



DSPA TO FOCUS ON WASTE REDUCTION

Raymond Tam Vai Man was inaugurated yesterday as the new Director of the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA)

P2



MORE THAN 580,000 PASSENGERS

Passenger traffic at the local airport reached a new monthly high in February. The facility also recorded the highest volume of single-day traffic

P7



NO GOOD NEWS AT GREEK BORDER

P14 REFUGEES

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA President Xi Jinping appears primed to take on the ceremonial title of the "core" of the current generation of leaders, the latest of many accolades he has received. The bestowing of names may reveal not only Xi's strengths, but some weaknesses. *More on p11*

CHINA's official Xinhua News Agency says one Chinese citizen was killed and three injured in a shooting in Laos, also the scene of a January bombing that claimed Chinese lives. Unknown suspects described as militants opened fire on a temporary work space being used by a Chinese company this week in the northern province of Luang Prabang. Two of the injured Chinese are in a serious condition, but Xinhua gave no other details yesterday.

HONG KONG Exchanges & Clearing Ltd., the most valuable exchange operator in Asia, said full-year earnings rose to a record on higher trading turnover. Net income jumped 54 percent to HKD7.96 billion last year, up from HKD5.17 billion a year earlier, the exchange said in a statement yesterday. Revenue increased 36 percent to HKD13.38 billion in the period. *More on p8*

MIDDLE EAST A Saudi-led bloc of six Gulf nations formally branded Hezbollah a terrorist organization yesterday, ramping up the pressure on the Lebanese militant group fighting on the side of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria. The move by the Gulf Cooperation Council comes less than two weeks after Saudi Arabia announced it was cutting USD4 billion in aid to Lebanese security

More on backpage

Police make MSAR's 3rd largest drug bust

P5 MACAU



HOMELESS

McSleepers spotted in Macau

P3 MDT REPORT

IC restores Na Tcha Temple walls

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has started to restore the peeling paint of the exterior walls of Na Tcha Temple. The temple's pavilions will remain open to the public during the restoration period, and the IC estimates that the restoration will be completed within 60 days. The IC also issued an apology for the inconvenience caused by the installation of scaffolding on the side of the temple facing Travessa de Sancho Pança, Calçada das Verdades and Travessa de D. Quixote, as it will interfere with pedestrian movement.

Macau and Malaysia set for friendly football match



Macau and Malaysia's football teams will face off in a friendly match at the Hang Jebat Stadium, Malacca on March 29, an international slot in the FIFA calendar. The stadium is reportedly the first Malaysian location outside Klang Valley to host a senior international match. Most of Malaysia's home matches over the past five years have been played in the Klang Valley, the country's most developed and densely populated area. Klang Valley is the site of most bouts involving the national team, as well as the final matches of domestic competitions. The match will take place five days after Malaysia's final 2018 World Cup/2019 Asian Cup qualifying group match against Saudi Arabia.

Classical Jazz concert moved to May

The Macau Orchestra's Weekend Music Party – Classical Jazz concert has been rescheduled to May 28 at Dom Pedro V Theatre. Originally scheduled for June 11, the performance program and ticket prices remain unchanged. According to a statement, current ticket-holders will be given priority when changing their tickets at Macau Ticketing Network outlets before March 10. The Weekend Music Party – Classical Jazz features various jazz themes adapted for the string quartet and brass quintet, including Ragtime, Blue Mink Blues and St. Louis Blues. Tickets are priced at MOP120 and MOP100.

CHINA'S 13th five-year plan, which will be reviewed at the upcoming parliamentary session, will bring "good news" for Hong Kong and Macau, a spokesperson for the national political advisory body revealed yesterday.

Beijing places great emphasis on the role of Hong Kong and Macau in the comprehensive development of the People's Republic of China, said Wang Guoqing, spokesperson for the annual session of the 12th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, at a press conference. The national development plan for

China says five-year plan will benefit Macau, HK

2016 through 2020 will take into consideration the needs of people in Hong Kong and Macau.

The proposal for the 13th five-year plan for national economy and social development – put forward last year at a key meeting of the Communist Party of China Central Committee – made clear that Hong Kong and

Macau should play unique roles in economic growth and the opening up of the whole country, Wang said.

The central government will support the two special administrative regions in order to maintain its competitive edge, he continued.

Wang added that Hong Kong and Macau would likely be able to integrate their own development strategies into the national plan.

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, travels today to Beijing, where he is scheduled to attend the opening of the Fourth



Wang Guoqing, new spokesperson for the fourth session of the 12th CPPCC

Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress (NPC) on Saturday. MDT/Xinhua

SAR ADVISORS SHOULD 'PLAY THEIR PART'

ACCORDING TO the People's Daily, Wang Guoqing urged political advisors from Hong Kong and Macau to "play their part" in the implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle.

UM scholar launches books on Sino-US relations

TWO new books on Sino-US relations have been published by the dean of the University of Macau's (UM) Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Hao Yufan: "Sino-US Energy Triangles: Resource Diplomacy under Hegemony" and "Rethinking the Triangle: Washington-Beijing-Taipai."

The first title, published by Routledge, is about understanding how China, as a rising power, interacts with the United States – the current world power – in the competitive markets of resource-rich countries. The book suggests that Sino-US competition generates triangular relations between both countries and the resource-rich countries.

The book also examines an unstudied but important area of Sino-US relations, and provides a valuable addition to existing li-



terature on China's foreign policy, as well as its growing importance in international energy politics.

Meanwhile, "Rethinking the Triangle: Washington-Beijing-Taipai," published by World Scientific, provides views on possible courses of action to increase mutual be-

nefits and avoid confrontation between the U.S., China, and Taiwan. The book is said to explore a new paradigm for the three parties' interrelationships based on inclusiveness and opportunity, rather than each hedging against increasingly unlikely crises. Rather than focusing only on American policy options, the book discusses the important triangular interaction in Asia from the standpoints of all participants, illustrated by an expert from each country.

Professor Hao has written and edited 29 books and monographs, and has authored more than 50 journal articles and book chapters on Chinese politics and foreign relations, Sino-US relations, and Macau studies. He is a regular contributor to China Newsweek, Global Times, Caijing Magazine and Nan Feng Chuang.



RAYMOND Tam Vai Man was inaugurated yesterday as the new Director of

Raymond Tam emphasizes waste reduction

the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) at a ceremony presided over by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário.

"We hope to perform better in order [to reduce] waste," Tam expressed, hinting that peo-

ple should change their habits when it comes to waste disposal.

"Regarding other problems related to the environment, we also hope to be able to [make] improvements," he added, as cited by TDM.

Raymond Tam is the former head of the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM). He left his post after being accused of involvement in the scandal surrounding irregular grants of cemetery plots, but at trial was found not guilty.

Nine arrested in money-laundering case

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested nine local residents on Tuesday on suspicion of involvement in a MOP25 million money-laundering case. The individuals are thought to have assisted a Macau cou-

ple arrested last year for running a money-laundering racket.

According to authorities the Macau couple are believed to have deposited the money in various local bank accounts with

the help of their relatives. The couple were later caught and sentenced to seven and eight years in prison, respectively.

Now the PJ believes they have caught nine residents that assisted them including their daughter, after they checked 10 related bank accounts and several apartment units. The case has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office.

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

DESIGN EDITOR_João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alberto Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beiter, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Viviana Seguí | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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HOMELESS and low-income individuals, as well as those with mental disabilities, are increasingly taking refuge in 24-hour stores – a phenomenon that drew significant attention when a homeless woman died last October at a McDonald's in Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong.

The "McSleepers" case underscores a growing problem at expensive locations in China and Japan, where high property and rental prices lead the 'working poor' to seek shelter in 24-hour stores and fast food chains. Many homeless people settle in venues with controlled micro-climates, a comfortable alternative to the streets during parts of summer and winter.

The problem is only slightly less severe on the Macau peninsula. The Times spoke with numerous fast food staff and customers to explore the extent of the phenomenon and how fast food companies have responded.

In a quiet 24-hour McCafe in Macau's Northern District, student and customer Vic Ieong plays games on his smartphone. He visits numerous McDonald's branches up to three times a week to do his homework, often staying for two to four hours.

Ieong told the Times that he

McSLEEPERS

Fast food workers tolerate homeless sleepers



that the Times observed on the evenings selected for visits. Late at night and in the early hours of the morning, several people were spotted toting numerous bags and possessions.

The Times did not see any sleepers save for an individual resting his head on the table, as well as another reading a newspaper.

Homeless people often visit McDonald's to sleep

A staff member cleaning trays told the Times that customers sometimes fall asleep in the branch in the early hours of the morning. She added that she didn't know the company's policy on such behavior, the number of sleepers or the frequency of their visits.

Several staff members were reluctant to discuss the 'McSleepers' upon further questioning. Other staff at the Rua do Campo branch refused to comment, saying they were not authorized to do so.

An employee at another McDonald's restaurant on the peninsula, which is not open 24/7, said, "Sometimes people come here to sleep, but not that often as we are not [open] 24/7." He was unaware of the situation at other branches in Macau, but clarified that he and his colleagues do not ask sleepers to leave.

A second worker hinted that the McDonald's near MGM was known as a popular destination for 'McSleepers.' He speculated that these individuals were not 'working poor,' and had instead lost money gambling in the casinos. **Staff reporters**

Lying down is not OK, but we don't mind if they are just sleeping at the table.

MCDONALD'S EMPLOYEE

sometimes sees "old people sleeping" in the restaurants in the early hours of the morning, and recalled that he had recently seen people napping at another branch until 2:30 p.m.

When asked about the company's response to the 'McSleepers,' Ieong said that he "has never seen staff ask any of them to leave, but they also don't ask the students to leave," even when they are not purchasing anything.

Meanwhile a staff member at the same branch, who asked not to be identified, told the Times quite openly that homeless people often visit McCafe to sleep. "Lying down is not okay," he said, "but if they are just sleeping at the table, we don't mind."

He adds that the phenomenon used to be more common but he now only notices 'McSleepers' during one in 10 of his night shifts.

"There used to be many more, but not so much these days. Some McDonald's have it worse than others... Rua do Campo, mostly, where the people sleeping are poorer."

The Rua do Campo McDonald's was the busiest of those

Housing leads to 'McSleepers' phenomenon in HK

ALCOHOLISM, drug abuse and gambling are common issues observed among homeless people. However, a South China Morning Post report on 'McSleepers' noted that in Hong Kong, the problem appears to stem from issues of housing and property prices. Many prefer a clean, air-conditioned 24-hour fast food chain to an insect-ridden low-cost apartment.

McDonald's has confirmed that many individuals stay in their restaurants for long periods of time, and

stated that they try to accommodate them provided that they do not disturb other customers.

According to Business Insider, McDonald's Hong Kong has emphasized that they "welcome all walks of life to visit [their] restaurants anytime."

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), together with its five liaison offices in the mainland, have reportedly attracted nearly three billion patacas' worth of bilateral investments between Macau and China.

According to an IPIM statement yesterday, the investments are in fields such as high-technology, tourism, real estate, bio-

IPIM facilitates MOP3b worth of Macau-China investments

medicine, energy, logistics and warehousing, as well as the environment.

IPIM says that it helped Macau enterprises establish mainland businesses worth almost MOP2.3 billion in 2015.

IPIM's mainland liaison offices – located in Hangzhou, Jieyang, Chengdu, Shenyang and Fuzhou – assisted in the trade of goods and services with contracts amounting to MOP17

million and MOP8 million, respectively.

Last year, the liaison offices gathered approximately 900 visitors for exhibitions in Macau, with an additional 100 business visits involving

around 500 people. The offices also facilitated the signing of 17 agreements between government agencies, chambers of commerce and business associations.

In January, IPIM's Fu-

zhou office set up an exhibition of food from Portuguese-speaking countries for the first time in mainland China, leading to various commercial negotiations between distributors and Macau-based enterprises.

IPIM said it would continue to promote trade and investment between Macau, mainland China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

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Hong Kong gov't drops plan to import workers for Delta Bridge



THE Hong Kong government will dismiss a proposal to import more than 500 workers to help construct the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (Delta Bridge), according to Leung Chau-tung, a representative from the Hong Kong Labor Advisory Board.

The contractor's proposal met with strong opposition from local labor representatives and unions.

Leung added that officials who attended Tuesday's board meeting con-

firmed that contractors would have to change recruitment terms, lower experience requirements and employ local workers. The Labor Department refused to disclose the details of the meeting, citing rules of confidentiality.

The Highways Department said that the construction of the Delta Bridge would be extended until the end of 2017 as a result of several factors, including the labor shortage.

GAMING

Standard & Poor's: No reason for optimism

MACAU'S better-than-expected gaming revenues for the month of February may not indicate a rebound, according to Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. The credit rating agency does not expect a meaningful improvement for the gaming industry in 2016.

Gross gaming revenue in February was MOP19.5 billion (USD2.4 billion), according to data from Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. The 0.1 percent year-on-year decrease was the smallest since the start of the downturn.

"We reiterate our view that gaming revenue in Macau is likely to decline 0%-10% in 2016, given policy headwinds and the structural shift to mass market customers from high rollers," said S&P credit analyst Sophie Lin.

S&P anticipates that the decline in revenue from high rollers may continue by a further 10 to 20

percent. However, they also predict that gaming revenue from the mass-market segment will stabilize, as more new casinos open in the second half of 2016.

"Among the casino operators we rate, weak gaming revenue growth in 2016 will have the least [amount of] impact on

■ We reiterate our view that gaming revenue in Macau is likely to decline 0%-10% in 2016.

companies that focus on the mass-market segment or those that have large cash flows in other gaming markets," said Lin.

Three arrested in Macau's 3rd greatest drug bust

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) raided a drug trafficking syndicate and arrested three foreign suspects in what they are describing as the third largest drug trafficking case since the handover in 1999. A total of six kilograms of cocaine was appropriated with an estimated street value of MOP18 million.

The PJ held a press conference yesterday and revealed details about the case. Authorities received information that three foreigners were allegedly transferring drugs to overseas countries through their operations in Macau. They launched an investigation that led them to the seizure of six kilograms

of cocaine and to the arrests of three foreign suspects: a Gambian, a Malaysian and a Nigerian.

The police first arrested the Nigerian man as he was about to depart Macau via the Outer

■ Six kilograms of cocaine were seized

Harbor Ferry Terminal, while the other two suspects were arrested inside the Nigerian's hotel room in the San Ma Lo area.

"The suspects managed to bring the drugs here," said PJ

spokesperson Chan Cho Man, "they concealed it and passed it to the Malaysian suspect. He brought the bag of drugs here through Thailand [and] we suspect that he planned to bring it to other neighboring regions."

The PJ raid yesterday is the third biggest drug bust since the handover. In December the PJ seized 9.3kg of cocaine in the second largest haul after they arrested three foreign suspects in a guesthouse on the Praça Ponte e Horta.

The value of the haul was estimated at HKD25 million on the black market. In this earlier case the suspects had brought the narcotics into the territory wrapped in bed sheets. **DB**

'La Scala' land concession declared null



THE five plots of land near the airport that constitute the "La Scala" land concession were unquestionably reverted back to the MSAR, according to a notice published yesterday in the Official Gazette.

The announcement reads that, in 2012 and 2013 the Public Works and Transport Bureau declared null two concessions that had been granted in 2006 and 2011 to real estate company Moon Ocean Ltd, a unit of Chinese Estates Holdings.

Joseph Lau controls the company, registered in the British Virgin Islands, which appealed the government's decision to

nullify the land grant. Lau was involved in the bribery and money-laundering case that incriminated and led to the arrest of the former Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Ao Man Long.

In 2014 Lau was convicted in a Macau court on corruption charges and sentenced to more than five years in prison. But Lau, who didn't attend the trial, has escaped his sentence by avoiding travel to the MSAR. In 2015, the Court of Second Instance rejected the appeals of Joseph Lau and Steven Lo, another Hong Kong businessman linked to the La Scala case, who was also sentenced.



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PASSENGER traffic at the Macau International Airport (MIA) reached a new monthly high in February, with more than 580,000 persons in transit through the airport's facilities.

According to a press release, the airport recorded an average daily passenger volume of over 20,000 and handled over 4,900 flight movements last month, representing a growth of 23 percent and 15 percent, respectively, when compared with the same month in the previous year.

Southeast Asia routes continued to perform well last month, accounting for around 41 percent of the overall market, followed by mainland China and then Taiwan. The three major markets recorded a growth of 28 percent, 11 percent and 30 percent, respectively.

MIA will continue its plans

More than 580,000 pass through airport in February



to further diversify the air route market by strengthening cooperative ties with regional partners, airlines and tourism organizations.

For instance, Tiger Air Taiwan has attracted passengers to transfer from Macau

to Taipei and then onward to a number of Japanese destinations, including Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Okinawa and Fukuoka.

Air Macau will also launch a new service to Fukuoka this month to provide additional

flights between Macau and Japan, a popular tourism destination for residents.

MIA recently recorded its highest volume of single-day traffic during the Chinese New Year (CNY) period, when it facilitated the transit of over 29,000 passengers on February 13. For the CNY period between February 8 and 14, MIA welcomed a total of 160,000 passengers, up by nearly a quarter over CNY 2015.

The airport is undergoing significant expansion to accommodate for the growing number of passengers using its services. **DB**

CC begins 'certified shops' assessment

The Consumer Council (CC) is carrying out inspections of its "certified shops." The CC kicked off its 2016 assessment with on-site evaluations this month, and will assess almost 1,500 shops according to over 30 grading criteria. The "certified shop" system was launched in 2001. The evaluations are conducted throughout the year with final results announced at the end of the year.

Forbidden City stamps issued



Macau Post organized an issuing ceremony for the new "Scenery of the Imperial Palace in Beijing" stamps. The designer, Spanish-French artist Charles Chauderlot attended an autograph session at the Museum of Art after the ceremony. The stamps feature 81 artworks by Chauderlot, who is also behind the paintings in the "Ink Wash of the Forbidden City" exhibition, currently on display at the same museum. Altogether, stamps featuring seven different images of the palaces were presented to the public. Charles Chauderlot was the first foreigner to be permitted by the Palace Museum in Beijing to enter the restricted area of the Forbidden City.

AACM launches new website

THE Civil Aviation Authority of Macau (AACM) launched its new website yesterday. The new layout offers readers a user-friendly experience with improved content and search functions.

According to an AACM press release,

the revamped website includes information on the latest aviation regulations and requirements, technical documents and aeronautical circulars, and flight application procedures.

The website also provides informa-

tion for passengers and residents, including travel guides concerning security issues, civil liabilities and other facts about aviation.

The homepage features a new section on statistics, which publishes airport traffic figures, destination networks and other industry data. It is available on multiple browsers and devices in Chinese, Portuguese and English.

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CHINA'S stocks rallied the most since November, led by property companies and commodity producers, on speculation the government will announce measures to boost growth at legislative meetings this week.

The Shanghai Composite Index climbed 4.3 percent, as a gauge of real estate companies surged 5.6 percent. The yuan weakened offshore after Moody's Investors Service reduced its credit-rating outlook on the nation to negative. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index advanced the most in two weeks.

Pressure is building on the government to follow up on Monday's cut in lenders' reserve-requirement ratios with more stimulus after data this week showed a deterioration in manufacturing. The National People's Congress, where delegates will sign off on a new five-year economic plan, begins on March 5. The economic slowdown has been a trigger for the Shanghai Composite's 23 percent slump this year through Tuesday, the worst performance among 93 global equity indexes.

"There are policy expectations from the coming NPC meetings, such as growth-stabilizing measures, so the market shows signs of consolidating at this level," said Wang Zheng, who has been keeping his holdings

BIGGEST RALLY IN FOUR MONTHS

China stocks up on economic stimulus bets



unchanged recently as the Shanghai-based chief investment officer at Jingxi Investment. "The market is basically ignoring the Moody's news. China's capital markets are still quite isolated and heavily regulated so such news isn't likely to cause massive outflow."

The Shanghai Composite rose to 2,849.68 at the close, the biggest gain since Nov. 4. Volatility is increasing, with 50-day price swings hitting the highest levels in four months, while trading volumes in Shanghai surged 43 percent above the 30-

day average. The number of new stock investors climbed 18.9 percent in the week ended Feb. 26 from the previous week to 423,600.

The Shanghai property sub-index jumped for the steepest advance among the industry groups. Poly Real Estate Group Co., the second-biggest Chinese developer, surged by the 10 percent daily limit, extending gains to 20 percent during a four-day rally.

Guangdong province will ease home-purchase restrictions for buyers from Hong Kong and

Macau, the South China Morning Post reported. Shenyang is examining a zero down-payment mortgage policy, the party committee of the northeastern Chinese city said in a Weibo post on March 1, an idea that the People's Daily decried on its microblog account, saying that an "artificial bull market" will cause hidden dangers. The Shenyang government subsequently backed away from the plan, saying on its Weibo account that its plans are still in a preliminary stage and "not ready for imple-

mentation."

In an echo of the buying frenzy that propelled Chinese shares to unsustainable valuations last June, leveraged speculators are snapping up homes in top-tier cities in hopes that prices will keep surging. The boom, fueled by monetary stimulus and a loosening of property curbs in February, shows how government efforts to revive the world's second-largest economy also risk fueling asset bubbles.

The yuan traded in Hong Kong declined 0.09 percent to 6.5546 a dollar after the central bank cut the reference rate to the lowest in four weeks. China's credit-rating outlook was lowered from stable by Moody's, which cited rising government debt, falling currency reserves and uncertainty over the authorities' ability to carry out reforms.

"The market is shrugging off these concerns as what's being highlighted are not new," said Khoo Goh, a senior currency strategist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. in Singapore.

"It would be a different story if this came out in January when there were depreciation pressures but since then authorities have managed to stabilize the currency, implement reforms in the bond market as the country continues to liberalize."

The CSI 300 Index rose 4.1 percent, with measures tracking material, industrial and energy companies climbing at least 4.9 percent to lead the 10 industry groups.

Coal and steel companies jumped amid speculation policy makers will take steps that have been dragging down the economy such as overcapacity. Anhui Conch Cement Co., the nation's biggest producer of the building material, soared 10 percent. Wuhan Iron & Steel Co. led gains for steelmakers, rising 7.3 percent. Yanzhou Coal Mining Co. advanced 10 percent to pace an advance for energy companies.

Growth stabilization policies, supply-side reform and reform of state-owned enterprises are among the key focus areas at the NPC and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference meetings, China International Capital Corp. analysts led by Hanfeng Wang wrote in a note.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index gained 3.1 percent, led by energy and property companies, while the Hang Seng China index added 3.8 percent. **Bloomberg**

GAMING ALERT

Philippine regulator probes alleged money-laundering

Ditas Lopez & Clarissa Batino

THE Philippines is training its sights on the gaming sector in a renewed push to curb the transmission of illicit funds.

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation has started investigating news reports that as much as USD100 million of suspicious funds were remitted to three casinos' bank accounts, according to a statement yesterday. The government agency expects the casinos, which it didn't name, to submit their comments on the allegation this week.

The gaming regulator's comments come a day after Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Teresita Herbosa warned the country risks returning to the list of nations that aren't doing enough to fight money laundering if laws aren't strengthened to include sectors like casinos among institutions required to report suspicious transactions. If that happens, Philippine transactions including overseas remittances that amounted to more than \$25 billion last year would be subject



Casino dealers work on their respective games during a media tour in a Manila casino

to increased scrutiny.

"We already have warnings" from the Financial Action Task Force, Herbosa told reporters earlier this week. "If the reports coming out were true, it really shows the consequences. I don't think they have any reason now to oppose the bill that casinos should be covered."

Herbosa is a member of the country's Anti-Money Laundering Council, which unsuccessfully lobbied lawmakers to include casinos in a 2012 amendment that

added terrorism as a predicate crime for laundering.

Casinos must stop cash transactions to prevent laundering or at least impose a cap, Herbosa said. Apart from gaming, the property sector and art collection should also be included on the list of covered institutions on money laundering, Senator Serge Osmena said in a phone interview yesterday. The Philippine law is among the "weakest in the world," Osmena said.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer reported Feb. 29 that authorities are investigating an estimated \$100 million that came in through the banking system, transferred to at least three casinos and moved out to overseas accounts in a matter of days.

The funds may have entered the Philippine financial system through a branch of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., converted to pesos and deposited in an account of a Chinese-Filipino businessman who runs a junket operation, according to the Inquirer, which didn't name the businessman. The newspaper cited an unnamed Rizal Bank official saying the lender

immediately alerted the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

The funds were used to buy casino chips or pay for losses at venues including Bloomberry Resorts Corp.'s Solaire Resort & Casino and Melco Crown Philippines Resort Corp.'s City of Dreams Manila, according to the newspaper report. There was no suggestion in the report that the banks or casinos named were in any way complicit with any improper movement of funds.

Rizal Bank President Lorenzo Tan didn't reply to calls and text messages seeking comment. Leo Venezuela, Bloomberry Resorts' investor relations director, and City of Dreams Manila Vice President Charisse Chuidian also didn't reply to calls and phone messages.

Philippine National Bank and BDO Unibank Inc. were also mentioned in the Inquirer report. Reynaldo Maclang, president of Philippine National Bank, said he cannot comment. Nestor Tan, president of BDO, didn't reply to calls and mobile-phone messages. **Bloomberg**

Trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries fell by 25.73 percent last year

THE value of trade between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries fell by 25.73 percent in 2015 to USD98.474 billion, a real loss of \$34.106 billion, according to official Chinese figures.

The only positive changes in the value of trade occurred in Timor Leste (East Timor – \$106.67 million or +76.48 percent) and Sao Tome and Principe (\$7.9 million or +37.99 percent).

Trade with Brazil, China's main trading partner globally, fell by 17.37 percent to \$71.808 billion, with China selling goods to Brazil worth \$27.482 billion (-21.47 percent) and purchasing goods in the amount of \$44.38

billion (-14.61 percent).

Angola, as usual came in second place with two-way trade of \$19.705 billion (-46.84 percent), which resulted from Chinese sales in the amount of \$3.722 billion (-37.71 percent) and imports reached \$15.983 billion (-48.60 percent).

China's trade with Portugal declined by 8.99 percent to \$4.370 billion, an amount that brings together Chinese exports to Portugal of \$2.898 billion (-7.61 percent) and imports of Portuguese products in the amount of \$1.471 billion (-11.59 percent).

Trade with Mozambique fell 33.95 percent to \$2.393 billion, while China sold pro-

ducts to Mozambique worth \$1.941 billion (-1.47 percent) and purchased goods amounting to \$451 million (-72.66 percent).

With other Portuguese-speaking countries – Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Guinea-Bissau, Timor Leste (East Timor) and Sao Tome and Principe – trade with China amounted to \$196 million.

In December 2015, trade between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries totalled \$7.573 billion (+12.66 percent), as a result of Chinese exports worth \$2.770 billion (+22.12 percent) and imports amounting to \$4.802 billion (+7.85 percent). **MDT/Macauhub**

Hong Kong company pays first installment of timber business in Mozambique

GLOBAL Timber Investment Limited, a company based in Hong Kong, made the initial payment of USD600,000 on an investment of \$900,000 to be paid by 1 June 2016, said Obtala Resources Limited.

This investment will give the Hong Kong company a minority stake of 15 percent in Meradell (1) Limited, one of three special purpose companies established by Obtala Resources, a company based in Guernsey, as well as economic rights over an area of 20,000 hectares of forest concessions in Mozambique.

Last February, Obtala Resources announced it had established separate agreements with three international investors to secure capital of \$3 million to be invested in forestry projects in Mozambique.

These agreements gave the investing companies minority stakes of 15 percent in one of three special purpose companies – Meradell (1), Meradell (2) and Meradell (3) – and economic rights on a specific area of forest concessions in Mozambique.

The control of these concessions, which cover an area of 314,965 hectares, remains in

the hands of Obtala Resources through its subsidiaries.

The forestry business in Mozambique is currently held by Argento Continental Corporation, a subsidiary 100 percent controlled by the Montara Continental Corporation (Seychelles), a subsidiary owned 75 percent by Obtala Resources.

In addition to Global Timber Management, George Miller, a private investor based in the United States will invest 1.61 million Canadian dollars and Basic Materials, a company with offices in Hong Kong and Russia, will invest \$900,000. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambican, Chinese, South African companies build pipeline



PUBLIC and private companies from Mozambique, South Africa and China signed a cooperation agreement that focuses on building a large diameter pipeline with a length of 2,600 kilometers costing USD6 billion, reported South Africa's SacOil.

The signatories of the agreement were the Mozambican state oil company ENH, Profin Consulting, a Mozambican private consortium, South African company SacOil Holdings Limited (SACOIL) and China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau, a subsidiary of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) specialized in building oil and gas pipelines.

This cooperation agreement, which aims to take advantage of the natural gas extracted in the Rovuma basin in northern Mozambique, includes construction of a pipeline between the producing region, Areas 1 and 4 of the Rovuma basin, and Gauteng, South Africa.

This pipeline will help South Africa to meet the growing demand for natural gas for electricity generation and will also supply regions of Mozambique along the route.

The countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) that would benefit from construction of this pipeline include Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. **MDT/Macauhub**

corporate bits

EMIRATES COMPLETES WORLD'S LONGEST NONSTOP FLIGHT

An Emirates Airbus A380 has completed a 14,203km nonstop flight from Dubai to Auckland, the longest in the world.

Passengers are set to spend 17 hours and 15 minutes in the air on the return journey from Auckland to Dubai in the longest duration flight, according to reports.

A Qantas Airbus A380 held the previous record for the longest nonstop flight, with an 8,578-mile (13,804km) journey from Dallas/Ft. Worth to Sydney.

Emirates will break its own record later this month with a new Dubai-Panama City service, which will take 17 hours and 35 minutes.

Emirates will thus hold the



record for operating the two longest flights in the world, with the Dubai-Auckland

and Dubai-Panama City routes. Qantas' DFW-Sydney route ranks third.

HOTEL ROYAL REVEALS SPECIAL EASTER MENU

Hotel Royal will celebrate Easter the Portuguese way at its Fado restaurant, with a unique Easter a-la-carte menu created by its executive chef.

The menu offers customers a choice of six enticing appetizers, main courses and desserts, all prepared using the finest ingredients.

The menu includes "Octopus salad with roasted red bell-pepper mousse" as well as "Suckling pig pie with apple rocket and honey mustard sauce," a reinvented appetizer that combines traditional Portuguese ingredients with modern recipes.

For dessert, Fado will serve "Portuguese East-



ter sponge cake with Serra cheese, cinnamon and pumpkin jam".

The restaurant will serve

its Easter menu from March 21 to 28. Guests can mix and match their preferred dishes.

opinion

Views on China

Tim Culpan, Bloomberg

JACK MA CLOSING IN ON CHINA'S MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY

Of the dozens of investments that Alibaba has made over the past few years, purchasing a stake in China's Caixin Media could be the smartest of all.

Media reports today say that Alibaba affiliate Ant Financial is in talks to buy a share in the Beijing-based magazine publisher. At first glance, this may remind observers of Alibaba Chairman Jack Ma's Bezos-esque move into the South China Morning Post.

But there are key differences. Caixin's pedigree is financial as well as distinguished. Its Editor-in-Chief Hu Shuli is one of China's most respected journalists and commentators. She founded Caijing magazine in 1998 before leaving in 2010 to start Caixin, which counts the well-regarded Century Weekly magazine among its stable.

The fact that dozens of staff followed Hu from Caijing to Caixin is testament to the respect she commands in China's fractious and fraught media landscape. To get a sense of her editorial bent, one need only look at the first edition of Century Weekly under her stewardship. The Wall Street Journal noted at the time its cover story on looming inflationary risks and another article hinting at the governance-spurred reshuffle of executives at one of the nation's publicly traded state-owned banks.

Ant, the holding company for Alibaba's Alipay platform, wouldn't just be after the media organization for its financial news. Its broad spectrum of information is the real draw, and likely what attracted Tencent in an earlier funding round. Caixin said in a statement yesterday that it's in talks for another round, and declined to disclose the investors.

Ant, which is 38 percent owned by Alibaba and controlled by Ma, changed its name from Alipay last year to better reflect Ma's desire to move the company beyond a payments platform and toward a fully fledged e-commerce business. Its full name - Zhejiang Ant Small & Micro Financial Services Group - hints at what he's building.

Beyond Alipay, Ant offers loans to small enterprises, operates money-market fund Yu'E Bao, and is creating a credit-ratings firm, Sesame Credit, from data collected across Alibaba's businesses. Alibaba Vice Chairman Joe Tsai even boasted that a credit score from Sesame can speed up visa processing.

Recent moves by Caixin - which translates as 'financial news' - play into Ma's grand plan for Ant. In June, it took up sponsorship of Markit's China Purchasing Managers Index after that indicator was dropped by HSBC. Reuters at the time cited Hu as saying this was a "very important step" in Caixin's quest for a "strategic transformation." Reuters said the deal could lead to further cooperation on financial data and other services for Caixin.

Five months later, Caixin announced that its new think tank, China Insight Group, acquired a controlling stake in China Chengxin Information Technology. China Insight also partnered with CEBM Group to build a financial information services platform. In a statement outlining that transaction, Hu said that "Caixin wants to build itself into a comprehensive information group that combines the features of Bloomberg and the Economist Group." (Bloomberg LP, the parent of Bloomberg News, competes with Caixin to sell news and data in China.) In a short time, Caixin has gone from reporting on inflation to providing key economic indicators, a statistics database and financial research. Little wonder Jack Ma's interested: information is China's most precious commodity.

TIBET

First self-immolation of year reported in autonomous region

A Tibetan Buddhist monk set himself on fire and died in a protest against Chinese rule, in the first such action of its kind this year, a U.S. government-funded radio station said yesterday.

Kalsang Wangdu self-immolated Monday afternoon near the Retsokha monastery in western Sichuan province's traditionally Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Kardze, Radio Free Asia reported. It said the monk called out for Tibetan independence while he burned, then died on the way to a hospital in the provincial capital of Chengdu.

Tibetan exile sources say at least 114 monks and laypeople have self-immolated over the past five years, with most of them dying. Radio Free Asia puts the number of self-immolations at 144 since 2009.

Information from the region, which is largely cut off from the rest of the province by security checkpoints, is extremely hard to obtain, and local officials are reportedly under orders to remain silent about self-immolations. An officer who answered the phone yesterday at Kardze police headquarters and gave his surname as Li said no such incident had been reported.

"We are now in a period of preserving stability. If such



Exiled Tibetan Buddhist monks pray

a thing happens, we will make it known to the public," Li said by telephone.

Radio Free Asia and other groups also reported that a 16-year-old Tibetan living in India set himself on fire this week as a protest, but that he survived.

The protests are seen as an extreme expression of the anger and frustration felt by many Tibetans living under heavy-handed Chinese rule. Many protesters also call for the return of the Tibetans' exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 amid an abortive uprising against Chinese forces who had occupied the Himalayan region a decade earlier.

Tibetan monks and nuns are among the most active opponents of Chinese rule in the region and the strongest proponents of Tibet's independent identity,

prompting the authorities to subject them to some of the harshest and most intrusive restrictions.

Last year, Tibet's Communist Party chief, Chen Quanguo, demanded that Buddhist monasteries display the national flag as part of efforts to shore up Chinese patriotism.

Beijing blames the Dalai Lama and others for inciting the immolations and says it has made vast investments to develop the region's economy and improve quality of life. The Dalai Lama says he is against all violence.

The previous self-immolation, of a Buddhist nun also in Kardze, took place in November. The woman, who reportedly cried out "Tibet needs freedom" and "Let His Holiness (the Dalai Lama) return to Tibet," was believed to have died.

With the Dalai Lama now

80 years old, Beijing is increasingly focusing its attention on Tibetan Buddhism's second-ranking figure, the Panchen Lama, whom it has carefully groomed since he was a young boy.

China has rejected the Dalai Lama's choice for the next Panchen, a six-year-old who hasn't been seen since, replacing him with its own selection, now 26-year-old Gyaican Norbu. The young man resides largely in Beijing and is a member of the official government advisory body, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress, which holds its annual session starting today.

In a meeting with the Panchen on Tuesday, the ruling Communist Party's top official for outreach to non-party groups urged him to "keep in mind the exhortations of (President and party leader) Xi Jinping," state media reported.

"Continue the inherited traditions of Panchen loving the party and the faith, consciously make contributions toward safeguarding national unification and the unity of all ethnic groups," head of the United Front Work Department Sun Chunlan was quoted as telling him.

The Panchen responded by saying he would "bear in mind [Xi's] earnest instructions," the report said. AP

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Philippines spots suspected Chinese ships at disputed atoll

A Philippine official said yesterday that he recently spotted five suspected Chinese coast guard and navy ships at a disputed atoll in the South China Sea and fears Beijing will take control of another area frequented by Filipino, Vietnamese and Malaysian fishermen.

Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon Jr., who heads a Philippine-claimed region in the disputed Spratly Islands, said he saw the Chinese ships at the Jackson Atoll for two straight days last week while flying in a plane over the area.

Bito-onon said Chinese government vessels have not been stationed at the atoll, which the Philippines calls Quirino, in the years he has been passing by the uninhabited, ring-shaped reef.

Jackson Atoll lies several kilometers from the Philippine-claimed Mischief Reef, which China occupied in 1995 and has turned into an island containing what appears to be

a runway. It lies midway between the western Philippine province of Palawan and Filipino-occupied Thitu Island in the Spratlys.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said it was trying to verify the reported Chinese presence and a report by the Philippine Star newspaper that the Chinese ships recently prevented Filipino fishermen from approaching the area. Chinese Embassy officials were not immediately available for comment.

A Philippine security official said the air force was preparing to fly a surveillance plane to verify the Chinese presence. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the military does not discuss such covert missions publicly.

"I'm alarmed because we frequently pass by that atoll on our way to Pagasa," Bito-onon told The Associated Press by telephone, using the Phil-

ippine name for Thitu Island, where he frequently travels to visit a Filipino fishing community guarded by troops. "What will happen now if we sail close by with all those Chinese ships?"

Filipino, Vietnamese and Malaysian fishing boats have gone to the vast fishing lagoon Jackson for years, Bito-onon said, adding that Filipino fishermen were looking forward to the start of the octopus-catching season that starts next month.

Philippine planes landing and taking off at Thitu have also been warned frequently to stay away by Chinese forces based at the nearby Subi Reef, one of seven reefs in the disputed Spratlys that China has transformed into islands in the last two years using dredged sand. The plane that he was on last week that flew to Thitu was shooed away again by the Chinese at Subi, Bito-onon said. AP

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

NPC

Naming Xi Jinping as 'core' may reflect power and weakness

CHINA'S President Xi Jinping has collected titles ranging from National Security Council chief to good old "Uncle Xi." Along the way, he's used state media to make his views known on such seemingly apolitical topics as avant garde architecture and celebrity culture.

That's not unusual for a national leader, but in China such labels and such opinions are taken extremely seriously — and the latter, in Xi's case, are sometimes translated directly into government policy in China's top-down, autocratic one-party system. They underscore the tremendous clout Xi has accumulated over his three years as president, which now seems set to rise still further.

As China's ceremonial legislature prepares to meet for its annual session, there are growing signs that Xi will be elevated to the position of "core" of the current generation of leaders, an accolade bestowed on past leaders, but which his immediate predecessor never attained.

While mainly symbolic, the move points not only to Xi's overwhelming grasp on power within the ruling Communist Party, but also his need to continue accumulating accolades to ward off potential challengers and deflect worries over a slowing economy.

"Xi certainly wants to be the predominant leader, rather than first among equals," said Joseph Cheng, a retired political scientist formerly at the City University of Hong Kong. "But he's going against the natural trend because it's very hard to concentrate power in one person in a modernizing society."

Being named the leadership "core" would bring Xi level with former President Jiang Zemin, who continues to wield influence despite leaving office in 2003, and more importantly, famed reformist Deng Xiaoping, the leader Xi is most often compared to in terms of personal authority.

That follows Xi's success in unraveling a network of potential rivals surrounding a former member of the ruling party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee. He's also sidelined members of predecessor Hu Jintao's China Youth League faction, most notably Premier Li Keqiang, from whom Xi has largely appropriated authority over the economy.

Virtual endorsements of elevating Xi to the "core" have flooded in from regional leaders.

"Resolutely safeguard, support and be loyal to the core of Secretary General Xi Jinping," Tibet's regional Communist Party secretary, Chen Quanguo, was quoted as saying at a Feb. 3 meeting, using Xi's official title as head of the party. "Resolute-

AP PHOTO



Chinese President Xi Jinping (front), leads the members of the Politburo Standing Committee as they arrive for a plenary session of the National People's Congress in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

ly safeguard the core of Secretary General Xi Jinping," came the virtually identical pronouncements from the party secretaries of Heilongjiang, Jiangsu, Hainan and Jiangxi provinces.

The next step would be for such wording to show up in official pronouncements, state media reports or even on banners within the vast chamber of Beijing's Great Hall of the People, where the National People's Congress opens on Saturday.

Xi's pet political doctrines also are expected to be elevated, particularly his "Four Comprehensives" blueprint for China's future based on a moderately prosperous society, reform, rule of law and strict party discipline.

All of that adds to the blossoming cult of personality surrounding Xi, the likes of which haven't been seen since Deng's heyday in the 1980s. Already, Xi's face adorns commemorative plates and tourist trinkets sold at Beijing's iconic Tiananmen Square. No less than five volumes of his speeches and writings have been published since he took office, two of them

concerning military affairs.

Xi likewise dominates important national events and the entirely state-controlled media, which has taken to referring him in casual settings as "Xidada," or Uncle Xi, in an apparent bid to burnish his avuncular, everyman appeal. His televised image loomed Big Brother-like over September's extraordinary military parade marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. As he stood on the famed Tiananmen rostrum, a massive outdoor TV screen projected his image on the opposite side of the parade.

It's not unusual for reports on his inspection visits to occupy the first 20 minutes of the half-hour evening news broadcast.

For Elizabeth Economy, director of Asia studies at the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations, Xi's adding of "core" to his collection of titles would be "simply one more nail in the coffin of collective leadership" established after the death of dictator Mao Zedong in 1976, when Deng turned to fellow veteran cadres to guide the nation out of the xenophobic nightma-

re of the Cultural Revolution.

Xi's confidence in his sway over the Chinese government and public apparently has inspired him to demand that China's perennially underperforming footballers up their game, and to denounce "weird" modern buildings that have sprung up in Beijing and elsewhere.

Since then, the government's football management system underwent a top-to-bottom reform, and new guidelines are being issued to discourage "bizarre" and "odd-shaped" buildings and encourage those that are efficient, green and beautiful.

In October, Xi gave a speech warning Chinese celebrities against pursuing commercial success rather than work that is "morally inspiring ... to serve the people and socialism." Dozens of official media and entertainment organizations later signed a pledge to uphold professional ethics and support the party leadership.

Xi has leveraged his authority to take charge of the most important policy oversight committees and pursue a nationwide campaign against corrupt officials that has seen almost 1,500 named as suspects, more than 150 of them from the senior ranks. While popular among the public, the crackdown has unsettled the vast bureaucracy and is widely seen as serving a political agenda in helping to eliminate rivals.

"Will Xi end up just accumulating power for power's its own sake? Only time will tell," said Steve Tsang, senior fellow at the University of Nottingham's China Policy Institute, who says Xi is determined to "leave his marks" rather than just muddle through as leader like some of his predecessors.

Yet, Xi's push for ever greater status may be driven equally by a desire to limit his exposure to criticism.

Under Xi, growth in the world's second-largest economy is expected to slow to less than 7 percent this year, putting pressure on the job market at a time when 7.65 million college students are preparing to graduate and 1.8 million workers in the coal and steel sectors are due to be laid off. That, along with falling demand for Chinese exports, is raising the possibility of domestic unrest, something the government spends billions of dollars every year to suppress.

A cratering stock market and

mishandled currency depreciation have also severely dinged China's reputation for economic management, while heavy repression of lawyers, women's rights activists and other civil society groups speaks to a deep insecurity within the party's security apparatus.

Meanwhile, Xi's aggressive campaign to assert China's territorial claims in the South China Sea is damaging relationships it has been striving to cultivate with the U.S. and Southeast Asian nations. In that sphere, Xi is seen as especially beholden to the military, whose cooperation he needs in trimming 300,000 active service members, limiting his room for diplomatic maneuver.

As China's legislature prepares to meet, there are growing signs that Xi will be elevated to the position of 'core' of the current generation of leaders

Xi's personnel choices also speak to his insecurities. Rather than the technocrats many had been expecting, he's fallen back on tried-and-tested party cadres, while surrounding himself with a small coterie of advisers who maintain a tight hold on information.

Adding the title of "core" is therefore both a sign of strength and weakness, said Economy, who predicts a potential backlash unless Xi can make progress on key economic and social issues.

"It is strength because he has managed, whether through admiration or fear, to gain enough support to allow him to assume a true first-among-equals status," she said. "It is weakness because he feels the need to keep demanding additional trappings of power and adopting increasingly politically repressive measures, which a genuinely confident and legitimate leader would not need to do." AP

UN to vote today on new North Korea sanctions

Edith M. Lederer, United Nations

A U.N. Security Council vote on the toughest sanctions on North Korea in two decades has been postponed until early today [Macau time] at Russia's request, the United States and France said.

The U.S. and North Korea's traditional ally China spent seven weeks negotiating the new sanctions — which include mandatory inspections of cargo leaving and entering North Korea by sea or air — in response to Pyongyang's latest nuclear test and rocket launch. Both are in defiance of previous council resolutions.

But Russia, which received the new draft today along with other council members, asked for time to study the lengthy text, and suggested changes.

The United States late Monday asked the council to schedule a vote Tuesday afternoon. But the U.S. Mission to the United Nations said "Russia invoked a procedural 24-hour review of the resolution, so the vote will be on Wednesday [today]."

Angola's U.N. Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins, the current council president, said hopefully the resolution will be adopted "by consensus."

The U.S., its Western allies and Japan pressed for new sanctions that went beyond the North's nuclear and missile programs but China, Pyongyang's neighbor, was reluctant to impose measures that could threaten the stability of North Korea and cause its economy to collapse.

The final draft, obtained by The Associated Press, would eliminate loopholes in previous sanctions resolutions and impose new ones. But it stresses that the new measures are not intended to have "adverse humanitarian consequences" for civilians, the majority who face economic hardships and food shortages.

Angola's UN Ambassador Ismael Martins, the council president, said hopefully the resolution will be adopted "by consensus"

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Tuesday that the U.S. administration knows the North Korean people "have suffered for far too long" because of decisions from their government. "And that's why this sanctions regime is targeted more specifically at the North Korean elite."

For the first time, the draft resolution would require the 192 other U.N. member states to inspect all cargo from North Korea or heading to the country for illicit goods, ban any sale or transfer of small arms and light weapons to Pyongyang, and

require all countries to expel diplomats from the North who engage in "illicit activities."

It would also for the first time impose significant sanctions on broad sections of the North Korean economy.

The draft resolution would ban the export of coal, iron and iron ore that is being used to fund North Korea's nuclear or ballistic missile programs — and it would prohibit all exports of gold, titanium ore, vanadium ore and rare earth minerals. It would also ban aviation fuel exports to the country, including "kerosene-type rocket fuel."

Earnest said North Korea uses revenue from sectors like coal, iron, gold, titanium and rare earth materials to bankroll its nuclear and missile programs, and "the North Korean ruling elite" also benefits from those sectors.

In the financial and banking sector, countries would be required to freeze the assets of companies and other entities linked to Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs. Under a previous resolution, they were encouraged to do so.

The draft would also prohibit all countries from opening new branches, subsidiaries and representative offices of North Korean banks, and ban financial institutions from establishing new joint ventures or establishing or maintaining correspondent relationships with these banks. It would also order countries to close all North Korean banks and terminate all banking relationships within 90 days.



Under the portraits of the late North Korean leaders (Kim Il Sung) left, and Kim Jong Il, ambassador of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Jang Il Hun (right), is joined by councilor Kwon Jong Gun as he speaks during a press conference at the DPRK mission in New York

North Korea is already subject to four rounds of U.N. sanctions imposed since the country's first nuclear test in 2006.

Under those resolutions, it is banned from importing or exporting nuclear or missile items and technology as well as luxury goods.

The new draft would expand the list of banned items — adding luxury items such as expensive watches, snowmobiles, recreational water vehicles and lead crystal.

It would also add 16 individuals, 12 "entities" including the National Aerospace Development Agency which was responsible for February's rocket launch, and 31 ships owned by the North Korean shipping firm Ocean Maritime Management Company to the sanctions blacklist which requires the freezing of assets, and in the case of individuals a travel ban as well.

In addition to the mandatory inspection of cargo heading to or from North Korea by air or

sea, the draft resolution would ban Pyongyang from chartering vessels or aircraft, and call on countries to "de-register" any vessel owned, operated or crewed by the North.

While focusing on new sanctions, the draft resolution also demands that North Korea immediately comply with the Security Council's previous bans on ballistic missile launches, nuclear tests "or any other provocation." It also reaffirms the council's decisions that the North abandon all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and its ballistic missile program.

As with previous resolutions, the test will be whether U.N. member states enforce the sanctions. A U.N. panel of experts monitoring the sanctions has repeatedly pointed out that enforcement in a significant number of cases has been weak. North Korea has ignored many demands, and tried to circumvent others. AP

A gunman attacked and wounded a Saudi preacher and a diplomat from Saudi Arabia's embassy before being killed by policemen in the southern city of Zamboanga, police said yesterday.

Preacher Aaidh Al-Qarni was about to leave Western Mindanao State University after delivering a lecture late Tuesday when he and religious attaché Turki Assaegh were shot by the gunman, who darted out from a crowd, police spokeswoman Senior Inspector Helen Limen Galvez said.

Both victims were taken to a hospital for treatment and declared out of danger, Galvez said. Al-Qarni was shot in his right shoulder, left arm and chest while Assaegh was hit in his right thigh

PHILIPPINES

Gunman wounds Saudi preacher, diplomat in Zamboanga

and left leg.

Investigators at the scene found a pistol and a motorcycle the gunman may have used, police said. Policemen later arrested two other suspects in connection with the attack, Galvez said.

The motive for the attack was not immediately clear.

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said last week that the Saudi government had asked several countries, including the Philippines, for improved

security because of a possible threat, the nature of which was not specified.

Philippine police strengthened security at Saudi Arabia's embassy and its national airline following the request, Seguis said.

Seguis noted that Saudi Arabia has a conflict with Iran, where the Saudi Embassy recently came under attack, but said it's hard to say whether the reported threat was connected to that.

Protesters set fire to the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and attacked its consulate

in another Iranian city in response to the kingdom's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric on Jan 2. The protests prompted Saudi Arabia to cut diplomatic ties with Iran, escalating tensions between the longtime regional rivals.

Zamboanga, a major port city 860 kilometers south of Manila, has been hit by deadly bombings blamed on Abu Sayyaf militants, some of whom have pledged support to the Islamic State group.

Also this week, a major military offensive has

killed 24 suspected local sympathizers of the Islamic State group and captured their remote southern stronghold, where troops raised the national flag on Tuesday, the military said.

Six soldiers were killed and a dozen others were wounded in the weeklong campaign that involved about 2,000 military personnel in Butig town in Lanao del Sur province, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

Army generals turned over control of the captured militant stronghold in Poktan village to the Butig town mayor after the flag-raising ceremony, which was held near where leaders of the extremist group identified as Omar and Abdullah Maute used to live, Padilla said.

About 40 militants attacked an army camp in Butig on Feb. 20 in the predominantly Muslim region about 840 kilometers south of Manila. More militants, some wearing black arm and head bands with Islamic State group-style symbols, later joined in the fighting, prompting the military to deploy three battalions of troops backed by assault helicopters and artillery fire, according to the military. AP

Kathy Gannon, Karachi

Islamic State group in competition for recruits in Pakistan

TRYING to lure him into the Islamic State group, the would-be recruiter told Pakistani journalist Hasan Abdullah, “Brother, you could be such an asset to the Ummah”— the Islamic community. Abdullah replied that he was enjoying life and had no plans to join the jihadis.

“The enjoyment of this life is short-lived. You should work for the Akhira” — the Afterlife, the recruiter pressed.

IS had its eye on Abdullah not because he adheres to any extremist ideology but because, as a journalist, the group believed he could be a boon to its propaganda machine, Abdullah told The Associated Press, recounting his meeting with the recruiter.

His encounter was a sign of how the Islamic State group is looking for sophisticated skills as it builds its foothold in new territory: Pakistan. It is courting university students, doctors, lawyers, journalists and businessmen, and using women’s groups for fundraising. It is also wading into fierce competition with the country’s numerous other militant groups, particularly the Pakistani Taliban and al-Qaida in the Subcontinent, the new branch created by the veteran terror network.

Here in Karachi, Pakistan’s largest city, IS loyalists have set up their strongest presence, carrying out multiple attacks in the past year and setting up networks.

The port city of some 20 million people on the Arabian Sea has always been a favorite for militants to operate. Wealthy districts running on the city’s profitable commerce hold potential for fundraising, while the crowded, cramped poorer districts that have spread around the city provide recruits and places to hide. It also gives recruiters links to other parts of the country, since its population is full of people who have migrated from tribal regions or Afghanistan, looking for work.

The Karachi police’s top counterterrorism official, Raja Umer Khitab, warns that IS has great potential to grow in Pakistan, not only because of its large reservoir of Sunni extremists but also be-



Pakistani students stand in the US-funded Institute of Business Administration in Karachi

cause of the virulent anti-Shiite sentiment among their ranks. Hatred of Shiites and attacks against them are a keystone of the Islamic State group’s ideology and one source of its appeal among some hard-line Sunnis as it set up its self-declared “caliphate” in Iraq and Syria.

IS first announced its presence in Pakistan with a bloody attack in May in Karachi in which gunmen boarded a bus carrying Shiites, ordered them to bow their heads, then opened fire, killing 45. The gunmen left behind a tattered piece of paper proclaiming, “Beware... We have entered the battlefield for retribution and the implementation of Shariah.”

Since then, it has killed more than 35 policemen in targeted attacks, attacked two schools and killed rights activist Sabeen Mahmud, who was gunned down in her car with her mother at her side.

IS was able to expand into two tribal regions near the border with Afghanistan — Bajour and Orakzai — when Taliban leaders there switched allegiance to the Islamic State group. The IS branch in neighboring Afghanistan is also aggressively trying to expand its presence, putting it in direct competition with the Taliban.

The number of IS loyalists in Pakistan is not known. Government officials only recently admitted that they have a presence and insist loyalists here have no known operational links to the IS leadership in Iraq and Syria. Still, in one of the first warnings by an official about IS, intelligence chief Aftab Sultan told a Senate committee earlier this month that hundreds of Pakistanis have gone to fight in Syria, and some are now coming home to Pakistan to recruit.

One way IS militants are trying to recruit and build is through women. One academy for women in Karachi’s Baloch Colony neighborhood recruited women by playing IS videos in the classrooms, Khitab told the AP. The 20 female students then reached out to middle-class and wealthy Karachi women, urging them to donate their religious tithes to the IS cause of establishing a caliphate.

Several women were detained, including the wife of a suspected IS operative, and were released after questioning, Khitab said.

IS recruiters have been stalking university campuses. For example, the suspected mastermind in the bus attack, Saad Aziz, was a graduate of the U.S.-funded Institute of Business Administration

in Karachi.

A professor at the Institute, Huma Baqai, said there are radicalized professors teaching in some of the country’s top universities. They “are using the classrooms to mold [students’] minds,” she said. “There is no scrutiny in what happens in the classroom.”

■ **‘The enjoyment of this life is short-lived. You should work for the Akhira’ — the Afterlife, the recruiter pressed**

An intelligence official told the AP that security officials have interrogated several university professors suspected of supporting IS and trying to recruit students. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not allowed to talk to the press.

“Finding people who are willing to strap on a suicide vest and blow themselves up is easy. There are hundreds, thousands,” said Abdullah, the journalist. But the educated are a bigger prize. He said he knows two other journalists whom IS tried to enlist. Abdullah said IS probably sought him because he was known from his work writing on extremism in the region and has met many militants personally.

Abdullah said his courtship by IS began when he received a message on social media from someone offering information for him for a story. Abdullah didn’t hear from him again until weeks later,

when a man using the same name approached Abdullah as he had lunch in a park outside his office. The man told Abdullah he closely followed his writings — then said he was from the Islamic State group. Abdullah quizzed him about militants he knew to verify his claims. Near the end of the conversation, the man noted that many professionals were joining IS.

“This was basically his invitation to me to join their rank,” Abdullah said. And the man made his pitch.

Professionals can hold leadership posts or be involved in the group’s prolific and powerful propaganda machine, which includes sophisticated videos produced with the latest technology and vigorous use of social media.

Al-Qaida in particular is pursuing a similar caliber of recruits. Khitab said it isn’t clear who is winning the competition but there are known instances of al-Qaida militants in Pakistan crossing over to IS. Most notably, Khitab said, al-Qaida operatives Abdullah Yusuf and Tayyab Minhas defected to IS and are believed to have orchestrated much of the group’s violence in Karachi.

The past stereotype of a militant as a tribesman from the mountains in traditional garb with bandoliers of ammo slung over his shoulder has been replaced, said analyst Bruce Hoffman, director of the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University in Washington.

The new generation comes from “well-educated, cosmopolitan, university educated Pakistanis from middle-class backgrounds who can navigate our globalized space whether virtually or physically with facility and confidence.” They can use social media, cross borders and fit “seamlessly into global societies.”

“They are the new force multipliers of terrorist groups,” he said. **AP**

INDONESIA

Police arrest four more suspected militants

INDONESIA’S anti-terror squad arrested four more people suspected of being connected to deadly attacks in the capital in January, police said yesterday.

National police spokesman Maj. Gen. Anton Charliyan said the four knew about the plot one month before the Jan. 14 bombings that killed eight people, including four at-

tackers.

Two of the suspects were arrested in the Central Java town of Kroya on Monday, while two others were apprehended in Patok Picis village in the hilly city of Malang in East Java.

A total of 43 suspects have now been arrested in connection with the attack.

Among those arrested earlier was Nazarudin Mukhtar — also known as

Abu Ghar, who is believed to have planned the Jakarta attack with Muhammad Ali and Afif Sunakin, who were both fatally shot by police while trying to detonate a bomb in front of a Starbucks cafe.

Mukhtar had recently completed a prison sentence for his role in a deadly 2004 attack on a police station in Maluku province and allegedly joined a new

militant cell after visiting imprisoned clerics Abu Bakar Bashir and Aman Abdurrahman.

Charliyan said the last four suspects have links to Abdurrahman.

In response to the attacks, Indonesia’s government submitted a new anti-terrorism law to parliament last month, and lawmakers are expected to pass it within two months.



Indonesia’s anti-terror squad Special Detachment 88 police officers escort suspected militants as they are transferred to Jakarta following their arrest, at the local police headquarters in Malang

The draft bill, obtained by The Associated Press, says an individual suspected of plotting to carry out an act of terrorism could be detained for up to six months

without charges. If approved, it would be the first measure that strict to be enacted since the downfall of dictator Suharto in 1998. **AP**

Costas Kantouris &
George Jahn, Idomeni

HASSAN Rasheed's papers have been cleared but the Iraqi refugee has spent days freezing in a tent with no tarp on the ground and flaps that don't close, one of 10,000 migrants stuck at a muddy camp on the border of Greece and Macedonia.

They're hoping for a breakthrough in Europe's troubled negotiations on how to handle the deepening crisis. But there was little sign of that yesterday (Macau time).

Austria's chancellor insisted he would not to let his country become a "waiting room for Germany," while authorities from four ex-Yugoslav countries on the migrant route vowed closer cooperation to keep people out.

"I've been at Idomeni for 10 days and it's the fourth day I've been waiting to cross over," the 27-year-old Rasheed said. "Conditions are very bad. There are many ill children who are coughing, and we spent the night in this tent under heavy rain."

The heavily policed border, marked by a twin fence and coils of razor wire, remained closed a day after migrants attempted to push through the barriers and were forced back by Macedonian riot police using tear gas and stun grenades. Before that, sporadic closures since Feb. 19 had slowed the number allowed through to just dozens a day.

Overnight, rain soaked many families, who hung up clothing to dry Tuesday on the border fence.

More exhausted refugee families continued to reach the burgeoning tent city in this Greek border town on foot or by taxi. Many walked up to 30 kilometers along Greece's northern highways.

Ahmed Majid, a 26-year-old Iraqi, was traveling with his wife and two young children.

"We have been walking for three kilometers. Police stopped our taxi on the highway, which is why we are going through the fields," he said.

About 2,000 migrants are still reaching Greek islands from nearby Turkey every day, despite the recent deployment of NATO ships in the east Aegean Sea.

European Council President Donald Tusk was in Austria on Tuesday to try to persuade Chancellor Werner Faymann to change his mind about the country's decision to accept no more than 80 asylum

“We have been walking for three kilometers. Police stopped our taxi on the highway, which is why we are going through the fields.”

REFUGEE

requests a day at Austria's southern frontier with Slovenia.

But Faymann said Austria was determined not to accept the "policy of waving through" migrants to the rest of the EU.

"Austria is not a waiting room for Germany," he said. "This disorganized chaos must end. [...] It's important to have clarity on the EU's external borders. [Otherwise] Austrians have to be active on their borders."

Meanwhile, Austria's interior minister, Johanna Mikl-Leitner, announced plans by her government

OUT IN THE COLD

Refugees get no good news at Greek border

to launch an advertising campaign in Afghanistan — including billboards, TV ads and public bus banners — to discourage Afghans from trying to reach Europe.

Tusk added a stop in Ankara to his schedule, ahead of next week's summit of leaders from the EU and Turkey on migration.

To prepare for the summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel was to meet French President Francois Hollande in Paris on Friday, and she remained vocally opposed to the Austrian border closure.

"We must stand with Greece," a spokesman quoted the chancellor as saying on a Twitter post. "I am therefore in constant contact with [Greek Prime Minister Alexis] Tsipras."

In Athens, the government said it has requested 480 million euros (USD520 million) in aid for the refugee crisis from the EU, under an emergency plan to cope with as many as 100,000 stranded refugees — roughly three times the number now stuck inside Greece.

Athens is pressing EU countries to honor pledges to accept asylum seekers directly and for Turkey to help speed up deportations. The government said 69 people from North Africa considered ineligible for asylum were deported to Turkey, with another 230 people due to be sent back by today.

The impasse in Greece drew strong criticism from the United Nations refugee agency, which warned that Europe "is on the



Refugees stand in queue to receive food distributed by a non-governmental organization, in a refugee camp at the Greek-Macedonian border near the Greek village of Idomeni

culmination of a largely self-induced humanitarian crisis."

A UNHCR statement said inconsistent policies on the continent, which faces its worst immigration crisis since the end of World War II, "are causing unnecessary suffering and risk being at variance with EU and international law standards."

New York-based Human Rights Watch blamed "discriminatory

border closures" and the cap imposed by Austria for the crisis.

"Trapping asylum seekers in Greece is an unconscionable and short-sighted non-solution that is causing suffering and violence," said the right's group's Greece specialist, Eva Cosse.

"It demonstrates once again the EU's utter failure to respond collectively and compassionately to refugee flows." **AP**

GENERAL SAYS TERRORISTS IN 'DAILY' REFUGEE FLOW TO EUROPE

TERRORISTS, CRIMINALS and foreign fighters are part of the daily refugee flow into Europe, the top NATO commander in Europe told lawmakers, "masking the movement" of these dangerous elements and heightening the potential for an attack. In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove

said the Islamic State extremist group is "spreading like a cancer" within this mix, "taking advantage of paths of least resistance, threatening European nations" and the United States.

In response to a question about whether the Islamic State will continue to infiltrate refugee flows, Breedlove said, "I think that they are doing that today."

SUPER TUESDAY

Clinton, Trump cemented as leaders; Republicans desperate

REPUBLICAN Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton's decisive Super Tuesday victories in the contest to win their parties' presidential nominations have left rivals with few strategies to turn around the race.

The outcome, as a quarter of American voters had their say, was a setback for the Republican establishment's attempts to stop Trump as his outsider blitz threatens to split the party and damage its goal of winning control of both the executive and legislative branches of government in November.

Trump, the trash-talking New York billionaire, and Clinton, the former secretary of state, each won



seven states in the biggest day in the primary campaign, building their leads in the delegate counts that will determine each major party's nominee in national conventions this summer.

While Trump's rivals promised to fight on, Republicans remained deeply divided over the preferred

alternative. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio won only liberal Minnesota. Sen. Ted Cruz took his home state of Texas, neighboring Oklahoma and Alaska.

Clinton also won seven of the nearly a dozen states that weighed in Tuesday. Sen. Bernie Sanders won his home state of Ver-

mont as well as Minnesota, Oklahoma and Colorado.

In his victory speech, Trump sent a chilling message to the Republican establishment. After he professed to have good relationships with the party elite, he warned House Speaker Paul Ryan, who declared earlier Tuesday that "this party does not prey on people's prejudices." Trump said that if the two don't get along, Ryan is "going to have to pay a big price."

Clinton, meanwhile, called for "love and kindness." Sanders promised to take his fight all the way to the summer nominating convention.

The next round of voting in a busy March comes

Saturday, with Louisiana's primary, Republican caucuses in Kentucky and Maine, a Democratic caucus in Nebraska and caucuses for both parties in Kansas.

Both Trump and Clinton spoke from Florida, which votes later this month and is where the general election is often won or lost.

Both Rubio and Cruz said they would continue the battle to take down Trump. Cruz had been counting on more appeal in the Southern states and among evangelical Christian voters. Rubio and the other Republicans still in the race, John Kasich and Ben Carson, struggled to convey optimism even as they vowed to fight on. Rubio and Kasich's home states

of Florida and Ohio vote on March 15

But Trump is rolling toward the 1,237 delegates needed to secure the Republican nomination.

He won at least 203 delegates Tuesday. Cruz collected at least 144 delegates and Rubio picked up at least 71. Overall, Trump leads with 285 delegates, Cruz has 161, Rubio has 87, Kasich has 25 and Carson has eight.

Increasingly, Republican leaders talk of a contested convention in July as their best remaining option for stopping Trump, whose divisive rhetoric about immigrants and ethnic and religious groups has some fearing a Republican disaster in November. **AP**

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what's ON



THE MAGNIFICENT PALACE – IMPERIAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (No admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: March 13, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 7588

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION
TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily
 (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)
VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau
 (853) 2833 7676

THE MASTERY OF SHIPBUILDING – FISHING JUNK MODELS BY WAN CHUN
TIME: 10am-6pm
 (Closed on Sundays and public holidays)
UNTIL: April 9, 2016
VENUE: Gallery of the Historical Archives of Macau,
 Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida
 N° 91 - 93, Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919
ADMISSION: Free

NEW ART PEOPLE PROJECT 2016 POP UP SHOP FOR SOMETHING-SI-WAI'S CLOTHING EXPERIMENT EXHIBITION
TIME: 12pm-7pm
 (Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: March 27, 2016
VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

MA-BOA / LIS-CAU, DRAWING AND LITHOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)
UNTIL: March 19, 2016
VENUE: G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building,
 Xian Xing Hai Avenue, Macau.
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

Offbeat

METEOR SUSPECTED AS MYSTERY FLASH LIGHTS UP SCOTTISH SKY

Scientists say a meteor was the cause of a bright flash of light reported by people across Scotland and northern England.

Police Scotland said the force began receiving calls about 6:55 p.m. Monday, with people reporting a loud bang, a sudden blue, green or white light or a fireball in the sky.

Several drivers caught the sudden flash and streak of light on their dashboard cameras. Driving instructor Bill Addison said it looked like "a bright, electric blue spark."

"I thought it was a plane coming down at first, but it was moving too fast," he said.

The U.K. weather forecasting service the Met Office said the incident wasn't weather-related and the U.K. defense ministry wouldn't comment on whether the flash was linked to military activity in the area.

Steve Owens, manager of the Glasgow Science Centre planetarium, said the likely culprit was a chunk of space rock — "about the size of a tennis ball or maybe even a watermelon" — that was burning up in the atmosphere.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
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	The Knighthood
00:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:45	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

03 MAR - 09 MAR



GODS OF EGYPT_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

MERMAID_

ROOM 1

7v.30 pm

Director: Stephen Chau

Starring: Deng Chao, Show Lo, Zhang Yu Qi

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 92min

THE ROOM_

ROOM 2

2.30, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Lenny Abrahamson

Starring: Brie Larson, Jacob Tremblay, Sean Bridgers

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 118min

THE FINEST HOURS_

ROOM 2

4.45 pm

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Craig Gillespie

Starring: Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Ben Foster,

Eric Bana

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 117min

LONDON HAS FALLING_

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Babak Najafi

Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart,

Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 99min

MACAU TOWER

03 MAR - 23 MAR

GODS OF EGYPT_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

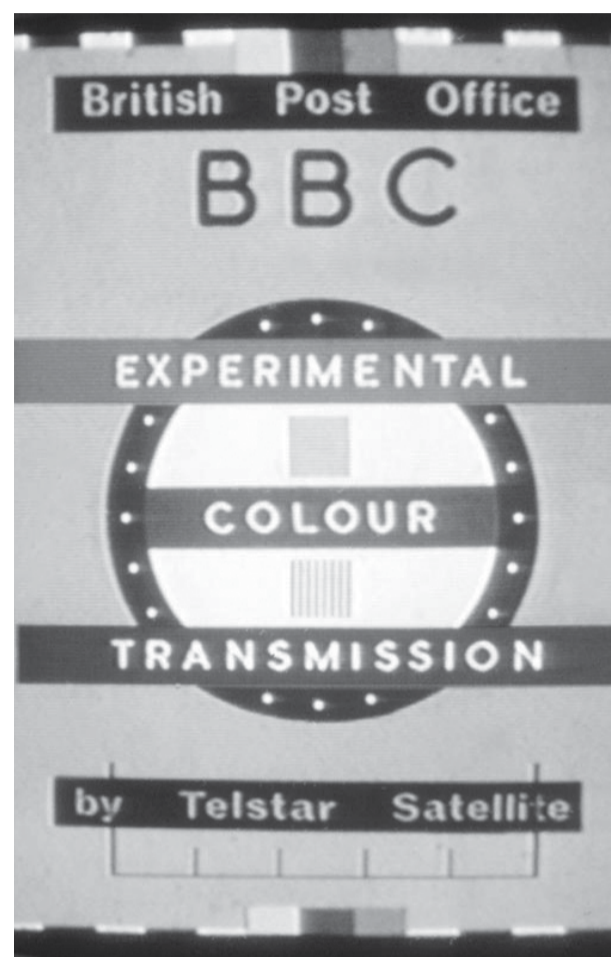
Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

this day in history



1966 BBC TUNES IN TO COLOUR

The BBC has announced plans to begin broadcasting television programmes in colour from next year. Britain will be the first country in Europe to offer regular programming in colour.

The announcement was made in the Commons by the Postmaster General, Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

The new service is expected to cost the BBC between £1m and £2m per year, for an initial four hours of television per week on BBC2, rising to 10 hours a week after 12 months.

The colour programmes will still be available on ordinary television sets in black and white. A colour receiver will cost about £250 and there will be a supplementary licence fee.

David Attenborough, controller of BBC2, will be responsible for overseeing the new colour service.

He said the promised four hours of colour programming was based on what the BBC could produce from its own studios and did not include imported programmes.

He said the popular Western series, The Virginian, and the Danny Kaye Show were both available in colour, but currently shown in black and white.

Mr Attenborough denied the colour programmes would all be re-runs of old shows: "We have to remember that 95% of people initially will not be seeing these programmes in colour, they'll be seeing them in black and white. The shows that BBC2 will be scheduling will be exciting new shows in black and white. They'll be that much more exciting and newer in colour."

The technique for delivering the colour service has not been finally agreed. European leaders are meeting in Oslo in Norway later this year to decide on a single system which will enable countries to be able to exchange programmes.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Europe adopted the Phase Alternation Line or PAL system for broadcasting in colour. It works at 50 frames per second, slower than the National Television System Committee adopted in the US, but with a higher resolution.

BBC2 broadcast its first colour pictures from Wimbledon in 1967. By mid 1968, nearly every BBC2 programme was in colour. Six months later, colour came to BBC1.

By 1969, BBC1 and ITV were regularly broadcasting in colour. The number of households owning a colour TV licence shot up from 275,000 to 12 million by the early 70s.

David Attenborough began a career in broadcasting in 1952, one of his first series was the popular "Zoo Quest". He was made Controller of BBC2 in 1965, then Director of Programmes with responsibility for both networks. He resigned in 1973 to return to programme making.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Can you think your way out of a paper bag? It would be a lot easier than relying on your charm...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You'd love to chat, but it's just not happening. Coworkers are either deep in their own work or nowhere to be found...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Sooner or later it will start to get dull, but in the meantime, you keep starting projects that your coworkers can finish...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Issues around the home are bleeding into your workday. Does making a living really require serious adjustments?...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Computer equipment and communications technologies -- now that's a good combination. Make good use of it...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Meetings can be dull, but use whatever method works to stay focused. Otherwise you could make a big splash...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It's a good situation: Getting things done is your forte today, and your high energy earns you plenty of attention from others...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Flipping a coin is out of the question, but just how can you best make decisions? Don't base them on subliminal impulses...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Pouncing on an opportunity is the wrong image. What the day calls for is tuning into the big picture. Wait until everything is just right before voicing your hopes and desires...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Focusing all of your energy on work still won't earn you the big bucks. Office culture is more important than productivity...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If you're in management, you may be cool towards the mailroom clerk. Don't be. And if you get the nagging feeling you've seen the face above a suit and tie before...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's just not worth it. Thinking about what others owe you is eating away at your productivity, not to mention your soul...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for Easy level.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for Easy+ level.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for Medium level.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for Hard level.

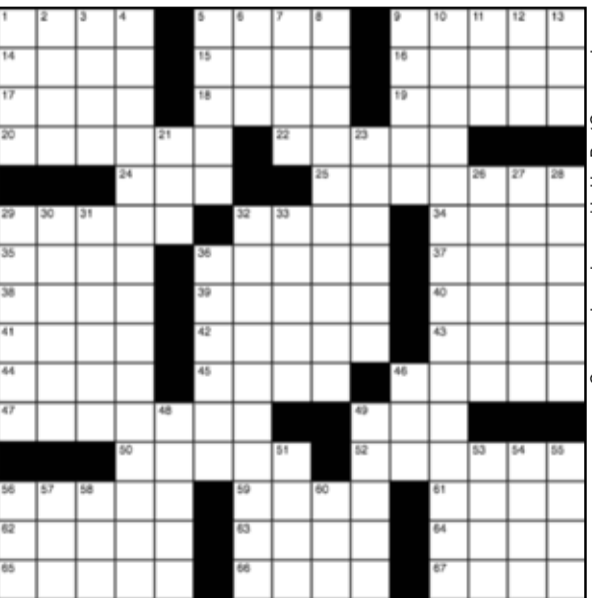
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fall prey to a banana peel, say; 5- Crikey!; 9- The Jetsons' dog; 14- Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace; 15- Hawaii's state bird; 16- Throat bug; 17- From the U.S.; 18- Posterior; 19- Lott of Mississippi; 20- Edible tuber; 22- Capital of Yemen; 24- Abner's adjective; 25- Exclave of Angola; 29- "Caddyshack" director Harold; 32- And ___ goes; 34- Capricorn's animal; 35- Dramatic conflict; 36- Reddish brown; 37- Put on the payroll; 38- Actress Helgenberger; 39- The Pacific, for example; 40- Sounds of disapproval; 41- Westernmost of the Aleutians; 42- Country singer Travis; 43- Sensed; 44- Bangkok tongue; 45- Sandy tract; 46- Thorny flowers; 47- Hearing distance; 49- Automobile; 50- Roman garments; 52- Private; 56- Dined at home; 59- Let's just leave ___ that; 61- Zip-___Doo-Dah; 62- ___ de Leon; 63- Religious practice; 64- Banister; 65- Squeeze; 66- Periods; 67- Unit of force;

DOWN: 1- Smack; 2- Prom wheels; 3- Belinda Carlisle's "Should ___ You In?"; 4- Study of communicative attitudes; 5- Sign up; 6- Golly!; 7- Collections of anecdotes; 8- Uproot; 9- Take ___ at (try); 10- Direct; 11- Uno + due; 12- Cartoon Chihuahua; 13- Choose; 21- ___ the season...; 23- Swimming; 26- Sounds; 27- Show indistinctly; 28- Bikini tryouts; 29- Branched; 30- First name in whodunits; 31- Short cannon; 32- Writing desk; 33- ___ a million; 36- Frankfurter; 46- Sprinted; 48- Sharpens; 49- Quotes; 51- Agitate; 53- An apple ___; 54- Bridle strap; 55- Strike out; 56- PC program; 57- Craggy hill; 58- Compass dir; 60- ___ glance



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
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BASEBALL

Yankees closer Chapman agrees to accept 30-game suspension

NEW York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman agreed to accept a 30-game suspension under Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy, a penalty stemming from an altercation with his girlfriend last October.

The four-time All-Star will serve the penalty from the start of the Yankees' season on April 4. He will lose 30 days of pay — USD1,856,557 of his \$11,325,000 salary. The agreement specifies he will be eligible for free agency after this season barring any additional suspension for off-the-field conduct that would cost him the necessary service time.

"I found Mr. Chapman's acknowledged conduct on that day to be inappropriate ... particularly his use of a firearm and the impact of that behavior on his partner," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement yesterday. "I am gratified that Mr. Chapman has taken responsibility for his conduct."

Chapman became the first player penalized a finite number of games under the policy, which MLB and the players' association agreed to in August following several high-profile incidents among NFL players. Colorado shortstop Jose Reyes was given an indefinite paid suspension last week, pending a trial scheduled for April 4, following an alleged altercation with his wife in October.

Baseball's investigation of



Aroldis Chapman

Chapman stemmed from an Oct. 30 incident at his house in Florida. Chapman's girlfriend, 22-year-old Cristina Barnea, told police he pushed and choked her. Chapman said there was an argument but that he was pushed down by Barnea's brother, eventually getting a handgun and firing eight shots into a wall and window while locked in his garage.

The Davie Police Department and Broward Assistant State Attorney Stefanie Newman declined to file charges, saying conflicting accounts and insu-

fficient evidence made a conviction unlikely. Under MLB's domestic violence policy, discipline does not have to be predicated on a conviction.

Chapman, 28, the hardest-throwing pitcher in the major leagues, was traded from the rebuilding Cincinnati Reds to the Yankees in December. He had said he would contest any suspension, but a deal was reached following negotiations with MLB.

"I want to be clear, I did not in any way harm my girlfriend that evening," Chapman said in

a statement. "However, I should have exercised better judgment with respect to certain actions, and for that I am sorry. The decision to accept a suspension, as opposed to appealing one, was made after careful consideration. I made this decision in an effort to minimize the distractions that an appeal would cause the Yankees, my new teammates and most importantly, my family."

Chapman's representatives and MLB had been discussing the discipline for about 10 days. A suspension of 46 days or longer would have delayed his chance to become a free agent until after the 2017 season.

The players' association said it supported Chapman's decision to accept the penalty and said "its members do not condone the mistreatment of others by playing or non-playing personnel."

With the Yankees, Chapman forms a powerful back end of the bullpen along with former closer Andrew Miller and Dellin Betances.

Chapman can continue to participate in all spring training activities. The penalty starts when the Yankees open the season April 4 at home against Houston. Barring rainouts, he would be eligible to start his season May 9 when the Yankees host World Series champion Kansas City.

"We need him," teammate Alex Rodriguez said yesterday before the suspension was announced. "He's a big part of our team, and I think the key in New York is you have to focus on the game, focus on your teammates, and I think he has a lot of support in that clubhouse."

Chapman will be allowed to use team facilities while serving his suspension and likely will work out at the Yankees' minor league complex in Florida, but he will not be permitted to play in any minor league games during that time.

Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig is under investigation by MLB for a fight with a bouncer at a Miami bar in November following an argument with his sister. **AP**

OLYMPICS

French prosecutors investigating 2016 and 2020 games bids

FRENCH prosecutors confirmed they have widened their investigation into corruption in athletics to include the bidding for the 2016 and 2020 Olympics.

"At this stage, we are just making verifications, we cannot prejudge the outcome of the investigation," Franck Charon, the spokesman for the national financial prosecutions office in Paris, told The Associated Press yesterday.

The 2016 and 2020 Olympics were awarded to Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.

After British newspaper The Guardian first reported that the investigation had been widened, the International Olympic Committee said it has seen "no evidence" so far

to support allegations of possible bribery in the bidding for the games. The IOC added it was in "close contact" with French prosecutors, who have been investigating bribery and money-laundering involving doping cover-ups at the IAAF.

In January, The Guardian reported it saw leaked emails linking the son of former IAAF President Lamine Diack to alleged "parcels" to be delivered to six IOC members during the bidding for the 2016 Games.

The emails were sent by Papa Massata Diack to a Qatari business executive in May 2008, the newspaper said. The Qatari capital, Doha, was bidding for the 2016 Olympics at the time.

The email suggested

that six people, referred to by their initials which corresponded with six IOC members at the time, requested "to have their parcels delivered through Special Adviser in Monaco," The Guardian said. It said the "special adviser" was believed to be Lamine Diack, who was then an IOC member.

The Guardian didn't know if any "parcels" were sent. In any case, a month after the email was sent, Doha failed to make the list of finalists in the 2016 bidding.

Charon had no comments on The Guardian's reports but said investigators were trying to find out if "some of the people" who have already been given preliminary charges in relation with corruption in athletics commit-

ted infractions during the bidding process for the games.

Papa Massata Diack was banned for life by the IAAF ethics commission in January for corruption and cover-up allegations linked to Russian doping. He has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He's wanted for questioning by prosecutors in France, and Interpol has issued a wanted notice for him.

The elder Diack, who headed the IAAF for 16 years until he stepped down in August, is accused by French prosecutors of pocketing more than 1 million euros (USD1.1 million) from bribes in exchange for covering up doping cases, mainly involving Russian athletes.

Lamine Diack resigned



as an honorary IOC member in November, a day after he was provisionally suspended by the IOC executive board. He served as a full IOC member for 15 years until 2014.

Possible wrongdoing involving Lamine Diack and the 2020 Olympic bid race was cited in a World Anti-Doping Agency commission report into IAAF corruption.

A footnote to the report indicated that Diack was prepared to sell his vote in exchange for a \$5 million sponsorship of IAAF events. The report suggested that Diack

dropped his support for Istanbul's bid because Turkey refused to pay, and backed Tokyo after the Japanese did pay.

In January, the IOC said it asked the WADA panel for transcripts from its report.

Tokyo organizers said the allegation was "beyond our understanding," while Turkey's Olympic committee said Diack's reported demand was not the reason Istanbul lost.

Tokyo defeated Istanbul 60-36 in the final round of IOC voting in 2013 in Buenos Aires. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Jonathan Bernstein, Bloomberg

THE MOST CONFUSING SUPER TUESDAY EVER

We're going to need some time to digest what happened on Tuesday [yesterday macau time] night on the Republican side.

Donald Trump won the most votes. He won the most states. He won the most delegates. But did he move closer to winning the nomination? That isn't so clear. FiveThirtyEight's delegate maven, David Wasserman, said going in that "a disappointing night for Trump... probably means anything less than 250" delegates won. It appears as if he's going to wind up a bit over 250. This is fewer than half the delegates up for grabs, however, so he's not moving closer to an overall delegate majority.

I've been looking at Trump's overall vote percentages to see if he was picking up support as the Republican field narrowed or if he would have trouble increasing his vote totals. Overall, his Super Tuesday results were mixed and not especially impressive. His apparent polling surge last week seems either to have dissipated or wasn't real to begin with.

Ted Cruz won in Texas, his home state, and in neighboring Oklahoma, and he was the spin winner of the night, judging by what the talking heads said on Tuesday night.

But Cruz failed to pick up any other wins in what should have been his strongest region. Some Southern states have yet to vote, and it's easy to underestimate how many conservative voters there are outside of the South – at least as a percentage of voters in Republican primaries. This was supposed to be Cruz's big chance at winning delegates, however, and he appears to have fallen short.

Marco Rubio finally won a state, Minnesota. He came close in Virginia. He continues to do well with late-deciding voters. While he fell behind Cruz in delegates on Tuesday night, he should have a clearer playing field ahead. And help is on the way. He spent relatively little on these states, but his super-PAC has been raking in plenty of money, and will presumably blast Trump in each coming primary.

But Rubio failed to perform his biggest task of the day: Knocking out Cruz. It's possible John Kasich will drop out, but it may be too late. Kasich probably accounted for the difference between a decent night and a disappointing one for Rubio. Had Kasich dropped out after South Carolina and Nevada, the Florida senator would likely have won in Virginia, might have won in Vermont (where Trump and Kasich were running neck and neck), and probably would have crossed the thresholds needed to gain delegates in three states where it appears he will fall just short.

Now, perhaps, everyone stays in, and Trump keeps winning most states.

It's even possible – though unlikely – that they will carve up the map and each take a slice (with Kasich staying in and winning only Ohio), and we will get a contested Republican convention after all, with no candidate ending the primaries and caucuses with at least half of the delegates.

More likely, one candidate will wind up winning states in the latter stages of the election calendar and reap plenty of delegates. This is what has happened before. Even front-runners who wind up winning are usually below the 50 percent mark at this stage in their delegate count. And on the Republican side, the rules make it easy for anyone who wins big to get a lot of delegates quickly.

So that's what will happen this time. Right?

THE AB INBEV TO SELL STAKE IN CHINA'S SNOW BEER

Anheuser-Busch InBev has agreed to sell SABMiller's stake in China's Snow Breweries for USD1.6 billion to ease regulatory concerns about the merger of the world's two biggest beer makers.

AB InBev says it agreed to sell SABMiller's 49 percent stake in Snow to China Resources Beer Co., which owns the rest of China's largest brewer. The deal is contingent on the

completion of AB InBev's 69 billion pound (\$106 billion) takeover of SABMiller.

The sale will ease concerns that AB InBev, which is already China's third largest brewer, would have a stranglehold on the lucrative Chinese market. AB InBev, which makes Budweiser and Corona among other brands, says the sale is part of an effort to "proactively address regulatory considerations."

Missing Malaysia plane debris reportedly found



A waiter walks past a mural of flight MH370 in Shah Alam outside Kuala Lumpur

INVESTIGATORS searching for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 are examining a possible Boeing Co. 777 component found off the coast of Mozambique, NBC reported, citing people it didn't identify.

The object turned up on a sandbank in Mozambique Channel, between the mainland and Madagascar, NBC said. Preliminary analysis of photographs by investigators in Malaysia, Australia and the U.S. su-

ggests it could have come from Flight 370, NBC reported. The object has the words 'no step' written on it and may be from a plane's horizontal stabilizer, the report said.

"It's too speculative at this point for MAS to comment," Malaysia Airlines said in response to questions from Bloomberg News, referring to itself by its acronym. Boeing couldn't immediately comment when reached outside normal business hours.

A spokesman with Malaysia's transport ministry said it's waiting for confirmation and verification from counterparts, without giving details on who the other parties are.

Investigators from about a dozen countries have scoured the Indian Ocean and South China Sea since the Malaysia Air 777 jetliner disappeared from radar on March 8, 2014 while on a routine flight to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur. **Bloomberg**

Strong quake hits off Indonesia

Ali Kotarumalos, Jakarta

A powerful, shallow earthquake hit off the southwestern coast of Sumatra in Indonesia yesterday, triggering a tsunami warning that sent islanders rushing to high ground. An official said the potential for a tsunami was small.

The U.S. Geological Service said the earthquake had a magnitude of 7.8. It was centered over the ocean at a depth of 24 kilometers (15 miles), it said.

Shallow earthquakes are more likely to cause damage, but the USGS said the quake was located far from land, about 659 kilometers (409 miles) from the town of Muara Siberut.

Andi Eka Sakya, head of Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency, said there was only a small potential for a tsunami. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, he said.

"I think its potential for a tsunami is very small," because the quake didn't occur along a major fault known as a subduction zone, he told TVOne.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to seismic upheaval because of its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of vol-

canoes and fault lines circling the Pacific Basin.

A massive magnitude-9.1 quake off Indonesia in 2004 triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries. Most of the deaths were in Indonesia's Aceh province on Sumatra.

Marjina, a resident of Sikakap in the Mentawai islands, about 690 kilometers (430 miles) from the epicenter, said the quake was felt only weakly there, but the tsunami warning caused panic among villagers, who ran to higher ground.

A resident of Siberut island, which is closest to the epicenter, said people evacuated to higher ground and were waiting for the tsunami warning to be lifted.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology issued a marine warning for the distant Cocos and Christmas islands. It did not advise evacuations, but said strong and dangerous currents were possible and people should secure boats and avoid waterfront areas. The Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Center issued but then canceled a tsunami watch for Western Australia.

The Indian government issued a statement advising that no tsunami threat was posed for the Indian coast. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	65-95 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	60-80 Moderate

SOURCE: D5IMG

WORLD BRIEFS



USA Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton take major steps toward claiming their parties' presidential nominations with sweeping wins on Super Tuesday, the biggest day in the primary campaign. The Democratic establishment is pleased. The Republican establishment is in panic mode. Observers say it was the most confusing Super Tuesday ever. **More on p14,20**

USA Two Catholic bishops led a small Pennsylvania diocese in covering up the sexual abuse of hundreds of children by more than 50 priests and other religious leaders over a 40-year period, according to a grand jury report. The report portrays the church as holding such sway over law enforcement that it helped select a police chief.

EU European Central Bank Executive Board Member Benoit Coeure said that the bank is "studying carefully the schemes used in other jurisdictions" to mitigate adverse consequences for banks of negative rates, in what is being viewed as a strong hint towards deeper cuts to interest rates by the ECB at its March meeting.



SPAIN Princess Cristina's husband told a Spanish court that palace officials oversaw the princess' tax dealings and were aware of his business operations at the Noos Institute, which is at the center of a tax-and-embezzlement trial in which the couple and 15 others are accused. Inaki Urdangarin told prosecutors he never made any decisions without consulting the palace.