn't effective

because North Korea maintains economic ties with China and Russia.

It is unusual for a top South Korean official to touch upon such a government collapse in North Korea because of worries about how sensitive North Korea is to talk of its authoritarian government losing power. Pyongyang has long accused Washington and Seoul of agitating for its collapse.

Park's comments are certain to anger North Korea as they were made as the country marks the birthday of late dictator Kim Jong Il, the father of current leader Kim Jong Un.

Seoul officials said North Korea was able to divert the Kaesong payments because the workers there were not paid directly. Instead, U.S. dollars were paid to the North Korean government, which siphoned off most of the money and paid only what it wanted to the employees in North Korean currency and store vouchers, ac-

cording to a statement from Seoul's Unification Ministry on Sunday.

The ministry did not detail how it arrived at that conclusion. North Korea has previously dismissed such views.

Earlier this month, North Korea ignored repeated international warnings and launched what it said was an Earth observation satellite aboard a rocket. Washington, Seoul and others view the launch as a prohibited test of missile technology and are pushing hard to have Pyongyang slapped with strong sanctions.

The launch, which followed the North's fourth nuclear test last month, aggravated already-strained ties between the rival Koreas. Last week, Pyongyang expelled all South Korean workers from the jointly run factory park in the North and put the area in charge of the military in retaliation for Seoul's decision to suspend operations there. **AP**

AD

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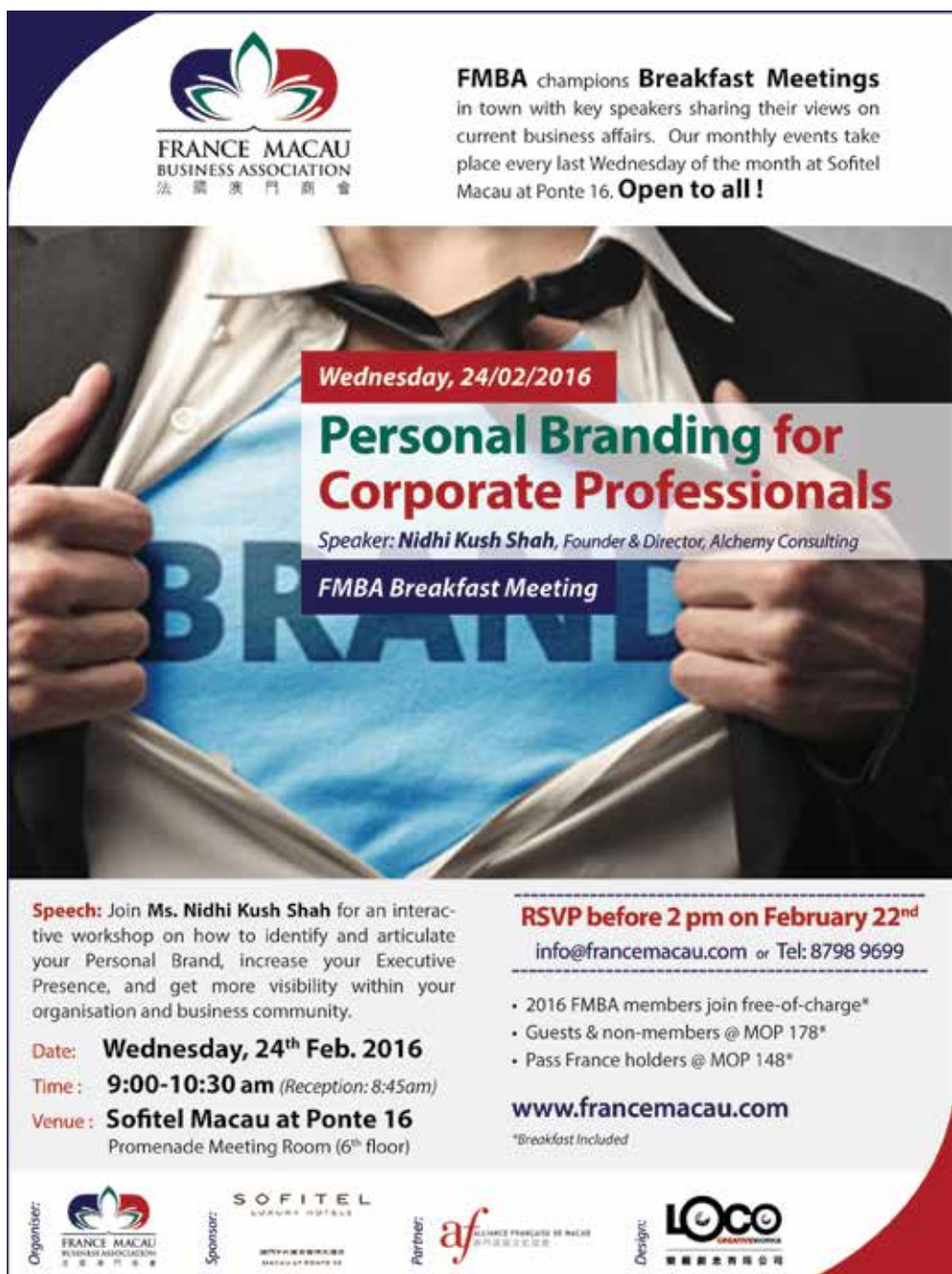
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George Jahn, Sopron

**T**HE Hungarian city of Sopron, population 50,000, boasts an abundance of beauty shops and 200 dentists — one for every 250 residents. Most businesses don't target the locals, though; they're looking at the Austrians streaming across the nearby border to shop for bargains.

Such cross-border traffic could soon suffer, as the European Union considers re-introducing border controls for up to two years between some of the 26 nations in the Schengen passport-free area to deal with the migrant crisis.

If the border controls return, "we might as well close shop," says seamstress Eva Grubics. "Austrians make up 80 percent of our business."

In Luxembourg, a thousand kilometers to the west, Schengen Mayor Ben Homan also has reason to hope the free-border agreement will remain in place. Its signing there in 1985 heralded a new era of passport-free travel, speedy transport and expanded commerce over much of a continent that had before been a patchwork of borders against hostile neighbors, competitive business and competing ideological blocs.

With locals' vineyards situated both in Germany and France just a few minutes' walk away, residents of his "little town of wine-makers" are more conscious than most of the agreement's advantages, says Homan.

Since the signing, thousands of businesses big and small have flourished on the guarantee of free travel. EU statistics show people making 1.3 billion crossings over the union's internal borders each year, while 57 million trucks transport goods worth hundreds of billions over those same boundaries annually. The free passage has also allowed some 1.7 million people to live in one country and commute to work in another.

Cities such as Malmo in southern Sweden and the Danish capital Copenhagen have in effect fused, reflecting how the EU has turned from a community of nations separated by borders to one of regions. But in the wake of the refugee crisis, the whole idea of open EU borders has been called into question.

Each country in the zone is allowed to unilaterally put up border controls for a maximum of six months. France did so after the Nov. 13 terror attack, and following the influx of more than one million migrants into Europe last year, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Norway have done the same. Now, policymakers are poised to invoke an emergency provision that allows for an exten-

AP PHOTO



The Schengen passport-free area is at stake with the migrant crisis

## MIGRANT CRISIS

# Businesses, workers EU-wide brace for Schengen suspension

sion of such controls for up to two years, citing Greek problems in properly protecting the bloc's external borders from the flow of migrants fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Asia or Africa.

That could open the gates to broader border restrictions. EU Council President Donald Tusk has described the outcome of the debate as "decisive ... for the future of the EU." EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, meanwhile, has warned of a collapse of the Schengen zone's domestic market.

But even if full disintegration of border-free travel among the 26 does not seem imminent, some governments already are bracing for the possibility. Under such a scenario, a French government study sees an eight percent reduction in economic activity in the zone over the next decade amounting to 110 billion euros—nearly USD124 billion.

Alexander Klacska, whose Austrian company runs more than 500 tanker trucks across Europe, cites a study based on three hours of waiting time for trucks a day on Austria's borders to and from its seven neighbors. He says the extra costs per day would total nearly 8.5 million euros (over \$9.5 million) for truckers doing business in and out of the country.

A suspension of Schengen

would mean "massive limitations for our company," he says. "We're very interconnected with Germany, with Slovakia, with Italy, all places where whole economic regions have grown together — where borders have disappeared."

■ Since the signing [of the Schengen treaty], thousands of businesses big and small have flourished on the guarantee of free travel

As he picks up his highway toll sticker for Hungary on the Austrian border, Dutch trucker Jack van der Veen recalls how he once waited for over two hours at the French port city of Calais for clearance to enter non-Schengen member Britain through the tunnel beneath the English channel. He describes the tough inspections there, where migrants try to sneak onto trucks bound for Britain, as the worst-case scenario that

could potentially mean truckers are "stuck all day" waiting.

International transport could also suffer in other ways. German railway chief Ruediger Grube has warned that "if borders are closed, the railway will have to discontinue direct connections to foreign countries."

"The checks and delays that would then be incurred would not be sustainable," he told German tabloid Bild Zeitung.

Grube's Austrian counterpart, Gerhard Kern, is more optimistic.

"No one should be anticipating that Europe will again be divided into separate parts," he says. "This would result in such a destruction of prosperity that we should all keep a cool head and find [other] solutions."

Worries are more palpable among those who would be most hurt.

Grubics, the Hungarian seamstress, is set up in a shopping mall in Sopron built as border controls between Hungary and Austria ended as part of the Schengen regime. The mall is strategically placed just five minutes away from the Austrian border by car, and an hour's drive from Vienna.

Thousands of Austrians come for the day and leave with new dental work, manicures and hair-dos for less than half of what they would pay at home. Others come for a schnitzel at bargain prices, or stay longer

for plastic surgery.

"Our Austrian customers are immensely important to our survival," says Grubics, looking up from the seam of a blouse that she is working on for an Austrian client.

Her face clouds when asked about a Schengen suspension and the worst-case situation of frequently blocked borders. "That would mean a lot of things would shut down here, and a lot of unemployment — a huge setback for our town."

Across the border but just a few kilometers away, gas station attendant Timea Meszaros is also unhappy at the prospect. One of the nearly 70,000 Hungarians who work in Austria, she gets up at 3:30 a.m. and drives between 15 and 20 minutes from Sopron to make her early shift.

As controls were imposed at the height of the refugee crisis last summer, that trip took nearly two hours. She estimates that even at night, she would have to give herself an extra hour to arrive on time should checks, now on Austria's border with Slovenia, also be reintroduced on the Austrian-Hungarian border.

But with her income in Austria nearly double what she would make at home, she has few choices.

"I'd continue working here," Meszaros says. **AP**



## what's ON



## I HAND-MADE, THEREFORE I AM

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm

(Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: February 28, 2016

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

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## ONE CENTURY OF AUSTRIAN ART 1860-1960

TIME: 10am-7pm

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

UNTIL: April 3, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Adult MOP5

(Free admission on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## "PRINT" - ART PROJECT

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 21, 2016

VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel

Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

## INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY

- PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUERLOT

TIME: 10am-7pm

(No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 19, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)

VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House,

Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

## THE MAGNIFICENT PALACE - IMPERIAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY

TIME: 10am-7pm

(No admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 13, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 7588

## Offbeat

## VIETNAM SUSPENDS 4 GUARDS AFTER INMATE BECOMES PREGNANT

Four prison guards in northern Vietnam have been suspended for alleged negligence after a female inmate, on death row for drug trafficking, became pregnant, which means her death sentence will be commuted to life in prison once her child is born, state media reported yesterday.

The Thanh Nien newspaper said Nguyen Thi Hue, 42, was arrested in 2012 for drug trafficking and sentenced to death in 2014. A court rejected her appeal the same year.

The paper reported that while in prison Hue paid USD2,300 to a male inmate to help her get pregnant.

It said the 27 year-old male inmate twice put his sperm in a plastic bag with a syringe in a mutually agreed place and Hue inseminated herself. She became pregnant and is expected to give birth in about two months. Under Vietnamese law, Hue will have her death sentence commuted to life imprisonment for having a child under 3 years of age.

Police in Quang Ninh province were not available for comment yesterday.

In 2007, two prison guards in northern province of Hoa Binh were sentenced for up to five years in prison for abuse of power for allowing a female inmate to get pregnant with a male inmate.

## TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:30	Castle S.5
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Entreview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Os Resistantes - Macau Portraits
21:05	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Documentary Serie
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	The Resistantes - Macau Portraits
23:35	Champions League Highlights
23:50	UEFA Champions League 2015/2016: Benfica - Zenit St. Petersburg (Rep)

## 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, Jessica 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 Cheang

Starring: Aaron Kwok, Gong Li, Feng Shaofeng

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 120min

## MACAU TOWER

04 FEB - 02 MAR

## THE GOOD DINOSAUR

ROOM 3

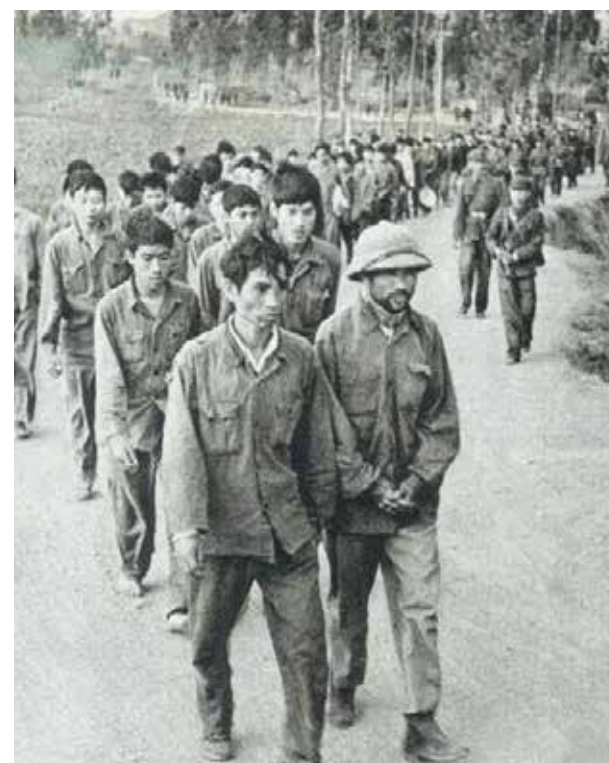
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Peter Sohn

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 93min

## this day in history



## 1979 CHINA INVADES VIETNAM

China has sent hundreds of troops into Vietnam after weeks of tension and a military build-up along the border.

Vietnamese Vice-Foreign Minister Nguyen Ko Tach has told ambassadors in Hanoi the Chinese troops have occupied nearly all Vietnamese border positions and are advancing southwards.

He did not give any idea of casualties or whether he would be calling on the assistance of the Soviet Union.

Vietnam and the USSR signed an alliance last year, but military analysts think it unlikely the nine Russian ships in Indochinese waters would be of much value in a land campaign.

An official statement from China has expressed a willingness to negotiate peace "after counter-attacking the Vietnamese aggressors as they deserve."

The assault follows months of exchanges between Chinese and Vietnamese authorities about illegal occupation of the ill-defined frontier territory.

Foreign observers have reported a quadrupling of the Chinese force there, numbering up to 150,000 troops and 300 aircraft, in the past three weeks.

Vietnam appears to have fewer soldiers as up to 100,000 of their troops are currently serving in Cambodia and another 25,000 are in Laos.

The Chinese Government in Peking (later Beijing) claimed the Vietnamese had made over 700 armed incursions into China and killed or wounded over 300 Chinese soldiers and civilians over the last six months.

The official Chinese Hsinhua News Agency said: "We do not want a single inch of Vietnamese territory. All we want is a peaceful and stable border."

Chinese vice-premier Deng Xiaoping has also threatened the Vietnamese Government in Hanoi with "punishment" for its engagement in Cambodia.

Hostilities between Hanoi and the Chinese-backed Cambodian Government broke out last year and culminated in the Vietnamese invasion on Christmas Day and collapse of Pol Pot's regime.

Vietnam has appealed to the United Nations and has not cut off diplomatic relations with China.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The next day Radio Hanoi reported the strategic border towns of Lao Cai and Mon Cai had fallen to the Chinese, along with smaller townships.

The broadcast suggested Vietnam had left much of the fighting to local militias rather than professional soldiers.

The only support offered by the USSR was strong verbal condemnation.

China's invasion prompted British MPs to lobby the Labour Government to reconsider its decision to supply China with Harrier jump jets.

The Chinese continued their invasion until early March, taking several major towns.

The invasion led to many more Vietnamese refugee "boat people".

The Chinese Army's withdrawal was completed by 16 March. Vietnamese troops stayed in Cambodia until 1989.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You have to direct your attention outward today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Take in a show of some kind - music, art, performance or whatever floats your boat...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to deal with the little errands and tasks that have piled up lately...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You get a bit of good news today - and it may bring a friend! It seems that good things come in pairs...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It's budget time again! You may not relish it, but the effects are hard to deny...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your organizational skills are unparalleled, and today brings an opportunity for you to step up and really make a difference!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Life is a little overwhelming today, but not so bad that you need to stay in bed...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your friends are worth their weight in gold today - so let them know! At least one of them needs a lift...

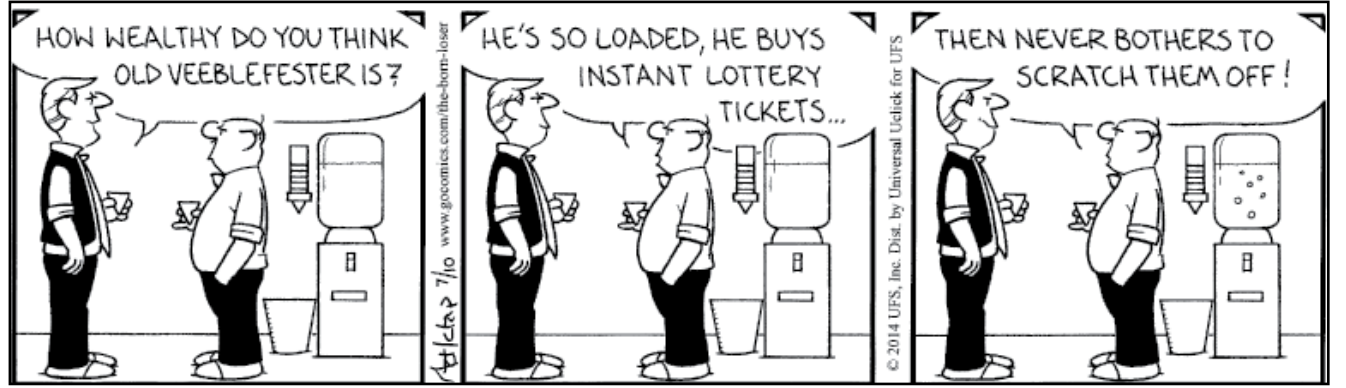
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Try not to get too far ahead of yourself - things are changing too quickly for even you to catch up!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to learn a few new tricks today - otherwise, you're likely to fall behind. Your brain is still quite energized...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're feeling more down to earth today, which may come as a relief. It's a good time for you to check in with friends or family members...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's all too easy to project your feelings onto other people today, so try your best not to assume too much about why people do whatever they do...

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.

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DOWN: 1- \_\_\_ Valley, Calif.; 2- Spot on the tube; 3- Fury; 4- Getting \_\_\_ years (aging); 5- Deli meat; 6- Cancels a dele; 7- Ethereal; 8- Dernier \_\_\_; 9- Indonesian volcano; 10- Salty; 11- Pool stroke; 12- French farewell; 13- \_\_\_ is human...; 18- Work the soil; 22- Draft org.; 24- "Inferno" writer; 25- Top-drawer; 26- Winter fall; 27- Head of France; 28- Inexperienced; 29- \_\_\_ Rica; 31- Trio; 32- Broadcasts; 33- Bad mood; 34- Matures, as wine; 36- Attention; 37- Turn; 38- Narc's employer; 42- Past; 43- New Guinea native; 44- Young male horse; 45- Game of chance; 46- Confrontation; 47- Steamed; 48- Groups of animals; 50- Undesirable plant; 51- Actress Talbot; 52- Party to; 53- Pontiac muscle cars; 54- Jekyll's alter ego; 57- Geom. point;



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Teresa Cerojano, Manila

## BOXING

**B**OXING star and Philippine Senate candidate Manny Pacquiao apologized yesterday for denouncing people in gay relationships as "worse than animals" but said he stood by his opposition to same-sex marriage.

Fellow Filipino celebrities were among those criticizing his remarks, made when a TV network asked candidates about their views on same-sex marriage.

"It's just common sense," Pacquiao said in the remarks posted online by the TV5 network. "Have you seen any animal having male-to-male or female-to-female relations?"

Animals, he said, were better because they recognize gender differences, and "if you have male-to-male or female-to-female (relationships), then people are worse than animals."

Among those who reacted strongly was popular gay comedian and TV host Jose Marie Vical, known as Vice Ganda. Vice Ganda tweeted that lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders are humans, not animals. He said that they're not saints, but that they'll pray for the boxer, who is widely acclaimed for bringing his country honors.

Vice Ganda posted a picture of Pope Francis, suggesting that even the beloved leader of the Roman Catholic church does not condemn gays. He quoted the pope: "If a person is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?"

Danton Remoto, chairman of the LGBT group Ladlad, said Pacquiao's comments betray a shallow understanding of sexual orientation and gender

# Manny Pacquiao sorry for saying gays 'worse than animals'



Manny Pacquiao takes questions at the Asia Society in New York

identity.

"He is running for a national position and he should be a senator of everybody, not just over-the-hill boxers and straight people," Remoto said by phone, adding Pacquiao and his advisers "should bone up on LGBT issues" of the 21st century.

"Otherwise, they would be left behind in the Dark Ages, when the cavemen ruled and the numbskulls roamed the earth," Remoto said.

Singer Aiza Seguerra, a former child actress in the 1980s who is now living with another actress, blasted Pacquiao on Instagram:

"You might've done our country proud but with your statement, you just showed the whole country why we shouldn't vote for you."

"And yes, I think you are an ignorant, bigoted hypocrite," Seguerra said.

Pacquiao, 37 and a current

member of the House of Representatives, apologized in social media. "I'm sorry for hurting people by comparing homosexuals to animals," he said in a Facebook video. "Please forgive me for those I've hurt."

In an Instagram post, he said he was not condemning anyone, but was just expounding on a biblical truth and would rather obey God than obey "the desires of the flesh."

Although he has come under fire for his chronic absences in Congress, Pacquiao is campaigning for a Senate seat and voter-preference surveys show him among the strong contenders. Many believe he'll eventually take a crack at the presidency.

**[TV star] Vice Ganda tweeted that lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders are humans, not animals**

The poverty that hounded his childhood forced him to drop out of school and take on odd jobs before he embraced boxing, where he carved a legend and became one of the highest-paid sluggers by emerging as an eight-division champion. As his fortunes brightened, he returned to school and later took a special course to prepare for his role as a congressman.

He has recently declared plans to retire after his third bout with Timothy Bradley on April 9 in Las Vegas with a guaranteed USD20 million payday. **AP**

## COPA DEL REY FINAL

## Bruce Springsteen ends stadium controversy in Spain

**I**T took Bruce Springsteen to end the controversy over the Copa del Rey final in Spain.

The rock star has announced he will be playing at the Santiago Bernabeu on May 21, ruling out Real Madrid's stadium for the Copa final between Barcelona and Sevilla.

Both finalists wanted to play at the venue, the country's biggest neutral ground, but Real Madrid was yet to make it available.

The club apparently wanted to avoid the risk of seeing its biggest rival celebrating a title on its ground. Fans were not happy the last time it happened,



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring a goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match against Athletic Bilbao at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium

ned, in 1997, when Barcelona supporters rejoiced at the Bernabeu with the team's hymn buzzing

from the loudspeakers as the players lifted the Copa trophy.

Officially, Madrid had

been keeping quiet, neither opposing the final at the Bernabeu nor saying it wouldn't have a problem with it. Last year, the club said the stadium could not be used for the final between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao because renovation work was needed at the venue.

With the Bernabeu not available, the game is expected to be played at Atletico Madrid's Vicente Calderon Stadium. Another option is Valencia's Mestalla Stadium. Meetings to discuss the final are expected to take place this week.

Both Sevilla and Barcelona said they preferred to

play in a stadium with the "biggest seating capacity possible," which would generate greater revenue, and in a location that would be the most convenient for fans from both clubs. The city of Madrid makes the most sense, as it's located almost halfway between Barcelona and Sevilla. But the Vicente Calderon isn't as modern as the Bernabeu and has a capacity of only 55,000, about 30,000 less than Real Madrid's venue.

The final is almost always in a neutral venue, but last year it took place at the Camp Nou even though Barcelona was involved, and in 2013 it was

at the Bernabeu when Madrid lost to Atletico Madrid.

Sevilla coach Unai Emery recently said he "would rather play in China than at the Camp Nou" because it "would be like giving [Barcelona] another [Lionel] Messi."

The final could be moved to May 22 if Sevilla reaches the final of the Europa League on May 18. The Bernabeu still wouldn't be available in that case because of logistics issues following the Springsteen concert.

The Copa del Rey is Spain's second-most important tournament, after the Spanish league. **AP**



opinion

**Made In Macao**

Jenny Lao-Phillips



**CHEERS FOR THE LANTERN FESTIVAL**

Chinese New Year, as with any other holiday, passes in the blink of an eye. After the Lunar New Year, there used to be another important celebration, Yuen Siu 元宵, also known as the Lantern Festival, or nowadays, better known as the Chinese version of Valentine's Day. Yuen Siu Festival falls on the 15th day of the Lunar Year and although it is still being celebrated now, it hasn't been considered a very important celebration. At a certain period of time in the past, the Lantern Festival entailed up to 10 days of celebration. So, what is this Yuen Siu that was one of the most important Chinese celebrations over 1,000 years ago? And the question that I have often been asked, why is it the Chinese Valentine's Day? Was there a Saint Valentine's equivalent in Chinese legends?

There are different stories about how Yuen Siu came into being. The more widely circulated explanation was that 2000 years ago, the emperor of the Eastern Han Dynasty became a devout Buddhist, and knowing that Buddhist monks had the practice of igniting lights in their temples on the first full moon of the year, the emperor ordered lanterns lit up all over the palace and temples on the 15th of the New Year to show respect to the Buddha. This practice was soon followed by the nobles and government officials, and then spread all over China. Another legend says that the day originally celebrated the victory of the Lao family (the royal family of Emperor Lao) during the Han Dynasty over corrupted officials who were relatives of the Empress Loi. The whole kingdom was to ignite their lanterns and burn fire crackers to celebrate the victory.

Then there is the story about a maid in the emperor's palace during the Han Dynasty, named Yuen Siu, who tried to commit suicide because she missed her family. So a very clever official of the emperor came up with a plan to help her. He dressed up as a fortune teller in town and gave everyone the same fortune, that the whole town would be burnt to death. The people's worry reached the emperor who sought the official's advice. He claimed that the fire god was angry with the town, and to please the god, on the 15th day of the Lunar Year, the emperor should open up the gate of the palace and invite everyone into town to join together to offer dumplings, which was the fire god's favorite food, igniting lanterns and burning fire crackers to appease the fire god. All that was just a way to get Yuen Siu's family into the palace so they could meet.

My favorite story of the Yuen Siu Festival was that a villager, while appreciating the full moon on the 15th day of the Lunar Year, saw 17 illuminated fairies dancing in the sky. Though I am quite sure he was drunk, villagers at that time believed that to be good omen. So, when the illuminated fairies didn't appear the next year, they lit up lanterns in place of the fairies to replicate the good omen.

After a few hundred years, no matter how Yuen Siu Festival started, it became a celebration that lasted for days. Young men would invite ladies they were courting to appreciate the full moon and light lanterns together, and that was how the Lantern Festival became Chinese Valentine's Day.

While there was a Saint Valentine in the West whose love brought about the celebration of Valentine's Day on February 14, we have a drunken guy who thought he saw Tinkerbells and thus the Yuen Siu Festival. So, look up to the moon and see if you can see illuminated fairies this Chinese Valentine's Day. And if you don't, drink till you do, for it is a good omen!

**THE ACTOR STABBED TO DEATH WITH SWORD AT JAPANESE PLAY REHEARSAL**

An actor was fatally stabbed with a real or mock samurai sword while rehearsing a play at a Tokyo studio, and police are investigating whether his death was criminal or accidental. Media reports indicated several actors were performing an action scene when the man was stabbed Monday, and no one saw what exactly happened.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK reported yesterday that the other actors saw Daigo Kashino hunched over, wounded in the abdomen, when they turned around after hearing him groan.

Kashino, 33, was an actor with the theater group in downtown Tokyo. He was rushed to a hospital but died hours later, police said.

**Grammys featured nearly as many tributes as new music**

David Bauder, AP Entertainment Writer

**KENDRICK** Lamar, Taylor Swift and Alabama Shakes were the biggest winners at a Grammy Awards ceremony that, due to the recent deaths of some seminal stars, felt as much a tribute to music's past as its present.

The ceremony included performances honoring David Bowie, Glenn Frey, B.B. King, Maurice White of Earth, Wind & Fire and Lemmy Kilmister of Motorhead, along with an extended clip of Natalie Cole. All died within the past year.

Lamar scored five Grammys for his breakthrough album "To Pimp a Butterfly," the night's biggest haul. But he was shut out of Grammy's Big Four. Swift won top album for "1989," Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars earned top record for "Uptown Funk," Ed Sheeran won song of the year for "Thinking Out Loud" and Meghan Trainor was named best new artist.

Besides his five Grammys, Lamar had one of the night's most intense, riveting performances. A week after Beyonce's Super Bowl show saluted the black power

movement, Lamar opened his "The Blacker the Berry" performance in chains, dressed in a prison uniform along with several dancers. A fire burned behind him as he rapped "Alright," and a backdrop included a map of Africa with the California city "Compton" written on it.

Actor Don Cheadle noted that Lamar's disc "daringly incorporated jazz, funk, soul and pure poetry into a hip-hop masterpiece." He earned a shoutout from President Barack Obama's White House twitter feed.

He won best rap album, rap performance, rap song, rap/sung performance and music video. But his disappearance from CBS' broadcast after the first hour is sure to renew debate over Grammy voters' attitudes toward rap.

"Each of the categories has its own flavor and its own experts who are in the academy who have a particular passion and knowledge about it," said Neil Portnow, recording academy president, adding that the largest number of academy members vote in the big categories.

Taylor Swift's show-opening performance of "Out of the Woods" was

marred by sound problems of the sort that later bedeviled Adele and Alice Cooper. Yet her album of the year win — the second of her career in that category — was a particularly timely triumph.

She addressed fellow women artists in her acceptance speech.

"There are going to be people along the way who try to undercut your success or take credit for your accomplishments or your fame," she said. She urged others not to be sidetracked by the naysayers and know that when they succeed, it will be the people who loved you who put you there.

The clear but unspoken reference was to Kanye West, who several years ago grabbed a microphone from Swift at the MTV Video Music Awards and last week released a song with a crude comment about her and suggestion that he made her famous.

Swift's "1989" also won best pop vocal album, and she won a video award for "Bad Blood."

Other multiple Grammy winners yesterday [Macau time] included The Weeknd, Skrillex and Diplo, Chris Stapleton, Little Big Town and Jason Isbell.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**RUSSIA** An explosion of natural gas in a five-story apartment building in a central Russian city has killed at least six people, including two children, and injured nine others, the emergency services said. The explosion in Yaroslavl, a city 250 kilometers northeast of Moscow, destroyed five apartments and damaged 20 others in the building.

**USA** As Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders compete for every vote before Saturday's Nevada caucuses, they are looking for support among members of the nation's fastest-growing ethnic group. Asian-Americans comprise six percent of the U.S. population. *More on p12*

**USA** An Arizona man set for trial this week is believed to be the first person the U.S. government has tried on terror charges linked to the Islamic State group. Abdul Malik Abdul Kareem, 44, is accused of providing the guns used in an attack at a Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest in Texas last year.

**ZIKA** People in the Americas are already alarmed by the suspected link between the Zika epidemic and birth defects, and now frontline physicians believe a surge in Guillain-Barre paralysis cases may also be related.



**CHILE** An estimated 150,000 Adelle penguins have been wiped out on Antarctica's Cape Denison in the five years since a giant iceberg blocked their main access to food - a study recently published in the journal Antarctic Science reveals.

