



**LOJA DAS CONSERVAS**  
**CANNED FOOD WITH A TWIST**  
 The Loja das Conservas opens shop in town, aiming to bring the best of the Portuguese centuries-old industry to Macau

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 A misreport yesterday because of inclement rainy weather caused a torrent of complaints about students arriving late and wet to school

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**WORLD BRIEFS**

**CHINA** Citizens of China have reacted with anger and alarm at news of a massive illegal vaccine operation uncovered in Shandong province. The vaccine ring involved hundreds of people and affected 24 provinces and cities.

**CHINA's** state-controlled media has weighed in on U.S. President Obama's historic visit to Cuba, warning the island nation of American motives, “arrogance” and “interventionism” in Latin America.  
 More on page 15



AP PHOTO

**MYANMAR** The new parliament voted to reduce the number of government ministries, with President-elect Htin Kyaw assuring lawmakers that no civil servants will lose their jobs and that the nation will save USD4 million.  
 More on page 12



AP PHOTO

**AUSTRALIA** Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull warns that he will dissolve both houses of parliament and call early elections if the Senate fails to pass two labor reform bills, which he insists are critical but opponents say are unfair.

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# Macau included in China's language preservation project

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Over 1,000 residents apply for 150 jobs at The Parisian

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**Q&A** SARA COSTA  
LOJA DAS CONSERVAS

# ‘Loja das Conservas’ - a high-quality approach to canned food

Renato Marques

**T**HE “Loja das Conservas” (Portuguese for “Shop of Preserves”) opens officially on Saturday (March 26) in the territory, aiming to bring the quality and know-how of a centuries-old industry that Macau knows well but with new range of options.

To better understand the shop’s concept, its goals and product range, the Times spoke to one of the managers, Sara Costa, who together with Gabriela Cheang embraced the challenge of opening this special place in Macau.

**Macau Daily Times – What was the idea behind the creation of this shop?**

**Sara Costa (SC)** – The idea was to bring Portuguese canned products to Macau, a place where the market for these goods has already been established for a long time, but in a different way and with a wider variety and with the whole [canning] industry represented under the same roof. We are talking about a shop that has established a protocol with the National Association of Manufacturers of Canned Fish (ANICP) so we



can have a very clear idea of what the Portuguese industry is producing now and in this way we are a showcase for these products.

**MDT – Why Portuguese canned products?**

**SC** – The quality of Portuguese canned products is great; they are very genuine products with a long tradition, full of history and with many stories to tell.

Our goal is to enlarge and to diversify the offering that is already available in the Macau market, and to give people here tastes that are different from products that they are familiar with.

We want to unravel the

idea that some people still have, that canned food is something to keep in the house for an emergency or a fast dish. We are presenting high quality products that in fact can be for special occasions, and that make an entrance; be they an exquisite appetizer or part of a special dish.

**MDT – Macau will have the first shop holding this “brand” (Loja das Conservas) outside Lisbon and will also be the first shop to offer these products outside the European Continent. Why Macau?**

**SC** – This concept was

dreamed up in Lisbon where we have two shops at the moment. We have other sales outlets in shops where we place our products in several locations in Europe such as Paris, Vienna, Warsaw, and we are aiming for a few more locations across Europe.

Macau we thought made sense due to its cultural connections and links, its cultural heritage and the presence of these products in the market for many years. We were also challenged to do it here by local partners that had the interest and knowledge of our project in Lisbon and we were happy to embrace that overall synergy and to move into Asia through Macau.

**MDT – Can this kind of product captivate the interest of the Asian market?**

**SC** – We sure think so. For the moment, is difficult to say clearly what people like the most, as our trial has only been running for a few days. But from this very short experience we can say that it has been running quite well. The products are not unfamiliar to people, they are used to them, and recognize them almost immediately, especially the sardines



**“The quality of Portuguese canned products is great; they are very genuine products with a long tradition.”**

and the tuna. But the main aim is to encourage them to actually try it because that is when they get really excited about it.

We have a very wide range here, different sauces, and different tastes and not only for the most common sardines and tuna, we have a range of new products like the codfish, the squid, mussels, eels ...

We purposely incorporated other flavors among the more common products, presenting them pickled, spicy or in sauces to differentiate them from the regular products people can find in supermarkets and other shops of that kind.

**MDT – The shop is located in a traditional area of the city where tourists mix with locals: is this the range of customers you target?**

**SC** – Yes, we focus pretty much on everyone – local communities, foreigners living in Macau and tourists – it is really a mix of everything. Everyone is now in a stage of discovery about the shop but we can say they mostly look for a similar range of products because they come for the variety. They take with them the sardines and the tuna but also the salmon and mackerel.

The location is another advantage of this project. We spent a long time searching for the right place, one that could match our target and also the ambience that we wanted to transmit. I think we achieve that here, in between the hustle-and-bustle of the city center and the peace and relaxation of the beautiful Rua da Felicidade.

## MGM signs MOP8m in SME deals

**M**GM China has announced that over MOP8 million has been signed in deals under the auspices of MGM’s SME (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) Business Matching Sessions so far, after being launched in October last year.

In a statement released yesterday, MGM stated that 430 local SMEs have participated in the business matching sessions, of which 358 were new partnerships with the company.

A total of 542 deals, amounting to more than MOP8 million, have been signed

between MGM and over 100 vendors, the company revealed, adding that “the majority met our [MGM’s] target criteria for focusing on specific subgroups of local SMEs.”

Of the 100 vendors that successfully signed deals with MGM, 67 belonged to a category entitled “Micro SMEs,” 16 were from the “Made in Macau” segment and 28 from “Young Entrepreneurs.”

“As an integrated resort with a strong presence in Macau, we are proud to drive business with local SMEs, which

will ultimately help Macau diversify and grow in a sustainable manner,” said Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer of MGM China.

“The positive results from our SME initiatives indicate that we are going in the right direction, and we will continue to nurture relationships with existing local vendors and with the many more newcomers to the field,” Bowie added.

To date, MGM has hosted two quarterly MGM SME Business Matching Sessions, one on November 30, 2015 and



the other on March 18 this year.

The company added that they will continue to host quarterly sessions throughout the remainder of this year, focusing on specific groupings of products that are regularly sourced by MGM. **DB**

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**MDT’s Website has logged over 120 million page views since January 1st, 2012 up to today.**

**Thank You!**

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A large group of employment applicants queued up at The Parisian's job fair at the Dunhuang Ballroom at Sands Cotai Central yesterday, offering vacancies in over 150 positions.

Approximately 40 departments were represented – from finance to front office, and from housekeeping to food and beverage – spanning both gaming and non-gaming areas of operations.

The fair, open to Macau residents, has been decorated in a French style, providing a unique experience for applicants. It features a complete recruitment process for most positions, from onsite interviews to contract signings.

Paulo Cheong, HR executive director of Venetian Macau Ltd, told the Times that the number of applicants exceeded their expectations.

"This job fair, we expected that we could attract 700 applicants per day so 1400 over two days. Maybe because we promoted a lot on different channels, [...] so we had more applicants than expected."

As of 2 p.m., Cheong claimed that they had received around 1,000 applications, in addition to 200 preregistered aspirants. He also said that they have already offered employment contracts to 100 of those applicants.

LABOR

# Over 1,000 applicants queue up at The Parisian's recruitment fair



Paulo Cheong

When asked if they plan on any further hiring of non-local employees, the Sands executive claimed that locals are currently the target of the current and future job fairs.

"It depends because we still have a lot of job fairs in the upcoming few months [...] so it really depends on our resources. Maybe after one or two months, we will have a clearer idea of what the will plan be, but we definitely want to hire as many locals as we can in the first few months," said Paulo Cheong.

Moreover, he also mentioned

the recently launched career development program of Sands, "My Way", for its team members. The new program allows current gaming team members to work in non-gaming departments and positions at The Parisian Macao for a set period of time, to provide opportunities for team members.

Meanwhile, applicants such as Ken are looking forward to working in the newly established resort.

"I think it will be refreshing to work in a place that has just opened, as opposed to going to some place that has been running for years and years," says Ken.

"I think it would be really great to maybe make a difference. A lot of companies, they kind of get into ruts, they have habits, and I think that having an opportunity to work in a new place especially in places that are as big as this, you know there are more opportunities to make your mark," he added.



Another applicant waiting in line, who didn't want to be identified, appreciated Sands' efforts in first targeting locals rather than recruiting workers from abroad.

"It's a great opportunity, especially for local residents because usually they hire abroad instead

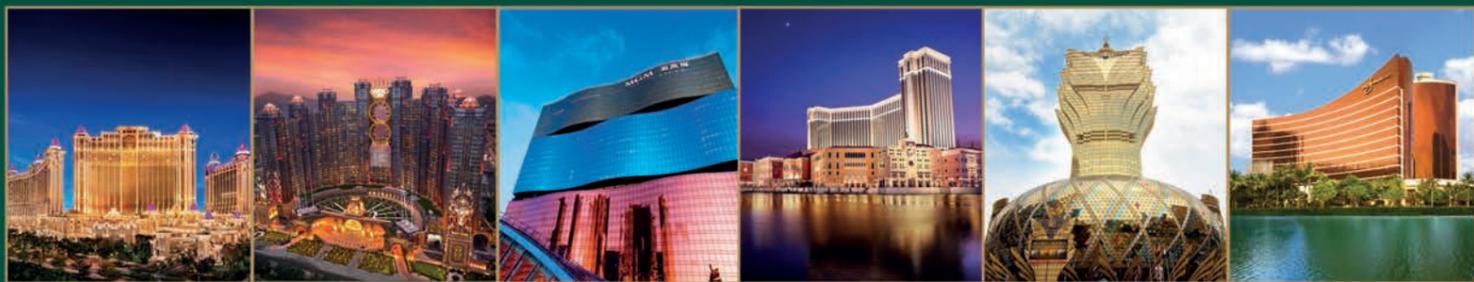
of actually recruiting people from here who have lots of talents and skills," commented the candidate.

The recruitment fair, offering more than 95 percent of the vacancies for non-gaming positions, will conclude today.

Staff reporter

AD

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## Macao Orchestra's Easter Concert features Beethoven's Mass



The Macao Orchestra presents the Easter Concert on Thursday and Friday, both at 8pm, at St. Dominic's Church. The Orchestra has specially invited renowned conductor Peter Tiboris (pictured) for these concerts, who performs frequently at Carnegie Hall, the Taipei Philharmonic Chorus, internationally renowned soprano Eilana Lappalainen, and three Korean soloists, mezzo Yang Songmi, tenor Shin Dongwon and bass Yoo Ji Hoon, to perform Ludwig van Beethoven's Mass in C Major and sacred works by Franz Schubert. The Mass in C Major performed in these two concerts is Beethoven's first mass. Admission is free.

## IFT launches new certificate on Performing Arts Management

IFT is going to collaborate with Cultural Affairs Bureau in offering Certificate in Performing Arts Events Management Programme in April 2016, hoping to cultivate more local talents for the cultural and creativity industry. This programme is designed with both theoretical and practical considerations to meet the demands of the fast-growing performing arts sector in Macau. The theoretical aspect of this programme provides the contextual understanding on the different types, aesthetics and issues of the performing arts, as well as its key management theories. The practical aspect, on the other hand, equips students with the necessary know-how and practice in production/stage management, production design. Professionals from Macau, Hong Kong and Singapore are invited to be the instructors of the programme.

## Guangdong ranks first in China's lottery sales

For 8 years in a row, Guangdong has ranked first in mainland China's sales of the national Welfare Lottery, with RMB20.5 billion worth of lottery tickets sold last year, Macao Daily News reported. Guangdong province raised more than RMB5.9 billion in funds for charitable associations and departments from RMB20.5 billion worth of lottery ticket sales. Total sales in mainland China amounted to RMB201.5 billion. Established in 1997, the China Welfare Lottery is run by the government and aims to raise funds to support the aged, orphans, and people with a disability or those living in poverty.

## CULTURE

# Macau included in China's dialect preservation project

**T**HE latest project from China's Ministry of Education (MOE), which aims to preserve the diversity of languages and dialects existing among China's ethnic minorities, includes one fieldwork site in Macau, Xinhua reported.

In order for the project to be in place in all 34 provinces of China (Taiwan included), a total of 935 fieldwork sites have been planned, 319 of which are due to have their work completed this year.

Macau and Hong Kong will each have one site, both of which are meant to document "the use of the corresponding local dialect," the state agency reported.

However, these two sites are not scheduled to start operations this year, with no further details disclosed as to the launch date. Likewise, the three sites planned by the MOE to open in Taiwan won't be operational until yet another undisclosed date.

Guangdong, a neighboring province to Macau and Hong Kong, will see a total of 70 fieldwork sites spread across its territory due to its densely populated area.

The province that has been



assigned the most operations, however, is Hunan, where work at 80 fieldwork sites will be finished before the beginning of 2019.

The MOE launched the project in May 2015, an initiative that saw its inception in places where local dialects and ethnic minority languages are in dire

need of conservation. Moreover, the ministry is urging local communities to build their own regional museums of language and culture. **Staff reporter**

## TOURISM

# Hong Kong riot affects package tours



**D**ATA from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that 580,000 people visited Macau during January on package tours, which represents a 31.2

percent decrease compared to last January. Free package tours are expected to be discontinued, Exmoo News reported.

According to the Macau Tour Guide Promotion Association, 10 percent of front-line tour guides have recently left their jobs to work as taxi drivers, real estate agents or in the beauty industry.

Zhu Ming Xia, president of the tour guide association, remarked that complaints from customers in Hong Kong, the incident in which a mainland tourist was beaten to death in Hong Kong in 2015, and the political environment (in a clear reference to the Mong Kok riot) are crucial reasons behind the decline.

"The package tours always visit both Hong Kong and Macau. If people don't go to Hong Kong, consequently they don't come to Macau," said Zhu.

On the other hand, the free package tours have been put under the spotlight. Ho Iat Seng, president of the Legislative assembly, as well as Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the Tourism Office, previously expressed their hopes of curtailing the flow of low-spending visitors, and of stopping the free package tours.

Ho said: "The free package tour customers don't do any shopping [...], if you don't have money, then you shouldn't travel." **Staff reporter**

## Inflation up 3.88pct in Feb

**M**ACAU'S composite consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, increased by 3.88 percent annually in February, slightly higher than the 3.81 percent rise from a month earlier, official data from the statistics agency showed yesterday.

The Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the

growth was mainly due to rising prices of vegetables, eating out, higher rentals for parking spaces and dwellings.

On account of the tobacco tax hike, the price index of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco registered a notable increase of 39.20 percent on yearly basis. Higher tuition fees and rising

rentals for parking spaces drove up the price index of Education and Transport by 8.92 percent and 6.50 percent. While the price index of Clothing & Footwear (-3.44 percent) and Communication (-1.39 percent) saw decreases, DSEC said.

According to DSEC, Macau's CPI for February increased by 0.96 percent month-to-month. Soaring charges for package tours during the Lunar New Year

holiday drove up the price index of Recreation & Culture by 8.47 percent. Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages rose by 1.86 percent on account of rising charges for eating out, as well as general increase in prices of vegetables, seafood and fruits due to the extreme cold weather. Seasonal sale of winter clothing and footwear pushed down the price index of Clothing & Footwear by 2.43 percent.

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

**Building controversy**

In the period before commencement of the agenda of yesterday's plenary meeting at the Legislative Assembly (AL), several lawmakers addressed topics related to buildings and development projects that, in their opinion, are influencing public opinion about the government's lack of transparency.

The Coloane Hill skyscraper development, the infectious diseases building project and the demolition of part of the São Francisco Barracks were the most cited examples of the lack of transparency in terms of the government's actions towards land use, and the needs and expectations of the general population.

**CHAN MENG KAM** was one of the first to address the topic, stating that "there has to be a balance between progress and preservation and that is a serious question that must be tested by several government departments."

Chan also added that in the case of the Coloane Hill development and "since it involves the interest of all of the population, the transparency of the government's actions should be high so it can achieve the consensus of the people," urging the government to release the information from the environmental impact assessment report.

"Between the alleged privacy, the public interest and the right to information, which factor is the most important?" Chan Meng Kam put forward.

**NG KUOK CHEONG** also addressed this topic, urging the Chief Executive (CE) to make use of his powers to submit the project to the Urban Planning Council (CPU).

"The CE is not exercising his legal powers. I call on the CE to submit the process of this building to the CPU. That is his responsibility. It cannot be passed on to the secretary," Ng Kuok Cheong demanded.

Chan Meng Kam also thinks that in terms of the cases of the infectious diseases building and the demolition of part of the São Francisco Barracks, what is at risk is the lack of a timely disclosure of information. "The height limit for the location has changed and the government has remained silent. It is normal for people to now say that the government has 'two mouths'," he said referring to the Health Bureau project.

**SONG PEK KEI** added voice to Chan Meng Kam's cries about the lack of protection of monuments and buildings of public interest. He questioned why the government applied different measures. One set of measures when deciding on the demolition of the "two grey buildings", basing it on "public interest" to build the infectious diseases building and raising the case of Hotel Estoril. Then they used a different criteria on the Instituto Salesiano when it was considered necessary to protect and maintain its façade. "It left an impression that the value and the preservation of a monument is not dependent upon the nature of the monument itself, nor on a set of objective criteria, but instead, on the will and decision of the government," Song Pek Kei said.



Pereira Coutinho



Sonia Chan

TERRORISM

**AL approves 'asset freezing' law, legislator questions timing**

Renato Marques

**T**HE Legislative Assembly (AL) approved in the first reading the draft legislation that aims to comply with a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution on combating terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In a plenary meeting held yesterday, with 29 votes in favor, lawmakers unanimously approved the draft, which the government requested to be considered by the AL as a matter of urgency.

There was not much of a debate over the draft legislation presented to the plenary by the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan. It took only a few minutes of discussion before voting began.

The only lawmaker who raised any concerns was Pereira Coutinho, who expressed his disappointment over the Secretary's intervention, and requested further details about what the government had done since 2007, when the problem was first detected.

"According to the 2007 report there were several areas targeted for action and where the government should have taken action. Can you tell us what the status of this is?" Pereira Coutinho asked, giving several examples cited in the joint evaluation report (MER) from the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG-ML) and from the Group of International Finance Centre Supervisors (GIFCS) that in 2007 detected flaws in Macau's legal system and suggested corrections in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

On the government side, the answer came from the representative of the Financial Intelligence Office (GIF) who said, "the government took

**If the gov't was working seriously on these issues as they've said, cases like Dore would not have happened.**

PEREIRA COUTINHO  
LEGISLATOR

good note of the suggestions and has established an inter-departmental task force that works in accordance with those requirements," adding that "cash declarations and inspections of such are one of the tasks that they have been performing."

The representative of GIF also said that "there is cur-

rently an established level of monetary transaction that will raise alerts to follow up on the case." The official did not want to reveal the amount, stating that it was not "convenient" for the work in progress, and adding that "through our database we are also investigating allegations of money laundering at customs' points. Recently 'green channels' were created as a first approach to address these needs." She concluded by saying that "there is a need for the revision of the law regarding 'cash declarations'."

The draft legislation, presented by Secretary Chan yesterday, proposes several mechanisms to fight money laundering and terrorist financing. These mechanisms include the freezing of assets, protection of third parties, provision of information to various government entities as well as guarantees of fair treatment and defense mechanisms that allow the people or legal entities in question to make proper appeals.

The UNSC resolution documents issued between 1998 and 2006 set requirements for governments to pay close attention to their prevention of "money laundering" and the control over the flow of assets (including cash and precious items) that can be used to finance terrorism on several levels, as well as over imports and exports.

Since Macau does not have any specific regulations to prevent these problems there was an urgent need to draft legislation to comply with these instructions.

On the sidelines of the plenary meeting, lawmaker Pereira Coutinho said, "I expected much more from the government. This is mere 'candy' that the government is trying to give to the UNSC to comply with the need to compile a report on this matter within the year. If the government was working seriously on these issues as they've said, cases like Dore would not have happened," he said while exiting the plenary room.

**Au Kam San concerned for investment of public financial reserves**



**L**AU Kam San addressed his fears regarding the government's investment of the public finances under the "one belt, one road"

initiative, which proposed a collaboration with the China Development Bank to invest the money into several regions of the mainland.

According to the lawmaker, "many of these regions are underdeveloped and poor, and so, the danger of investing there is high," he said, adding that "Macau is

preparing to participate in these investments through third parties, which can be even more dangerous." He compared the investments to "a blind man riding a blind horse," and urged the government to argue that this option is apparently not fit for purpose since "the return on investment is very low and that investment has resulted in the hiring of a large number of fund managers."

Au also claims that the government revealed that it is prepared to invest only MOP10-20 billion in the first phase, but questioned whether there will be a "maximum limit" or whether any "cut loss line" was to be set in order to avoid big losses from the public financial reserves. **RM**

# DSEJ drill misreported as real, students late for school

**Y**ESTERDAY, a misreport by TDM on schools closing because of inclement rainy weather, led both TDM and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) to receive hundreds of complaints about students arriving late and wet to school.

The DSEJ announced yesterday, during a press conference, that the incident was in fact the result of a joint exercise conducted by five governmental departments, namely the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the Transport Bureau, the police force at the border gate, and the DSEJ, along with four media sources and seven schools.

According to Leong Lai, director of DSEJ, on March 11 all involved parties were informed of the time the exercise was to run. Notices of school closures were dispatched at 6:30 a.m., one hour after the beginning of the exercise. However, the said notice was



only supposed to reach the groups involved in the exercise, as Lai explained. As a result, complaints surfaced when parents got the 'news', and, further exacerbating the misunderstanding, the DSEJ's official website went down following high user traffic between 7 and 8 a.m.

Wong Kin Mou, head of the department of research and education resources, said that 560,000 visitors tried to access the website within that one-hour.

"Normally, our website welcomes 600,000 visitors per

day," informed Wong, who admitted that the webpage is not capable of handling such traffic spikes and, therefore, the department will move to upgrade it.

When questioned about a picture which surfaced online alluding to the school closures, which claimed to be from the DSEJ, Wong replied that "the DSEJ currently uses its website, its application and messages simultaneously to inform students about any developments." The education authority stated that the picture did not belong to the

DSEJ.

According to Leong Vai Kei, head of the department of education, 70 schools, upon having been informed of the news, contacted the DSEJ. "I, personally, received calls and messages from principals asking about it," said Leong.

Pui Ching Middle School believed the news to be authentic after the information was spread among the students' parents. Ultimately, students were sent texts not to come to school, and then the students received another message informing them that classes would resume because it was only a training activity.

"We saw the news at around 7 o'clock in the morning, which is when students are preparing to leave for school, and, besides, the DSEJ website was not working," said Kou Kam Fai, principal of Pui Ching Middle School. With respect to late students, Kou acknowledged that none would be penalized as a result of the mistake. **Staff reporter**

CRIME

# PSP prostitution raid finds illegal immigrant in Iao Hon

**A**CCORDING to information released by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) in press conference yesterday afternoon, a police raid in the Iao Hon area on Sunday uncovered the case of a 40-year-old Vietnamese national that had allegedly entered the territory illegally.

The police operation, which was intended as part of a broader crackdown on street prostitution, arrested a total of 15 women, 11 from Mainland China and 4 from Vietnam, with ages ranging between 26 and 51 years old, that were allegedly practicing prostitution on several streets in that area of the city.

Among them was the 40-year-old female Vietnamese national who is believed to have come to Macau illegally.

PSP preliminary investigations did not manage to establish any relationship between them. The same authority said that they were searching for clients individually or in small groups and by their own volition.

Beside the woman detained on suspicion of having entered Macau illegally, another woman was taken into custody due to the expiration of her visa, which has meant she has overstayed the period for which she was permitted to remain in the MSAR. **RM**

AD

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 婆仔屋庭園內設有繪彩蛋及多個復活節主題的親子工作坊。  
 活動將以推廣眼睛健康為目標，同時為「奧比斯」籌募經費，全力支持其教育工作。  
 所得收益將會扣除成本後捐給「奧比斯」，請踴躍參加！

Participants can follow a map to find Easter eggs around the St. Lazarus neighbourhood.  
 The Albergue SCM courtyard will also host a series of Easter workshops including egg painting etc.  
 The event objective is promoting eye health and raise funds for "Orbis" to support their saving sight program around the world.

活動詳情 Event Details:  
 日期 Date: 2016.3.27 (星期日 / Sunday)  
 時間 Time: 2:00pm - 6:00pm  
 尋蛋地點 Area: 望德堂區 - 婆仔屋  
 St. Lazarus - Albergue SCM  
 名額 Quota: 300名小童 (12歲或以下小童)  
 300 children (Age below 12)  
 報名費用 Fee: 葡幣50元 / MOP 50  
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**COTAI WATER JET LAUNCHES EASTER PROMOTIONS**



Cotai Water Jet has introduced three new promotions this month, including the "Facebook Easter limited-time promotion," which gives passengers the chance to purchase one-way tickets for the Cotai First city route at a reduced rate.

Until March 28, Cotai Water Jet Facebook fans can click to receive a message with a promotion code that will entitle them to purchase a one-way Cotai First ticket for just MOP/HKD150.

According to a statement, the "Upgraded Streamlined Check-in Service" allows passengers an exclusive upstream check-in service when they travel from the Macau Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal to Hong Kong International Airport.

Moreover, the ferry company is also offering Macau Resident Identity Card holders a discounted fare of MOP/HKD30 on published rates for Cotai First and Cotai Class tickets for the airport route and a 20 percent discount on published rates for the city route as part of the Macau Loves Locals campaign, which will run until March 31.

# Australian stock exchange CEO quits amid bribe investigation

**T**HE head of Australia's main stock exchange resigned yesterday amid an investigation into allegations that a gambling company he once ran made a bribery payment several years ago to the family of Cambodia's prime minister.

The resignation of Australian Securities Exchange CEO Elmer Funke Kupper is effective immediately, ASX chairman Rick Holliday-Smith said in a statement. Funke Kupper has denied any wrongdoing.

The resignation follows a report published last week by Australia's Fairfax newspapers regarding a 200,000 Australian dollar (USD152,000) payment allegedly made by Australian gambling giant Tabcorp to a consulting company linked to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's family in 2010.

At the time, Funke Kupper



Elmer Funke Kupper

was Tabcorp's CEO and the company was reportedly looking to launch an online gambling operation in Cambodia. Tabcorp would have needed permission from Hun Sen or his senior officials to obtain a Cambodian gambling license.

Funke Kupper, who has been CEO of the ASX since 2011, told Fairfax that he couldn't recall any such payment. But the Australian Fe-

deral Police has confirmed it is investigating whether Tabcorp violated any foreign bribery laws.

"The ASX Board accepted that Elmer wanted to direct his full focus to the investigations which may be made into the Tabcorp matter and not have them interfere with the important role of leading the ASX," Holliday-Smith said in the statement.

Funke Kupper did not im-

mediately respond to a request for comment, but told the Australian Financial Review yesterday that he had done nothing wrong.

"I have not been told I am being investigated," he told the newspaper. "My job is to take control of the situation. I am not doing this because I have done anything wrong under the law."

In Cambodia, an assistant to Hun Sen, Seng Tieng, said he was unaware of any bribery case involving a gambling license.

"I, personally, have never heard this news," Seng Tieng said.

Last week, Tabcorp confirmed that it had explored a business opportunity with Cambodia in 2009, but said it ultimately chose not to pursue it.

Holliday-Smith said he will take over as executive chairman of the ASX until a new CEO is chosen. **AP**

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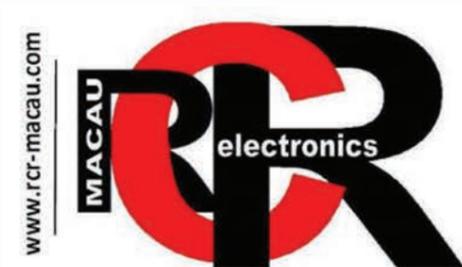
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**W**ITH the downturn in tax revenue, funding from China has become even more important to Angola and is being implemented in smaller key projects better suited to local needs, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Of the USD6 billion in Chinese funding provided, according to information released by the Angolan Ministry of Finance, 5.3 billion will be used to finance 155 public projects across the country, including a dam in Kwanza Norte province, new roads and industrial centers, as well as social facilities such as hospitals, medical centers, schools, universities, water, electricity and irrigation networks.

These options represent a change from past financing packages, focused mainly on large projects such as roads, railways, stadiums or airports, which, according to the EIU report on Angola have mainly led to "visibility."

"To target these Chinese funds to smaller critical infrastructure projects that are part of the public investment programme is a wise use of money, at a time when public investment is being crushed by the low price of oil," said the EIU.

EIU forecasts point to economic growth of 1.1 percent in 2016, less than half the figure for last year, but that should accelerate to 3.5 percent next year and 3.8 percent in 2018.

According to the Reuters news agency, Chinese financing to Angola so far totals around \$25 billion.

The projects funded by the new package will be awarded to Chinese companies, as in previous funding packages, but some changes were made to the procurement rules to increase involvement of local businesses and workforce.

At least 20 percent of the work must be subcontracted to Angolan companies and local building materials should be used whenever possible, which should result in greater local wealth

ANGOLA

# Funding from China supports smaller projects



Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos (left) shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in June last year

creation and employment, which the government estimates at 365,000 jobs.

"A more open approach in contracts and a focus on best

value and quality is a positive sign. The emphasis on presenting more transparent proposals and a business forum in March, to identify new areas

of private sector cooperation, reflect a greater maturity in the economic relationship between Angola and China," said the EIU.

The analysts' forecast is that Angola will continue to give priority to its relations with China, which has established itself as a major economic partner.

The private sector forum was held last week in Beijing, attended by leaders of the Technical Unit for Private Investment (UTIP) and the Angolan Agency for Investment and Export Promotion (Apiex), plus about 3,000 potential investors, according to newspaper Jornal de Angola.

The new law, which aims to channel investments into diversifying the Angolan economy has tax benefits for investments of over 1 million euros.

Figures presented at the conference indicate that the share of manufacturing in total investments fell from 45 percent in 2009 to 32 percent in 2015 and Luanda continues to receive about two-thirds of the investment, followed by Benguela (7 percent) and Kwanza Sul (6 percent). **MDT/Macauhub**

## Leaders of Chamber of Commerce take office on 31 March

**T**HE leaders of the new Angola-China Chamber of Commerce (CAC) will take office on 31 March, following the founding meeting held last week, said the chairman Manuel Arnaldo de Sousa Calado.

The president of the new chamber of commerce told Angolan news agency Angop that the CAC was intended to protect Chinese private investments in Angola and the partnership between businessmen from both countries to allow the economic diversification of Angola, creating new jobs and increasing Angolan exports to China.

The CAC's strategic plan includes am-

bitious projects such as regular fairs in both countries.

The adviser of the Angola-China Chamber of Commerce, Francis Chen, gave assurances that many Chinese want to invest in agriculture, industry and other areas in Angola.

The new entity replaces the old Friendship Association of Angola-China Chamber of Trade, established in 1995. It is composed of a board of 27 Angolan and Chinese businessmen, whose first president Manuel Arnaldo de Sousa Calado, former president of Angolan state diamond company Endiama.

The President of the General Assembly



Manuel Arnaldo de Sousa Calado

is António Paulo Kassoma, who previously served as President of the National Assembly and Prime Minister.

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# Shanghai Composite rallies above 3,000 as margin debt curbs ease



In this file photo an investor looks at the stock price monitor at a private securities company in Shanghai

**CHINA'S** benchmark stock index rallied above the 3,000 level for the first time in two months and turnover surged after policy makers loosened controls on margin lending.

The Shanghai Composite Index climbed 2.2 percent, led by brokerages and technology companies. China Securities Finance Corp., the state-backed agency that provides funding to brokerages for margin trading, said late Friday it will restart offering loans to securities firms for periods ranging from seven days to 182 days. Citic Securities Co. posted its biggest gain in three months. Hundsun Technologies Inc. surged by the daily limit for a third day. Hong Kong's exchange operator jumped the most in eight months amid speculation the start date for a stock link with Shenzhen will be announced this week.

Moves in the Shanghai Composite over much of the past two years have closely tracked appetite for leveraged bets, which fell to the lowest level since December 2014 last week. Boosting the stock market could encourage companies to raise money through equity and help the government in its efforts to reduce the nation's soaring debt load.

"The state doesn't want the market to decline and they

want to see buying from investors so we've seen them loosen their grip on margin lending," said Wang Zheng, who has been adding his holdings recently as the Shanghai-based chief investment officer at Jingxi Investment Management Co. "There's no big negative news now as the top priority for the regulator is to stabilize the market. There will be no radical reforms."

## ■ Hong Kong's exchange operator jumped the most in eight months amid speculation of a stock link with Shenzhen

The Shanghai Composite rose for a seventh day to 3,018.80 at the close. Combined trading values on the Shanghai and Shenzhen exchanges jumped to 901 billion yuan (USD138.9 billion) yesterday, the hi-

ghest level since Dec. 23, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The Shanghai gauge has rebounded 14 percent from a January low amid signs of state-fund buying during this month's National People's Congress. The index posted its steepest weekly gain since November last week amid speculation that some commercial banks had resumed non-brokerage margin lending, which was banned by regulators last summer. Concern about stock oversupply also receded after the government said a new registration-based system for new shares would take time and left out the phrase "setting up strategic emerging industries board" from its latest economic five-year plan.

The CSI 300 Index rose 2.4 percent, while the ChiNext index of small-cap shares surged 2.3 percent for a three-day, 13 percent gain. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index added 0.6 percent at 3:13 p.m. in Hong Kong, taking its rebound to 19 percent since the Feb. 12 low. The Hang Seng Index slipped 0.1 percent.

China Securities Finance will also cut interest rates on the debt to as low as 3 percent, according to a statement posted on its website Friday.

Surging margin debt helped the Shanghai Composite more than double at last year's peak as easy access to leverage gave the country's millions of individual investors increased buying power. The index tumbled more than 40 percent from its June 12 high as investors cut leveraged bets. The amount of shares purchased on margin has plunged more than 60 percent from the pre-rout peak in 2015.

Brokerages led a gauge of financial companies to a 3.3 percent gain in the CSI 300 Index, the most among 10 industry groups. Citic Securities surged by the 10 percent daily limit to the highest close this year. Everbright Securities Co. and Founder Securities Co. all soared by 10 percent in Shanghai.

Hundsun Technologies also jumped 10 percent. The shares have rallied even as the company said last week its HOMS software system, which facilitates non-brokerage margin lending, won't be restarted.

China should channel more savings into the capital markets, which will help reduce leverage in the corporate sector and boost equity financing, People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said over the weekend. One option for addressing high leverage is to develop "robust capital markets," Zhou said.

The China Securities Finance announcement is the first significant policy change by the new head of the nation's securities regulator, according to Michael Shaoul, chief executive officer of Marketfield Asset Management. Liu Shiyu was appointed chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission a month ago after his predecessor was criticized for mismanaging market-rescue efforts.

"The securities agency's move is more of a normalization and unwinding of restrictions that they've put in place a year ago," Shaoul said in New York. "I don't think they have any wish to go back to the crazy margin-driven rally in 2015, but they'd be comfortable with a gradual increase in margin lending past this point." **MDT/Bloomberg**

# Yuan declines after PBOC weakens fixing by most since January

**THE** yuan traded offshore fell for a second day after China's central bank weakened the daily reference rate by the most since January as a gain in the dollar drove declines in Asian currencies.

The yuan traded in Hong Kong dropped 0.22 percent to 6.4790 a dollar as of 4:53 p.m. The People's Bank of China reduced the fixing, which restricts onshore moves to 2 percent on either side, by 0.3 percent to 6.4824, the most since Jan. 7. The currency traded in Shanghai retreated 0.15 percent, according to China Foreign Exchange Trade System prices.

The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index gained 0.3 percent on Friday after slumping to a five-month low last week as the U.S. Federal Reserve officials unexpectedly cut their projections for interest-rate increases to two this year from the four forecast in December. A gauge of developing-nation currencies fell for a second day yesterday after their best three-week gain since 1998 raised concern the rally went too far, too fast.

"The markets felt that the dollar weakness last week was too sharp and so we're now seeing a correction across Asian currencies," said Irene Cheung, a strategist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. "Fundamentally, we think the dollar should be stronger and that will lead to further softness in emerging markets."

PBOC Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said on Sunday that he's targeting a yuan that's not "completely free floating" and that given the speed of the increase in capital inflows in the past, it's only natural that outflows should be quick as well. He made the comments at the China Development Forum in Beijing.

A Bloomberg replica of the CFETS RMB Index, which China uses to measure the yuan's performance against 13 currencies, gained 0.03 percent after falling on Friday to its lowest since December 2014.

"The weaker yuan fix also reflects how the PBOC is managing the currency against the basket so that they're not being held hostage to what the dollar is doing all the time," said Eddie Cheung, a Hong Kong-based currency strategist at Standard Chartered Plc.

Policy makers should make the currency's moves less predictable, former Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said in an interview with Caixin magazine published yesterday. He said capital outflows may worsen if the market expects a gradual depreciation. Significant weakness would export deflation to other countries and backfire on China, he added.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde said on the weekend at the China Development Forum in Beijing that the yuan is broadly in line with market fundamentals, and it may well be that for too long a lot of investors were used to having an appreciating currency. **MDT/Bloomberg**

# China's aim to explore Mars

**C**HINA is preparing to launch a Mars probe in 2020, and it is expected to arrive on the red planet in 2021, aerospace expert Ye Peijian has said.

"Although we are not the first Asian nation to send a probe to Mars, we want to start at a higher level," said Ye, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The probe will include an orbiter, a lander and a rover. The orbiter will conduct global surveys of Mars, and the entry device will land a rover on the surface. Parachute and reverse thrust engine technologies will probably be used in the landing, according to Ye.

"We have less than five years till the launch, but we are confident. The probe is being developed by the team that completed the Chang'e-3 lunar probe," says Ye, leader of the team with the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).

A 3D demonstration video from CAST shows how the Mars probe will fly about Ten months before closing on the red planet. Controllers on Earth will guide it into a large elliptical orbit and the orbiter and lander will separate. The orbiter will stay in orbit for at least a year to photograph key areas and monitor the planet's environment.

Unlike the lunar lander of the Chang'e-3 probe, the Mars lander will carry a gasbag, a parachute and reverse thrust

## Mars will be a key focus of China's deep space exploration in the future.

ZHENG YONGCHUN  
CHINA NATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL  
OBSERVATORY



In this file photo NASA's Curiosity rover is shown. The car-sized rover has been exploring the surface of Mars since landing on August 6, 2012

engines, which will together secure a safe landing, according to experts from CAST.

Zheng Yongchun, an associate researcher with the National Astronomical Observatory, says that combining orbiting exploration and a roving probe in one mission is a rational choice for starting Mars exploration at a high level.

"The best and most direct method to look for evidence of life on Mars is to explore the surface. Mars will be a key focus of China's deep space exploration in the future," Zheng says.

But communicating with the Mars probe is still a great challenge. China needs to develop a long-life, powerful relay communication device on the orbiter, says Zheng.

So how will the Mars rover differ from lunar rover Yutu (or Jade Rabbit), which China sent to the moon at the end of 2013?

In an exclusive interview, Jia Yang, deputy chief designer of the Chang'e-3 lunar probe, tells Xinhua the Mars rover will have a better autonomous capability as Mars is much further away than the moon. The distance between Mars and

Earth ranges from 55 million kilometers to 400 million kilometers.

"The Mars rover should be able to sense the environment, plan its route, conduct scientific exploration and detect faults autonomously. It should be a mobile intelligence," Jia says.

Two-way signal transmissions between Mars and the Earth could be as long as 40 minutes. So most of the time, the rover will deal with things on its own. Ground controllers will solve the complicated problems, Jia says.

Chinese space experts say

they still face a lot of technological hurdles in developing the Mars rover, which should be stronger than the lunar rover Yutu.

Since Mars is further from the sun than the Earth's moon, its solar panels should be as large as possible to generate more electricity, Jia says.

"Although the temperature change on Mars is less drastic than that on the moon, the Mars rover still needs an 'overcoat' to keep warm," Jia says.

Sandstorms often form on the red planet during summer, which inspired the story in the Hollywood blockbuster "The Martian." During the sandstorms, the solar energy will drop dramatically. Chinese space experts will design a "sleep" mode for such occasions, says Jia.

A prototype model of the Mars rover was displayed at the Airshow China 2014. It was about 2 meters long, with six wheels. Its size, weight and technologies were close to those of the American Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity. Unlike the rover Curiosity, which uses a nuclear battery, the Chinese Mars rover will use solar power.

"Exploring the red planet and deep space will cement China's scientific and technological expertise. The knock-on effect is that innovations and independent intellectual property rights will surge, and, as a result, China's core competence will increase, pushing development in other industries," says Jia.

"As China continues with its lunar mission, glimpsing further and further into deep space, it will play a bigger role in solving key frontier scientific questions," Jia says. Xinhua

## Energy Administration plans boost to wind power capacity after record 2015

**C**HINA plans to increase total wind power capacity by 22 percent in 2016, underscoring the government's effort to develop clean energy at about the same pace as last year's record installations.

The nation plans to develop 30.83 gigawatts of wind power this year, the National Energy Administration said in a statement on its website yesterday. It added 33 gigawatts in 2015, triple France's

entire capacity of the clean resource, according to data from NEA.

Developers rushed to deliver projects last year before tariffs paid for clean energy were reduced, and the support levels on offer this year are generous enough to keep drawing in investment.

"The target is very high" for 2016, said Shi Yan, a Shanghai-based analyst at UOB Kayhian Investment Co. "New projects will be in regions with little idling

capacity, offering good profitability for developers."

The central province of Henan will have the most wind power projects approved this year, with the eastern province of Shandong following, according to NEA.

Wind installations in China have almost doubled since 2012 to 139 gigawatts, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The rapid growth of wind power has left the grid struggling

to connect all the plants, forcing wind turbines to sit idle.

China is clamping down on the ability of local authorities to plan new wind projects in some of the windiest provinces because the pace of building to date has outstripped the grid's ability to absorb new power flows. Those places include the northern provinces of Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Gansu, Ningxia and Xinjiang. Bloomberg

## Guangdong police seized 450 kg of illegal ivory

**P**OLICE in south China's Guangdong Province have seized about 450 kilograms of smuggled ivory it was announced yesterday.

The haul is worth an estimated 18 million yuan (USD2.78 million), according to Guangdong Public Security Department.

On March 4, border police in Zhuhai City, Guangdong, received a tipoff that contraband would be transported from Hong Kong to Zhuhai.

Police intercepted an unlicensed speedboat, which was headed toward Zhuhai from Hong Kong around 11 p.m. that night. The boat was carrying 221 pieces of ivory.

The boat crew had all fled before police arrived. The ivory is now in the custody of the customs department and the investigation continues.

Anyone involved in the illegal ivory trade can face a maximum punishment of a life sentence. MDT/Xinhua

## INDONESIA

# Death toll in military helicopter crash rises to 13



Indonesian police officers and soldiers carry one of the coffins prepared for the victims of a military helicopter that crashed in Poso, Central Sulawesi

**T**HE death toll from an Indonesian military helicopter crash rose to 13 on yesterday, the military said, with the discovery of the body of a missing soldier.

The helicopter was on a mission Sunday to capture the country's most wanted militant when it crashed and burst into flames.

Twelve bodies were found Sunday, and military spokesman Maj. Gen. Tatang Sulaiman said the 13th victim, a first lieutenant, was found in the wreckage.

The Bell 412-EP helicopter was carrying 13 soldiers and crew when it went down about 35 minutes after taking off from Poso district's Watutau village, said Maj. Gen. Agus Surya Bakti, the regional military chief overseeing South and Central Sulawesi provinces.

It was not yet known what caused the three-year-old helicopter to crash, though thunderstorms were thought to

have played a part, Agus said.

More than 2,500 security forces, including elite army troops, have intensified their operations this year in Poso, a mountainous district of Central Sulawesi province considered an extremist hotbed, to try to capture Indonesia's most wanted militant, Abu Wardah Santoso. He leads the East Indonesia Mujahidin network, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

At least five members of the network were killed by security forces this past week. Members of the group are thought to be hiding in Poso, where more than 1,000 people died in 2001 and 2002 in violence between Christians and Muslims.

Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago nation of about 250 million people, has been plagued by transportation accidents in recent years, including plane and train crashes and ferry sinkings. **AP**

## Indonesia protests China's retrieval of illegal fishing ship

**I**NDONESIA yesterday protested the Chinese coast guard's retrieval of a ship while it was detained for fishing illegally in Indonesian waters.

An Indonesian fisheries ministry patrol ship had intercepted the Chinese vessel on Saturday within Indonesia's exclusive economic zone which overlaps with the southernmost reaches of the South China Sea, according to Indonesia. Eight crewmen were detained.

The fishing vessel Kway Fey was being towed when a Chinese coastguard vessel collided with it, allowing its escape.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi told reporters after meeting with a senior Chinese diplomat that the government wants Beijing to explain its actions. Marsudi said China's coast guard "violated our sovereignty" and called on China to respect international law.

China's expansive claims to most of the South China Sea have raised tensions with several Southeast Asian countries, especially as China reclaims land on reefs and builds infrastructure in disputed



areas.

Indonesia is not involved in the territorial disputes and Marsudi said that had not changed.

But authorities are concerned an increasingly assertive China might enlarge its claims to include Indonesia's Natuna Islands. Indonesia's military chief has said it was strengthening its forces there.

Indonesia has destroyed dozens of foreign ships for illegally fishing in its waters, and maritime and fisheries minister Susi Pudjiastuti called on Beijing to stand against illegal and unregulated fishing.

Local media reported a similar incident in 2013 when a Chinese patrol vessel snatched back a detained Chinese ship from Indonesian control. **AP**

## MYANMAR

## Parliament votes to reduce number of ministries

**M**YANMAR'S new parliament voted yesterday to reduce the number of government ministries, with President-elect Htin Kyaw assuring lawmakers that no civil servants will lose their jobs and that the nation will save USD4 million by getting rid of 15 ministers.

The 611-3 vote by a joint session of parliament was the first legislative act by Aung San Suu Kyi's party, which came to power after a decades-long struggle for democracy followed by a historic landslide victory in the November 8 general election.

In his first speech to parliament since having his nomination confirmed last week, Htin Kyaw, who will formally take office on April 1, said that currently "a lot of different ministries scattered around" are doing duplicate work, and that he intends



Htin Kyaw, newly elected president of Myanmar, attends a session in parliament in Naypyitaw yesterday

to combine them so their number will come down from 36 to 21.

"I have no intention of reducing the number of civil servants," he said. "By reducing the ministries, we will reduce unnecessary expenses and eliminate ministers' salaries."

He said the government would save 5 billion kyats (\$4 million) during its five-year term, and would use that money for "education and other better

issues."

Myanmar was ruled by successive military juntas since 1962 and by a military-backed, nominally civilian government from 2011. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party will form the first government to be elected democratically. Suu Kyi is barred by the constitution from holding the president's post, which will be occupied by her close friend, confidant and adviser, Htin Kyaw. **AP**

## THAILAND

## Hundreds stranded by power outage on Bangkok's airport train

**A**BOUT 750 passengers were stranded on Bangkok's Airport Rail Link due to a power outage yesterday morning during rush hour, prompting several people to walk along the train's overhead tracks to the next station.

Bangkok's Erawan medical emergency center said seven people fainted on the train while waiting more than two hou-

rs for operations to resume.

The train, which links the Thai capital to Bangkok's main international airport, stalled between stations at 7:50 a.m. and passengers were transferred to another train shortly after 10 a.m., the rail link said in a statement.

It said some passengers had opened emergency doors and "about 20 pas-

sengers" walked to the next station along the overhead tracks. Photos circulating on social media showed a group of at least 50 people walking along the tracks.

The Airport Rail Link said in its statement that the delay would have lasted only 30 minutes but the two trains sent to rescue the stranded passengers had

to wait until all those walking had cleared the tracks.

Air-conditioning was cut by the power outage, and television showed several passengers being carried off the train and fanned by rescue workers once they arrived at the next station. Mid-morning temperatures in Bangkok reached 35 C. **MDT/AP**

# Two British ships arrive in Japan to carry plutonium to US

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

**T**WO British ships arrived in eastern Japan yesterday to transport a shipment of plutonium — enough to make dozens of atomic bombs — to the U.S. for storage under a bilateral agreement.

The ships arrived at the coastal village of Tokai, northeast of Tokyo, home to the country's main nuclear research facility, the Japan Atomic and Energy Agency, according to the Kyodo News agency and citizens' groups. It will take several hours to load the plutonium-filled casks onto the ships, both fitted with naval guns and other protection.

The Pacific Egret and Pacific Heron, both operated by Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd., will take the 331 kilograms (730 pounds) of plutonium to the Savannah River Site, a U.S. government facility in South Carolina, under a pledge made by Japan in 2014. The plutonium, mostly from Britain, and some from the U.S. and France, had been used for research purposes.

The Pacific Egret docked first and appeared to be loading the plutonium, with the second ship standing by off-shore, according to media reports and Japanese and international anti-nuclear groups.



The Pacific Egret, one of the two British ships that arrived in Japan, is anchored at a port in the village of Tokai, northeast of Tokyo, to transport a cache of plutonium worth dozens of atomic bombs to the U.S.

Japanese officials refused to confirm details, citing security reasons.

Japan's stockpile and its fuel-reprocessing ambitions to use plutonium as fuel for power generation have been a source of international security concerns. Japan has accumulated a massive stockpile of plutonium — 11 metric tons in Japan and another 36 tons that have been reprocessed in Britain and France and are waiting to be returned to Japan — enough to make nearly 6,000 atomic bombs.

The latest shipment comes just ahead of a nuclear security summit in Washington later this month, and is seen as a step to showcase both countries' nuclear nonproliferation efforts.

Washington has increasingly voiced concerns about the nuclear spent-

fuel-reprocessing plans by Japan and China to produce plutonium for energy generation, a technology South Korea also wants to acquire, saying they pose security and proliferation risks.

The U.S. environmental group Savannah River Site Watch said it recognized the need to secure plutonium, but asked why plutonium of foreign origins had to be brought onto American soil for storage.

In a statement yesterday, group director Tom Clemens also urged Washington to "reassess its position at the summit and push hard for Japan to cease reprocessing and plutonium stockpiling due to the proliferation threat those programs pose."

Japan began building a major reprocessing plant with French state-owned company Areva in the

early 1990s. The troubled project has been delayed ever since, and in November its opening was postponed until 2018 to allow for more safety upgrades and inspections.

Experts say launching the Rokkasho reprocessing plant would not ease the situation, because Japan has little hope of achieving a spent fuel recycling program.

Japan's plutonium-burning fast breeder reactor Monju, suspended for more than 20 years, is now on the verge of being closed due to poor safety records and technical problems, while optional plans to burn uranium-plutonium mixtures of MOX fuel in conventional reactors have been delayed since the Fukushima crisis. Only two of Japan's 43 workable reactors are currently online. AP

## THE KOREAS

# Seoul: North Korea fires five short-range projectiles

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

**N**ORTH Korea fired five short-range projectiles into the sea yesterday, Seoul officials said, in a continuation of weapon launches it has carried out in an apparent response to ongoing South Korea-U.S. military drills it sees as a provocation.

The projectiles launched from a site near the northeastern city of Hamhung flew about 200 kilometers (125 miles) before landing in waters off North Korea's east coast, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The South Korean military was attempting to determine whether the projectiles were missiles, artillery or rockets.

The firings came three days after Seoul said North Korea launched its first medium-range ballistic missile into the sea since early 2014, ignoring U.N. resolutions against such tests.

The firings appear to be North Korea's response to annual springtime U.S.-South Korean military exercises that it says are a rehearsal for an invasion. In the past two weeks North Korea has fired several short-range missiles and artillery shells into the sea and threatened pre-emptive nuclear strikes against Washington and Seoul.

This year's drills are the largest ever, and come after North Korea conducted a nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch earlier this year, leading the U.N. Security Council to impose its toughest sanctions on the country in two decades.

The U.S. special representative for North Korean policy, Sung Kim, who is visiting Seoul, said yesterday that North Korea "should refrain from all provocative actions, including missile tests, which are clearly in violation of Security Council resolutions."

On Sunday, North Korean state TV broadcast photos showing leader Kim Jong Un supervising landing and defensive drills. The photos showed artillery blazing, navy ships landing as shells fell nearby, and soldiers running with the national flag. North Korea has a history of photo manipulation and there was no way to verify the authenticity of the photos.

Last week, state media said Kim ordered tests of a nuclear warhead and ballistic missiles capable of carrying such warheads. He issued the orders while overseeing what state media called a successful simulated test of a re-entry vehicle aimed at returning a nuclear warhead to the atmosphere from space so it could hit its intended target. The re-entry vehicle is considered one of the last major technologies North Korea must master to develop long-range missiles equipped with nuclear weapons capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

Analysts in South Korea said the medium-range missile launch last Friday may have been a test of the re-entry technology. North Korean state media have not commented on the reported launch.

South Korean defense officials say North Korea doesn't yet have functioning intercontinental ballistic missiles. AP

## NEW ZEALAND

# Prime Minister settles defamation case with journalist

**N**EW Zealand Prime Minister John Key has settled a defamation case brought by a journalist after acknowledging yesterday that comments he made about the man caused him professional and personal harm.

Key said in a statement that he now accepts that freelance cameraman Bradley Ambrose did not deliberately record a private conversation Key had with political ally John Banks days before 2011 national elections.

At a news conference yesterday, Key said that the amount of the settlement was confidential, but that

it was less than the legal costs would amount to in a court case. Ambrose had been seeking 1.25 million New Zealand dollars (USD846,000) in damages.

"It's a pragmatic settlement in terms of reducing costs," Key said.

Key won't personally be out of pocket. He said the settlement money would come from either the taxpayer-funded parliamentary budget or the National Party, which he leads.

Ambrose told The Associated Press yesterday, "It's time to move on," saying he had been advised against commenting further.

The 2011 incident began after Key invited media to a staged event with his ally Banks before asking journalists to leave so the men could continue to talk in private.

Ambrose said he had inadvertently recorded the men after leaving a microphone running as he was hustled out of the venue. The recording ended up online, and included an embarrassing comment by Key suggesting a rival politician's support base of pensioners was dying off.

In his statement yesterday, Key said he now accepts that Ambrose did not act deliberately or otherwise behave improperly. MDT/AP



A man watches a TV screen showing file footage of the missile launch conducted by North Korea, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul



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Josh Lederman,  
Michael Weissenstein, Havana

# Obama in Cuba: Historic Castro summit a key test for detente

**B**RUSHING past profound differences, President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro will sit down Monday [today, Macau time] at Havana's Palace of the Revolution for a historic meeting, offering critical clues about whether Obama's sharp U-turn in policy will be fully reciprocated.

For Obama, there's no better place than Havana to show that engagement can do more than isolation to bring about tangible change in the tiny communist nation. Yet for the Cubans, the glaring question is whether their own government is ready to prove the ambitious diplomatic opening is more than just talk.

■ **For the Cubans, the glaring question is whether their own government is ready to prove the ambitious diplomatic opening is more than just talk**

Obama opened the first presidential visit to Cuba in nearly 90 years on Sunday when Air Force One touched down in Havana. Strolling through the grand cobblestoned plazas of Old Havana with his wife, Michelle, and daughters Sasha and Malia, Obama created an indelible image for both Cubans and Americans of the peacemaking that he and Castro have cautiously but doggedly pursued.

"The time is right," Obama said in an ABC interview, when asked why he was proceeding now with the Cuba initiative.

"Obviously our intention has always been to get a ball rolling," he said, "knowing that change wasn't going to happen overnight." Obama acknowledged in the interview with anchor David Muir that "we still have significant differences around human rights and civil liberties" but argued that making the trip at this time "would maximize our ability to prompt more change." He conceded that Cuba under President Raul Castro "is still a one-party state" that exerts tight control over its people and stifles dissent.

Obama also revealed he plans

AP PHOTO



President Barack Obama (center) and first lady Michelle Obama, visit la Catedral de La Habana in Havana on Sunday. Obama's trip is a crowning moment in his and Cuban President Raul Castro's ambitious effort to restore normal relations between their countries

to announce while visiting here that Google has made arrangements to upgrade Internet access on the island.

Indeed, the U.S. and Cuba are working more closely together now than at any time since relations took a nose dive amid Cuba's 1959 revolution. Yet while Americans are now flocking to Cuba in greater numbers, closer ties have yet to bring about the degree of change that many Cubans hoped would follow after Obama and Castro moved to normalize relations 15 months ago.

Since taking power in 2008, Castro has orchestrated economic and social reforms with lasting and broad-based impact, though to many Cubans and foreigners they appear slow to materialize. Not only are hundreds of thousands of Cubans now able to pursue free enterprise, but restrictions on cell-phones and Internet have been eased and citizens feel more comfortable discussing Cuba's problems.

Yet Castro has given little ground when it comes to changing Cuba's single-party system or easing strict limits on media, assembly and political dissent. His government has also repeatedly chided Obama for saying he wanted to empower Cubans.

None of that has dissuaded

Obama, who insists that any intransigence by Cuba's government only proves why Cubans will be better off when they're intimately exposed to American values.

"Let God will that this is good for all Cubans," said Odilia Col-lazo, a 79-year-old Havana resident, as she watched Obama's arrival on state television. "It seems to me that Obama wants to do something good before he leaves."

To that end, Obama came to Havana hoping his visit would spur Castro to offer gestures of good faith and meaningful change, which would undermine critics who accuse Obama of kowtowing to an authoritarian government. Though Cuba approved U.S. hotel chains Starwood and Marriott to operate here and moved to lift fees on converting U.S. dollars, those steps pale in comparison to sweeping changes Obama has enacted to lift decades-old U.S. restrictions.

On his first full day in Cuba, Obama will lay a wreath today [Macau time] at the memorial to Jose Marti, a Cuban independence hero, before heading to Castro's presidential offices. After a series of meetings, the two leaders planned to address reporters. The White House's attempts to get Castro to

agree to a joint news conference appeared unsuccessful, and it was unclear whether they'd answer any questions.

Castro appears to be closely and intensely managing what constitutes the most important change in Cuban foreign policy since the Cold War. Though Obama's aides have downplayed expectations for the meeting, Castro's remarks alongside Obama will be closely parsed for indications of whether he'll respond to Obama's opening with major new domestic changes.

Obama also planned an event with U.S. and Cuban entrepreneurs aimed at championing Cuba's fledgling private sector. He was to be feted in the evening at a state dinner, an honor illustrating just how far the U.S. and Cuba have come despite

their deep ideological differences.

His visit will continue the following day with a major speech that Cuban officials said would be carried on TV. Before departing for Argentina, Obama plans to meet with political dissidents and attend a game between Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays and Cuba's beloved national team.

In his first few hours on the island, Obama created indelible images of a new U.S.-Cuba relationship as he walked the rain-soaked streets of Havana and dined at a privately-owned restaurant in a bustling, working-class neighborhood. Jubilant crowds surged toward his heavily fortified motorcade, reminders of the Cuban people's deep affection for Americans despite decades of enmity between their governments.

Yet in a pointed reminder that Obama's aspirations for improved human rights in Cuba have yet to be fulfilled, a group of anti-government protesters were arrested while Air Force One was flying to Cuba, a scene that plays out weekly in Havana. Members of the Ladies in White group, one of Cuba's most prominent opposition groups, were expected to attend Obama's meeting with Cuban dissidents. **AP**

■ ■  
**It seems to me that Obama wants to do something good before he leaves.**

HAVANA RESIDENT

## what's ON



ABSTRACT PAINTINGS  
FROM THE MAM COLLECTION  
TIME: 10am-7pm  
(no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: December 31, 2016  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,  
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
ADMISSION: MOP5  
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE 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  
Nº 91 - 93, Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

SOU PUI KUN'S WORK "MUSIC BOX"  
IN EXHIBIT OF CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE  
TIME: 10am-7pm  
(no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: June 19, 2016  
VENUE: The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau,  
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

BEYOND 9AM TO 6PM FERNANDO WONG  
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION  
TIME: 12pm -8pm (closed on public holidays)  
UNTIL: March 30, 2016  
VENUE: Rua de Abreu Nunes 14B Edf.  
San Pou R/C - A  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 6307 3797

PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY DONATED  
BY JAO TSUNG-I  
TIME: 10am-6pm Daily (No admission after 5:30  
pm; Except on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de  
Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

ARTS IN THE MANDARIN'S HOUSE  
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (No admission after 5:30 pm,  
closed on Wednesdays, opens on public holidays)  
ADMISSION: free  
VENUE: Travessa de António da Silva, No. 10  
(near Lilau Square)  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

## Offbeat

ADVANCED RESEARCH SHIP MAY BE  
NAMED 'BOATY McBOATFACE'

It's a name that might suit a rubber ducky, not an extremely expensive state-of-the-art research vessel designed to explore the coldest regions on Earth.

Nonetheless the name "Boaty McBoatface" may be given to a 200 million pound (USD288 million) vessel because of a public preference for that moniker.

The name has emerged as a favorite since the Natural Environment Research Council sought public input in naming the new vessel.

The council had asked the public to help come up with an "inspirational name" that reflects the ship's mission and celebrates Britain's long naval history.

Spokeswoman Alison Robinson said yesterday the council is "pleased that people are embracing the idea in a spirit of fun."

The boat will launched in three years as a significant advance to Britain's scientific fleet.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:45	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:35	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:35	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:05	TDM Interview
21:45	Happy Endings S3
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Drama
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

17 MAR - 23 MAR



## KUNG FU PANDA 3\_

ROOM 1  
(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm  
(3D) 5.45 pm

Director: Alessandro Carloni, Jennifer Yuh  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)  
Duration: 95min

## GODS OF EGYPT\_

ROOM 1

9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

## 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



## THE TAG ALONG\_

ROOM 3

2.15, 5.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Wei-hao Cheng

Starring: Wei Ning Hsu, River Huang, Yin-Shang Liu

Language: Mandarin (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 93min

## LONDON HAS FALLING\_

ROOM 3

4.00, 7.30 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\_

ROOM 3

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

2002 WOMAN GRANTED  
'RIGHT TO DIE'

A woman paralysed from the neck down has won the legal right to die by having her treatment withdrawn.

The judge in the case then urged her to reconsider her decision.

The 43-year-old woman, known as Miss B after she was granted anonymity, watched via a video-link from her hospital bed as Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss delivered the landmark ruling.

Miss B, who was born in Jamaica but moved to Britain aged eight, said afterwards: "I am very pleased with the outcome."

It means doctors at the hospital where she is being treated, which cannot be identified, will have to switch off the ventilator keeping her alive whenever she chooses.

Dame Elizabeth said the former social care professional had the "necessary mental capacity" to make the decision to reject treatment.

But she added: "She is a splendid person and it is tragic that someone of her ability has been struck down so cruelly.

"I hope she will forgive me for saying, diffidently, that if she did reconsider her decision she would have a lot to offer the community at large."

Miss B, who has never married and does not have children, was paralysed last year after a burst blood vessel in her neck, and she can only breathe with the aid of a ventilator.

She said it had left her with an "unbearable quality of life" and doctors have told her there is only a 1% chance of recovery from paralysis.

Doctors at the hospital opposed her application to switch off the ventilator because it would breach their ethical code and they argued with more time they could improve Miss B's quality of life which could ultimately lead her to reconsider.

But Miss B can now demand at any time doctors withdraw treatment.

She has already agreed to a cooling-off period to see if rehabilitation improves the quality of her life.

Dame Elizabeth ordered the NHS trust to pay nominal damages of £100 for "unlawful trespass" in keeping Miss B alive against her wishes, and legal costs.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

As part of the ruling Dame Elizabeth gave Miss B the right to be transferred to another hospital which would treat her according to her wishes "and permit her life to end peacefully and with dignity".

Little more than a month later Miss B died peacefully in her sleep after exercising her right to have all artificial ventilation withdrawn.

The case sparked widespread controversy about a person's right to take their own life but there were few legal ramifications from this case.

It only reaffirmed the rights that already exist in law, that any individual has the right to refuse medical treatment so long as they have the mental capacity to do so.

Many pro-life groups argued however it gave the wrong message to the physically handicapped, while euthanasia groups said it strengthened their case that those who are unwell but cannot take their own lives should be helped.

**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Keeping things short and sweet is appreciated in a hectic environment, but no details? That's a bit much. Ask for clarification before inventing your own idea about what's expected of you.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Your thoughts are racing ahead, and your colleagues don't even know they're being left in the dust. It's time to communicate, today. If you're not all on the same page, your enthusiasm is a waste of time.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
Sometimes no follow-through is a good thing. There's no movement, nothing going on -- hey, you're off the hook, today! Use the time to generate ideas or just kick back and enjoy an overdue breather.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
What does your internal voice say? That you're not working hard enough, fast enough or well enough? That's the kind of chatter you should be ignoring. Listen to the praise of authority instead.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You're responsible for the impression you make. It may look like a party, but it's really a brainstorming session. Make that clear or your supervisors will be less than impressed with your use of time.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Work issues can make or break your day. Trying to do your best isn't good enough. Go over the finer details before sending anything up the chain.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
How do you accomplish so much? Don't keep it all to yourself. The more you share your good energy, the more there is to go around.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Clear out your desk at the end of the day, go for a cappuccino and never look back -- the temptation is always there. Or is it? You're finally committed to your job, today. Who would've thought it?

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You try philosophizing, but in your state of mind, you can't get deep. Exactly what is bothering you isn't as important as knowing what to do while you're in this mood. Watch dealing with others.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
People are starting to seem fickle and undependable. It can't be everyone else, so it must be you. You could be attracting a certain type of employee, or you could simply need work communicating your expectations.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Don't accept boredom! But you don't have to make major changes to shake it, either. Start looking around, within your current position. You may find a certain task, and bam, the sparks fly.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
Hmm, how can you get your message across effectively? Be careful, however you choose to do it. Poetry might be a good approach, but that's not likely. Stick to the facts, just the facts.

**THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	8	13	overcast
Harbin	-3	7	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	9	14	cloudy
Urumqi	1	12	clear
Xi'an	10	15	overcast
Lhasa	2	13	overcast/shower
Chengdu	12	14	moderate rain/drizzle
Chongqing	14	18	shower
Kunming	10	24	clear
Nanjing	8	16	cloudy/overcast
Shanghai	10	15	overcast/drizzle
Wuhan	10	17	drizzle/drizzle
Hangzhou	11	17	shower
Taipei	18	24	moderate rain
Guangzhou	18	22	torrential rain/heavy rain
Hong Kong	16	19	moderate rain/drizzle
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-10	0	flurry/sleet
Frankfurt	2	6	drizzle
Paris	1	11	drizzle/cloudy
London	4	11	cloudy/overcast
New York	2	5	drizzle/clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Cowboy boot attachment; 5- Steakhouse order; 10- Uris's "\_\_\_ 18"; 14- Otherwise; 15- Senator Specter; 16- Swift steed; 17- Coral habitat; 18- Very much; 19- Hobbling; 20- Delft; 22- Most strange; 24- Nipper's co.; 25- Meat-grading org.; 26- Having the shape of a coin; 30- Curt; 35- Compass dir.; 36- Persian Gulf fed.; 37- Capri and Man; 38- Montgomery's state; 41- Gives slack; 43- Irritated; 44- Spasm; 45- Opposite of NNW; 46- Genre; 47- Hermits; 50- Isolated; 53- Nasser's org.; 54- Spanish hunter's cap; 58- Public square; 62- Suffix with buck; 63- Actress Verdugo; 66- Scottish refusals; 67- Pack \_\_\_ (quit); 68- Had dinner at home; 69- Crucifix letters; 70- Knowledge; 71- Clear of vermin; 72- Long time;

**DOWN:** 1- Lab fluids; 2- Answered a charge; 3- \_\_\_-friendly; not too technical; 4- Social crusader's wish; 5- Rare metallic element; 6- Sis's sib; 7- Chihuahua cheer; 8- Hawaiian state birds; 9- Broke off; 10- Former French colony of north-western Africa; 11- Dies \_\_\_; 12- Hightails it; 13- Help a hood; 21- Hosp. section; 23- Rate; 25- Suffix with fail; 26- Approaches; 27- Dark; 28- Dry and crumbly; 29- Small battery size; 31- Slalom curve; 32- Like non-oyster months; 33- Have a feeling about; 34- Curved letters; 39- \_\_\_ canto; 40- Fred's dancing sister; 41- Tell it like it isn't; 42- Resident; 44- Uno + due; 48- China's Chou En-\_\_\_; 49- The Muse of astronomy; 51- Echo, for one; 52- Nick of "Lorenzo's Oil"; 54- Letters, e.g.; 55- \_\_\_ take arms against...; 56- Film \_\_\_; 57- Sound quality; 59- Writer Grey; 60- Round number?; 61- Z \_\_\_ zebra; 64- Auction ending?; 65- Actress Vardalos

**Yesterday's solution**

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

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- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- 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
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
- Telephone - Report 1000
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## New FIFA sponsor Wanda has sights on World Cup in China

**C**HINESE conglomerate Wanda says becoming a top-tier sponsor leaves it "better placed" to help decide where future editions of the World Cup will be staged.

With Chinese leaders expressing a desire to host the event, Wanda's statement appears to offer further insight into the company's decision to sign on as the first new top-tier sponsor for world football's governing body since 2013.

"As a partner of FIFA, Wanda will be better placed to play a role in the bidding process to host major football events such as the World Cup, closing the gap on international football and enabling Chinese football to have a say in international football," Wanda said in an undated news release issued in the wake of Friday's signing of the agreement with FIFA.

Chinese leaders from President Xi Jinping down say they want to add the World Cup to the list of major sporting events the country has hosted or is planning to host, including the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and the upcoming 2022 Winter Olympics.

Property and cinema giant Dalian Wanda Group's partnership with FIFA runs through the 2030 World Cup, for which China is considered likely to bid. Wanda has been moving aggressively into sports promotion in recent years, buying Swiss firm Infront Sports & Media, Tampa-based World Triathlon Corp. and acquiring a 20 percent stake in Spanish football team Atletico Madrid.

The value of the top-tier FIFA partnership was not disclosed but is likely to top hundreds of millions of dollars. The firm's Wanda Sports Holding subsidiary is led by Philippe Blatter, a nephew of Sepp Blatter, who was forced out as FIFA president by a corruption crisis.

Despite massive government support and major spending on foreign talent by Chinese clubs, China has had only limited success in international football. The national team has qualified for just one World Cup, the 2002 tournament in South Korea and Japan, where it was bounced out in the group stage with three losses.

The awarding of hosting rights to the World Cup has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years with various investigations into tournaments dating back to 2006.

The 2018 and 2022 bidding contests are under scrutiny by Switzerland's attorney general, and American federal prosecutors' wider probe of corruption in FIFA business that includes World Cup bids. **AP**

AP PHOTO



In this Dec. 4, 2015, file photo, Yulia Efimova swims in the women's 100-meter breaststroke during a preliminary race in the U.S. Winter Nationals swimming event in Washington state

### OLYMPICS

## Efimova hopes to compete despite doping case

**D**ESPITE failing a doping test for meldonium, world swimming champion Yulia Efimova said yesterday she still hopes to compete at the Olympics in August.

In an emotional recorded statement on Russian state TV, Efimova said she tested positive for the recently banned endurance-boosting drug last month and insisted she was innocent.

"I categorically reject the accusation of doping," she said. "At the current time, we are preparing for a hearing into my case. We intend to have the charge completely dismissed and to prove that I didn't break anti-doping rules, and I continue to train with the hope that I will compete at the Olympic Games in Rio."

A four-time gold medalist at the world championships, the breaststroke specialist is widely considered to be Russia's top medal hope in swimming at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Efimova, who won bronze in the 200-meter breaststroke at the 2012 London Olympics, could be banned for life if found guilty of a second career doping offense. She was stripped of five Eu-

ropean championship medals after testing positive for the banned steroid DHEA in 2013. Efimova's ban on that occasion was reduced from two years to 16 months after she argued that she had taken the substance by accident while trying to buy a legal supplement.

"I missed one and a half years due to my own stupidity," Efimova said. "Since then I track especially carefully anything that enters my body and I give a guarantee that any medicines that I have taken or am taking are allowed."

Efimova said she had taken meldonium for unspecified medical reasons, but stopped before Jan. 1, when the substance became banned in sports. Several other athletes who have failed tests have said they only took meldonium before the ban, announced in September, came into force.

"Although the half-life of meldonium in organism is only 4-6 hours, its complete elimination time from organism is significantly longer," the drug's Latvian manufacturer, Grindeks, said in an e-mailed statement. "Its terminal elimination from the body may last for several months and it depends on a variety of factors."

Efimova's agent agent, Andrei Mitkov, refused to provide any detail about the medical circumstances that she said led her to take meldonium, telling Russian TV he did not want to give away information before a hearing.

Mitkov said Efimova tested positive in two out-of-competition tests last month while training in Los Angeles. One was administered by swimming governing body FINA and the other by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, Mitkov said.

Also yesterday, Russia's embattled track and field federation said four of its athletes had tested positive for meldonium at last month's national indoor championships.

The cases pile more pressure on Russia, which was suspended from global track and field in November after a World Anti-Doping Agency commission report alleged systematic, state-sponsored doping. Russia could miss out on the Olympics if the ban is not lifted in time.

Two Russian runners, Andrei Minzhulin and Nadezhda Kotlyarova, have admitted to failing doping tests at last month's championships. Minzhulin won the 5,000

meters at the event, while Kotlyarova reached the semifinals in the 400 at last year's world championships.

Minzhulin told Russia's R-Sport agency that he stopped taking meldonium in November but it remained in his system.

The federation did not identify those who had tested positive but said it was "carefully investigating" the cases and that athletes had been warned several times about meldonium after WADA said in September that it would be banned for 2016.

The IAAF did not respond to a request for comment.

Besides the Russians, there are also ongoing meldonium cases in track and field involving former 1,500-meter world champion Abeba Aregawi of Sweden and former European 800-meter indoor champion Nataliya Lupu of Ukraine.

WADA said late last week there have been 102 failed tests for meldonium so far this year, though it is not clear how many are from particular countries or sports. At least 25 athletes are serving provisional suspensions after testing positive, with more than half of the known cases involving Russians. **MDT/AP**

opinion

World Views

Grant Smith & Bill Lehane, Bloomberg

WHY THE GLOBAL OIL GLUT MIGHT NOT FILL SWIMMING POOLS AFTER ALL

One of the warning lights that there's too much oil around is no longer flashing, adding to signs that global crude markets are finally on the mend.

Just a month ago, oil traders were weighing up whether to park unwanted crude aboard tankers while BP Plc Chief Executive Officer Bob Dudley joked that swimming pools might be needed to hold the excess. Yet instead of offering bumper profits, as in previous market gluts, stockpiling barrels on ships would result in a financial loss, just as it has done for the past six months, in a sign the current surplus may not be as big as feared.

Declining U.S. oil production coupled with disruptions in OPEC members Iraq and Nigeria have helped revive crude to USD40 a barrel, leading the International Energy Agency to conclude that the worst of the rout is over. Contrary to expectations that tankers would be needed, onshore storage hasn't been exhausted, according to Torbjørn Kjus, an analyst at DNA ASA in Oslo.

"There's less going into floating storage rather than more in the past few months," Kjus said. "Fundamentals are gradually improving. The worst of the price rout was just sentiment."

A crude trader would lose about \$7.6 million if they wanted to park 2 million barrels at sea for six months, more than double the loss they would have swallowed in February, according to data compiled by Bloomberg from E.A. Gibson Shipbrokers Ltd. and oil futures exchanges.

The losses from storage partly reflect that hiring a tanker has become more expensive amid robust demand for crude. Day rates on the industry's benchmark route - to Japan from Saudi Arabia - advanced to \$66,641, according to data from the Baltic Exchange in London. That's about 30 percent more than a month earlier. In dollars-per-barrel terms, the cost of using the ships to store for six months advanced to \$6.80 from \$6.16 over the month, E.A. Gibson estimates.

Yet the economics also give an insight into the oil market itself. Storing crude at sea becomes profitable when the spread between the current price and longer-term ones, known as contango, is wide enough to cover the cost of hiring a tanker.

The gap between first and seven-month futures narrowed to \$2.59 a barrel yesterday, down from \$5.07 a barrel on Jan. 29. It's simply "nowhere near" enough to cover the cost.

It's a distinct shift from the market conditions prevalent a month ago, when Chris Bake, a senior executive at Vitol Group, said that with primary storage sites "pretty much full," it was "probably a good time to be a vessel owner."

The biggest change between now and a month ago is oil supply that's been unexpectedly curbed. One pipeline linking the northern part of Iraq to the Mediterranean Sea halted in mid-February, while another from Nigeria was hit by sabotage. U.S. oil production is threatening to drop below 9 million barrels a day for the first time since November 2014.

From those three locations alone, combined output was restricted by about 1 million barrels a day compared with a month earlier, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's about half the global surplus. Since then, flow from Iraq's north has started to resume.

Trading houses including Vitol, Koch Supply & Trading LP and Glencore Plc, plus the in-house trading arms of BP and Royal Dutch Shell Plc, collectively made billions of dollars from 2008 to 2009 stockpiling crude at sea. At the peak of the floating storage spree, sheltered anchorages in the North Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Singapore Strait and off South Africa each hosted dozens of supertankers.

The receding risk that storage tanks will overflow encouraged Goldman Sachs Group Inc. in its view that the worst for oil prices is over.

"Your probability of having a containment issue, of blowing out storage, is starting to decline," Jeff Currie, New York-based head of commodities research at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said in a Bloomberg Television interview.

THE BUZZ MARRIOTT WINS OVER STARWOOD WITH REVISED BUYOUT BID

Starwood is taking a revised buyout bid from Marriott, three days after the hotel called off their deal in favor of an offer from a group of investors led by Chinese insurance company Anbang.

The revised deal would give Starwood shareholders USD21 in cash and 0.80 shares of Marriott International Inc. Class A stock for each Starwood share. Starwood shareholders

are also expected to get Interval Leisure Group stock valued at \$5.83 per share. Taken together, that would value Starwood stock at \$85.36 per share.

The latest offer from Anbang and its partners was worth \$83.67 for each Starwood share. Starwood stockholders would have received \$78 in cash for each share they own plus \$5.67 in stock for a spinoff of a vacation business.



Ben Affleck attends the premiere of "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" at Radio City Music Hall

CINEMA

Ben Affleck wants to prove he's just another Batman

John Carucci, New York

BEN Affleck hopes the Batman fans who were skeptical of him playing the caped crusader in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" realize how seriously he took the role.

"The most difficult thing about making this movie, honestly, was the physical aspect," Affleck told The Associated Press yesterday [Macau time] on the red carpet for the film's New York premiere at Radio City Music Hall.

Affleck said he wanted to be in shape, so he worked

out hard.

"Having to be in the gym every day, six in the morning ... I wasn't used to that kind of workout regimen," Affleck said. "Fans have come to expect that if you're going to play a superhero, you got to look in the body like a superhero. I knew the camera was going to be looking at me and the guillotine was there so I knew I had to be ready," he said.

When Warner Bros. made the announcement nearly three years ago that Affleck would play Batman, some fans were less than thrilled, and the backlash led to pe-

titions asking the studio to remove Affleck.

Eventually, it blew over, and the two-time Oscar winner feels proud to be part of the Batman legacy.

"I'm really honored to be part of a tradition that Christian Bale and Christopher Nolan, great talents, worked on. Michael Keaton, Val Kilmer, George Clooney, Tim Burton, great talents. So I just wanted to do my best. I think we did something different, but something that is still very much Batman," Affleck said.

His co-star Jesse Eisenberg shared a similar experience when he was cast in the film as Superman's arch-nemesis, Lex Luthor.

But Eisenberg, famous for his role as Mark Zuckerberg in "The Social Network," empathized with his critics.

"I can assure them as critical as they are of me, I'm more critical. No one is more concerned or critical or worried about doing a good job than I am," Eisenberg said.

Amy Adams, who plays Lois Lane in the film, praised both Eisenberg and Affleck.

"I think the audience is going to have to decide for themselves. [I] got to see it, and I was blown away," Adams said. "They both bring something we've never seen before in these characters, but something that really pays homage to the canon, so I think they are going to be really happy."

Before going inside for the screening, Affleck summed it up: "I think people are going to like it. All you can do is do your best." AP

Irish Food and Whiskey Week' kicks off at IFT

THE Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) kicked off its 'Irish Food and Whiskey Week' yesterday at its educational restaurant, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Ireland, to celebrate the Irish Festival and promote Irish culture in Macau.

A chef invited from Ireland, James Fox, prepared a variety of Irish cuisines, while Martin Moran, an Irish master of wine, was the guest speaker at an Irish whiskey seminar yesterday, which was attended by over 40 participants.

The seminar aimed to allow participants to learn more about whiskey distillation and production, as well as different styles of Irish whiskey.

The 'Irish Food and Whiskey Week' will run until March 24.

During the week, guests can experience an Irish set lunch and buffet dinner, fea-



The renowned chef from Ireland, James Fox (left) and the Master of Wine, Martin Moran at IFT

turing a variety of Irish cuisine and wine.

IFT believes that by bringing new culinary elements and experiences to Macau, the culinary knowledge and horizon of local residents and professionals will be enhanced. Staff reporter

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	65-85 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



IRAN Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has accused the U.S. of reneging on the West's nuclear deal with the country, signed last year, by seeking to undermine Iranian banks.

U.S. A lawyer for a Temple University professor who had been accused of scheming to provide secret U.S. technology to China says federal prosecutors won't refile charges after they dropped the case against him last year.



TURKEY-GREECE Officials from Turkey and Greece are set to begin discussions on how to implement last week's deal on migrant repatriation. Under the EU-Turkey agreement, migrants arriving in Greece are to be sent back to Turkey if they do not apply for asylum or if their claim is rejected.

BELGIUM National prosecutors say that DNA has identified an accomplice, Najim Laachraoui, of captured Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam. A statement said that he had been using false ID and that his DNA had been found in houses used by the suspected jihadist network.

BOSNIAN Serb officials in Bosnia have named a student dormitory after Radovan Karadzic, the former president who is now accused of involvement in genocide and war crimes during the 1990s Bosnian civil war.