



### MAJOR HOCKEY EVENT IN MACAU

The tournament is expected to gather a total of 16 teams, one of them representing the Basque Country

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### MARCH GAMING REVENUE LIKELY TO DISAPPOINT

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### AGREEMENT SCHEDULED FOR MAY

Macau and China will sign an agreement to strengthen cooperation on the management of maritime waters

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## WORLD BRIEFS



**NORTH KOREA** causes a new stir by publicizing a purported mock-up of a key part of a nuclear warhead, with leader Kim Jong Un saying his country has developed miniaturized atomic bombs that can be placed on missiles. [More on p12](#)



**JAPAN** A court issues an unprecedented order for a nuclear reactor in western Japan to stop operating and directs a second one to stay offline. [More on p12](#)



**MYANMAR** Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's decades-long battle to bring democracy to Myanmar is likely to come to fruition today — but she most likely will not become her country's leader due to a constitutional barrier.



**INDIA** Officials are launching a program to protect people from extreme heat in two high-risk regions, after a devastating heat wave killed at least 2,500 people across the country last year.

More on backpage

## ERROR MESSAGES

# Mainland censors shut down SCMP social media sites

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Alberto Lisboa



A roller hockey goalie

## SPORTS

# Macau organizes 'celebratory' triple hockey tournament

Renato Marques

**T**HE Macau Roller-Skating Association is organizing a major hockey event in the region, which will take place at the newly renamed "Taipa Northeast Sports Centre" pavilion (formerly the Sports Complex of the University of Macau) from March 23 to 27.

Antonio Aguiar, the president of the association, which was founded in 1982, told the Times that the tournament would include several categories and competitions. "In this particular tournament, what makes it a little different from others is that we are in fact gathering three different tournaments in one event. There will be one rink hockey and two inline hockey tournaments, with a seniors category and another for under-15s [U15]."

The tournament is expected to gather a total of 16 participating teams with around 300 people involved, including players and other team members. "Those numbers give an idea of the size of the event, which can equal some world-

class tournaments taking place in other countries worldwide," Aguiar added.

As for the purpose of these events, the president of the Roller Skating Association said the tournaments demonstrate "proof of our organizational capacity." More importantly, however, according to Aguiar, it "is a great celebration of roller hockey, which comes from the fact that we finally have a living space with conditions to practice and play hockey [the sports pavilion of Taipa Northeast Sports Centre]."

"It is a great achievement, although we do not yet have all of the time slots we were aiming for, but it allows us to concentrate almost all of our activities there. It is a long awaited outcome and a good reason for us to celebrate," Aguiar said.

The tournament is expected to promote hockey in Macau and also to prepare Macau's roller hockey team for the upcoming Asian Championship, where the team will try to renew its title of Asian Champions. The local players will have the opportunity to com-

pete with high-level teams after spending almost 18 months without entering a single competition.

Even if the teams invited have been purposely chosen to provide a higher level of competition, Aguiar thinks that Macau's team will secure a spot in the top three places in this tournament.

As for the in-line hockey, "It will be a big surprise, since it is the first time ever that the U15 team will compete, and this tournament will also be the first competition in Asia organized for the U15 division. It will be an experience for all the teams," the association's president said.

The inline hockey 2016 world championships will be held in Italy in June, and the Macau team intends to better its previous achievement of 14th. Later this year the team will also participate in the Asian Championship, where it hopes to improve on its sixth-place finish at the last championship.

The Times also spoke to the Macau Roller Hockey team's coach, Alberto Lisboa. According to Lisboa, the tour-

Championships. We cannot forget we do not have a normal training routine; we do not have a local championship and many other things that all the other participant countries have that allow them to evolve and practice more," Lisboa said.

As for the possible surprises of the tournament, the Macau head coach mentioned the "development in the sport of the Australian team, which has two players originally from Spain and Argentina who are an added asset to that team, and also Sesimbra [the Portuguese team] as they compete at a very high level."

"Since we will play against all the other teams, I think this will be very good in terms of feedback for us to set our own level and give us direction in terms of practice for future competitions. Our goal is to try to finish second."

The tournament is set to kick-off on Wednesday, March 23, with the first game scheduled for 2 p.m. between the teams of Chinese Taipei and Sesimbra, with the competition to end on Sunday, March 27, after the game between Macau and Basque Country at 6.30 p.m.

António Aguiar notes that "there will be seven games per day and lots of family entertainment," expressing his hope that the events will be well attended in Taipa. "Definitely this will be a great help to develop the sport in the region," he concluded.

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GAMING

# March revenues likely to disappoint

**A**CCORDING to research firm Sanford C. Bernstein, Macau's gross gaming revenues for March are likely to disappoint those who saw February's 0.1 percent decline as a sign of changing tides, with the firm forecasting a year-on-year decline of between 18 and 24 percent.

Last month Macau's gaming

sector was inches away from breaking its 21-month streak of declining revenues. Its recorded decline of just 0.1 percent, representing the smallest decrease since the downturn began in mid-2014, was attributed by analysts to a positive surge in number of Chinese New Year visitors and the growth of the mass market.

However, a Bernstein report

issued this week says that it expects March's gross gaming revenue to decline by as much as 24 percent when compared with the same month last year.

Though based solely on the performance of the first week of March, the research firm notes that average daily revenue for this month is already down by 21 percent from February's average. Bernstein analysts wrote in

the report that, "the estimate for the first week of March is disappointing as we were projecting March to decline by around 10 percent year-on-year," as cited by GGR Asia.

The Telsey Advisory Group made similar observations, saying that the month-to-date figures were "somewhat worse than expected," and estimated a decline of up to 24 percent for the whole month.

Meanwhile, according to gaming news website Calvin Ayre, Japanese analysts Daiwa are

standing by their previous forecast of a 13 percent decline year-on-year, insisting that March is traditionally a weak month for revenues.

Separately, the persistently declining gaming revenues are continuing to take their toll on employment in the casino sector. The Times reported earlier this week that the number of job vacancies in the gaming industry in the fourth quarter of last year declined from 841 to 462, with no postings for casino dealers. **DB**



## Casinos bounce back as gamblers ditch China stocks

**T**HE wheel of fortune is favoring Macau casino operators over brokerages as gambling revenue stabilizes and turbulence in the equity market weighs on turnover. Shares of Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Sands China Ltd. are among the biggest gainers in Hong Kong in 2016, after being the two worst performers over the previous two years, while Citic Securities Co. and Haitong Securities Co. are down more than 10 percent. The two-year slump in gambling revenue that was sparked by an anti-corruption campaign coincided with China's biggest-ever bull market in equities. **Bloomberg**

URBAN DESIGN

## Region ought to keep traditional Cantonese architecture

**T**HE British Business Association of Macau (BBAM) held a Business Luncheon yesterday featuring Keshi Chen, the leading designer of the Zhuhai Opera House and also the director of the Peking University Center for Urban Design.

The discussion, held at the St. Regis hotel, featured a presentation of Chen's designs of the cultural facility, selected over 33 international firms' submissions in the international bidding process for the right to design the building.

"This is the first time that a Chinese firm has won a contest involving international bids," he said. Chen considers this to be a landmark for Chinese architecture.



Keshi Chen (center)

The Opera House was one of the four cultural projects under construction, involving a total expenditure of more than two billion yuan. The projects represent the largest investment in this sector since the city was established as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in 1980,

according to data presented during the event.

Prof Chen told the Times that he was rather concerned about citizens' opinions on the Zhuhai project.

"The most important thing is to create an opera house that belongs to Zhuhai and its people [...] the building should be unique but most importantly, citizens should love the architectural design," he explained.

Henry Brockman, chairman of BBAM, commented that the Opera House will "greatly improve Zhuhai's tourist facilities and cultural environment, leading to an increase in the number of visitors to the area and

its financial growth."

Prof Chen is also the leading designer and consultant of the Tibet Tourism Town Lulang, which is supported by the Guangdong government. He believes that the project will help Tibet develop its tourism industry.

"It's a huge project. The biggest project [in Tibet] in 60 years and it's going to stimulate the Tibet tourism industry."

Commenting on the local architecture, Chen said that several buildings are quite interesting as Macau's character is "incredible."

"I hope that Macau can retain its Chinese traditions and the local Cantonese traditional architecture because there is a long history of Guangdong [in Macau]. The architecture, from my perspective, needs more ecological style," he commented.

He also suggested that Macau architects could practice in Shenzhen, Guangzhou and other cities, and vice versa, Mainland architects can work here in the city in a program of exchange.

"Macau should be more open-minded, to introduce more architects from mainland China," he added. **Staff reporter**

EDUCATION

## 1,550 infractions related to continuing education scheme

**T**HE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) announced yesterday that there have been 1,554 infractions related to the Continuing Education Development Plan between 2014 and 2016.

According to Kong Ngai, chief of DSEJ's Continuing Education Department, of those, the eight prosecuted cases relate to "fraud and forged documents," including one case where "one man used another person's identity to attend a course."

Since the program begun, five years ago, 520,000 applications were made to attend courses. Subsidies totaling MOP930 million were granted. A total of 110,000 residents attended courses. Averagely, each of the participants took part in two separate courses.

The government increased its grants to individuals to MOP6,000, up from MOP5,000 that was granted when the plan was first implemented between 2011 and 2013. Seventy percent of those 110,000 residents were under 39-years-old.

Yip Hak Kwong, director of Policy 21, the company responsible for the mid-term assessment of the scheme, reported that 90 percent of students expressed their support for the Continuing Education Development Plan. Correspondingly, Kong Ngai expects to see a more diversified structure in the future. **Staff reporter**

MARREIROS: 'SYMBOLISM RELATED TO ZHUHAI'

**LOCAL ARCHITECT** Carlos Marreiros is expecting the Zhuhai Opera House project to be a success. "It will be an iconic building in Zhuhai because it has a visual impact on the skyline of Zhuhai. The

symbolism is very related to Zhuhai because Zhuhai is linked to the sea and up until now, the city [...] is connected to oyster cultivation and all kinds of things related to the sea," he said.

# Maritime agreement scheduled for May

**A**N agreement between the mainland's General Administration of Customs and Macau to strengthen cooperation on the management of maritime waters and law enforcement is likely to be signed in May, according to the Secretary for Security.

Wong Sio Chak made the comments on Tuesday, after attending a graduation swearing-in ceremony for senior police officers and firemen.

On the sidelines of the event, Wong said that a preliminary agreement between Macau and the mainland



Wong Sio Chak

had been reached on maritime cooperation, including the specifics of law enforce-

ment duties over the city's 85 square kilometers of water.

He added that the agreement was the result of a recent visit to Beijing and a meeting with officials there. It included a meeting with the Minister of the General Administration of Customs, Yu Guangzhou.

In response to questions from reporters, the secretary said the local authorities were very concerned about the disappearance of a member of the Public Security Police Force facing a disciplinary investigation, and that the authorities are still investigating the case. He also confirmed that, as the Times reported earlier this week, the police officer under investigation had left Macau after assisting in a separate police investigation. No further information could be disclosed at the time, because the officer's departure from Macau was itself still under investigation, he added.

# MSAR submits diversified development report to Beijing

**M**ACAU submitted the "Report on the Promotion of Moderate Economic Diversification in the MSAR", to China's central government on March 1, local authorities revealed yesterday.

The report combines suggestions from government departments and members of the community to boost the region's development of a diversified economy.

According to Xinhua, the report "considers Macau's comparative advantage[s] and negative factors, especially its part in China's 13th five-year plan, the 'Belt and Road' initiative, and regional economic integration, to find [...] future opportunities."

According to the document, which was delivered in Beijing, the development of a diversified economy could be achieved by cultivating new industries with economic potential, medium and small-sized local enterprises, and encouraging professionals and young people to create their own companies. The report also suggests that Macau should secure its position as a

world tourism and leisure industry center, and a platform for commercial cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The report, coordinated by the Chief Executive's Office, contains not only suggestions on optimizing public policy regarding the goal of economic diversification, but also reports on opinions from within the community about how that might be achieved.

## CUSTOMS TO APPLY DUAL-CHANNEL SYSTEM

**THE MACAU** Customs Service has announced that the dual-channel system for arrivals will begin operations on March 15, in the hope that it will ease the flow of passengers at entry checkpoints. The first tests are set to be carried out at the Outer Har-

bor Ferry Terminal. Prohibited and controlled items, such as unlicensed plants, animals and medicine, will have to go through inspections along the Red Channel, whereas passengers with nothing to declare will simply walk through the Green Channel.

## INCREASED SUPPORT PROMISED

**THE PRESIDENT** of the Legislative Assembly, Ho Iat Seng has said that cooperation between Macau and the central government will only increase, according to a report by Macao Daily News. However, the latest state development direction report does not contain a separate chapter specially addressing Macau. Ho suggested that the reason for the lack of Macau focus was the temporary halt in new projects.

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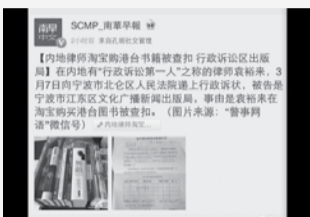
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# SCMP mainland social media presence eradicated

## THE FINAL SINA POST



**ANALYSTS HAVE** speculated that the alleged forced closure of SCMP's social media blogging portals were the result of their unfavorable coverage of mainland authorities over the recent cases of the absent Hong Kong booksellers and publishers. Reportedly, the last post of the newspaper on Sina Weibo read, "[Chinese civil rights lawyer] Yuan Yu Lai bought books on TaoBao from Taiwan and Hong Kong. The Press Authority of Zhejiang Province confiscated the books, so the lawyer issued a lawsuit against the authority." The post included pictures and a link to the main article, which was posted on the SCMP website.



**THE** South China Morning Post's (SCMP) micro-blogging accounts on Sina Weibo and Tencent Weibo and its WeChat page were allegedly all shut down this week by the mainland's internet censors, marking the latest extension of China's state-wide media suppression.

The three social media accounts, which were used to post updates of the paper's Chinese-language website, now display error messages. The newspaper's Sina Weibo page reads: "Sorry, there is something wrong with the account you are currently trying to access, and it is temporarily inaccessible."

According to the blog "Shanghaiist," the SCMP accounts "posted updates from the pa-

per's Chinese-language web property SCMPChinese.com/nanzao.com, now blocked on the mainland."

Media analysts are speculating that the censorship is most likely in response to the paper's coverage of the disappearance of the Hong Kong booksellers over the past few months.

The SCMP was a powerful force on Weibo, being named one of the most influential Hong Kong media sources on the platform for the second consecutive year in March 2015. It reportedly had over half-a-million followers before its page was shut down.

It is therefore no surprise that Weibo users were quick to notice and denounce the page's

disappearance. Que Diao Qiu wrote, "Not a surprise. Where are we heading if the newspaper can only report the good [news]?"

"I don't understand what you are scared of," posted user Ya Ge Jing pang. "[Do] you really think people will riot after reading the news?"

A third user, Ai Shi Shuang, wrote, "Ever since Alibaba bought SCMP, it has reported more news which Beijing didn't like. I guess that's why [the page was shut down]."

However, the recent acquisition of the SCMP by Jack Ma's Alibaba Group actually added to observers' fears that the publication's critical independence would be compromised.

It follows the tenure of Wang Xiangwei as SCMP editor-in-chief between 2012 and 2015, a Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference member and former employee of the China Daily, whose own staff accused him of acting on behalf of Beijing and practicing self-censorship – a claim that Wang later denied.

It was under Wang's leadership that the social media pages were launched back in April 2013, in an attempt to penetrate further into the digital space and into a wider Chinese market. **Staff reporters**

## Macau-related prints on exhibition



The opening of the "Heart Carving – Xue Yihan's Scenes of Macau Collection Printmaking Exhibition" will be tomorrow at the Albergue SCM – A2 Gallery. According to a statement, the exhibition includes 30 Macau-related prints by Xue Yihan, which unveil images of bygone days. Xue Yihan, the master of the South China Sea fine arts school, began his printmaking activities in 1957, producing several works at that time portraying sailors enlisted in the Navy and often participated in military exhibitions throughout the country in all provinces. Xue came to Macau several times in the 1990s, where he created works using a skilled technique of colour print on boards. The exhibition will be held until April 22, from Tuesday to Sunday. It is co-organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Albergue SCM and Beishan Lihe Creative Cultural Industries, Ltd.

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## Zara owner cuts store expansion goal in favor of online growth

**I**NDITEX SA, the world's largest clothing retailer, reined back its store expansion plans as the Zara owner delves deeper into e-commerce as a cheaper way to boost sales growth.

The Spanish retailer, which has more than 7,000 outlets, aims to increase retail space 6 percent to 8 percent in coming years, below a previous target of 8 percent to 10 percent, Inditex said yesterday. The operator of the Bershka chain also reported its fastest annual profit growth in three years and maintained revenue growth of 15 percent in the early part of 2016.

"While this may cause some raised eyebrows among investors, given the strong sales performance, we believe that Inditex is clearly able to grow market share with the less capital intensive e-commerce approach," wrote Jamie Merriman, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein.

Since Inditex's 2001 initial public offering, the retailer has boosted its sales more than sixfold through aggressive expansion of its eight chains. Two-thirds of its stores have been opened or revamped in the last three years. Inditex is now pulling back on the throttle in brick-and-mortar shops. Online expansion will compensate for less space growth, Chief Executive Officer Pablo Isla said on a conference call.

All eight brands will have e-commerce throughout the European Union and Turkey by the end of this year. Inditex ended 2015 with online operations in 27 markets and plans to add Taiwan, Hong

Kong and Macau in 2016.

Online purchasers go to the stores for two-thirds of their returns, which fuels further purchasing, Isla said. Most product returns are due to size, he said.

The operator of the Massimo Dutti and Bershka chains also reported its fastest annual profit growth in three years, with net income of 2.88 billion euros (USD3.2 billion) near analysts' estimates. Revenue gained 15 percent in the start of this quarter on an adjusted basis, maintaining last year's growth rate.

"Current trading is good news," said Anne Critchlow, an analyst at Societe Generale in London, who estimates that second-half same-store sales rose 10 percent in a period when warm winter in Europe eroded growth at Hennes & Mauritz AB. "Even under benign conditions, that would be a huge achievement. There's a stark contrast between Inditex and many of the other retailers we cover."

The stock's 10-fold increase since founder Amancio Ortega sold part of his stake 15 years ago has made him richer than Warren Buffett, with a net worth of \$69.4 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Inditex has been cutting prices on products to help drive sales. In the U.K., Zara reduced prices on higher-end products by 17 percent and less expensive ones by 36 percent in the 18 months through November, according to Credit Suisse. **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



Cathay Pacific Chairman John Slosar (right) and Chief Executive Ivan Chu

### AVIATION

# Cathay Pacific profit nearly doubles as fuel cost falls

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

**C**ATHAY Pacific Airways said yesterday that its annual profit nearly doubled in 2015 as passenger demand grew and tumbling oil prices cut its fuel bill.

Hong Kong's biggest airline said that net income jumped 90.5 percent from the year before to 6 billion Hong Kong dollars (USD773 million).

Cathay and other airlines are among the biggest beneficiaries of the drop in the price of crude oil, which has fallen from more than \$100 a barrel in mid-2014 to the \$30 level in recent months.

The airline said the amount

it spent on jet fuel, which is its single biggest expense, fell 18 percent to HKD33 billion (\$4.2 billion) last year. That's even after taking into account bigger losses from taking out contracts aimed at minimizing fuel-bill volatility that locked the carrier into higher prices. The losses from such fuel cost hedging ballooned last year to HKD8.5 billion (\$1.1 billion) from HKD911 million in 2014.

The company, which also operates Asian regional carrier Dragonair, said passenger numbers grew 7.9 percent but revenue slipped 3.4 percent to HKD102.3 billion (\$13.2 billion).

Chairman John Slosar said operating conditions improved last year but he expected some challenges to persist into 2016.

"Strong competition from other airlines in the region, foreign currency movements and weak premium class passenger demand will put pressure on passenger yield," Slosar said in a statement.

Cathay said that the first of 12 A350 jets ordered from Airbus will be delivered in May. The European planemaker's latest and most advanced airliner is aimed at competing with Boeing's 787 Dreamliner, which has proved popular with airlines because of its fuel efficiency. **AP**

## corporate bits

### VENETIAN TO HOST JEFF CHANG'S CONCERT

The "Prince of Ballads" Jeff Chang is set to thrill his fans in Macau when he brings his latest show, "2016 Jeff-Love-Light Year Live Concert in Macao," to the Venetian's Cotai Arena on April 2.

"Chang's unique voice has made him a fan favorite ever since his debut album 'Lie' was released way back in 1989. Since then the Taiwanese singer has released almost 30 albums, the majority in Mandarin, but several in Cantonese and English," states a press release.

Chang will delight concertgoers as he sings his most popular hits, including "Too Much" and "Belief". Tickets can be purchased at all Cotai Ticketing box offices."



### GRAND COLOANE RESORT ANNOUNCES NEW DINING OFFERS



Grand Coloane Resort is offering a series of new dining options at Café Panorama, amid the green landscape of the resort, to kick off

the spring season.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, the 'Prove Portugal e Macau' dinner buffet features flavors of Portugue-

se and Macanese cuisines from the restaurant's Portuguese chef. The restaurant also offers a Saturday and Sunday 'Family Brunch' with

free kids' activities.

In addition, 'Curry Evenings' are back every Monday and Tuesday, with Indian dishes and tandoori items.

Café Panorama will also be presenting a new a la carte menu, including a wide range of international choices. "Besides well-loved Portuguese, Macanese and Indian signature delicacies, the menu will definitely delight our guests who are looking for a light and healthy meal with the new vegetarian selections," reads a press release.

Grand Coloane Resort is situated on the southern tip of Coloane Island, overlooking Hac Sa Beach. The eight-story grand complex features Macau Golf & Country Club's 18-hole tournament-style golf course on its rooftop.

## SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Australian leader dismisses concerns about Chinese company

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**A**USTRALIA'S prime minister yesterday dismissed public concerns revealed by a U.S. opinion poll about a Chinese company leasing a strategically important port.

The Australian newspaper reported that the U.S. State Department had polled Australians via text message about their opinions about Chinese company Landbridge securing a 99-year lease over the Port of Darwin.

Almost half those surveyed said allowing a Chinese company to manage the port posed "a lot of risk" to national security and nine in 10 said it posed at least some risk, according to U.S. government research obtained by the newspaper.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said Australian defense and security officials had determined the 506 million Australian dollar (USD375 million) deal struck last year did not threaten national interests.

"That's how we determine security issues, not — with all due respect — by text message opinion polls," Turnbull told reporters.

The newspaper said two polls were commissioned in February, each involving more than 1,000 respondents nationwide. The polls were conducted on behalf of the Office of Opinion Research, which is part of the Bureau of Intelligence Research.

U.S. Ambassador to Australia John Berry said the State Department "conducts public opinion polls in countries around the world to supplement available polling and help us understand interna-



Gen. Lori Robinson

tional perspectives."

"Such low-level polls do not reflect U.S. government views, policy or position," Berry said in a statement.

Darwin is a major military base where U.S. Marines have

established a rotational presence.

Gen. Lori Robinson, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces, is currently in Australia discussing plans to rotate U.S. bombers through

northern Australian air force bases at Darwin and Tindal as part of an increased U.S. military presence in the Pacific.

An opinion analysis document, dated March 2 and marked for official use only,

**Almost half said allowing a Chinese company to manage the Port of Darwin posed 'a lot of risk' to national security**

warned that Landbridge's "reported ties" to the Chinese armed forces "raise concerns port access could facilitate intelligence collection on U.S. and Australia military forces stationed nearby," the newspaper reported.

Landbridge says it is a private company with no links to the Chinese military.

President Barack Obama asked Turnbull about the port deal when they meet in Manila in November.

"The United States government is satisfied that the security issues relating to the lease of the port were examined carefully and professionally and appropriately," Turnbull said. **AP**

## Philippines to lease Japanese planes to patrol disputed sea

**T**HE Philippine president says his country will lease five aircraft from Japan to help the local navy patrol Manila's territory in the disputed South China Sea.

President Benigno Aquino III said

yesterday that in addition to leasing the TC-90 training planes, the Philippines will also acquire a dozen military aircraft this year and in 2017 from other countries, including two more of a dozen FA-50 fighter jets from South

Korea.

Aquino says the government has spent more than 58 billion pesos (USD1.2 billion) from 2010, when his term started, to February this year to modernize the country's ill-equipped armed forces.

The Philippines has turned to the United States and other allies like Japan as it scrambled to strengthen its underfunded military amid escalating territorial disputes with China.

**T**HE Bangladesh central bank says it is working to recover some USD100 million allegedly stolen by Chinese hackers from an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Authorities have given few details about how the money disappeared. But Finance Minister A.M.A. Muhith says authorities are considering suing the U.S. bank over the money's apparent transfer to accounts in the Philippines.

Muhith said the U.S. bank has "no way to

## Bangladesh loses USD100 million, allegedly to Chinese hackers

avoid their responsibility."

The New York Fed put out a brief statement through its Twitter account this week, saying "Regarding hacking reports, there is no evidence of attempts to penetrate Federal Reserve systems [and] no evidence Fed systems were

compromised." Offices of the bank, one of 12 U.S. federal banks across America, were closed at night and officials were not immediately reachable for further comment.

The Bangladesh Bank said it managed to recover some of the funds, but gave no details. It has also tracked down

those still missing and is working with the anti-money laundering agency in the Philippines, which has been ordered by a court in the country to freeze the accounts while the issue is being investigated. Bangladesh also is working with World Bank cyber and forensic experts, the

bank said in a statement.

The country's leading Bengali-language Prothom Alo newspaper reported yesterday that at least 30 transfer requests were made Feb. 5 using the Bangladesh Bank's SWIFT code, out of which five succeeded in effecting transfers.

Economist Mamun

Rashid, who previously headed Citibank NA in Bangladesh, said he was sure the country would be able to recover the full amount.

"Bangladesh is a client of the Federal Reserve Bank. They must take the responsibility for this incident," he said. "But we have to see whether we have lodged our complaint properly."

Since hacking has been a threat for years, he said clients should not suffer if depositing with large banks. "A client's right must be protected." **AP**



A total solar eclipse is seen in Luwuk, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia



An Air Asia passenger plane flies as a partial solar eclipse occurs as seen from Taguig city, east of Manila



A partial solar eclipse is seen behind passenger capsules of the Singapore Flyer



A partial solar eclipse is seen behind a palm tree in Naypyitaw, Myanmar



The moon is obscuring part of the sun over flowers during a solar eclipse in Phnom Penh

Andi Jatmiko & Stephen Wright,  
Palembang

# Prayers, cheers as total eclipse darkens swath of Asia

**P**EOPLE gazed at the sky in wonder and cheered while others knelt in prayer as a total eclipse of the sun unfolded over Indonesia yesterday, briefly plunging cities into darkness and startling wildlife.

The rare astronomical phenomenon was witnessed along a narrow path that stretched across 12 Indonesian provinces encompassing three time zones and about 40 million people. A partial eclipse was visible in other parts of the Indonesian archipelago, a swath of Asia and in northern Australia.

Thousands of eclipse-chasers flocked to Indonesia from abroad and the government, which has been promoting the event for more than a year, forecast a substantial tourism boost. Some tour groups chartered ships to view the eclipse, which began in the Indian Ocean and ended in the Pacific, at sea. A dozen Americans joined a commercial flight from Anchorage, Alaska to Honolulu because its flight path would rendezvous with an eclipse sweet spot north of Hawaii.

Thousands of men, women and children gathered in Sigi Biromaru, a hilltop town of Indonesia's Central Sulawesi province, shouted and clapped as the sun transformed into a dark

orb for more than two minutes. Hundreds of others prayed at nearby mosques.

"The sun totally disappeared. How amazing this sunny morning suddenly changed to dark," said Junaz Amir, a Sigi resident who witnessed the eclipse with his family using special glasses that protect eyes.

In Ternate, one of the last cities in the eclipse's path, some residents said they were viewing it by looking at the reflected image in bowls of water. Experts say the total eclipse can be viewed with the naked eye but specific filters should be used during its partial phases to avoid permanent damage to the retina.

Most eclipses are partial but when the moon is close enough to the Earth, the sun is completely eclipsed by the moon's shadow and only a spectacular ring of rays known as the corona is visible.

The last time a total eclipse occurred over Indonesia was in 1988. Unfounded fears and misinformation caused panic, with people papering windows

and keeping children indoors.

Cloudy skies in parts of Indonesia dampened the spectacle for some. In Palembang, a Sumatran city of more than 1.4 million, thousands of residents from mothers carrying infants to old men gathered at its landmark Ampera bridge from well before dawn. But the total eclipse was only briefly visible if at all.

"Too bad we cannot see when the total solar eclipse occurred, but the dark atmosphere when it happened made us feel happy," said Palembang resident Martha Sembiring.

There was also disappointment for a group of six eclipse chasers who traveled from Canada and the U.S. to Kalimantan.

"Unfortunately we got nothing because we had rain showers and solid cloud," said optometrist Ralph Chou who was hoping to see his 19th total solar eclipse.

Chou, a Canadian who helped develop the international standards for eclipse filters, said there were still impressive ef-

**■ The rare astronomical phenomenon was witnessed along a narrow path that stretched across 12 Indonesian provinces encompassing three time zones and about 40 million people**

fects of light and darkness and birds appeared confused and disorientated by dark falling again after dawn.

The previous total solar eclips-

se was in March last year and was best viewed on Norway's Svalbard islands near the North Pole. The next total eclipse will occur in August 2017 and be visible over a slice of North America.

The entire eclipse, which began with the first patch of darkness appearing on the edge of the sun, lasted about three hours.

For the viewer, the length of time the sun was totally eclipsed depended on their location along the path. On land the durations were mostly between one and three minutes.

In the capital Jakarta, thousands of residents packed a planetarium at a downtown park where officials distributed about 4,000 filtered viewing glasses that quickly ran out. The eclipse, which from the vantage point of Jakarta produced an impressive crescent, was also streamed on monitors around the planetarium.

Scientists from NASA and Indonesia's aerospace agency observed the eclipse from Maba in the Maluku islands. **AP**

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

KOREAS

# Kim Jong Un poses beside possible nuclear warhead mock-up

**N**ORTH Korea caused a new stir yesterday by publicizing a purported mock-up of a key part of a nuclear warhead, with leader Kim Jong Un saying his country has developed miniaturized atomic bombs that can be placed on missiles.

The North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper carried photos on its front page showing Kim and nuclear scientists standing beside what outside analysts say appears to be a model warhead part — a small, silverish globe with a ballistic missile or a model ballistic missile in the background.

The newspaper said Kim met his nuclear scientists for a briefing on the status of their work and declared he was greatly pleased that warheads had been standardized and miniaturized for use on ballistic missiles.

Information from secretive, authoritarian North Korea is often impossible to confirm and the country's state media have a history of photo manipulations. But it was the first time the North has publicly displayed its purported nuclear designs, though it remains unclear whether the country has functioning warheads of that size or is simply trying to develop one.

South Korea's Defense Ministry quickly disputed the North's claim that it possesses miniaturized warheads. It called the photos and miniaturization claim an "intolerable direct challenge" to the international community.

The photos come amid heightened tensions after the Uni-



People watch a TV news program showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with superimposed letters that read: "North Korea has made nuclear warheads small enough to fit on ballistic missiles" at Seoul Railway Station

ted Nations imposed harsh sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear test and long-range rocket launch earlier this year. North Korea warned Monday of pre-emptive nuclear strikes after the United States and South Korea began their biggest-ever war games, which are to continue until the end of April.

North Korea has previously said it has nuclear warheads small enough to put on long-range missiles capable of

striking the U.S. mainland, but experts have questioned those claims.

The round object shown in the photos appears to be a model of a warhead trigger device which would contain uranium or plutonium, according to nuclear expert Whang Joo-ho of Kyung Hee University in South Korea. He said it was obviously a model because Kim and others would not stand near an actual device because of concerns

about radioactivity. In the photos, no one is seen wearing radiation suits for protection.

Several other analysts agreed that the object appears to be a model warhead part. But expert Taewoo Kim at South Korea's Konyang University said it looks more like a bomb that could be released from planes like the plutonium bomb the United States dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki during World War II, rather

than the type installed on missiles.

Whang said it was impossible to judge from the photos if North Korea has mastered the miniaturization technology because it is not known if the object is real or not. But he said its shape is similar to parts used in nuclear warheads developed by other countries.

Also shown in the photos is a KN-08 ballistic missile or its model, which reportedly has an estimated range of 10,000 kilometers (6,200 miles), according to South Korean analysts. The KN-08, which North Korea showed off in 2012, is said to be capable of being launched from a road-mobile vehicle, which would make it difficult to monitor via satellite. The South Korean Defense Ministry said it believes the missile hasn't been proven functional.

North Korea says it tested its first H-bomb on Jan. 6, followed last month by the launch of a rocket that put a satellite into orbit but which violated U.N. resolutions because it employs dual-use technology that could also be applied to long-range ballistic missiles.

North Korea's development of smaller nuclear weapons and long-range missiles has long been a matter of concern and could shake up the security balance in Asia. **AP**

JAPAN

## Court orders nuclear reactor to shut down, keeps second offline

**A** court issued an unprecedented order yesterday for a nuclear reactor near Kyoto to stop operating and ordered a second one to stay offline.

The Otsu District Court, which issued the injunction, said the emergency response plans and equipment designs at the two reactors have not been sufficiently upgraded after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

The order requires Kansai Electric Power Co. to shut down the No. 3 reactor and keep the No. 4 unit offline at the Takahama plant in Fukui prefecture in western Japan, home to about a dozen reactors.

The two reactors restarted this year after a high court in December reversed an earlier injunction by another court. The No. 3 reactor, which uses a riskier plutonium-based MOX fuel, resumed operation in late January, while the No. 4 reactor had to be shut down late last month after operating for just three days because of a series of technical problems.

Kansai Electric said it would abide by the decision and start the shutdown procedures for the No. 3 reactor this morning. The utility, meanwhile, said that the decision was "disappointing" and that it planned

to appeal.

The decision reflects Japan's divisive views on nuclear safety and leaves only two of the country's 43 reactors in operation.

The Takahama plant has been a major concern for the region. Residents say a major accident at the plant, which sits right next to Kyoto, a major tourist destination, would destroy tourism. They also worry about radiation impact on nearby Lake Biwa, a key source of drinking water for western Japan.

Judge Yoshihiko Yamamoto said the operator has not fully explained exactly how it has upgraded safety features at the

two Takahama reactors under the post-Fukushima safety standards. The utility has not fully explained its design philosophy, its measures to mitigate power loss or how to carry out evacuation plans in case of a severe accident and a massive tsunami, he said in the ruling.

The decision also shakes the credibility of the stricter safety requirements installed following the Fukushima disaster. Yesterday's ruling supported concerns by residents and experts that the stricter standards still do not require utilities to have adequate evacuation plans before applying to restart reactors.



No. 3 (bottom) and No. 4 nuclear reactors at Takahama nuclear power station in Takahama town in Fukui prefecture

Nuclear Regulation Authority Chairman Shunichi Tanaka said he could not immediately comment on how the ruling would affect the regulatory activity, but defended the new requirements, which incorporated lessons learned from the Fukushima disaster.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs welcomed the ruling as "fair, calm and wise," raising questions over the utility's safety culture and the regulators' safety standards. They urged the nuclear authority to

amend the safety requirements per the ruling.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters that the government stands by the regulators' standards and that plans to restart Takahama and other reactors deemed safe are unchanged.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government wants to restart as many reactors as possible. It says nuclear energy should remain a key power source for Japan, which has few natural resources to fuel its economy. **AP**



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David Bauder, New York

## USA ELECTIONS

# Town hall meetings now a campaign staple for TV networks

**T**HE 19 sanctioned presidential debates — so far — haven't been enough. Town hall meetings with candidates are popping up like mushrooms on the schedules of television networks, anxious for political programming at a time viewers' appetites seem voracious.

Three more are scheduled for today [Macau time] alone: Marco Rubio on MSNBC, with Donald Trump and John Kasich having separate forums on Fox News Channel.

Formats vary, but the theory behind the town halls is to have candidates address questions posed by voters. Usually the candidates are onstage without their opponents, although some town halls have candidates on back-to-back.

"Voters are engaged," said Dafna Linzer, managing editor of politics at NBC News and MSNBC. "The town halls, at least for us, offer voters a good sense of the candidates. Not every voter is a New Hampshire or Iowa voter that gets candidates to come in and sit on their sofa."

The 2016 campaign has been a boon to networks, as a glance at the wall-to-wall coverage on CNN, Fox and MSNBC illustrates. The 11th Republican debate was the most-watched program on all of TV last week, the Nielsen company said. Fox News is on a seven-week winning streak as the top-rated cable network, its longest ever. The networks stoke the excitement by running "countdown clocks" to the next primary results.

Each of the five town halls shown by CNN has reached between 2.2 million and 3.2



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks with Anderson Cooper (right) during a commercial break at a CNN town hall at the University of South Carolina in Columbia

million viewers; the network's prime-time average last year was 812,000.

While the debates are the subject of intense negotiations over rules and format, town halls are relatively easy to put together. The candidates are less on edge, since they're spending less time addressing sharp questions from journalists and responding to attacks from their opponents.

During a CNN town hall last month, a woman with five daughters and step-daughters in their 20s told Hillary Clinton that the young women were

"feeling the Bern." What could the woman do to convince them that Clinton, and not Bernie Sanders, was worth their vote?

"It was a very human moment," said Sam Feist, CNN's senior vice president and Washington bureau chief. "It was something that could have never been asked that way by an interviewer and have the same impact."

When the voters ask questions, "they usually have a story to tell," he said.

Feist grew up in New England, where town hall meetings have a deep history. He tends to be

■ The 2016 campaign has been a boon to networks, as a glance at the wall-to-wall coverage on CNN, Fox and MSNBC illustrates

more of a traditionalist by giving voters the largest role in these events; some competitors give more of a spotlight to their moderators.

CNN's next town meeting involves the Democratic candidates Sunday from Columbus, Ohio.

During a Democratic forum on MSNBC last fall, Rachel Maddow showed the candidates pictures of themselves in much younger days and asked what was going through their minds then. "It's definitely a different vibe," Linzer said, and a chance for more personal insights than usually

come through in debates.

"It's more freewheeling, there's more time and it's not as pressurized," said veteran campaign consultant Mark McKinnon, co-host of the Showtime series "The Circus." "Because it's more informal, it allows them to show their human side. They can unwind a little and contextualize and go beyond a 30-second answer."

"It's good for the candidates and it's good for the networks," McKinnon said.

Viral moments are a possibility. On Monday, Fox's Bret Baier interrupted Sanders' advocacy of universal health care to ask, "where does that right come from?"

"From being a human being," Sanders replied.

That's right — a Democratic candidate on Fox News. After Sanders committed to Baier's town hall, Clinton agreed to join him for her first appearance on the network during the campaign. Party committees have not granted Fox a Democratic debate, or MSNBC a Republican debate. But the town halls have opened the door to candidates to address network audiences they usually don't reach. MSNBC has had forums with Donald Trump, Chris Christie and John Kasich.

This is a particularly opportune time in the campaign for the town halls. The crowded Republican lineup last fall made organizing the events more difficult, and now things have narrowed, Feist said. Candidates are anxious for the exposure with primaries coming each week and are often in close proximity, campaigning in the same states.

When the nominees for each party become clear, that window will likely close. **AP**

## FRANCE

# Hollande faces day of protests over labor reform, train strike

**A**NGRY unions and youths joined forces yesterday in a day of protests against French President Francois Hollande's effort to tamper with the country's 35-hour workweek.

Several union and student organizations called protests in more than 200 cities across France to try to kill the bill which has even divided Hollande's Socialists.

The protests fall on the same day as rail strikes that are delaying some suburban and long-distance trains — but not local transport.

The contested labor reform would amend France's 35-hour workweek,

voted in 2000 by the Socialists and now a cornerstone of the left. The current Socialist government wants adjustments to reduce France's 10 percent unemployment rate as the shortened workweek was meant to do.

The proposal technically maintains the 35-hour workweek, but allows companies to organize alternative working times without following industry-wide deals, up to a 48-hour workweek and 12 hours per day. In "exceptional circumstances," employees could work up to 60 hours a week.

To allow companies to deal with business booms,

one measure would allow employees to work more than 35 hours without being paid overtime. In exchange, they would have more days off later on. Other measures would relax rules on layoffs and working from home and at night.

The proposals have turned all major employee unions and youth organizations against the government. With next year's presidential election looming and the Hollande's popularity having reached its nadir, legislation to make it easier for companies to end employment deals is fueling discontent in a country badly hit by the economic

downturn.

Ahead of a big gathering scheduled for Paris' Place de la Republique, several high schools were blocked off by students who set up barricades with garbage cans.

Outside the Helene Boucher high school, students cheered any mention of how the movement would prevent Hollande and the government from passing the bill.

Marianne Gicquel, a spokesperson for the FIDL student union, described young people's journey towards a stable job as "a succession of internships and poorly paid jobs".

"Now we're being told



Students shout slogans outside their high school in Paris

that it will be easier for companies to lay off workers," she said.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls' government insisted that the bill won't be withdrawn but discussions continue with union representatives. The bill, initially set to be discussed at a Cabinet meeting, has been delayed by two weeks amid growing opposition.

Hollande reiterated his support for the bill after meeting with his ministers at the Elysee Palace

yesterday.

"France does what has to be done regarding the labor law [...] in an effort to preserve its social model while adapting it", Hollande said in comments released by government spokesman Stephane Le Foll.

A recent survey by pollster Oxoda found that 70 percent of French people over the age of 18 opposed the bill. An online petition for its withdrawal has gathered more than one million signatures. **AP**

PORTUGAL

# New president Marcelo wants prudence, growth after crisis



**MARCELO** Rebelo de Sousa has been sworn in as Portugal's new president, making an appeal for prudent government spending after a recent financial crisis as well as a new focus on generating growth and jobs.

The veteran center-right politician and law professor who became a popular television personality takes over a largely figurehead post with no executive power, but one that can carry a political punch when the head of state speaks out.

Rebelo de Sousa, who won a January election, swore to uphold the Portuguese Constitution in a ceremony at Parliament yesterday.

He said in a speech that Portugal needs to heal the political and social wounds left by the sacrifices made after Portugal's 78 billion-euro (USD85.5 billion) bailout in 2011 and give people a reason for hope. **AP**

BRAZIL

# Magnate Odebrecht sentenced to more than 19 years

Stan Lehman

A federal judge sentenced the former president of the country's largest construction company to more than 19 years in prison for involvement in the massive corruption scheme at Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras.

Judge Sergio Moro, who is heading the Petrobras investigation, sentenced Marcelo Odebrecht to 19 years and four months imprisonment on charges of corruption, money laundering and for belonging to a criminal organization.

Odebrecht is the highest profile executive to be convicted in the so-called "Operation Car Wash" investigations. He is one of the central private sector figures in what prosecutors have called a criminal organization.



Marcelo Odebrecht

Prosecutors have said the overall scheme involved more than USD2 billion in bribes paid to obtain Petrobras contracts, with some money making its way to political parties, including the governing Workers' Party. Some of Brazil's wealthiest

people have been caught up in the probe, as have dozens of politicians from both the governing coalition and the opposition.

Petrobras is Brazil's biggest company and is in charge of tapping big offshore oil fields and creating wealth that leaders expected would propel the country to developed-world status.

Odebrecht's attorney Nabor Bulhoes said in an emailed statement that the sentence against his client was "unfair and unjust because none of the evidence produced backs it."

"None of the documents produced so far links Marcelo Odebrecht to any illicit act being investigated," Bulhoes said, adding he would appeal the sentence.

Odebrecht and other executives from other construction companies were

arrested last year as part of the investigation into the corruption scheme at Petrobras.

Marcio Faria and Rogerio Santos, former executives at the builder, were also sentenced to 19 years and four months in jail, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, in a separate case, former Sen. Luiz Estevao turned himself Tuesday to begin serving a more than 20-year sentence for misappropriating up to \$100 million in government funds during construction of a federal courthouse in the early 1990s.

Estevao was convicted in 2006, but managed to avoid imprisonment by filing several appeals. The appeal process ran its course and federal judge Alessandro Diaferia ordered his arrest on this earlier this week. **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

**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.  
 Free Admission  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2875 3282

**ONE CENTURY OF AUSTRIAN ART 1860-1960**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm  
 (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** April 3, 2016  
**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art,  
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
**ADMISSION:** MOP5  
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

## DNA TEST SHOWS VIETNAM TWINS HAD DIFFERENT FATHERS

A scientist and state media say Vietnam has identified an extremely rare set of bi-paternal twins, or twins with different fathers.

Prof. Le Dinh Luong, president of the Genetic Association of Vietnam, says DNA testing at his Hanoi lab confirmed the twins have different fathers, the first such case that he knows of in Vietnam, with only seven such cases reported in the world as of 2011.

Luong declined to give details because of confidentiality with his client.

Online newspaper Dan Tri reported that a 34-year-old man from northern Hoa Binh province had DNA testing after being pressured by his family because the twins did not look alike. One has thick wavy hair while the other has thin and straight hair.

To rule out a hospital mix-up, DNA testing of the mother showed that she was the mother of both children, the report said.

The twins who are now two years old were born the same day and have the same sex, it said.

Luong said bi-paternal twins could happen if two eggs from the same mother were fertilized by sperm from two different men within one to seven days apart in an ovulation period.

## TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:30	Champions League: Zenit St Petersburg - Benfica (Repeated)
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	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Choi Cheng
00:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

10 MAR - 16 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

7.30 pm

Director: Stephen Chau

Starring: Deng Chao, Show Lo, Zhang Yu Qi

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 92min



## THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT\_

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Robert Schwentke

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Jeff

Daniels, Naomi Watts

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min

## LONDON HAS FALLING\_

ROOM 3

(10-11, 13-16 Mar) 2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.45 pm

(12-13 Mar) 2.15, 5.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Babak Najafi

Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart,

Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 99min

## THE ROOM\_

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Lenny Abrahamson

Starring: Brie Larson, Jacob Tremblay, Sean Bridgers

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 118min

## (12-13 Mar) KUNG FU PANDA 3\_

ROOM 3

4.00 pm

Director: Alessandro Carloni, Jennifer Yuh

Language: Chinese(English and Cantonese)

Duration: 95min

## MACAU TOWER

03 MAR - 23 MAR

## GODS OF EGYPT\_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

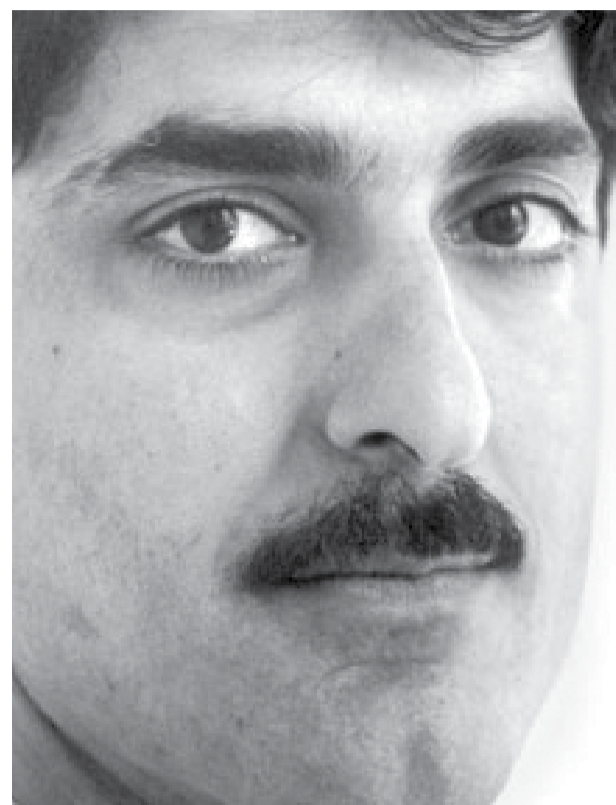
Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

## this day in history



## 1990 OBSERVER 'SPY' SENTENCED TO DIE

A court in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, has imposed the death sentence on The Observer journalist Farzad Bazoft.

He has been convicted of spying for Israel while working on a story about an explosion at a weapons complex 30 miles (48km) south of the capital.

The British nurse, Daphne Parish, who is said to have driven him to the site has been jailed for 15 years.

The pair were arrested last September after visiting the military establishment.

Mr Bazoft, who came to live in Britain from Iran in the early 1980s, had written a number of articles on the Middle East for The Observer newspaper. He was subsequently invited by the Iraqi government to join a journalists' trip to examine reconstruction work after the war with Iran.

But on the day he flew out, there were reports of an explosion at the Al-Iskandrai plant, said to be at the centre of Iraq's development of medium-range missiles. Hundreds were reported to have been killed.

The Observer newspaper commissioned Mr Bazoft to write a report. Independent Television News was also interested in the explosion, but a camera crew was stopped from reaching the plant. Mr Bazoft, travelling with Mrs Parish, got through.

He was picked up at Baghdad airport, waiting for a flight back to London.

Observer editor Donald Treford said: "Farzad Bazoft is not a spy. He is a reporter who went to do a story. He said in advance the story he was going to do.

"He told the Baghdad government where he wanted to go... This is not the action of a spy, this is the action of a reporter."

The so-called spies were tried behind closed doors. Mr Bazoft had earlier been filmed making a confession - his colleagues say it was false.

Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave met the Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister, Nizar Hamdoun, before today's hearing to demand a full and fair trial. Now he says he will be pressing for clemency.

He said: "Our objective now is to concentrate on the next few hours to try to get the death sentence lifted and to appeal on humanitarian grounds for an urgent review of the sentences."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

**Before** their trial, President Saddam Hussein had written to the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, assuring her Farzad Bazoft and Daphne Parish would get a fair hearing.

International appeals for clemency fell on deaf ears. Mr Bazoft was hanged on 15 March 1990.

He told a British envoy shortly before his death that he was "simply a reporter after a scoop".

There was international condemnation of the execution - but not surprise. Saddam Hussein's regime was becoming well known for its brutality.

The British ambassador to Iraq was ordered to leave and all ministerial visits cancelled.

Daphne Parish was released on 16 July 1990.

On 2 August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, starting the Gulf War.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to deal with an issue that just isn't going away...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You are feeling things more intensely today - pain, pleasure and everything in between...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Try to take care of others' needs today, even before your own start to worry you...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You are feeling rather indecisive about a major issue confronting you - and there's nothing wrong with that!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You need to think things through, which means you've got to get a new take on the situation...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Curiosity only kills cats, so go right ahead and indulge your mental restlessness...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You should deal with work and business issues today, even if that means neglecting family and friends...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your energy is undeniable today - and it is pushing you toward greatness!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Something weird happens midday: you see something or someone that inspires an intense deja vu experience...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Give your friends a hand with whatever they need today - your energy is just right for making their lives easier...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 How's the job (or job search) going? Now is the time to shake things up career-wise and start yourself on a new path...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You are having a hard time saying no today - but that doesn't make you a servant!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

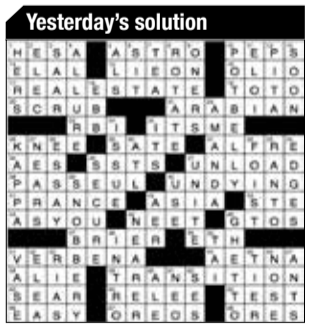
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- The Pacific, for example; 6- Hide; 10- Kodak rival; 14- Mother of pearl; 15- "What I Am" singer Brickell; 16- Show the way; 17- Tend a fire; 18- Has a bug; 19- Kitchen add-on?; 20- Dusk, to Donne; 21- Overbearing; 24- Thrash; 26- Bovine animals; 27- "The Raven" poet; 28- Surgery souvenirs; 30- Fool; 33- Gather; 34- Genetic messenger; 37- Stitched together; 38- White poplar; 39- Back part of the foot; 40- Blood letters; 41- Wake Island, e.g.; 42- Poles for sails; 43- Stove light; 44- Gang; 45- Ancient fortress in Israel; 48- Aids; 52- Easily decided; 55- Gratitude; 56- Fizzy drink; 57- Grow weary; 58- Appliance brand; 60- K-6; 61- Bit; 62- Great reviews; 63- Marsh bird; 64- Ginger cookie; 65- Fantasy;

DOWN: 1- Get-go; 2- Provide food for; 3- Low-budget prefix; 4- Vessel built by Noah; 5- Is unbogged to; 6- Freedom from war; 7- Blue-pencil; 8- Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace; 9- Precedent setter; 10- Tips off; 11- Understand?; 12- Deadly; 13- Designer Simpson; 22- Frozen water; 23- Long objects used to row a boat; 25- Atop; 28- Refine; 29- Order into effect, such as a strike; 30- This stickup!; 31- Ball belle; 32- Jima; 33- Peek follower; 34- Hi- monitor; 35- Can be used to catch fish or surf; 36- Gore and more; 38- Legendary island; 39- Mata; 41- Opera set in Egypt; 42- Condiment; 43- Canal site; 44- Buckeyes' sch.; 45- Hebrew prophet; 46- Speed skater Anton Ohno; 47- Exodus commemoration; 48- Lots; 49- Barrel part; 50- Fungal infection; 51- Muscle contraction; 53- "My Heart Will Go On" singer; 54- Mex. miss; 59- Deface;



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- 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
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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## FOOTBALL | CHINA SUPER LEAGUE

# As season starts, famous imports a mixed blessing

John Duerden

**A**FTER the USD300 million splurge on high-profile foreign stars in the preseason transfer window, there was one striking statistic from the opening round of the Chinese Super League.

Of the 16 goals scored, not one could be attributed to a home-grown Chinese player.

The influx of expensive imports has strengthened Chinese Super League clubs and increased attendances at home and the league's profile overseas, but has compounded concerns about the effects of too many overseas strikers in the domestic competition.

Brazilians Ramires and Alex Teixeira cost Jiangsu Suning more than \$80 million, and both scored in the first round. Asian champion Guangzhou Evergrande paid almost \$50 million to Atletico Madrid for Jackson Martinez, and the Colombian international duly scored for his new team.

The closest there was to a local goal came from Taiwanese international Chen Po-liang. With the array of foreign and creative strikers in the league, the Chinese attacking talent is being crowded out.

"From the perspective of the development of Chinese football, it's a despicably bad thing," the Guangzhou Daily News reported.

Dejan Damjanovic agrees.



AP PHOTO  
AFC Champions League match between Kashiwa Reysol and Guangzhou Evergrande in 2013

The Montenegrin striker was the third-highest scorer in the 2015 Chinese Super League while playing for Beijing Guoan

From the perspective of the development of Chinese football, it's a despicably bad thing.

GUANGZHOU DAILY NEWS

in a year when only two local forwards finished in the top 15 marksmen.

"This is the problem," Damjanovic told The Associated Press. "In all teams, it is the foreigners who are making the difference and scoring the goals and so clubs are buying strikers and midfielders to help them achieve their aims."

The problems this creates for the national team are evident.

China needs to defeat Qatar on March 29 to have any chance of progressing to the final round of Asian qualification for the 2018 World Cup. The country has only appeared at one World Cup, in 2002, when China lost all three games and failed to score a single goal.

"Generally, the national team of China is having problems because of this," added Damjanovic. "Chinese strikers when they play, they are not scoring too much. A few of them are doing good jobs but others are struggling. There needs to be improvements. They need to improve their young players and the youth facilities if they want to be one of the best leagues and national teams in Asia."

Australian midfielder Erik Paartalu, who spent a season with Chinese Super League team Tianjin Teda in 2013, said the issue needs to be addressed if Chinese football is to advance.

"The clubs just want a big name to attract crowds and to

make their owners look good," Paartalu said. China "won't have any success at international level anytime soon if it continues because [local forwards] need to be playing. And there isn't many Chinese playing outside of China."

The reliance on foreign strikers has been an issue across Asia for some time. Even Japan and South Korea, the continent's most successful countries, struggle to produce top-class goalscorers.

It is perhaps becoming more extreme in China, though. In the 2015 J-League season, seven of the top 10 scorers were Japanese. In South Korea, half of the top 10 were Korean.

Leagues in South Korea and Japan limit the signing of non-Asian players to three, whereas in China the limit is four. Plus clubs in countries such as South Korea and Japan can't compete with the growing financial resources of the Chinese clubs in terms of luring the top-line stars, so the gap in standard between locals and imports is not so great in those leagues.

This gives local players in China even less chance to get serious playing time as Tom Byer, a youth development expert who is consultant to the Chinese Ministry of Education's soccer program, points out.

"Traditionally, clubs buy foreign players who can score goals but unfortunately, Chinese players will not be given as much opportunity since there is such an influx," he said, adding that China wasn't unique in this issue. "There are lots of opinions on the subject [around the world] and most of the great strikers are still coming from South America and Latin countries where the culture is much more conducive to developing strikers." AP

## FIFA SCANDAL

## French football HQ raided in Swiss case against Blatter

**E**VIDENCE has been seized in a search at the French soccer federation headquarters for a criminal case against former FIFA president Sepp Blatter, Swiss federal prosecutors said yesterday.

The office of Switzerland's attorney general said the governing body for French soccer consented to the search carried out Tuesday, at offices near the Eiffel Tower in central Paris, with the cooperation of the French Financial Prosecution Office.

The raid is the first reported action outside Switzerland in a crimi-



AP PHOTO  
Sepp Blatter is greeted by Michel Platini, right

nal proceeding opened against Blatter last September for suspected financial mismanagement and misappropriation of

FIFA money. Blatter turns 80 today.

It focuses on a USD 2 million payment Blatter approved from FIFA

funds for Michel Platini in 2011. The previously secret transaction wrecked the former France great's bid to become FIFA president when it was revealed by Swiss prosecutors six months ago.

"Documents were seized in connection with the suspected payment," the Swiss federal prosecution office said in a statement yesterday. A formal request for help from French authorities had been made on Jan. 14.

Though no criminal case is yet open against Platini, the suspended president of European soccer body UEFA, Swit-

zerland's attorney general Michael Lauber has previously said he is "between a witness and an accused person."

"Michel Platini's status in the proceedings has remained unchanged," Lauber's office said.

Platini's lawyers said in a statement yesterday that the Swiss intervention was a positive step.

"We welcome this new stage because the sooner Swiss justice completes the investigation, the sooner Michel Platini will get out of the news headlines in which he does not belong," the statement said.

Platini was based in Paris rather than at FIFA's home in Zurich when he worked as Blatter's presidential adviser from 1999-2002. Then, the French federation's offices were on Avenue d'Iena, near the Arc de Triomphe.

The federation, now working from a building fronted by glass panels on Boulevard de Grenelle, issued no statement about the raid.

French media reported that the documents seized related to a contract between the federation and Platini for rented office space in 1999-2002. AP

opinion

**HK Observer**  
 Robert Carroll



**CHINA NEEDS TO WOO YOUTH**

Alienated people can become reckless, but addressing their grievances may win them over. Cue pro-Hong Kong localists and their results in the recent LegCo bi-election and student union elections: They will surely form a third force in LegCo general elections, both this year and for years to come. Whether this will play into the establishment's hands by significantly weakening the traditional pro-democracy camp remains to be seen. However, with interest in localist groups spreading across campuses and prevalent in the public housing estates during the bi-election, it looks as though a third block, in addition to the pro-establishment and pro-democracy sides, has arrived.

It's encouraging to see the chairman of the National People's Congress, Zhang Dejiang, downplaying serious unrest - involving localist groups - as a feature of the economic downturn elsewhere too, and describing it as street violence instead of rioting. That at least was what he told Hong Kong delegates at this year's ongoing NPC assembly. The Chinese authorities have been carrying out their own investigation into the riot and it seems, if Zhang's words are to be taken as findings of the enquiry, that a more realistic assessment than prior comments - that they were the work of separatists - has now come to the fore. This more muted response is welcome as it should not add fuel to the localists' fire.

The government of Hong Kong, despite the urging of hundreds of academics, has refused to investigate the Mong Kok riot, which is the most violent street disturbance since the infamous Star Ferry riots of the 1960's.

Given that localism emerged from the Occupy Central movement - a protest in response to the NPC's strict ruling on political reform - core issues such as widespread anxiety about growing mainland control, frustration at poor employment and economic prospects and the lack of affordable housing must be addressed. We are not in a politically static situation (despite the seemingly insurmountable impasse and mistrust between the legislature and the executive), we are in state of flux as the ever-more politically astute and demanding youth search for a way beyond the traditional pro-democracy camp to air their grievances.

It is clear that there is a great deal of dynamism among the young to seek change, from both the rise of activism through the Scholarism and Occupy Movements, and now with localism; these murmurs are passing between students, young professionals and through grassroots organizations. At the Occupy protests all ages from teens to late thirties were well represented; a vital segment of society that must be appealed one way or the other or we will face repression and fear.

A conciliatory tone is needed to reach out to the young, not the big stick. They are the future of this city. They have genuine grievances; let them be heard. There should, in corridors of power in Beijing, sooner rather than later, be acceptance that localist support in the by-election and in recent University student elections shows the strength of the sentiment. Likewise, for Chinese officials to warn democrats that the electorate would punish them for their role in Occupy Central was plain wrong. On the contrary it was not taking on board local sentiment and the chorus of reasonable voices in the political reform process that sparked this radicalization. Moderate pan-democrats, including many academics and middle-of-the-road pro-establishment figures, had been flexible in their demands, only to have their voices ignored by the hawks in Beijing. A number of politicians in their midst are facing early retirement in the form of defeat by Occupy veterans and perhaps localists in this year's LegCo election.

The gap between Beijing and many local young people may seem impossibly wide; nevertheless, we should take heart from successful resolutions between the most intractable of enemies. Look at The IRA and Britain, the ANC and the Apartheid government in South Africa and the East Timorese ex-resistance figures with Indonesia. All is not yet lost, but it will take a lot of good will on both sides and much bargaining. However, deals must be sought: the alternative, reaching the expiration of 'one country two systems' in 2047 with no agreement, is unthinkable.

**THE BUZZ** 923 ACCOUNTS AT ANDORRA BANK SUSPECTED OF MONEY LAUNDERING

The tiny European state of Andorra says a study shows one of its banks had 923 accounts suspected of money laundering.

Andorra seized Banca Privada d'Andorra last year after it was accused by the U.S. of helping groups from China, Russia and Venezuela launder money.

The study by consultants PwC said the 923 ac-

counts represented three percent of the 29,200 customers and about 1 billion euros (USD1.1 billion) in business volume, or 19 percent of its total. Andorran financial authorities say that more than 90 percent of BPA's clients are fit to be transferred to the newly-created Vall bank.

Located between Spain and France, Andorra has 85,000 residents.

LONG AND WINDING ROAD

**Beatles' producer George Martin dies at 90**



Producer George Martin (second right) poses for photographers with musicians Mark Knopfler, Paul McCartney and Sting, prior to the start of the Music for Montserrat benefit concert in London

**G**EORGE Martin, the Beatles' urbane producer who quietly guided the band's swift, historic transformation from rowdy club act to musical and cultural revolutionaries, has died, his management said yesterday. He was 90.

"We can confirm that Sir George Martin passed away peacefully at home yesterday evening [Tuesday]," Adam Sharp, a founder of CA Management, said in an email.

Former Beatle Paul McCartney said Martin had been "a true gentleman and like a second father to me."

"If anyone earned the title of the fifth Beatle it was George," McCartney said. "From the day that he gave the Beatles our first recording contract, to the last time I saw him, he was the most generous, intelligent and musical person I've ever had the pleasure to know."

Beatles drummer Ringo Starr tweeted earlier: "God bless George Martin peace and love to Judy and his fa-

mily love Ringo and Barbara. George will be missed."

Too modest to claim the title of the fifth Beatle, the tall, elegant Londoner produced some of the most popular and influential albums of modern times - "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Revolver," "Rubber Soul," "Abbey Road" - elevating rock LPs to art forms - "concepts."

He won six Grammys and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in 1999. Three years earlier, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

Martin both witnessed and enabled the extraordinary metamorphosis of the Beatles and of the 1960s. From a raw first album in 1962 that took just a day to make, to the months-long production of "Sgt. Pepper," the Beatles advanced rapidly as songwriters and sonic explorers. They composed dozens of classics, from "She Loves You" to "Hey Jude," and turned the studio

into a wonderland of tape loops, multi-tracking, unpredictable tempos, unfathomable segues and kaleidoscopic montages.

Never again would rock music be defined by two-minute love songs or guitar-bass-drums arrangements. Lyrically and musically, anything became possible.

"Once we got beyond the bubblegum stage, the early recordings, and they wanted to do something more adventurous, they were saying, 'What can you give us?'" Martin told The Associated Press in 2002. "And I said, 'I can give you anything you like.'"

Besides the Beatles, Martin worked with Jeff Beck, Elton John, Celine Dion and on several solo albums by McCartney. In the 1960s, Martin produced hits by Cilla Black, Gerry and the Pacemakers, and Billy J. Kramer and the Dakotas. And for 37 straight weeks in 1963 a Martin recording topped the British charts.

Martin started producing records for EMI's Parlophone label in 1950, working on comedy recordings with Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan and others, Sharp said. He had his first No. 1 hit in 1961 with The Temperance Seven.

But his legacy was defined by the Beatles.

AP (Read full feature on [macaudailytimes.com](http://macaudailytimes.com))

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**



À la mode. A model wears a creation for Iris Van Herpen's Fall-Winter 2016-2017 ready to wear fashion collection presented in Paris yesterday.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Good
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: D5M6

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**INDIA** A 15-year-old girl who was raped and set on fire this week dies at the hospital where she was being treated for severe burns.



**AUSTRALIA** hopes to send thousands of Iranian asylum seekers back to their homeland under a new deal with Tehran, Australian officials said yesterday. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop's negotiations with her Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif were well advanced on a deal expected to be signed next week.



**TUNISIA** Security forces have killed seven gunmen in further clashes near the Libyan border, bringing the number of assailants killed in two days to 43.



**ZIKA** Sexual transmission of the Zika virus is more common than previously thought, the World Health Organization said, citing reports from several countries. After a meeting of its emergency committee, the U.N. health agency also said there is increasing evidence that a spike in disturbing birth defects and neurological problems are caused by Zika, which is mostly spread by mosquito bites.

**USA** A New York City student from China who prosecutors say plunged into the dark side of the Internet was sentenced to 16 years in prison for trying to acquire ricin so he could sell "simple and easy death pills." Cheng Le, 22, was sentenced in Manhattan federal court after his conviction by a Manhattan jury in August on charges he tried to acquire ricin as a weapon, postal fraud and identity theft.