



**CHIMELONG ANIMAL CARE CONCERNS**

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**Q4 REAL ESTATE SALES UP**

The volume of real estate transactions in the fourth quarter of 2015 registered growth over previous period

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**INSURGENTS FIGHT ON DESPITE ADVENT OF DEMOCRACY**

Myanmar's civil war hasn't ended, even with democracy triumphant in recent elections

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**PHILIPPINES** Four people, including a six-year-old girl, were killed in a roadside bombing in the southern Philippines by suspected Muslim insurgents who wanted to attack military reinforcements, police said yesterday. The victims were in a van in Datu Saudi Ampatuan town in Maguindanao province Tuesday night when the improvised bomb went off.



**AUSTRALIA** A Virgin Australia flight from Sydney to Los Angeles was diverted after the airline received a bomb threat that turned out to be a hoax, the airline said. The plane was forced to land in the eastern city of Brisbane yesterday after the threat was called in. Police searched the plane and determined there was no danger. The plane resumed its flight to LA.



**AUSTRALIA** The prime minister warned that resettling asylum seekers in New Zealand instead of deporting them to the Pacific atoll of Nauru could encourage more asylum seekers to try to reach Australian shores by boat. The plight of 267 asylum seekers facing deportation from Australia to Nauru will be discussed when Malcolm Turnbull meets his New Zealand counterpart John Key for annual talks in Sydney tomorrow.

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**HUMAN RESOURCES**

# Skilled expats stall, non-skilled soar 160 pct

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## China deploys missiles on disputed island

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GOOGLE MAP

## Ho: AL facing 'multiple challenges'



The Legislative Assembly's (AL) president, Ho Iat Seng (pictured), said yesterday that the parliament's projects have been facing "multiple challenges." "The constant social changes, together with historical issues inherited from the past and other problems, have contributed to the appearance of numerous interests and demands. As a result, the Legislative Assembly is facing more complex tasks," the president said at yesterday's Spring Festival lunch, organized by the AL for the local press. Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the event, Ho criticized some local public departments, commenting that some officials did not know how to apply the law. He also said that the government is taking too long to amend its proposals if the AL's committees oppose them. Hence, the 10 draft laws currently under discussion may not be approved before the summer.

## 'Pop-up Canada' event to boost Macau interest

The Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong is hosting the first "Pop-Up Canada! in Macao" event at the Grand Lapa Macau hotel between February 22 and 24. The event, modeled after the successful pop-up store concept sweeping many countries, will give the Consulate General a greater presence in Macau and offer the public the chance to take part in several events and seminars on Canada. The seminars will include talks on studying in the country, immigration to Canada, and Canadian tourism, trade and investment. The information booth will be open to interested parties on all three dates, while the seminars will be held on Tuesday, February 23.

## Zika to be recognized as infectious disease



The inclusion of Zika on the official list of infectious diseases was approved yesterday at the Legislative Assembly following the outbreak of two cases in mainland China. The Health Bureau has now enacted a series of preventative measures, including the suspension of the acceptance of blood donations from persons who have visited affected territories, unless the persons have been back in Macau and symptom-free for more than 28 days. Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said that authorities must prepare for the occurrence of imported cases of Zika in the region.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

# Skilled expats stall, while non-skilled soar 160 percent

**T**HE number of non-resident workers in Macau has risen unabatedly over the last five years, largely due to the growth of the gaming industry over the past decade.

Over the same period, the number of skilled imported workers in Macau has grown only marginally, which has been attributed to difficulties in renewing work permits for foreign workers.

According to data from the Statistics and Census (DSEC), there were around 70,000 foreign workers in mid-2010. The Public Security Police (PSP) reported up to 181,415 as of January 31, 2016, an increase of almost 160 percent in just over half a decade.

Foreign workers in Macau effectively account for just over a quarter of the territory's total population.

This growth is mostly driven by the arrival of mainland Chinese workers, who are largely involved in non-skilled labor. By late January 2016, PRC nationals accounted for approximately 63.7 percent of the imported labor workforce (115,688), while those from the Philippines (24,934), Vietnam (14,989) and Hong Kong (8,821) accounted for roughly 13.7 percent, 8.3 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively.

However, while non-skilled labor is on the rise, the proportion of imported labor that falls under the category of "professional" (skilled, qualified employees) has steadily declined proportionally from 7 percent in January 2011 to 3.68 percent in November 2015, according to DSEC.

Most foreign workers from the Americas (683), Europe (985) and Oceania (355) are involved in skilled employment.

Kam Man Ho, the PR and Communications Manager at the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, told the Times that many French nationals in the MSAR are "involved in trade and retail activities (wholesale, retail, import/export, logistics)."

Kam added that there has



A man pulls a handcart loaded with boxes along a street in Macau

been a rise in skilled foreign workers from France, due to the country's growing status as a key supplier of cosmetics, luxury goods, wine and spirits.

Howard Stribbell is the Head of School at The International School (TIS) of Macau and President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Macau; both positions keep him informed about the recruitment of workers from abroad.

"We continue to see expats coming into Macau," Stribbell told the Times. "However, we are also hearing of some expats' [applications] being declined when their work visas are due for renewal."

The exact reasons for the decline remain unclear in some instances. A representative of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) told the Times that under the law, "the importation of non-resident workers is only allowed on a temporary basis under the conditions of equal cost and efficiency when [the] local labor force is insufficient or non-existent." According to the bureau, this policy is in place to protect employment opportunities for locals.

With the unemployment rate hovering around a healthy 2 percent (the rate stood at 1.9 percent throughout the second half of 2015), local Macau residents reportedly have

**The importation of non-resident workers is only allowed on a temporary basis (...) when the local labor force is insufficient or non-existent.**

DSAL

few difficulties securing employment.

Furthermore, the growing population of wealthier and better-educated local residents (the average wage reached MOP15,000 in November) is looking at occupations in the service sector, crowding out skilled imported workers from the market.

On the government's grants of work visas to skilled foreigners, Stribbell said: "The government acknowledges that the demand for service sector workers exceeds the number of Macau

workers who are currently available. As such, it facilitates the employment of foreigners while also protecting local citizens' jobs."

"Anecdotally, it seems like the number [of expat workers] is remaining the same or slightly decreasing," he added.

In contrast, Kam Man Ho estimated that the size of Macau's French population might have doubled over the last five years, despite government figures revealing little change in the number of aggregate foreign workers from Europe, the Americas, and Oceania.

This may be a deliberate policy on the part of government agencies. A DSAL representative told the Times that the Human Resources Office "adopts a pragmatic attitude to appropriately adjusting the number of non-resident workers in response to social economic development trends."

Imported skilled workers may find it difficult to obtain long-term employment in the MSAR if the Human Resources Office someday deems the local labor market sufficiently qualified for job postings. However, with a growing number of qualified local residents, Macau's population of imported non-skilled workers is set to continue its upward trajectory. **Staff reporter**

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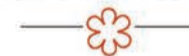
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# MGM and Polytechnic Institute celebrate first joint course for pit managers

**A**ROUND 60 students of the Foundation of Casino Management Program (FCMP), a course co-organized by MGM and the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) – Gaming Teaching and Research Center, graduated yesterday at a ceremony attended by MGM China’s CEO and executive director Grant Bowie, as well as the President of IPM, Professor Lei Heong Iok.

The course is designed to support casino pit managers through a range of training and career advancement programs. Over 260



MGM managers have completed the program since its inception in June 2015. Yesterday’s event celebrated the first graduating class’ successful completion of the course. A similar event has been planned in the near future for 60 more graduating pit managers.

“MGM is proud to offer our team members the best available training and resources so that they may reach their career aspirations and achieve greatness,” Grant Bowie said.

Addressing the graduates, Lei Heong Iok commented: “[The

Macau gaming industry has to enhance its adaptability and increase investment in diversification, as well as acquire and retain high-quality talent.”

“Together [IPM and MGM] we will strive so that when the next growth phase of the gaming industry comes you can be prepared to fly even higher with your career,” Lei added.

The graduation ceremony featured a video collage of course participants and some individual classes. Student representatives Danny Mui and Echo Chan took to the stage to share their experience of the program and what they had learned.

Students taking the course are required to complete a compulsory three-day Skills Enhancement and Development Program during normal working hours. Participants are instructed in “Theory and Common Knowledge of Table Games Management”; “Introduction to Management & Leadership and Roles”; “Responsibilities of Frontline Management”; and “Handling Conflicts & Stress Management.”

Participants must also complete a two-week theory course and a four-week shadowing program in specific roles, in order to improve customer service and skills in building rapport with management and subordinate staff. **Staff reporter**

## Making ‘a positive difference to Macau and China’

**L**EI Heong Iok and Grant Bowie have both stressed Macau’s role in contributing to the Greater China region.

“MGM, along with the other big-name [casino operators], have changed Macau [...] and if we try hard, Macau may change China,” said Lei, before adding that the territory’s future is in the hands of the gaming concessionaires.

He clarified that the industry’s contribution could extend beyond Macau to include the whole of China. However, such

change would likely be driven by local operators’ hospitality and tourism elements, rather than gaming.

“[Mainland Chinese tourists] come here to learn new things, to see new things – like world-class hotels. As I said, there are around 30 million mainland tourists coming every year,” he explained, implying that Macau can give these tourists something to take back which could “contribute” to the mainland’s development.

His sentiments were echoed by MGM China’s CEO and executive director Grant Bowie, who said, “our mission is to make a positive difference to Macau and to China.”

“That’s a very big challenge. So how do we make a difference?” Bowie questioned. “Well, we start with ourselves [...] we can turn Macau into a significant tourism destination [and contribute to China by] building a service sector here in Macau with skills [that are] transferable to China.”

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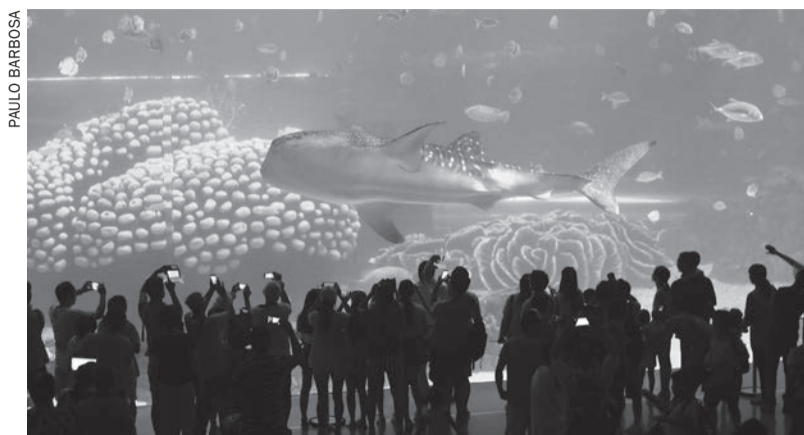
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**CHIMELONG** Ocean Kingdom, the largest of China's 39 ocean theme parks and situated just across the border from Macau, attracted 80,000 visitors in a single day last year, according to a report published by the Washington Post. However, the U.S. newspaper pointed out that China's ocean parks have drawn criticism from animal protection groups.

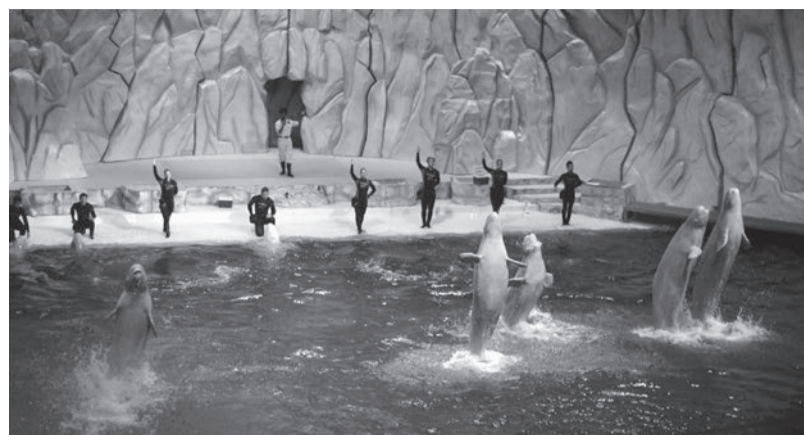
The Post paints a dim portrait of the conditions found in the neighboring region's water park: "Beluga whales nod in time to loud music, 'kiss' children or spit plumes of water toward the gasping crowd. A walrus blows a trumpet, seals catch Frisbees and dolphins propel their trainers through the water on their backs. Polar bears pace back and forth in their enclosure, heads lolling as they turn, their distress apparent. Chinese tourists crowd around display windows to snap quick close-ups on their phones," the report reads.

"Whale sharks swim in a giant aquarium beside the park's fanciest restaurant, while outside, roller-coaster rides, carousels and parades of ocean-themed floats follow the formula popularized by SeaWorld in Florida, rendered with a dash of Disney and a Chinese twist," it continues.

The largest of China's 39 ocean theme parks has 18 belugas and



The Chimelong Ocean Kingdom is located in Hengqin



REPORT

# Chimelong animal care concerns

41 bottlenose dolphins, according to a new report by the China Cetacean Alliance (CCA), a coalition of international animal protection groups. According to the report many animals in

captivity are often kept in conditions that are "inadequate to meet the complex physical and behavioral needs of cetaceans". However, the article is not wholly critical of the park, which

is allegedly "the only ocean theme park in China that provides public information about financial support for the conservation of cetaceans in their natural habitat."

Chimelong Ocean Kingdom is one of the world's largest aquariums. It opened in Hengqin in 2014 as part of a huge tourism complex that includes three hotels. **PB**

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## Macau strengthens regional ties through tourism



**T**HE Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) this week attended a preparatory work meeting in Nansha, Guangzhou to determine this year's "multi-destination" promotional activities for tourism between Macau and Nansha.

Macau and Nansha's tourism authorities will explore possible ways to boost tourism, such as by launching multi-destination tours to Macau and Nansha.

The Macau delegation discussed the joint tourism projects rolled out between the three destinations in 2015, prompting the Zhongshan Municipal Tourism Bureau to suggest a plan for regio-

nal cooperation in tourism between Zhongshan, Zhuhai and Macau in 2016. All three parties approved the plan.

The three tourism authorities will promote their shared image of "Fragrant Hill in the past: Zhongshan, Zhuhai and Macau today." They will also roll out joint promotional activities in mainland cities along the high-speed rail routes between Wuhan and Guangzhou, in order to encourage tourists to visit all three destinations in a single trip.

Moreover, authorities plan to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Chinese political leader Sun Yat-Sen.

## STATISTICS

# Q4 real estate sales up

**T**HE volume of real estate transactions in the fourth quarter of 2015 registered quarter-on-quarter growth, according to information released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The bureau attributes the growth to an increase in the number of parking space transactions; meanwhile, the total value of these transactions declined. For the whole of 2015, real estate transactions decreased year-on-year both in terms of volume and value.

Stamp duty records indicate that a total of 2,482 building units and parking spaces changed hands in the fourth quarter, up 6.8 percent quarter-on-quarter, during which time parking spaces recorded an increase of 49.8 percent. However, the total value of the transactions decreased by 11.7 percent to MOP11.04 billion. The purchase and sale of residential units totaled 1,461, of which existing residential units and pre-sale residential units dropped by 12 and 64 respectively.

The average price of residential units was MOP76,126 per square meter of usable area in the fourth quarter, down by 9.7 percent quarter-on-quarter. The average price of pre-sale residential units decreased by 9.2 percent quarter-on-quarter to MOP103,404 per square meter. The average price in Taipa dropped by 22.5 percent, while prices in Coloane and the Macau peninsula decreased by 7.2 percent and 0.6 percent respectively.

According to the data released by DSEC, many of the pre-sale residential units transacted were in Coloane (110 units), Ilha Verde (18 units) and Novos Aterros da Areia Preta (NATAP) (13 units), with an average pri-



## A total of 9,771 building units and parking spaces were transacted last year for MOP51.66b, down by 26.1 percent

ce of MOP98,217, MOP88,799 and MOP92,466 respectively per square meter.

The average price of existing residential units decreased by 7.4 percent quarter-on-quarter to MOP71,063 per square meter, with those in the Macau peninsula and Taipa dropping by 7.9 percent and 6.1 percent respectively.

Analyzed by usable floor area, there were 703 residential units with a floor area of 50 to 99.9 square meters, and amongst these the average price fell by

11 percent quarter-on-quarter to MOP75,557 per square meter. Among the 569 small-sized residential units with floor area of less than 50 square meters, the average price dropped by 3.3 percent to MOP71,561 per square meter.

Statistics from DSEC also indicate that the average price per square meter of office units (MOP101,803) and industrial units (MOP38,253) decreased by 1.1 percent and 23.8 percent respectively quarter-on-quarter.

A total of 9,771 building units and parking spaces were transacted, amounting to MOP51.66 billion in 2015, down by 26.1 percent and 38.3 percent respectively year-on-year.

The sale of residential units totaled 5,976 at MOP33.45 billion, down by 21.6 percent and 32.8 percent respectively. The number of existing residential units (4,891) and pre-sale residential units (1,085) decreased by 1,452 and 197, with the respective total values dropping by 31.6 percent and 35.5 percent.

## ONE SHOT NEWS



Chui Sai On toasts with guests at yesterday's Spring Festival gathering held by the Macau Chamber of Commerce

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## Hong Kong retailers suffer from slump



Gold monkey figurines sit on display at a Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd. jewelry store in Hong Kong

Kyoungwha Kim

**H**ONG Kong retailers Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd. and Sa Sa International Holdings Ltd. reported slumping sales over Chinese New Year as the number of mainland tourist visitors tumbled.

Same-store sales over Jan 25-Feb. 14 was 28 percent lower than the new-year period in 2015, Chow Tai Fook said in a Hong Kong exchange statement yesterday, as it warned of a worse performance in the current quarter compared with the previous one. Sa Sa

reported a 19 percent decline in sales as the number of transactions by Chinese tourists sank 18 percent, according to a separate statement.

China's economic slowdown and campaigns against graft and extravagance have hurt luxury retailers in Hong Kong and Macau, as Chinese tourists avoided those cities. The number of mainland visitors to Hong Kong slumped about 16 percent from a year earlier in November and December, capping seven months of declines, according to latest figures from the city's tourism board.

Chow Tai Fook's management "anticipates the retail business environment will continue to be challenging for the fourth quarter and the sales performance will be worse than that of the third quarter," the company said in its statement. The jewelry retailer's financial year ends in March. **Bloomberg**

## Aston Martin gets boost from China for first electric car



A close-up view of Aston Martin's RapideE concept vehicle

**A**STON Martin Lagonda Ltd., maker of sports cars such as the DB9, plans to team up with LeEco of China to help bring its electric RapideE vehicle to market by 2018.

LeEco intends to provide the powertrain and battery pack for the vehicle to be built at Aston Martin's fac-

tory in Gaydon, England, the companies said in Frankfurt yesterday. The planned joint venture secures financing to take the battery-powered version of the current Rapide sports car from concept to production.

Sports-car makers are increasingly being lured into the electric-car market, drawn by Tesla Motors Inc.'s emergence and tightening environmental regulations.

While electric motors offer the promise of rapid acceleration, they lack the bone-tlingling sound of traditional combustion-powered sports cars. **Bloomberg**



People visit a temple fair in Longtan Park of Beijing on Feb. 8

## China's 'happiness economy' intact in CNY spending

Jeff Kearns

**C**HINA'S consumers increased spending on travel and entertainment as hundreds of millions of people traveled to spend time with family during the week-long holiday last week.

People spent at least 312 billion yuan (USD48 billion) during the lunar New Year period, when schools and businesses shut down. That record spending came to 31 percent more than during last year's holidays, according to China UnionPay Co., which runs the national bank card network.

Travel transactions were up 42 percent, with the government projecting that people will make 2.91 billion trips during the 40-day festival, which sets

### LUNAR NEW YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- \* **TOURISM** revenue was up 16 percent from last year, the National Tourism Administration said.
- \* **TRAINS** carried a record 10.3 million passengers on Sunday, according to the state-run rail network.
- \* **THREE** times as many people as last year went on luxury cruises, travel website Ctrip.com said.

in motion the world's largest annual human migration.

"The tourism market expanded rapidly, driven by long-term consumption upgrades to the 'happiness economy' and good weather across China," China International Capital Corp. analysts wrote.

Movies also got a boost as the holiday came in a Monday-to-Sunday period this year while coinciding with Valentine's Day. Ticket sales rose 67.7

percent, to a record 3.1 billion yuan, according to entertainment research firm EntGroup Inc. in Beijing. The most popular film was 'The Mermaid,' which earned 1.79 billion yuan.

While mainland Chinese tourists poured into Macau, the world's largest gaming center, in greater numbers during the holiday week, gambling revenues extended an almost two-year slump as high-rollers stayed home. Tourism from the mainland to Hong Kong dropped over the holidays.

There was even good news up in the frigid northeast, often called China's Rust Belt for its struggling mines and factories. Visitors to the annual ice festival in Harbin climbed by about 16 percent, to more than 300,000, according to the organizers. **AP**

### HK TRANSACTIONS DECREASE

**THE NUMBER** of transactions on China UnionPay cards in Hong Kong appears to have decreased over the Chinese New Year period, although no specific figures have been disclosed. Macau, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea, however, have been showing

a strong preference for China UnionPay cards, resulting in a significant growth in transactions during that time. Payments for transportation services increased by 42 percent. Food consumption alone contributed more than RMB 50 billion.

## corporate bits

### MIA SEES HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY TRAFFIC ON RECORD

The Macau International Airport (MIA) had a bustling start to the Chinese New Year (CNY), welcoming 160,000 passengers and handling 1,200 flight movements between February 8 and 14. The number of passengers grew by 23 percent compared with the same period last year, while flight movements edged up 6 percent year-on-year.

The airport also set the highest single-day record since operations began at MIA on February 13, recording over 29,000 passengers and 204 flight movements.

To enrich the seasonal atmosphere, MIA adorned the terminal building with festive CNY decorations and arranged a series of CNY-themed activities, including God of



Fortune blessings and distributing candy in the terminal.

Additionally the airport organized calligraphy performances, quick portrait drawing, henna tattoos, and the offering of spring couplets to travellers.

In a press statement MIA said that it will continue to uphold its mission statement, "Safety, Efficiency, and Effectiveness," in future in order

to provide passengers with a comfortable and convenient travel experience.

It added that the airport will continue to cooperate with relevant organizations and operational partners to ensuring the smooth running of MIA, and in order to facilitate the expansion of its route network to offer passengers more travel options.

### NEW REALITY TV SHOW FILMS EPISODE AT VENETIAN

"Lady Bees," a brand new reality TV show, was in Macau between February 13 and 16 filming an episode of its inaugural season. Supported by the Venetian Macao, the cast and crew spent three days at various locations around the city and inside the Venetian Macao casino resort.

Among those visiting the MSAR were Taiwanese singer-actor Nicky Wu, and award-winning actor, Nicholas Tse, the show's contestants as well as five judges from the program.

Wu and Tse led the contestants around locations such as the San Luca Canal at Shoppes at Venetian, the main lobby of the hotel and



the outdoor lagoon area. They were also taken to the ruins of St. Paul's and other Macau attractions.

On Tuesday the cast participated in a press conference at which clips of the

new TV show and its trailer were revealed to the media for the first time.

The first episode of "Lady Bees" will be broadcast via Zhejiang TV at 10 p.m. on March 12.

## Obama opposes bill to rename Chinese Embassy address



Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo

The Obama administration said that the president would veto legislation to rename the area in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington after a prominent Chinese political prisoner. State Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters that the bill proposed by Republican presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, which has passed the Senate, would only complicate efforts to impress upon China the need to respect human rights and release Liu Xiaobo. Liu is a Nobel laureate serving an 11-year sentence on the conviction of inciting state subversion after calling for democratic reforms. The proposal has already raised hackles in China, which said it violated fundamental principles of international relations.

## US firm's Chinese subsidiaries to pay USD14.5 million to resolve case

Chinese subsidiaries of a Massachusetts software company have agreed to pay more than USD14.5 million to resolve the federal government's allegations that they illegally provided recreational travel to Chinese government officials. Federal prosecutors allege the Shanghai and Hong Kong divisions of Needham-based PTC Inc. violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Admissions made in resolution documents show the companies, through local business partners, arranged and paid for employees of Chinese state-owned enterprises to travel to the United States. The travel was supposedly for training in Massachusetts but in reality was for recreational travel to areas around the U.S. Prosecutors say the cost of the trips was routinely hidden within the price of PTC China's software sales.

## Spanish police raid Chinese bank in money laundering probe

Spain's Civil Guard police are searching offices of China's ICBC bank in downtown Madrid as part of a money laundering and tax fraud probe. A police statement said yesterday's search of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China was a follow-up on a police operation in 2015 that targeted gangs using the bank to launder to China some 40 million euros (USD45 million) proceeding from Chinese-run bargain stores across Spain. The statement said the operation was carried out in coordination with Spain's anti-corruption prosecutors' office. It said a judge in Parla, a town in the southern part of Madrid where many of the Chinese store wholesalers are located, had ordered the raid and placed a secrecy order on the investigations.

## SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Obama, SE Asian leaders seek resolution to maritime disputes

Darlene Superville & Matthew Pennington

**P**RESIDENT Barack Obama and the leaders of Southeast Asia called yesterday [Macau time] for peaceful resolution of the region's maritime disputes as they concluded a summit in California.

Obama told a news conference that disputes must be resolved by legal means, including a case brought by the Philippines challenging China's sweeping claims over most of the South China Sea.

China has refused to take part in the proceedings, but Obama said parties to the U.N. law of the seas are obligated to respect the ruling, expected later this year.

Obama has been hosting 10 leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, in the U.S. for the first time. That sends a subtle message to China that the U.S. remains an important force in the region.

But the leaders' joint statement after two days of talks avoided direct reference to China, reflecting the careful path that ASEAN members tread in their diplomacy with the world powers.

"Any disputes between claimants must be resolved peacefully through legal means such as the upcoming arbitration ruling under the U.N. Convention of the Law of the Seas, which the parties are obligated to respect and abide by," Obama said.

The Philippines brought its case in 2013 after Beijing re-



President Barack Obama (center), waves as he poses for a group photo with leaders of ASEAN, the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations, at the Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands in California

fused to withdraw its ships from a disputed shoal under a U.S.-brokered deal. Despite China's refusal to participate, the arbitral tribunal based in The Hague has agreed to hear the case.

China says it has a historical right to virtually all of the South China Sea and has built seven artificial islands, some 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 waters, an important thoroughfare for international shipping.

Though not a claimant, the U.S. has spoken out against China's conduct and has angered Beijing by sailing U.S. Navy ships near some of the artificial islands to demonstrate freedom to sail there

despite China's territorial claims.

Obama said the U.S. will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows, and it will support the right of other countries to do the same.

The U.S. has long argued for the maritime rights issue to be resolved peacefully and is looking for ASEAN to take a unified stance on the issue.

The diverse group of countries includes governments that lean toward either Washington or Beijing. Only four ASEAN members are South China Sea claimants, leading to sometimes conflicting views on how to handle long-simmering rifts.

The U.S.-ASEAN joint statement did not refer directly to the arbitration case brought by the Philippines, but it does urge "full respect for legal and

diplomatic processes" in resolving disputes.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong told a working dinner of the leaders that China's role in the region is expected to grow. Loong said China's larger presence will likely lead to occasional frictions, uncertainties and anxieties, including on the South China Sea, but these issues must be managed peacefully to preserve regional stability and security, the Singapore-based Channel News Asia reported.

The summit is the latest effort by Obama to deepen U.S. ties with the fast-growing economies of Southeast Asia — a commitment he described as "strong and enduring." Obama plans to visit Vietnam in May, and then in the fall, become the first U.S. president to visit Laos. **AP**

## Vietnamese gather to commemorate border war with China

**M**ORE than 100 people gathered in Hanoi yesterday to commemorate the anniversary of the start of Vietnam's brief but bloody border war with China.

Thirty seven years ago, 600,000 Chinese troops invaded northern Vietnam to "teach Vietnam a lesson" for ousting the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. China withdrew its troops after a month.

The residents lit incense yesterday and laid flowers at the statue of King Ly Thai To, a Vietnamese hero, in a ceremony that lasted an hour. They chanted "down with the aggressors," and "Hoang Sa, Truong Sa," the Vietnamese terms for the Paracel and Spratly islands in the South China Sea.

The Paracels are claimed by Vietnam, China and Taiwan, while the Spratlys are claimed in all or parts by those three along with the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.



A Vietnamese woman prays as more than 100 Vietnamese people gather in central Hanoi

The commemoration took place even though large gatherings without government approval are often stopped by the police.

There have been no official government commemorations of the war.

The Vietnamese Communist Party and government celebrated the victories over the French and then the Americans, but

they "appear to forget about the border war with China and the days when China occupied Hoang Sa and Truong Sa," said one participant, Nguyen Huu Hop.

Hop said he volunteered to go to the border fight the Chinese, but that his unit was instead stationed in the capital Hanoi. He said many young men in his neighborhood were killed in the war.

After China withdrew its troops, periodical fighting continued along the border for another 10 years before the communist neighbors normalized diplomatic relations in 1991.

China is now Vietnam's largest trading partner, but relations have plunged following China's parking of an oil rig near the Paracels in May 2014.

The countries have since then tried to mend ties by exchanging high-level visits, but tensions remain over the islands. **AP**



Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop (L) shakes hands with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

## SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Foreign minister Wang downplays missile deployment reports

Christopher Bodeen  
& Ralph Jennings, Beijing

**F**OREIGN Minister Wang Yi yesterday sought to downplay reports that China had positioned anti-aircraft missiles on a disputed South China Sea island, accusing the media of hyping the issue and saying more attention should be paid to what he called “public goods and services” provided by Chi-

na’s development of its maritime claims.

Taiwan’s Ministry of National Defense said in a statement it had “grasped that Communist China had deployed” an unspecified number of missiles on Woody Island in the Paracel group. The Philippines said the development increased regional tensions.

The move would follow China’s building of new islands in the disputed sea by piling sand

atop reefs and then adding airstrips and military installations. They are seen as part of Beijing’s efforts to claim virtually the entire South China Sea and its resources, which has prompted some of its wary neighbors to draw closer to the U.S.

The most dramatic work has taken place in the Spratly Island group, where the militaries of four nations have a presence, although similar work

has also gone on at Woody and other Chinese holdings in the Paracels.

“The military will pay close attention to subsequent developments,” the Taiwanese ministry statement said. Relevant parties should “work together to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea region to refrain from any unilateral measure that would increase tensions,” the statement added.

U.S. network Fox News also said China had moved surface-to-air missiles to the Paracels, identifying them as two batteries of the HQ-9 system, along with radar targeting arrays. The missiles have a range of about 200 kilometers, making them a threat to all forms of civilian and military aircraft.

Following talks with his Australian counterpart Julie Bishop, Wang said he had become aware of the missile reports just minutes before.

“We believe this is an attempt by certain Western media to create news stories,” Wang said.

Echoing claims that the development was largely civilian oriented and benefited the region, Wang pointed to the construction of light houses, weather stations, and rescue and shelter facilities for fishermen.

“All of those are actions that China, as the biggest littoral state in the South China Sea, has undertaken to provide more public goods and services to the international community and play its positive role there,” Wang said.

Wang said China’s construction of military infrastructure was “consistent with the right to self-preservation and self-protection that China is entitled to under international law, so there should be no question about that.”

Bishop reiterated that, like the U.S., Australia does not take sides on the issue of sovereignty, but urges all sides to maintain peace and stability. Australia welcomes statements by Chinese President Xi Jinping that “China does not intend to militarize these islands,” she said.

Speaking to reporters in Tokyo, Adm. Harry Harris Jr.,

the commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, said he was unable to confirm the missile reports, but added the issue “concerns me greatly.”

“This could be an indication, if there are missiles there, it could be an indication of militarization of the South China Sea in ways that the president of China, that President Xi said he would not do,” Harris said.

Called Yongxingdao by China, Woody island is also claimed by Taiwan and Vietnam. Along with an artificial harbor, it boasts an airport, roads, army posts and other buildings and recent satellite imagery appears to show it is adding a helicopter base likely dedicated to anti-submarine warfare missions.

Taiwan and China claim almost the whole 3.5 million-square-kilometer South China Sea, including the Paracel chain. Vietnam and the Philippines claim much of the ocean, as well. Brunei and Malaysia have smaller claims.

Home to some of the world’s busiest sea lanes, the ocean is also rich in fisheries and may hold oil and natural gas reserves under the seabed.

China’s move is likely to rattle Vietnam the most because of its proximity to the Paracels and because of a history of maritime tensions with China that spiked in 2014 with a standoff after China moved a massive oil rig into disputed waters.

China regards Australia and the U.S. as unwelcome outside interlopers in regional waters. Wang and Bishop engaged in a testy exchange in December 2013 after Australia criticized China’s unilateral declaration of an air defense zone in the East China Sea.

Analysts say China’s military moves in the South China Sea are primarily aimed at intimidating the Philippines and Vietnam, while solidifying its hold on the islands and boosting its ability to project force.

That is meanwhile strengthening those in the U.S., especially in the Pentagon, who “will want to more vigorously challenge China,” said Thomas Berger, an expert on the region at Boston University. **AP**

## Chinese ship to leave Australia to search for Flight 370

**T**HE first Chinese ship to search for the Malaysian airliner that vanished almost two years ago is due to depart Australia today for the southern Indian Ocean equipped with state-of-the-art sonar, a search agency said.

The Dong Hai Jiu 101 had been testing its Synthetic Aperture Sonar off the west Australian coast in recent days and will



China’s rescue ships sail different ways as they conduct a search operation for a missing Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777, flight MH370

drop off personnel at the port of Fremantle before departing for the vast search area 1,800 kilometers to the southwest, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau said in a statement.

The Chinese ship will become the fourth ship scouring a 120,000-square-kilometer expanse where Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 is thought to have

crashed on March 8, 2014.

The search has had several setbacks through crew illness and equipment failures in recent months.

More than 85,000 square kilometers of the search area have been scoured since late 2014, with Australia and Malaysia sharing the cost.

The Boeing 777 vanished after mysteriously flying far off course

during a flight from Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia to Beijing. A wing flap found in July on the other side of the Indian Ocean when it washed up on Reunion Island is the only debris recovered.

Most of the 239 people aboard Flight 370 were Chinese. Australia is conducting the search on behalf of Malaysia, where the plane was registered. **AP**

## MYANMAR

# Insurgents fight on despite advent of democracy

Denis D. Gray, Mong Ark

ON a freshly scarred battlefield, a diehard rebel army is facing off at gunfire range against a military that for decades has imposed iron-fisted rule over this Southeast Asian nation. Overhead, vultures circle the mountainous terrain while insurgent soldiers crouch near deep foxholes, prepared, they say, to throw back another possible assault.

Myanmar's civil war — the longest in modern world history — hasn't ended, even with democracy triumphant in recent elections and the winner, Aung San Suu Kyi, pledging to end hostilities between the central government and a host of autonomy-seeking ethnic minorities. Prospects for stopping the bloodshed are balanced on a knife's edge.

Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy swept November's elections, has promised that bringing peace will be the top priority when her government assumes power April 1. "We will try for the all-inclusive ceasefire agreement," the Nobel Prize laureate said recently. "We can do nothing without peace in our country."

But suspicions of the country's military were again aroused as it battled the Shan State Army-North in these remote hills of northeastern Myanmar just as voters were casting their ballots across the country. As the countdown to democracy proceeds, so do clashes with the Kachin Independence Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and others.

The rebel armies represent various ethnic groups that for decades have been fighting for autonomy while resisting "Burmanization," a push by the Burman ethnic majority to propagate its language, religion and culture in ethnic minority regions.

"No, no, no we don't trust them," Shan army Maj. Gen. Hso Hten said of Myanmar's military, vowing they would only lay down their arms if their goals were fully implemented, the foremost of which is a federal system in which ethnic minorities are granted genuine autonomy. That would include use of ethnic languages in schools and greater control over forests, hydro-power and other natural resources.

During the battles in Shan state, which ended with a fragile ceasefire at the end of November, government jet fighters

AP PHOTO



Ethnic Shan women who were displaced due to fighting between the Myanmar government army and ethnic Shan State Army North (SSA-N)

and helicopter gunships strafed and bombed military and civilian targets. They swept into villages, driving more than 10,000 from homes they looted and sometimes destroyed, according to refugee and Shan army accounts.

Both sides accuse one another of sparking yet another round of warfare in an insurgency that erupted in the early 1960s among the Shan, the largest of 135 officially recognized ethnic minorities that make up 40 percent of the population. The first uprising, that of the Karen, was launched 67 years ago, shortly after the country's 1948 independence from Great Britain, followed by numerous others.

The generals ceded power to a military-backed government in 2011, paving the way for the recent elections. But the armed forces remain the country's most powerful institution, stoking fears they will take orders not from the elected government but their commander-in-chief.

Hso Hten, who joined rebel ranks in 1958, expressed some hope in Suu Kyi's future government, given her overwhelming popular support.

"We are compelled to trust her because we don't have any choice," said the 80-year-old general in an interview in the town of Wan Hai from which his rebel army says it commands more than 10,000 troops and 18,000 square miles (46,600

square kilometers) of territory.

Like the other major insurgencies — notably the Kachin and Karen — this Shan group is not a classic guerrilla outfit swooping down from jungle

## ■ The rebel armies represent various ethnic groups that for decades have been fighting for autonomy while resisting 'Burmanization'

hideouts but more akin to a state within a state. It runs 28 departments, including health and agriculture, schools, a hospital and orphanage, and even issues its own vehicle license plates.

The Shan treasury, which gathers revenue from taxes on residents, can purchase weaponry on the black markets of China, Thailand and Cambodia. Some groups in the Shan State and elsewhere in Myanmar have traditionally financed their insurgencies through drug trafficking.

On the frontline, some five

miles (eight kilometers) from Wan Hai, soldiers wield everything from Czech pistols to U.S.-made grenade launchers from the Vietnam War. A 24-hour alert is in force, and at night the soldiers observe the campfires of the Burmese military dug into a range of undulating hills.

The fighters sleep burrowed into tiny molehill-like shelters camouflaged against aerial attacks by withered brown leaves. Use of airpower is a recent development in the fighting, and some powerful ordnance appears to have been dropped: one bomb crater measured some 1.5 meters (five feet) in depth.

The soldiers talk of combat in October and November that killed 70 of their comrades. They file past a shattered house where they killed a Burmese commander with a rocket-propelled grenade. A few meters (yards) away, stretching across a beautiful valley carpeted by terraced rice fields, begins a woman's land sown with mines.

"We have this small piece of territory and want to live in peace but they still come and attack us," said Lt. Sao Mong. "They are all over these mountains. If they don't intend to attack again why are they still here, why don't they withdraw?"

The Shan State Army-North, one of two main Shan rebel armies, refused to sign a ceasefire agreement last October between the government and eight insurgent groups.

But none of the more than 20 armed insurgencies have given up their weapons. The Shan general said the armed groups in total field some 100,000 soldiers, although analysts believe the figure may be less.

"The government has always said, 'Put down your guns and we will talk politics,' while the insurgents said, 'Let's talk politics and then we will put down our guns, maybe.' That issue is still there," says David Steinberg, an American author of several books on Myanmar.

Suu Kyi's party promise to expunge the legacy of nearly seven decades of hatred, suspicion and blood may prove difficult.

While some rebel groups have committed unlawful acts, including the recruitment of boy soldiers, international agencies, the United Nations and others have over several decades detailed widespread rape, torture and extra-judicial killings of civilians, even crucifixions, by the military. Villagers have been used as human minesweepers. More than half a million people have been driven from their homes just in eastern Myanmar.

The former government acknowledged that some atrocities did occur while its forces were fighting what it called "terrorist organizations." But nobody has been brought to justice, Suu Kyi has announced no plans to do so and the military continues to operate in its former fashion, although the scale of atrocities appears to have lessened.

"We ran away with only the clothes we were wearing. We are afraid to go back," said Pa Phit, a 45-year-old woman who fled with all other 60 residents when government troops entered Ho Nam village while firing their guns. "We have nothing left, not even a small spoon."

Among more than 1,400 refugees encamped on a bare hilltop was 102-year-old Nai Nang, carried over the hills by grandchildren after the troops occupied her village.

With such acts, the insurgents do not lack for fresh recruits to their cause, even if a private in the Shan army earns just USD8 a month.

"We have been facing injustice, bullying and oppression since I was young," said Sao Siha as he walked around a Wan Hai monastery where damage from mortars and air-launched rockets had been freshly repaired.

After years of witnessing killings of innocent people, he finally had enough when in October the military attacked his town of Maing Naung. The abbot of a Buddhist monastery and a monk for 36 of his 45 years, Sao Siha made what he said was a wrenching decision — to exchange his robes for a Shan army uniform.

"I wanted to take action against injustice," he said. "I had no choice." AP

## INDONESIA

## Muslim leaders reject support for any LGBT groups



Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla

INDONESIA'S most influential Muslim leaders said yesterday they reject all promotion and support for lesbian and gay groups and encouraged the government to make gay sex and the promotion of LGBT activities illegal.

The statement by the Indonesian Ulema Council and leaders of other Islamic organizations followed the government's move on Monday urging the U.N. Development Program to deny funding to programs regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said the government respected individual rights of sexual expression, "but it is wrong to encourage other people ... and to campaign for legalization of same-sex marriage."

The council's statement said the clerics and other Muslim leaders supported the government's rejection of foreign funding of LGBT causes and they called for bans on promoting and funding LGBT activities in Indonesia.

The UNDP's representatives in Jakarta could not be reached for comment.

Most of Indonesian society is tolerant, but homosexuality is a sensitive issue and leaders in Indonesia's secular government have made high-profile attempts to dim LGBT visibility. It recently told instant messaging apps to remove stickers featuring same-sex couples, and a government minister last month said openly gay students should be banned from the University of Indonesia campuses.

Some people worry that overseas funding could encourage a campaign to legalize same-sex marriage in the country.

Activist Poedjiati of Gaya Nusantara, an LGBT advocacy group, said it is clearly a human rights violation to ban and criminalize their activities. She also did not see any chance for the country to move toward same-sex marriage.

"So far no one here ever talked about that," Poedjiati, who uses a single name, told The Associated Press. "The issue of such marriage is still very, very far for Indonesia." AP

## AFGHANISTAN

## UN says children are being recruited to fight in war

THE United Nations yesterday condemned all sides in Afghanistan's conflict for using child soldiers, noting that while government forces have reduced the number of under-age recruits, insurgent groups continue to train large numbers of fighters under the age of 18.

The Afghan government had made progress on the issue, said Leila Zerrougui, special representative of the U.N. Secretary General for children and armed conflict. However, she added that Afghan Local Police — who often operate independently from central oversight and have been widely criticized as unprofessional and corrupt — are major perpetrators of child recruitment among Afghan forces.

Insurgent groups recruited more children in areas where the fighting is fiercest, she said. The Taliban, who have been fighting the government for over 15 years, mainly recruit children in provinces bordering Pakistan, she added.

The border with Pakistan is long and porous, and Pakistan's government has been accused of protecting and supporting Taliban fighters while using the group to fight a proxy war.

The Pakistani authorities have denied connections with the insurgent group, and have levelled similar accusations at Afghanistan's government.

Zerrougui spoke to reporters a day af-



Relatives of an Afghan boy lay his body in the grave during his funeral procession in Uruzgan province

ter the New York-based Human Rights Watch released a report accusing Taliban forces of boosting the number of children in their ranks since the middle of last year, in violation of international laws against the use of child soldiers.

The report said insurgents "have been training and deploying children for various military operations" in Afghanistan, including making and deploying bombs.

It found that children between the ages of 13 and 17 were given military training in madrassas, or religious schools

The use of child soldiers is illegal in Afghanistan, which ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994, committing the country to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers. AP



Four U.S. F-22 stealth fighters fly over Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea

## US stealth jets fly over S. Korea amid N. Korea standoff

## Lee Jin-Man, Osan Air Base

FOUR of the most advanced U.S. fighter jets flew over South Korea yesterday in a clear show of force against North Korea, a day after South Korea's president warned of the North's collapse amid a festering standoff over its nuclear and missile ambitions.

The stealthy, high-tech F-22 planes capable of sneaking past radar undetected landed at Osan Air Base near Seoul after the flyover escorted by other U.S. and South Korean fighter jets.

Pyongyang will likely view the arrival of the planes flown from a U.S. base in Japan as a threat as they are a display of U.S. airpower apparently aimed at showing what the United States can do to defend its ally South Korea from potential aggression from North Korea.

"The F-22 'Raptor' is the most capable air superiority fighter in the world, and it represents one of many capabilities available for the defense of this great nation," Lt. Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, deputy commander of the U.S. military command in South Korea, said in a statement.

"The U.S. maintains an ironclad commitment" to the defense of South Korea, he said.

The U.S. military would

not say how long the F-22s will be deployed in South Korea.

The United States often sends powerful warplanes to South Korea in times of tension with North Korea. Last month it sent a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber to South Korea after North Korea defiantly conducted its fourth nuclear test.

The international standoff over North Korea deepened earlier this month when Pyongyang ignored repeated warnings by regional powers and fired a long-range rocket carrying what it calls an Earth observation satellite. Washington, Seoul and others consider the launch a prohibited test of missile technology.

Foreign analysts say the North's rocket launch and nuclear test put the country further along its quest for a nuclear-armed missile that could reach the U.S. mainland.

South Korea's president on Tuesday warned North Korea faces collapse if it doesn't abandon its nuclear bomb program, an unusually strong broadside that is certain to infuriate Pyongyang.

In a speech at parliament, President Park Geun-hye said South Korea will take unspecified "stronger and more effective" measures to make North Korea realize its nuclear ambitions will result only in accelerating its "regime collapse."

Park made the speech while defending her government's decision to shut down a jointly run factory park in North Korea in response to the North's rocket launch. Pyongyang retaliated by expelling all the South Koreans there, put its military in charge of the area and cut off key communication hotlines between the Koreans.

It is unusual for a top South Korean official to publicly touch on such a government collapse 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.

After the rocket launch, Seoul announced that talks would begin with Washington on deploying a sophisticated U.S. missile defense system in South Korea and that the allies' annual military drills in the spring will be the biggest ever.

The deployment of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, is opposed by North Korea, China and Russia. Opponents say the system could help U.S. radar spot missiles in other countries.

Pyongyang has also called regular U.S.-South Korea military exercises a rehearsal for a northward invasion. The allies say their drills are defensive in nature. AP

Maggie Michael, Cairo

OBITUARY

# Boutros Boutros-Ghali, first UN chief from Africa, dies

**B**OUTROS Boutros-Ghali, a veteran Egyptian diplomat who helped negotiate his country's landmark peace deal with Israel but then clashed with the United States when he served a single term as U.N. secretary-general, died Tuesday. He was 93.

Boutros-Ghali, the scion of a prominent Egyptian Christian political family, was the first U.N. chief from the African continent. He stepped into the post in 1992 at a time of dramatic world changes, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a unipolar era dominated by the United States.

His five years at the helm remain controversial. He worked to establish the U.N.'s independence, particularly from the United States, at a time when the world body was increasingly called on to step into crises with peacekeeping forces, with limited resources. Some blame him for misjudgments in the failures to prevent genocides in Africa and the Balkans and mismanagement of reform in the world body.

After years of frictions with the Clinton administration, the United States blocked his renewal in the post in 1996, making him the only U.N. secretary-general to serve a single term. He was replaced by Ghanaian Kofi Annan.

In a U.N. Security Council session, the 15 members held a moment of silence upon news of his death in a hospital in the Egyptian capital. He had been admitted after suffering a broken pelvis, Egypt's Al-Ahram newspaper reported last week.

"The mark he has left on the organization is indelible," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. Ban pointed to Boutros-Ghali's landmark 1992 report "An Agenda for Peace," a proposal for how the U.N. could respond to and prevent conflict. Many of his proposals are still used by the United Nations.

In his farewell speech to the U.N., Boutros-Ghali said he had thought when he took the post that the time was right for the United Nations to play an

effective role in a world no longer divided into warring Cold War camps.

In a 2005 interview with The Associated Press, Boutros-Ghali called the 1994 massacre in Rwanda — in which half a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in 100 days — "my worst failure at the United Nations."

But he blamed the United States, Britain, France and Belgium for paralyzing action by

**The mark he has left on the organization is indelible.**

SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

setting impossible conditions for intervention. Then-U.S. President Bill Clinton and other world leaders were opposed to taking strong action to beef up U.N. peacekeepers in the tiny Central African nation or intervening to stop the massacres.

The Bosnian War also brought the same contentious mix of issues: U.N. peacekeeping, world powers' intervention and limits, and the need to protect civilians from atrocities. During a December 1992 visit to Bosnia's capital Sarajevo, under a brutal Serbian siege, he insisted to angry local journalists that upcoming peace talks were the solution and told them he knew of at least 10 places where conditions were far worse than Sarajevo — the sort of answer that deepened his reputation for arrogance.

His legacy was also stained by investigations into corruption in the U.N. oil-for-food pro-



Boutros Boutros-Ghali

gram for Iraq, which he played a large role in creating. Three suspects in the probe were linked to him either by family relationship or friendship.

Boutros-Ghali frequently took vocal stances that angered the Clinton administration — such as his strong criticism of Israel after the 1996 shelling of U.N. camp in Lebanon that killed some 100 refugees.

In writings after leaving the U.N., he accused Washington of using the world body for its own political purposes and said U.S. officials often tried to directly control his actions.

He wrote in his 1999 book

"Unvanquished" that he "mistakenly assumed that the great powers, especially the United States, also trained their representatives in diplomacy and accepted the value of it. But the Roman Empire had no need for diplomacy. Neither does the United States."

Noted for his dignified bearing and Old World style, Boutros-Ghali was the son of one of Egypt's most important Coptic Christian families. His grandfather, Boutros Ghali Pasha, was Egypt's prime minister from 1908 to 1910.

Born Nov. 14, 1922, Boutros-Ghali studied in Cairo and Paris

and became an academic, specialized in international law. In 1977, then-Egyptian President Anwar Sadat named him minister of state without portfolio, shortly before Sadat's landmark visit to Israel to launch peace negotiations.

Sadat's rapprochement with Israel brought harsh criticism from across Egypt's political spectrum. His foreign minister, Ismail Fahmi, resigned in protest. So Sadat turned to Boutros-Ghali, naming him acting foreign minister and minister of state for foreign affairs.

Boutros-Ghali played a major role in subsequent negotiations that produced the Camp David peace framework agreements in September 1978 and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty in March 1979, the first such between an Arab state and Israel.

Israelis considered Boutros-Ghali a hawkish negotiator. But he also staunchly defended Egypt's peace efforts against Arab opposition. At one African summit, he retorted to Algerian criticism, saying, "Algeria wants to fight Israel to the last Egyptian soldier."

President Hosni Mubarak, who succeeded Sadat in October 1981, kept Boutros-Ghali as minister of state but didn't promote him to foreign minister. Putting a Christian to the post was considered too controversial.

After leaving the United Nations, Boutros-Ghali served from 1998 to 2002 as secretary-general of La Francophonie — a grouping of French-speaking nations. In 2004, he was named the president of Egypt's new human rights council, a body created by Mubarak amid U.S. pressure to adopt democratic reforms.

He was married to Lea, an Egyptian Jew. They have no children. **AP**

## German leader renews call for Syria no-fly zone

Albert Aji, Damascus

**G**ERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday reiterated her proposal for a no-fly zone in Syria where civilians would be protected, a suggestion that was promptly rebuffed by Moscow, which said it can only be done with the Syrian govern-

ment's consent.

In Damascus, over 100 trucks loaded with humanitarian aid were expected to head out to five besieged areas in the country, part of an effort described by a Russian official as a first step toward implementation of an agreement reached among world powers in

Munich last week.

U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura has been trying to secure aid deliveries to improve the chances of restarting peace talks before the end of February. But those efforts have been clouded by the intense fighting north of Aleppo, where various forces backed by regional and inter-

national rivals are clashing over a crucial strip of land linking Syria's largest city to the border with Turkey.

The violence in Aleppo and lack of improvement on the humanitarian front led to the collapse of indirect talks between the Syrian government and its opponents in Geneva earlier this month. **AP**



Angela Merkel speaks at the 'Supporting Syria and the Region' conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London



A Cubana airlines aircraft is stationed at the international terminal of the Jose Marti Airport in Havana

## US, Cuba sign deal on commercial flights

Michael Weissenstein,  
Havana

**T**HE United States and Cuba signed a deal restoring commercial air traffic for the first time in five decades, allowing dozens of new daily flights to bring hundreds of thousands more American travelers a year to the island as early as this fall.

Immediately after the signing, the U.S. Department of Transportation opened bidding by American air carriers on as many as 110 U.S.-Cuba flights a day — more than five times the current number. All flights operating between the two countries today are charters.

Barring other major announcements, the restart of commercial flights will be the most significant development in U.S.-Cuba trade since Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced in late 2014 that they would begin normalizing ties after a half-century of Cold War opposition. The Obama administration is eager to make rapid progress on building trade and diplomatic ties with Cuba before the president leaves office. The coming weeks are seen as particularly crucial to building momentum ahead of a trip he hopes to make to Havana by the end of March.

“Today is a historic day in the relationship between Cuba and the U.S.,” U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said after he and Transportation Minister Adel Yzquierdo Rodri-

guez signed the deal in a ceremony at Havana’s Hotel Nacional. “It represents a critically important milestone in the U.S. effort to engage with Cuba.”

The U.S. Department of Transportation expects to award the new routes by the summer. The winning airlines then must negotiate their own deals with Cuba.

Yzquierdo declined an interview request but Foxx said after meeting with the Cuban minister that he believed Cuba was eager to restore commercial air service as quickly as possible.

“Every indication I have in the conversations we’ve had today is that the Cubans want to move as fast as we’re able to move,” Foxx said. “People will actually be able to go buy a ticket and fly to Cuba on a commercial airline. That’s a pretty big step. We haven’t been able to do that in 50 years.”

The agreement allows 20 regular daily U.S. flights to Havana, in addition to the current 10-15 charter flights a day. The rest would be to other Cuban cities.

Foxx said Cuban officials know they have to improve Havana’s transportation infrastructure, which is already badly strained by the surge in visitors since the 2014 declaration of U.S.-Cuba detente. “Obviously with the demand spiking as a result of this there’ll be capacity issues that they’ll have to address on this end,” he said.

Nearly 160,000 U.S.

leisure travelers flew to Cuba last year, along with hundreds of thousands of Cuban-Americans visiting family, mostly on expensive, frequently chaotic charter flights out of Florida.

“The adoption of this memorandum is an important step that will soon permit the establishment of regular flights between the United States and Cuba,” Yzquierdo Rodriguez at the signing ceremony.

Commercial flights make travel to Cuba far easier for U.S. travelers, with features such as online booking and 24-hour customer service that are largely absent in the charter industry.

U.S. visitors to Cuba will still have to qualify under one of the travel categories legally authorized by the U.S. government. Tourism is still barred by law, but the number of legal reasons to go to Cuba — from organizing professional meetings to distributing information to Cubans — has grown so large and loosely enforced that the distinction from tourism has blurred significantly.

Commercial travel will give travelers the ability to simply check an online box on a long list of authorized categories.

The deal does not contemplate flights by Cuba’s national airline to the United States, where lawyers for families and businesses that have sued Havana over decades-old property confiscations are eager to freeze any of its assets that they can get their hands on. **AP**

AD

2016  
浪漫情人節  
Fantasia do Dia de São Valentim • Valentine's Day Fantasia


# The 光影童話夢



Conto de Fadas de Luz

## Fairytale of Lights


7~29/2/2016

- ♥ **3D Mapping Show**  
Date: 12-22 / 2 / 2016  
Time: 19:00, 19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 21:55
- ♥ **Light Installations**  
Date: 7-29 / 2 / 2016  
Time: 18:00 - 22:00
- ♥ **Interactive Game**  
Date: 12-22 / 2 / 2016  
Time: 19:10, 19:40, 20:10, 20:40, 21:10, 21:40
- ♥ **Location**  
Area around The Taipa Houses-Museum

Organizer:  
 澳門特別行政區政府旅遊局  
 DIRECÇÃO DOS SERVIÇOS DE TURISMO  
 MACAO GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE

Co-organizer:  
 民政總署  
 澳門特別行政區政府文化局  
 INSTITUTO CULTURAL do Governo da R.A.E. de Macau

\* For more details, please visit the website of Macao Government Tourism Office [www.macaotourism.gov.mo](http://www.macaotourism.gov.mo), or by scanning the QR code.



## what's ON



## 'PRIMITIVE FORM' WONG HOI IAN CERAMIC ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: February 27, 2016

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

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## ARTIFACTS OF EXCELLENCE – SEAL CARVINGS BY LUO SHUZHONG FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Monday, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: February 28, 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

## PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY DONATED BY JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm Daily (No admission after 5:30 pm; Except on Mondays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

## MANUEL CARGALEIRO-PINTURA: 1954-2006

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

UNTIL: March 3, 2016

VENUE: Casa Garden Orient Foundation

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2855 4691

## CHILDREN'S PARADISE – CELIA LEI SOLO EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: March 6, 2016

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

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## Offbeat

## GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CJ WINS WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW



Now appointed America's top dog – CJ, the German shorthaired pointer.

CJ won best in show at the 140th Westminster Kennel Club this week, beating a couple of top favorites at a nearly packed Madison Square Garden.

The three-year-old CJ bested 2,751 other entries in 199 breeds and varieties to win the nation's most prestigious dog competition.

CJ certainly comes from championship stock. His grandmother, Carlee, was one of two previous German shorthaired pointers to

win Westminster, taking the title in 2005.

A borzoi called Lucy finished second.

CJ also topped a Skye terrier, German shepherd, bulldog, shih tzu and Samoyed to win the prized silver bowl. There is no prize money for the win, but there are valuable breeding rights in the near future and a legacy in dogdom forever.

Charlie the Skye terrier finished second at Westminster last year to Miss P the beagle. Rumor the German shepherd was ranked as the No. 1 show dog in the country last year and had won 101 times.

## 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	Montra do Lilau
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Television Film
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live
04:00	UEFA Europa League 2015/2016 Sporting - Bayer Leverkusen (Live)
06:00	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

18 FEB - 24 FEB

## ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: ROAD CHIP

ROOM 1

(18 Feb) 2.00, 5.30 pm

7.30 pm

Director: Walt Becker

Starring: Jason Lee, Jesica Ahlberg, Josh Green

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 92min

## MERMAID

ROOM 1

(18 Feb) 4.45, 7.30, 9.30 pm

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.30 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

## (18 Feb) THE GOOD DINOSAUR

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.15 pm

Director: Peter Sohn

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 93min



## (19 Feb - 24 Feb) CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON: SWORD OF DESTINY

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Yuen Woo-Peng

Starring: Donnie Yen, Michelle Yeoh

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 120min

## THE MONKEY KING 2

ROOM 3

(18 Feb) 9.15 pm

7.30 pm

Director: Pou-Soi Cheung

Starring: Aaron Kwok, Gong Li, Feng Shaofeng

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 120min

## MACAU TOWER

04 FEB - 02 MAR

## THE GOOD DINOSAUR

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Peter Sohn

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 93min

## this day in history



## 2005 BAN ON HUNTING COMES INTO FORCE

Fox hunting with dogs is now illegal in England and Wales after a ban on the activity came into force overnight.

The law faces a stiff test this weekend, with the Countryside Alliance saying many hunts will be out in force.

Chief police officers spokesman Nigel Yeo said he expected most people would obey the law - by drag hunting or chasing foxes then shooting them.

He said police would challenge the "one or two isolated hunts" which are threatening to break the law.

The Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith, has so far issued no instructions to police on how they should deal with hunters who violate the law.

He said he will consult the Director of Public Prosecutions and the police "in the near future" to decide what measures to take with regards to hunting prosecutions.

He has rejected a "blanket policy" of not enforcing the ban until the House of Lords has considered its legality.

Anti-hunting activists are celebrating the introduction of the ban.

Hounds can be used to follow a scent and to flush out a fox and foxes can still be shot, or killed by birds of prey, after being tracked by a pair of hounds.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A year after the ban came into force hunt supporters continued to call for it to be repealed.

The Countryside Alliance described the legislation as "derided, discredited and damaged beyond repair". Countryside Alliance chairman and Labour MP Kate Hoey warned that more foxes were being killed now than when hunting was legal.

She told the Daily Telegraph newspaper that the law was broken inadvertently as dogs continued to kill foxes.

But animal welfare groups and ministers praised the law, saying there were no loopholes or grey areas.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Your thinking can't be constrained by the group — so let yourself roam free! Your terrific mental energy should help you come up with at least four great new ideas to get started on right away.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Your philosophical notions are making life a little sweeter today — so make sure that you're spending extra time pondering life's mysteries. You may actually stumble on something practical!

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
No amount of cajoling can get you what you need today — so make sure that you're either keeping your mouth shut or finding less intrusive ways of persuading others that you're right.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You need to take care of yourself today — so make sure that you're on top of your own needs. It may feel weird to put yourself first, but sometimes that's just the way it is.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You feel tireless today, so make sure that you're in a position to do something useful (or fun) with all this great energy. You can get almost anything done without too much trouble.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Try to go with the flow today — though you may feel like lashing out at the slightest provocation! It's one of those days when you've got to try to relax, if only to get past the small stuff.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
Your communication should be especially expressive today — so much so that you may find it simple to reach out to someone who has shut you out almost entirely. Work your magic!

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Things seem pretty good right now — maybe a little too good! Your innate skepticism is worth deploying, because you are sure to find something suspicious at the edges of this deal.

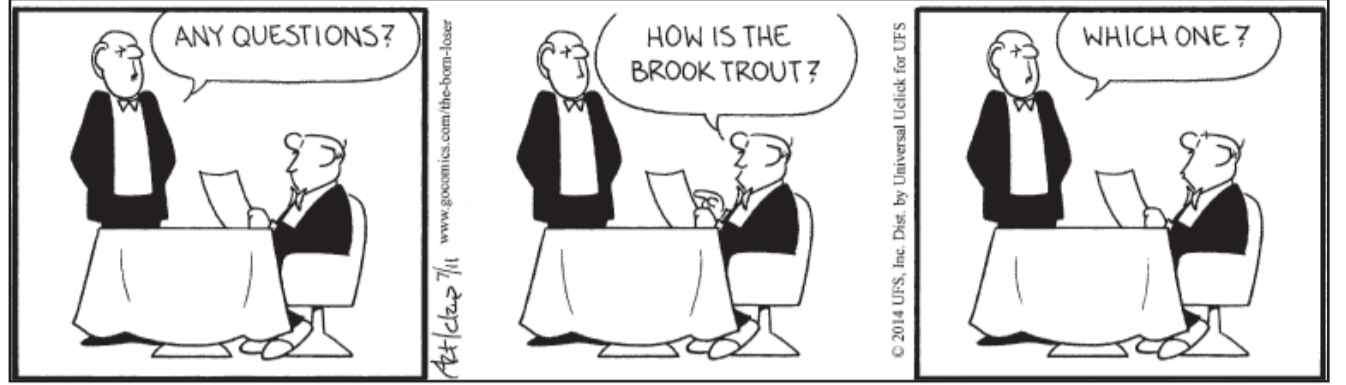
**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Your admiration for a friend or family member shines brightly today — and it pays off, too! Hand out compliments freely and you may find that the gratitude comes back to you quickly.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
It's one of those days when the clock seems to move faster than usual. Unless you're under a hard deadline, that can be a good thing, as you may plow through lots of work without realizing it.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
You're the Welcome Wagon today — at work, in the neighborhood or among your friends. Make it easy for new folks to integrate into the group and you should score some much-needed karma.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
Try to avoid blunt communication today — if you can give yourself time to craft your message, you should be fine. That could be hard in the heat of the moment, so you're better off retreating for now.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-4	12	clear
Harbin	-15	-7	clear
Tianjin	-1	8	clear
Urumqi	-14	-2	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	-4	13	clear
Lhasa	1	14	clear
Chengdu	1	14	cloudy
Chongqing	4	16	overcast
Kunming	2	15	clear
Nanjing	0	15	clear/cloudy
Shanghai	3	13	clear
Wuhan	-2	17	clear/cloudy
Hangzhou	1	15	clear
Taipei	9	17	overcast/drizzle
Guangzhou	8	19	overcast
Hong Kong	13	18	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-8	-3	sleet
Frankfurt	5	2	drizzle
Paris	8	3	drizzle
London	6	7	drizzle
New York	0	11	overcast/drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Ezio Pinza, for one; 6- Entr'...; 10- Pouches; 14- Eight singers; 15- Stable female; 16- Support; 17- Overwrought; 19- Hindu music; 20- Makes brown; 21- Italian wine city; 22- Distance runner; 23- Sign of summer; 24- Suggestive; 26- Relaxing; 28- Bring into being; 29- Fishhook line; 30- James Jones; 33- Switched off; 38- Word on a towel; 39- Prince Valiant's wife; 42- Apathy; 47- Former name of Sri Lanka; 48- Founded the Boy Scouts; 52- Wall St. debut; 53- \_\_\_ my case; 54- Fail to win; 55- Not base; 56- A small town; 57- Rule of the wealthy; 59- London greeting; 60- Mozart's "\_\_\_ kleine Nachtmusik"; 61- The devil; 62- Insect-repelling chemical; 63- Communists; 64- White poplar;

**DOWN:** 1- Glass containers; 2- Inhabitant of Patras, Greece; 3- Abnormally narrowed; 4- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 5- Baseball's Mel; 6- Not quite right; 7- Desert bloomers; 8- Habituate; 9- Sushi option; 10- Goblin; 11- Decorative ivy; 12- Believable; 13- Scatter; 18- Told; 22- Impair; 24- To Live and Die \_\_\_; 25- Arthur Ashe's alma mater; 27- Land in la mer; 30- Summer on the Seine; 31- Broadcast; 32- Campers, briefly; 34- Fellow; 35- Chinese weight; 36- TV Tarzan Ron; 37- Fragile; 40- Of local interest; 41- Soothing to the mind; 42- Put up with; 43- King of pop; 44- English Channel swimmer Gertrude; 45- Autocrat; 46- CD earnings; 47- 1963 role for Liz; 49- Stan's pal; 50- Injury; 51- Adlai's running mate; 55- Burnoose wearer; 57- For each; 58- 1860s insignia;

**Yesterday's solution**

S	T	R	O	P	S	A	C	K	S	M	A	T
T	I	V	A	N	A	T	E	R	R	A	A	D
M	A	G	I	S	T	E	R	I	A	L	S	I
I	D	E	N	T	I	T	I	T	I	K	I	S
R	L	S	D	A	N	S	E	U	R			
A	S	T	R	A	L	C	A	T	E			
O	N	E	A	M	T	O	N	O	A	S	A	
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I
E	W	E	E	R	T	E	E	R	I	E		
A	P	N	E	A	C	O	A	S	T			
B	R	I	G	A	D	E	H	O	P			
E	U	R	O	P	A	W	E	L	L	N	T	I
A	N	A	U	N	C	E	R	T	A	I	N	T
N	I	T	A	C	T	E	D	S	T	O	O	D
O	N	E	N	E	R	D	S	M	A	N	S	E

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<b>Fire department</b> 28 572 222	<b>Water Supply</b> - Report 1990 992
<b>PJ (Open line)</b> 993	<b>Telephone</b> - Report 1000
<b>PJ (Picket)</b> 28 557 775	<b>Electricity</b> - Report 28 339 922
<b>PSP</b> 28 573 333	<b>Macau Daily Times</b> 28 716 081
<b>Customs</b> 28 559 944	
<b>S. J. Hospital</b> 28 313 731	
<b>Kiang Wu Hospital</b> 28 371 333	
<b>Commission Against Corruption (CCAC)</b> 28326 300	
<b>IACM</b> 28 387 333	
<b>Tourism</b> 28 333 000	
<b>Airport</b> 59 888 88	

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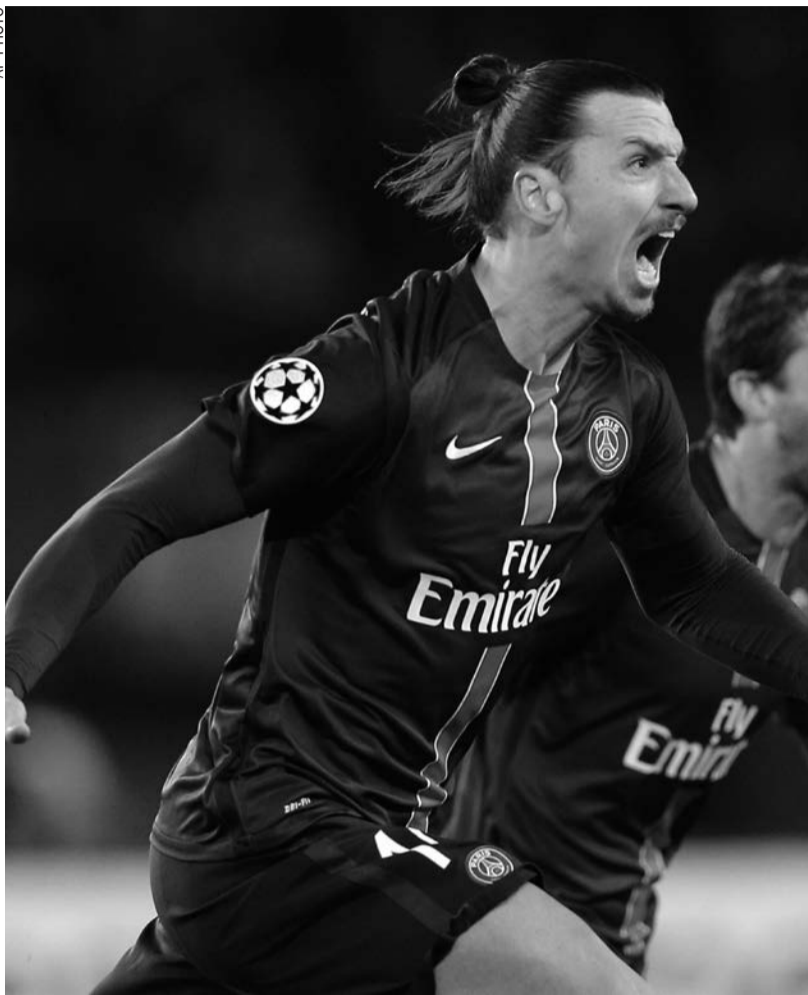


Honda Macau





Benfica's Jonas Oliveira celebrates after scoring the late winner



PSG's Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrates with PSG's Maxwell after his opening goal during the Champions League round of 16

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST 16

# Benfica, PSG victorious at home in first leg

**J**ONAS scored in added time to give Benfica a dramatic 1-0 win over 10-man Zenit St. Petersburg in the Champions League yesterday, heading home a free kick awarded after Domenico Criscito was shown a red card for the visitors.

Brazilian striker Jonas, Benfica's and the Portuguese league's top scorer, netted for the 26th time this season with a glancing header from a free kick in 91st minute.

That was awarded after Criscito picked up his second yellow card of the game for a foul on Andre Almeida.

Neither team really shone in the first leg, last 16 game at the Stadium of Light in Lisbon, though the win spared Benfica what looked likely to be a goalless draw and a tough time in Russia.

Zenit, despite not playing an official game since December due to its domestic league's winter layoff, produced a confident performance to keep Benfica at bay for 90 minutes.

Zenit's Portuguese coach Andre Villas-Boas rued what he saw as a missed

chance to return to Russia with a blank scoresheet. "We'll need to create more chances than today," he said. "We held on well ... We weren't as good in the second half."

"It was a fair result," Benfica coach Rui Vitoria said. "We wanted a bigger win, but we didn't concede a goal and that's important."

Benfica is looking to advance from the last 16 for the first time in four years, while Zenit is pursuing its first quarterfinal appearance.

Benfica had most of the possession but Argentine playmaker Nicolas Gaitan's neat footwork went nowhere against the visitor's composed defense.

With Hulk tightly marked, Zenit turned to Danny's pace to try and break through, without success.

Benfica looked dangerous in the 18th as Almeida broke down the right but when he turned the ball inside, Pizzi hesitated before attempting a weak chip over goalkeeper Yuri Lodygin.

At the other end, Axel Witsel produced a low shot in the 52nd that forced Benfica keeper Julio Cesar to dive quickly down to his

right.

With 20 minutes to go, Gaitan beat two defenders before blasting the ball against Lodygin from short range.

Just as the match looked destined to finish in deadlock, Jonas rose to give Benfica a valuable lead for the second leg in three weeks' time.

In the night's other match, struggling striker Edinson Cavani came off the bench to score the winner as Paris Saint-Germain beat Chelsea 2-1 in a pulsating first leg in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Cavani, who has lost his place in the side in recent weeks, latched onto a superb pass over Chelsea's stretched defense from winger Angel Di Maria and slotted through the legs of goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois from a narrow angle in the 78th minute.

"I'm happy for Eddy. I've said it often, because people doubt his scoring abilities, but he's always shown he can score goals," PSG coach Laurent Blanc said. "He was going through a very difficult period and I hope that scoring this goal gives him his confidence back."

Zlatan Ibrahimovic put PSG ahead with a powerful free-kick in the 39th minute, only for Chelsea to level on the stroke of halftime with a rare goal from midfielder John Obi Mikel.

Courtois made a string of saves to keep Chelsea in contention heading into the second leg, and Spanish winger Pedro almost spoiled the home celebrations in injury time with a rasping drive into the side netting.

"This is a very strong PSG, so I think the performance of our players was very good," Chelsea coach Guus Hiddink said. "But we could have been more lethal in the four or five counters that we made."

PSG is unbeaten in domestic competition since March and in all competitions since a 1-0 reverse away to Real Madrid in the group stage on Nov. 3 — a run of 23 games.

Still, Blanc's side could regret a host of missed chances and Chelsea will fancy its chances at Stamford Bridge in three weeks' time.

"It's up to us to go and score at Stamford Bridge, we will get chances and we must take them," Blanc said. **AP**

FOOTBALL

## Jelavic becomes latest player to leave Europe for China



Croatian striker Nikica Jelavic (pictured, right) has become the latest player to leave European football for China. The 30-year-old Jelavic has joined Chinese second-tier club Beijing Renhe from Premier League side West Ham. Jelavic has spent less than six months at the London club after previously playing in England for Hull and Everton. Jelavic's task will be to return Renhe to the Chinese Super League where the financial clout of clubs has this year seen Jiangsu Suning pay USD56 million for Brazilian midfielder Alex Teixeira and Colombian striker Jackson Martinez join Guangzhou Evergrande for \$47 million.

TENNIS

## Sears blames bad sushi for Australian Open collapse



Serbia's Ana Ivanovic talks with her coach Nigel Sears

Tennis coach Nigel Sears says his collapse at the Australian Open was down to some bad sushi, not heart problems. Sears, who coaches Ana Ivanovic, blacked out during the Serbian player's third-round match last month with Madison Keys of the United States. Sears, whose daughter Kim was expecting a baby with husband Andy Murray, was taken to the hospital in Melbourne. Tests in Australia and Britain, where he lives, indicated his heart is fine. He told The Times [London] yesterday: "I had sushi for lunch 10 days in a row in Melbourne and was fine. But I suppose the law of averages dictates you get one dodgy bit of raw fish in that time." Murray lost to Novak Djokovic in the final before dashing home for his daughter's birth.

SWIMMING

## Prosecutors raid South Korea's swimming federation

South Korea's swimming federation says prosecutors have searched its Seoul headquarters and confiscated computer hard disk drives and paper documents. Federation officials gave no further details, and the Seoul prosecution office couldn't immediately confirm yesterday's raid. South Korea's Yonhap news agency says the raid was related to suspicions that swimming officials misappropriated official funds and engaged in other unspecified misconduct. Yonhap says some 20 other organizations linked to the Korea Swimming Federation were also raided by prosecutors and reported, without citing a source or giving further details, that some officials had been detained.

opinion

**HK Observer**  
 Robert Carroll



**ROOTS OF RIOT**

The number of riots in Hong Kong over the last 50 years could be counted on one hand. A thorough examination of the causes of the most recent is needed, although the government doesn't seem to agree. Chief Executive Leung believes that everything will be explained following the courts' prosecutions of the rioters and a police investigation. That's not enough.

First of all, criminal courts are not there to discover why rioters riot, but to judge whether the law has been broken and to penalize or absolve the accused accordingly. Rioters' motivations may come to light in the proceedings without providing a real understanding of the causes. Secondly, the enquiry into police actions has been organized by the commissioner's right-hand man, who was chiefly responsible for policing the riot. How can we expect the man most likely to be held responsible for mishandling the situation to find fault with himself? Was it mishandled?

Firstly, wasn't there a gross insensitivity in the arrests of fish-ball sellers at the start of Chinese New Year, when goodwill should prevail? Turning a blind eye to a few hawkers selling popular fish-balls is reasonable. Street fish-balls is an iconic part of local tradition, a cheap treat for those at the lower end of the social scale and nostalgic for those who have risen up the ladder. Why spoil the city's biggest party?

Should the vendors even be clamped down on anyway, when the rules are far too strict? The authorities have been trying to eliminate street hawkers for decades in the name of hygiene. Only existing licensees and their children are allowed to operate their business, but at the expense of choice, convenience and the free market principles of which we are supposed to be a glowing example. That Hong Kong does not have the wherewithal to check and ensure street food quality is a poor excuse and dishonest to boot. It disguises the greater motivation of not wanting the stalls to compete with covered premises paying high rents, benefitting landlords who were already dominating the economy.

The admonition 'pick your fights carefully' seems appropriate. It's too soon to understand how such a minor event escalated into a clash that resulted in over a hundred injuries, mostly to police officers. What is surprising is how well-prepared the protesters appeared to be, and how seemingly unprepared the police were. Moreover, as one police officer complained, why were traffic police at the front lines not issued with sufficient riot gear?

Policing protests is about crowd management and pacification, requiring police to prevent escalation. Apart from the highly controversial and sensitive tear-gassing of protestors that sparked the huge escalation of the Occupy protests of 2014, the police showed remarkable and laudable restraint in the weeks after the protest. Time will tell whether sensible restraint was exercised over Chinese New Year. Many rioters weren't moderate, and those apprehended will be judged accordingly in the courts.

There are bigger questions: what's at the root of all this, and what can be done to prevent repeat incidents? Timing was bad, as was the choice of fish-ball stalls at that particular time, but that was the flashpoint. The real questions are why is there such ill feeling among youth and are we seeing them metamorphosing from, arguably, the world's most peaceful demonstrators into markedly more violent ones?

Poor economic prospects and unaffordable housing, a hyper-competitive education system, and gross inequality — all leading to a sense of hopelessness — are surely factors; as would be wholesale anxiety about increasing mainland control, both real and imagined.

There are no magic wands, but we must alleviate the terrible pressure placed on Hong Kong's youth. The alienation of young generations in other developed societies should come as a stark warning. Ignore marginalization at our peril. Can we stomach a multigenerational, unemployed criminal underclass like in the UK, France or the US? Or will we make every effort to give today's youth a say in their future before it's too late?

**THE FOREIGN HOLDINGS OF US TREASURY DEBT ROSE TO RECORD**

Foreign holdings of U.S. Treasury securities rose in December to a record high despite cutbacks by China and Japan.

Foreign ownership of Treasury securities increased 0.7 percent in December to a fresh record of USD6.17 trillion, up from \$6.13 trillion in November, the Treasury Department reported yesterday.

China, the biggest foreign holder of Treasury

debt, reduced its holdings 1.5 percent to \$1.25 trillion. Japan, No. 2 foreign holder of U.S. government debt, trimmed its holdings by 2 percent to \$1.12 trillion.

The declines were offset by Caribbean banking centers such as the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands, which boosted their holdings by 4.5 percent to \$351.6 billion. Ireland and Switzerland also expanded their holdings.

**Extradition to US for Spanish dealer in big art fraud case**



Domenico De Sole, a chairman of the board at Sotheby's, gestures towards his fake Mark Rothko painting during a civil trial in New York, last month

Alan Clendenning, Madrid

**SPAIN'S** National Court ruled that a businessman accused of being part of a group that commissioned and sold USD33 million in high-priced fake art passed off as famed expressionist works can be extradited to the United States to face charges in New York City.

The court issued the ruling for Jesus Angel Bergantinos Diaz, who is indicted in New York on federal charges of being part of the ring that created, and sold to Manhattan art galleries, fake art attributed to artists such as Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning Franz

Kline and Robert Motherwell.

It could take months for him to be sent to the United States because he can appeal and Spain's government must also approve the extradition, said a court official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of a rule preventing the official from being named.

Also charged in the U.S. is his brother, Jose Bergantinos Diaz, and Pei Shen Qian, the Chinese artist who allegedly painted the works from a home studio in the New York borough of Queens.

Qian collected only hundreds or thousands of dollars each for the fakes. He has fled to China. His paintings were promoted as never-

before-exhibited and previously unknown works of art, eventually attracting more than \$80 million from unsuspecting customers.

The Bergantinos Diaz brothers are accused in the indictment of taking part in the 15-year scam with New York art dealer Glafira Rosales, who pleaded guilty in 2013 and said she arranged for sales proceeds to be transferred to Spanish banks.

Tuesday's ruling did not affect Jose Bergantinos Diaz, who is being sought by U.S. authorities for extradition but has asked to be tried in Spain, the court official said.

A civil trial brought forward by clients who bought some of the paintings ended last week in New York with an undisclosed settlement just before the once highly respected president of a gallery was about to testify.

The Knoedler & Company gallery closed in 2011 and had defended itself against claims resulting from \$69.8 million in sales from the collection of bogus paintings, saying it was duped by the fakes.

The trial focused on claims from Domenico De Sole, chairman of the board at Sotheby's auction house and a former Gucci CEO, who said the gallery refused to return \$8.3 million he spent on a fake painting. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**CUBA-USA** The United States and Cuba sign a deal restoring commercial air traffic for the first time in five decades, allowing dozens of new daily flights to bring hundreds of thousands more American travelers a year to the island as early as this fall. **More on p15**



**USA** Jeb Bush, John Kasich and Marco Rubio are locked in a high-stakes political chess match in South Carolina, strategically moving money and other campaign resources around in a bid to pull ahead in the Republican primary race — or at least keep their campaigns afloat if they don't.



**MEXICO** Pope Francis wraps up his trip to Mexico today with some of his most anticipated events: a visit in a Juarez prison just days after a deadly riot in another lockup and a stop at the Texas border when immigration is a hot issue in the U.S. presidential campaign.

**ZIKA** The World Health Organization says it may be necessary to use controversial methods like genetically modified mosquitoes to wipe out the insects that are spreading the Zika virus across the Americas.



**GREECE** Hundreds of trucks and cars were stranded at two Greek-Bulgarian border crossings yesterday, after a blockade by Greek farmers was met with a retaliatory blockade by angry truck drivers on the Bulgarian side.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Xinhua/Ng Wing Kin



People take photos of colorful lanterns yesterday at the Hong Kong Cultural Center Piazza to greet the upcoming Chinese Lantern Festival. Several celebrations will take place in Hong Kong during the celebration, which will fall on Feb. 22.