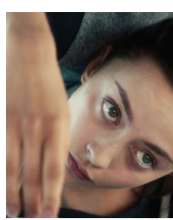




**IT'S THE HOUSING, STUPID**  
Lawmakers tell Secretary Rosário their major concern is the real estate market, namely housing quality, public housing, land laws

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**IFFAM NAMES ATTENDING DIRECTORS AND PRODUCERS**  
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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**



AP PHOTO

**CHINA-SOUTH SUDAN** The first 120 troops of a 700-member Chinese U.N. peacekeeping force depart for South Sudan, deepening China's commitment to the troubled East African nation, where two of its peacekeepers were killed in fighting over the summer.  
More on p11

**PHILIPPINES** A survey conducted by UNICEF and the Philippine government has found a high prevalence of violence against Filipino children, with eight out of ten suffering some form of physical or psychological abuse. The two organizations said yesterday that their first nationwide survey of children and youth aged 13-24 also found one in five respondents had been sexually violated.

**INDONESIA** strengthens its moratorium on converting peat swamps to plantations in a move a conservation research group says will help prevent annual fires and substantially cut the country's carbon emissions if properly implemented.

**THAILAND's** new king names an 11-member council of advisers, bringing in three new officials, including a former army chief and two representatives of the ruling junta.  
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**PISA TEST**

# Macau students are getting smarter. P3



RUEIBIN CHEN

## The Pianist P2

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

MACAO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

Times SUPPLEMENT WED. 07.12.2016

**Movies of a lifetime**

IFFAM SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

Julie Zhu

**RUEIBIN** Chen, a Taiwanese pianist, who performed at the 2010 World Expo in China, started his career as a child prodigy and concert pianist at age ten when he made his debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. Following that, he was named the Principal Soloist of "Moldova" Iasi and Tirgu Mures Philharmonic Orchestra in Romania.

In 2014, he was invited to perform with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, which is the biggest outdoor venue in the U.S.

A Chinese-Austrian born in Taiwan, Chen won a total of 18 medals, including five gold medals, which were won before he was 20, in various international piano competitions in Tel Aviv (Rubinstein), Warsaw (Chopin), Salt Lake City (Bachauer), Athens (Callas), Vienna, Manresa, and Italy (Rome, Rachmaninoff, Bellini, and Stresa) to name just a few. Here's what he told the Times:

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What is your schedule looking like for this coming year?**

**Rueibin Chen (RC) -** Currently, I will have events in Hong Kong. When I go to Hong Kong, it is not a must for me to go to Macau. [...] I like Macau too much. I think Macau has a more mixed culture when compared to Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China. People in Macau, since ancient times, speak Mandarin well.

**MDT - Which regions or countries leave you the most memorable experiences?**

**RC -** I have performed in many eastern European countries, including Romania and Ukraine. Looking at them, their economy is not that good, but people's participation in culture is high. I was once performing in Israel, and I won a prize. What I am very impressed about is not that I won a prize, but the person who delivered the prize to me. It was Yitzhak Rabin. Back in that time, he had just won the Nobel Peace Prize. Several months after I received the prize from his hands, he was assassinated.

**MDT - Besides your performances, what musical genres interest you in a professional capacity?**

**Q&A RUEIBIN CHEN PIANIST**

## 'Music is without boundaries'



**RC -** I not only play Western music, but I am very focused on the communication between Western and Eastern music. Two years ago, I organized a symphony, which mixed traditional Chinese instruments and piano. First, many of our generation, of the next generation and of the one after are getting Western musical education. Many [aspects] of Chinese culture are good and very beautiful, but Chinese [people and artists] maybe have forgotten and they don't know. When I was promoting our culture in the West, in the U.S. actually, people there like [our Eastern culture] very much. I will continue to promote the combination between the West and the East.

**Parents should communicate more with children in terms of music, but not make it a priority for students.**

These are my own cultures. I wish that, within my ability, I can promote them at a global scale.

**MDT - As a Taiwanese pianist, how are you handling the relationship between Taiwan and China?**

**RC -** I want to talk about this topic. If I am not wrong, I might be the musician, who was born in Taiwan, who showed up the most times in both sides for big celebrations. I played in the World Expo in Shanghai, Macau's handover anniversary ceremony, Beijing International Film Festival, and I also

played in the office of the President in Taiwan. I think music is not just only about no borders, but it is without boundaries. If I can, I am willing to continue promoting musical communication between both sides.

**MDT - Will you focus more on Chinese communities and on this part of the world in your future?**

**RC -** If time allows me, I am very willing to spend more time here. In Macau, I have performed several times. My second language is German. As to the cultures from Europe, I am very willing to bring them back here [Asia].

**MDT - Nowadays, how do you see Chinese students studying music, in particular their way of learning it?**

**RC -** The parents should communicate more with children in terms of music, but not make it [instrument learning] a priority for students. It's not that the students must reach a certain level or must win certain prizes. I have seen many examples of children who gave up learning. They can't handle the pressure. [Not only in mainland China], but in Chinese communities and Chinese culture.

Talking from my own experience, [...] I chose playing music as my career. I don't think I am a pianist, I am a music lover. That makes me have no concerns so that I can keep on doing my job and enjoy my performance. The west European musicians are the same as me, their parents did not supervise them. In the end, it is the [musician's] own choice. Therefore, when they are performing, you can see that they have many different ideas, maybe everyone plays differently.

Probably Chinese musicians, are seriously depending on the teachers and the parents. In the end, you can see that their skills are very good, [reflect] a mold. On the good side, you have people supervising you. But as an artist, society might hope to see something different.



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## EDUCATION

# Macau students 'score high' on PISA 2015

Renato Marques

**T**HE students of Macau have scored high marks in the 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The results were presented yesterday evening at a press conference held by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) at their headquarters.

Macau ranked sixth, 12th and third, respectively, for scientific literacy, reading literacy and mathematical literacy (three out of four core literacies analyzed in the 2015 tests).

This year's Science and Reading results are an improvement over those obtained in 2012, with the same results for Mathematics. Scientific literacy rose from 538 to 544 points.

Singapore topped the rankings in all literacies, with Hong Kong



coming in second on reading and mathematical literacies.

This is the fifth time that Macau has participated in such a program. The 2015 PISA compared the results of school systems in 72 countries and economies.

In the OECD report presented to the press by DSEJ Director Leong Lai, Macau's school system was ranked as one of quality and equity, alongside four other countries and regions.

"Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Hong Kong (China) and Macau (China) achieve high levels of performance and equity in education outcomes," the report states.

Questioned by the press on why these five countries and regions received such high praise – as opposed to Singapore, which came in first across all literacies – Cheung Kwok Cheung, the Administrator for the project in Ma-

cau, explained that "the Singapore system fails in equity, showing very high contrasts between the results of students according to their socio-cultural background, something that doesn't happen in Macau."

Besides the abovementioned literacies, the 4,476 participating students – all of whom are 15 years old – took another test on collaborative problem solving. However, the results will not be announced before 2017.

The report also found that for the first time, the number of students born in 1999 that were studying in Form 4 (Grade 10) exceeded half of the total sample,

**Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Hong Kong and Macau achieve high levels of performance and equity in education outcomes.**

REPORT

reaching a total of 54.6 percent. This, according to Cheung, suggests that the region "was successful in reducing the rate of the grade repetition in its basic education system."

Another problem detected by the test results were the differences in gender performance, with female students clearly outperforming male students by a significant margin.

Cheung added that besides evaluating the students' performance, PISA tests "are also important tools for career definition."

In Macau's case, students' prospects for a career in science and technology are still below average compared to the other OECD countries and economies.

In terms of gender, male students are more likely to aspire to a career in these fields. Most female students directed their efforts in this area to health-related professions, with information and communication technology professions scoring the lowest among female students' career aspirations.

"We need to do more in terms of information for our students and pay more attention to the [school] curriculum, highlighting that all courses are suitable to all genders," said Cheung.

The next PISA test will be in 2018. Macau has already been confirmed as a participant.



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**T**HE first International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM) yesterday announced the filmmakers and stars that will be attending this year's inaugural Festival.

For the opening night film "Polina", directors Angelin Preljocaj and Valérie Müller, cast members Anastasia Shevtsova, Niels Schneider and Guskov Aleksei, and producer Dider Creste will attend.

According to an IFFAM press release, competition jury president Shekhar Kapur and his jury members are also expected to attend opening night.

Other guests include stars Ludi Lin, Celina Jade, Lisa Lu, and Sakuraba Nanami, among others.

IFFAM will also feature international film festival directors, including the director of the Toronto International Film Festival, Cameron Bailey; Sabrina Baracetti of Italy's Far East Film Festival; Bero Beyer of the Netherlands' Rotterdam International Film Festival; and Kang Soo Youn and Kim Dong Ho, Busan International Film Festival's director and chairman, respectively.

Attendees for the competition films are the director and screenwriter of "Elon Doesn't Believe In Death" Ricardo Alves Jr., actor and co-screenwriter

## IFFAM names attending directors and producers



"Polina" directors and starring actors to attend the 1st IFFAM

Germano Melo, producer and editor Michael Wahrman, and producer Thiago Maçedo Correia, among others.

The release stated that the galas and special screenings will be attended by the director of "The Mole Song – Hong Kong Capriccio", Takashi Miike, and cast members Toma Ikuta, Tsubasa Honda and producer Misako Saka; director Park Jung Woo of "Pandora", producer Baik Kyung Sook and the movie's cast; and "Immortal Story" director Yon Fan, along with a few cast members.

Academy Award-winning director Tom McCarthy will host a masterclass on "The Art of Storytelling - Using the Personal to Elevate the Political" and producer Gianni Nunnari will host a masterclass on "Producing in Hollywood – Big budget blockbusters, independent genre films and what Hollywood and Asia can learn from each other".

The IFFAM Closing Night and Awards Ceremony will take place on December 13 at the Cultural Centre.

The event will be attended by "Train To Busan" cast members Kim Su-an, Kim Euisung and Choi Woo-sik and the film's producer, Lee Dong-ha, who will receive the inaugural Asian Blockbuster Film 2016 Award on the occasion. LV

### SICIF'16

## 1,650 worldwide entries in second edition



(From left) Mário Dorminsky, José Sales Marques, Lúcia Lemos and Joao Francisco Pinto

### Lynzy Valles

**T**HE Sound & Image Challenge International Festival 2016 (SICIF'16), the second edition of the festival, commenced yesterday with a concert, "Aeolian Scriptures", performed by a Hong Kong ensemble.

The opening ceremony was held at the Dom Pedro V Theatre. The festival will run until Sunday.

This edition of the festival received some 1,650 worldwide entries, more than double that of last year, according to the festival director and project manager of Creative Macau, Lucia Lemos.

José Luis Sales Marques, president of the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM and the organizer of the event, told the press yesterday at a conference that the festival aimed at bringing something new to Macau's image.

"Someone coming from outside may not know the treasures that we have here, so we decided to turn this competition into a festival," he said.

Sixty-three short films and music videos – mainly from North America, Europe, the Middle East, China and Macau

– will be screened during the six-day festival.

The jury shortlisted 33 films from the "Shorts" section of the competition and eight music videos for the "Volume" section.

Audience members who attend tomorrow's "Shorts" screening session at the Dom Pedro V Theatre will be able to vote to determine the winner of the "Public Favorite Award".

The screenings begin today with the Portuguese Short Film session, featuring Leonar Teles's "Batrachian's Ballad", which was awarded the 2016 Golden Bear for Best Short Film in the Berlin International Film Festival.

The Southeast Asia Short Films session showcases short films from Singapore, Philippines and Thailand.

The "Extra Films Screenings" today features three short films from Macau directors: "ERIC – You will never walk alone", a documentary directed by António Caetano Faria; "Tricycle Thief", a feature film directed by Maxim Bessmertny; and "Always Online", by Chao Wai.

SICIF'16 has this year provided a pla-

tform for local bands to upload original compositions for foreign and local directors to produce a music video featuring that composition.

The submissions fall under the "Volume" category, which will be screened on Friday and followed by a session of Chinese animation shorts.

"I think this is also a good way to promote music making in Macau," said Marques.

According to him, the festival is a platform for interaction between foreign and local filmmakers, which could lead to potential collaborations.

"This is a festival that tries to internalize this process [of] culture, knowledge and technology of filmmaking into Macau. [There is] something to learn from each other, but everybody has something to gain," the organizer said.

When asked whether there have been issues with SICIF'16's schedule overlapping with the Macau International Film Festival & Awards – which commence tomorrow – Lemos hinted that the effects would mainly be in terms of local filmmakers' attendance, but that SICIF'16 would retain its quality and structure.

All screenings are in their original language with English subtitles. Admission is free for all activities.

The winners will be announced at the Gala Awards Ceremony this Friday.

The festival, which has a development budget of over MOP500,000, will be held at Dom Pedro V Theatre until December 9, and will be relocated to Cinematheque Passion during the weekend.

## Patane Library opens Friday

**T**HE Patane Library, comprised of a group of seven old buildings, is set for inauguration this Friday at 11 a.m.

Developed with the support of the Department of Public Library Management of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the three-storey library covers an area of around 11,000 square feet, and provides approximate 150 seats for readers.

In addition to newspapers and magazines, the library also provides necessary services such as access to the general and children's collections. The library, dedicated to film and music, also features a multimedia zone for hosting regular film screenings, concerts and other activities.

According to a statement issued by the IC, the library holds approximately 20,000 volumes, 7,000 audiovisual materials, 80 types of newspapers and 600 types of magazines.

The newly renovated library aims not only to provide additional reading space to local residents, but also to preserve and safeguard the buildings with value and significance in urban development.

Aside from enhancing the environment of the Inner Harbor, IC noted that the renovation project has transformed the buildings into a place for the transmission of culture and knowledge.

The Patane Library will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. from Tuesdays to Sundays, and from 2 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays, except on public holidays.

POLICY ADDRESS | RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO

# Real estate issues are at the top of lawmakers' major concerns



Julie Zhu

**D**URING the second day of the Legislative Assembly (AL) policy address of the Secretary for Transport and

Public Works, lawmakers' major concern was Macau's real estate market, namely housing quality, public housing and land laws.

Raimundo do Rosário, together with directors from

bureaus under his administration, took questions from lawmakers such as Lei Cheng I, Leong Veng Chai and Gabriel Tong.

Lei Cheng I took a critical stance, stating that "the government emphasizes Macau's housing policies, [but] it cannot even talk about full housing policies."

Lei pointed out that the number of the public housing units that the government currently provides are a means of "paying for its old debts."

The lawmaker also pointed out that Macau's construction laws need to be modified to extend constructors' responsibility for maintaining the structures they build.

Rosário said that the government will prioritize public housing projects at Avenida Wai Long and Avenida de Veneslau de Moraes.

The Director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Li Can Feng, responded by claiming that the DSSOPT will redouble its efforts in its work concerning housing quality.

Li added that the public works authorities have already modified Macau's construction chapters, and that

the departments are seeking opinions from individuals in related industries.

Leong Veng Chai, who questioned Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam about whether the government will build properties specifically for civil servants, addressed Rosário with the same question.

Rosário said that there have been no apparent problems regarding the construction of apartments for civil servants. However, Leong questioned again if the government will reserve lands specifically for these buildings. Rosário stated that there are no reserved lands.

Gabriel Tong considered the Pearl Horizon problem to be a serious political incident in need of discussion.

"If a project can be approved for selling [...] but then halfway, the land and the buildings must be returned [to the government], don't you think there are conflicts in the system?" he asked.

Rosário's response to Tong was that the city's "land law is written down and as such, I have no other ways."

Zheng An Ting, who questioned all secretaries regarding Tong's same concern about Pearl Horizon, suggested that the government needs to organize a team of lawmakers who participated in the formation of Macau's past land laws, as well as government representatives.

In his words, this team needs to explain to the public the details of how Macau's land laws were passed in the past, and to publicize records of the session when the land laws were passed.

Zheng even said, "Lawmaker Chan Meng Kam did not ask me to say that."

Ho Ion Sang expects the government to build houses on lands that the government owns and recommended that these be put on public tender next year, with prices that are affordable for the general public.

## New Hengqin border facilities to be completed in six years



Zhuhai authorities have initiated the construction of an integrated border transit center at the Hengqin border. According to Macao Daily News, Zhuhai has invested RMB26 billion in the new facilities, which will be located on Zhuhai's side of the border. Construction works are scheduled for completion in six years. Occupying a total of 1.21 million square meters, Zhuhai's new border facilities will have 14 manual checkpoints and 60 automatic checkpoints, 11 of which will be for buses and six for cargo. The Zhuhai government expects the new facilities to have the capacity to handle 220,000 passengers per day.

## Escola Keang Peng opens new campus

The new primary school campus of Escola Keang Peng was officially opened yesterday. The 3,340-square-meter campus commenced operations last September. Keang Peng's primary school consists of six grades, with each grade in turn comprised of six classes. Around 1,200 students attend the school, where there are approximately 100 teaching staff. At the opening ceremony, Chief Executive Chui Sai On said that the new campus fully complies with the requirements of modern education.

## Man arrested for setting fire at home

A male Macau resident was arrested yesterday at his home for setting his bedsheets on fire after an argument with his wife, according to a report by TDM. The Judiciary Police revealed that the suspect has been unemployed for many years and has a gambling addiction. The suspect's wife gave him a monthly allowance of MOP4,000 but delayed this month's handout. The couple got into an argument and the suspect set the sheets on fire. His wife suffered burns on her right hand while attempting to put the fire out.

## Construction waste landfill casts safety concerns

**L**EI Cheng I criticized the Macau government's failure over environment protection policies, pointing out that even though a construction waste management system has been under discussion for many years, the system has not yet been implemented.

She noted that many of Macau's development projects involve environmental protection controversies. Lei suggested the establishment of clear definition and division of areas which should be under protection.

The Director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Li Can Feng, replied that Macau currently has laws and regulations regarding the environmental protection of hills.

He exemplified his point with Ilha Verde, a fully protected zone. Hills in Coloane that are taller than 80 meters are also protected.

The director said that Macau listed 190,000 square meters of protected zones in Coloane back in the 1980s.

Environmental Protection Bureau Director Tam Vai Man has pledged that the department will move faster in regards to construction waste management policies, and expressed hopes that legal drafts on the issue can enter legislative procedures as soon as possible.

At the AL plenary meeting on Monday, Raimundo do Rosário also admitted that construction waste landfills in Taipa have grown 2.5 meters since he took his position.

"I have been saying that there will be problems sooner or later," warned Rosário.

The secretary believes that once the landfill collapses, the Macau International Airport will be affected.

Director Tam Vai Man also said his department is collaborating with the public works authority to draft instructions for environmentally friendly construction, and expects to add eco-friendly elements to the construction of future government buildings.

## TRANSPORTATION TO WORSEN IN 2017

**RAIMUNDO DO** Rosário said that road projects in 2017 might worsen the city's transportation issues. The secretary added that the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and several public service organizations will co-organize a press conference to announce further details on the topic. Rosário also revealed that most of next year's road projects will be under CEM control.





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Measures taken by schools when Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals, Rainstorm Warning Signal are in force or the weather conditions are exceptional

When the SMG has issued Tropical Cyclone Signal or Rainstorm Warning Signal, or when the exceptional weather is forecast, according to the Dispatch of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture No.105/2016, the announcement of class suspension will be issued.



	Time of issuance	Education level	Arrangement of class suspension
Rainstorm Warning Signal	Between 06:30 and 09:00	Infant Primary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day
	Between 11:30 and 14:00	Secondary	Classes are suspended in the morning
Tropical Cyclone Signals	Between 06:30 and 09:00	Infant Primary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day
	Between 11:30 and 14:00	Infant Primary Special Education	Classes are suspended in the afternoon
	At any time	Secondary	Classes are as usual
	At or after 06:30	Infant Primary Secondary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day
Exceptional Weather Conditions	Between 00:00 and 06:30	Infant Primary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day
	Between 06:30 and 17:30	Secondary	Classes are as usual

During the aforesaid class suspension period, schools must ensure that school premises are open, and staff are arranged to look after the students who have arrived at the school and arrange appropriate activities for them. Parents do not need to rush to school to pick up their children. (Except Tropical Cyclone Signal 8 or above)


The public can receive related class suspension information through the following channels:

- The SMG website at [www.smg.gov.mo](http://www.smg.gov.mo)
- The DSEJ website at [www.dsej.gov.mo](http://www.dsej.gov.mo), the DSEJ App and the DSEJ official account on WeChat
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# Resident, non-resident deposits going different directions in October

**A**CCORDING to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM), deposits to the banking sector made by residents increased 2.1 percent month-to-month to MOP502.8 billion in October.

Nevertheless, total deposits decreased, led by non-resident deposits, which dropped 4.2 percent to MOP264.9 billion. The fall was emulated by public sector deposits, with the banking sector registering a decrease of 2 percent to MOP157 billion.

As a result, total deposits into the banking sector decreased 0.5 percent from a month earlier to a total of MOP924.7 billion.

The majority of deposits continue to be denominated in HKD (47.5 percent) followed by USD (22.8 percent).

As for loans, domestic loans to the private sector increased slightly by 0.3 percent month-to-month to MOP413.9 billion. HKD-denominated loans continued to top the currency shares with a total of MOP268.5 billion (64.9 percent). MOP-denominated was the second most popular with less than half of the amount of credit granted in HKD (MOP122.3 billion).

As total loans increased whereas total deposits decreased, the overall loan-to-deposit ratio of the banking sector rose from a month ago. Concurrently, the non-performing loan ratio, an indicator for bank asset quality, remained virtually unchanged. **RM**

## EU-MACAO JOINT COMMITTEE

# Secretary Leong co-chairs meeting in Belgium

**T**HE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, briefed representatives from the European Union on Macao's latest economic developments, including the Government's first-ever Five-Year Development Plan, according to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau.

The briefing took place in Brussels, Belgium this week during the 21st EU-Macao Joint Committee meeting, which was co-chaired by the Managing Director of the European External Action Service for Asia and the Pacific, Gunnar Wiegand and Secretary Leong.

During the meeting, both sides updated each other on the latest developments of their economies and exchanged views on several issues. Topics discussed included: taxation; legal cooperation; and the Government's current procurement system.



The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in priority fields of mutual interest, such as legal training, interpretation and translation training, research and innovation, combating human trafficking, as well as environment protection.

During the meeting, the EU and Macao representatives agreed to continue the training program in conference interpretation and translation in Chinese and Portuguese in order to meet the demand of the EU and of Macau for qualified inter-

preters for both languages. The two sides also agreed to strengthen exchanges by establishing a regular dialogue in order to support development of the increasing role of the EU businesses operating in Macau.

Leong then briefed the EU officials about the first ever Five-Year Development Plan for Macao – a blueprint for the city's socio-economic development spanning the period 2016 to 2020 inclusive.

The Plan highlights the Government's administra-

tive efforts to: achieve Macau's moderate economic diversification; position the city as a world center of tourism and leisure and as a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries; and contribute to the development of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road.

The previous EU-Macao Joint Committee meeting was held in Macau on December 5, 2015. The annual bilateral meeting is in accordance with Article 16 of the EC-Macao Trade and Co-operation Agreement, signed on 15 December 1992.

Following the official visit to Brussels, Leong is now headed to Lisbon, where he is scheduled to meet with officials from the Portuguese Government. Leong will also attend events related to a memorandum of understanding on promotion of entrepreneurship and economic and business cooperation, signed in Macau during the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Forum Macao for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.

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Debra Mao

**I**NVESTORS and companies are getting a preview of how the Taiwan government's plan to become "Asia's Silicon Valley" might fare.

Uber Technologies Inc., one of Silicon Valley's most disruptive companies and valued at more than USD60 billion, launched services in Taiwan in 2013. The app has been downloaded by more than a million people in four cities and its drivers number in the tens of thousands.

Just as in New York and other cities, it encountered fierce opposition from local taxi operators, who see the San Francisco-based company as a threat. Now, three Taiwanese lawmakers want those caught driving for Uber fined as much as TWD25 million (\$780,000), more in line with local antitrust fines, and their licenses suspended. A key legislative hearing on the draft rules will be held on Wednesday in Taipei.

"The amount left me stunned," one Uber driver, who gave his surname as Yang, said yesterday during a press conference in Taipei organized by the ride-sharing company. "Did we commit murder or arson? Even drunk drivers are fined only TWD90,000."

Such large fines would be unprecedented for Uber, said Likai Gu, its general manager for the island. Even in Macau, where it nearly withdrew this year, the company paid just \$1.25 million to resolve penalties against about 300 drivers, the South China Morning Post reported in September. A court in France ordered a one-time fine of 850,000 euros (\$915,000) in June.

"We're surprised that a place like Taiwan, which values transparency and democracy, would have these issues," Damian Kassabgi, Uber's Singapore-based director of public policy in the Asia-Pacific region, said in an interview. Communist China claims the island democracy, separately governed since 1949 with a population of 23.5



## Uber drivers face hefty fines as Taiwan opposition grows

million, as part of its territory.

While mainland China formally allowed ride-hailing services in November, the legal framework for its services is less clear in other Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea and Thailand.

In Taiwan, where new President Tsai Ing-wen faces structural economic challenges and the prospect of slowing global trade, fostering innovation and attrac-

ting startups are a key cornerstone in her economic policy.

Tsai encouraged financial firms to direct funding toward venture capital and pledged to loosen strict equity-ownership rules in its company laws. The National Development Council this year established a TWD100 billion fund that will invest in businesses seeking to acquire new technologies and in innovative new companies.

The state-funded Industrial Technology Research Institute, which spawned the likes of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's largest contract chipmaker, is working to develop intelligent self-driving cars in collaboration with U.S.-based companies like Nvidia Corp.

Uber, though, hasn't benefited from the president's apparent goodwill. Taiwan's Finance Ministry is pursuing the company for TWD135 million in back taxes and penalties, the Economic Daily News reported, while its Ministry of Transportation and Communications said it

would ask Apple Inc. and Google to remove the app from its online stores.

While the company agreed to comply with requirements on regulation, insurance and taxation and a future diversified-taxi plan, Uber has yet to produce a concrete plan and continues to operate illegally, the transport ministry said Nov. 15.

"To avoid disputes with which the government cannot assist, situations where no compensation is available, companies and consumers should choose regulated and legal transport providers to protect their rights," it said in a statement.

Ruling party lawmakers Ker Chien-ming, Wu Ping-jui, and Liu Shyh-fang wrote in their draft legislation that Uber infringed the rights of more than 80,000 taxi drivers and breached rules governing highways, competition and foreign investors. After this week's committee review, successive readings in the legislature could be completed within the month and the law passed, according to

Ker's legislative office.

While Uber says it doesn't want to leave Taiwan, it also won't submit to being regulated like a traditional taxi company. It's calling on Tsai to break the stalemate so that it can fit its square peg into a round regulatory hole.

"We've seen clarifications on existing laws, exemptions, and even full legislation introduced," in other parts of the world, Kassabgi said. "To make us fit in under the current rules is like having a librarian regulate Amazon."

Not every new entrant to the Taiwan market will face as tough of a reception, according to Jamie Lin, founder of startup accelerator AppWorks Ventures in Taipei, especially if there are no entrenched incumbents like the taxi industry. The saga shows Taiwan isn't ready for Uber, Lin said.

"All over the world ride hailing technologies are booming," Lin said. "My only concern is that Taiwan will be late to the game." **Bloomberg**

**We're surprised that a place like Taiwan, which values transparency and democracy, would have these issues.**

DAMIAN KASSABGI  
UBER (ASIA-PACIFIC)

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# Oil falls from 16-month high as OPEC production keeps on rising

**O**IL retreated from the highest close in 16 months as OPEC pumped a record amount of crude in November, partly led by members exempt from cutting output as part of last week's deal to curb supply.

Futures slid as much as 1.7 percent in New York after advancing 15 percent over the previous four sessions. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries increased production to 34.16 million barrels a day last month, according to a Bloomberg News survey, with Angola, Libya and Nigeria leading the gains. The last two aren't required to reduce supply in last week's agreement, meaning other members would have to make deeper cuts if the group is to reach its output goal.

Oil is trading around USD51 a barrel after OPEC agreed to trim the group's output by 1.2 million barrels a day from January to stem a supply glut and buoy prices. Russia - which

AP PHOTO



isn't part of the bloc - has also pledged a reduction of as much as 300,000 barrels. Attention is now shifting to which other non-OPEC producers will reduce

output when they meet in Vienna on Saturday. OPEC is hoping they will cut a further 300,000 barrels a day.

"The market is taking a breather; it has moved up strongly on sentiment after the OPEC cut announcement," Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodities analyst at SEB Markets in Oslo,

said by phone. The increase in production from Nigeria and Libya will be a "headache" and Schieldrop expects OPEC will cut back to 33 million barrels a day rather than its stated target of 32.5 million.

West Texas Intermediate for January delivery lost as much as 87 cents to \$50.92 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, and was at \$51.15 at 7:55 a.m. local time. The contract rose 0.2 percent to \$51.79 on Monday, the highest close since July 2015. Total volume traded was about 35 percent above the 100-day average.

Brent for February settlement lost as much as 62 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$54.32 a barrel on the London-based ICE Futures Europe exchange. The contract on Monday gained 48 cents to \$54.94, also the highest close since July 2015. The global benchmark crude traded at a \$2.27 premium to February WTI.

See also: Saudi Arabia switches OPEC tack with eye on world's largest IPO

Other invitees to the meeting on Saturday include Oman, Bahrain, Colombia, Egypt, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Brunei. Altogether, the 14 nations pumped about 18.8 million barrels a day of oil last year, equivalent to 20 percent of global supply, according to data from BP Plc. **Bloomberg**

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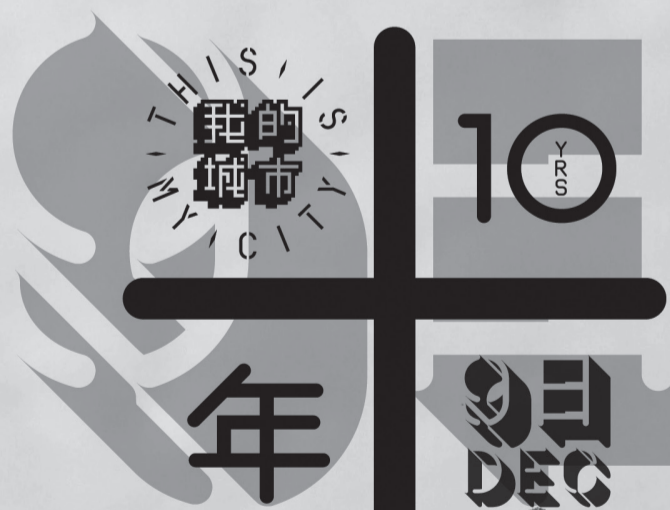
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## Star Chinese investor pleads guilty in stock case



An investor chats with others near an electronic board displaying stock prices at a brokerage house in Beijing

A celebrity Chinese stock trader who was arrested after last year's market collapse has pleaded guilty to insider trading and manipulating share prices, a court announced yesterday.

Xu Xiang was one of a series of brokers and others in the securities industry who were arrested or questioned after share prices soared and then plunged beginning in June 2015. That prompted suggestions the ruling Communist Party was trying to deflect blame for the rout that wiped out some USD5 trillion in stock value after state media encouraged the public to buy shares.

Xu, 40, and two co-defendants, Wang Wei and Zhu Yong, entered the plea at the start of their trial Monday in a court in the eastern city of Qingdao, the court said on its microblog account. It said no verdict had been issued.

The defendants were accused of conspiring with executives of 13 companies from 2010 to 2015 to inflate share prices through

large purchases and favorable statements, according to the statement.

"The three defendants pleaded guilty and asked for leniency," the statement said.

They could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted, according to news reports.

Xu, the founder and general manager of Zexi Investment in Shanghai, was a celebrity in the Chinese business press, which dubbed him "Brother No. 1 of Private Placement."

Zexi's value increased 218 percent during the first three quarters of 2015, far ahead of the second-place competitor, which rose 94 percent, according to *Cai-xin*, a business magazine.

The court statement gave no financial details, but earlier news reports said Xu and his co-conspirators were accused of making several billion yuan (several hundred million dollars) in profit.

China's market benchmark soared more than 150 percent beginning in late 2014 after the state press said stocks were cheap. That led investors to believe Beijing would prop up prices if needed.

Prices hit a peak on June 12 and collapsed after changes in bank regulations fueled suspicions Beijing might withdraw its support. The benchmark fell more than 30 percent, inflicting heavy losses on novice investors who had bought in near the peak.

The downturn triggered complaints that politically favored insiders profited at the expense of small investors. Two other brokerages announced at that time they also were under investigation, but no arrests were reported. A reporter for a business magazine also was detained. **AP**

## USD2.6b currency swap signed with Egypt

Ahmed Feteiha

**E**GYPT and China signed a currency-swap deal for about USD2.6 billion, allowing the North African nation to shore up foreign reserves after floating its currency last month.

The countries' central banks signed the three-year swap agreement for 18 billion yuan against the equivalent in Egyptian pounds. The transaction can be extended, the Chinese regulator said.

The swap "complements a series of measures taken which aim to unleash the vast potential of the Egyptian economy and instill confidence by bolstering economic activity," Egypt's central bank said in a statement.

Propping up Egypt's reserves

is a major aim of the government, which floated the pound last month to end a crippling foreign currency crisis. Having fallen to about half their value in the years after the 2011 ouster of longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak, reserves reached their highest level in more than five years in November.

The Egyptian pound strengthened 0.7 percent this week, trading at 17.55 per dollar at 11 a.m. in Cairo according to data from National Bank of Egypt. It had lost about 50 percent of its value following the Nov. 3 flotation.

The swap is part of the bilateral support Egypt secured to conclude a \$12 billion International Monetary Fund loan deal last month. **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



Asia Development Bank President Takehiko Nakao answers questions during a forum with foreign media at its headquarters in Mandaluyong city, east of Manila, on Nov. 24

## ADB: China-championed Asia Trade Pact should wrap up fast

Karlis Salna, Eko Listiyorini

**T**HE death knell sounding for a U.S.-led Pacific trade pact creates a vacuum that a separate Asia deal being championed by China should quickly fill, according to the Asian Development Bank.

Negotiators at the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership meeting this week in Indonesia would normally hold talks without much public scrutiny. But the latest round comes after U.S. President-elect Donald Trump pledged he won't revive the alternative known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, once vaunted as the centerpiece of U.S. economic engagement in Asia.

That has shifted focus to the RCEP, which would cover 30 percent of the global economy and includes China and India among its 16 country members. Trump's protectionism potentially creates a window for China, which has been vocal on the global stage in recent weeks in advocating for free trade, to push along the timetable for the RCEP and build its influence in the region.

Arjun Goswami, a technical adviser with the ADB's Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, said the timeline for the conclusion of the pact was up to the countries involved.

"But with the prospects of ratifying TPP now receding, there is a vacuum which RCEP should try to fill by concluding negotiations expeditiously," Goswami said in an e-mailed response to questions. "Expectations are for the deal to be concluded in 2017."

Indonesian Trade Minister Enggartiasto Lukita told delegates at the RCEP meeting that recent developments with the TPP and the U.S.-European Transatlantic Trade and

### Trump's protectionism potentially creates a window for China

Investment Partnership had "cast a shadow" over world trade.

"Countries and businesses around the world are wondering what will be the U.S. trade posture in the next few years," he said, urging nations to wrap up the RCEP talks next year.

Brexit and forthcoming elections in some European countries also created uncertainty, he said. "Such developments will have detrimental impacts

on global trade."

While the RCEP is much more a straight up and down trade deal compared to the TPP, which would extend to subjects including intellectual property and state-owned enterprises, it does have its own sticking points.

Some countries may favor greater trade and investment liberalization than others based on different levels of development, and "there may be differing views on the extent of coverage of RCEP trade and investment liberalization in terms of goods and services, with the latter posing greater challenges," Goswami said.

"There is a slowdown in global and regional trade growth that is partly cyclical and partly structural. In addition, there is a risk of rising protectionism fueled by economic insecurity and inequality which makes it more critical to have inclusive trade and investment flows with their effective utilization by small and medium enterprises."

The RCEP aims to level tariffs and rules on the region's supply chains, liberalize investment and introduce dispute-resolution mechanisms. Unlike the TPP, it would not require members to take steps to protect labor rights or improve environmental standards. **Bloomberg**

**T**ORTURE, solitary confinement and coerced confessions are rife in investigations of Chinese Communist Party officials detained on suspicion of corruption, according to a report issued yesterday by Human Rights Watch that analyzes one of the most secretive aspects of China's one-party system: the supervision of its own party members.

One former detainee told the rights group that he was deprived of sleep for 10 days and beaten to keep him standing. A defense lawyer said prosecutors sought confessions of specific amounts of bribery to meet anti-corruption quotas.

Others described cadres being whisked away without warning to hotel rooms with padded floors and windows modified to prevent suicides. They were held there without contact with the outside world for weeks, until confessing to accepting bribes, real or imagined.

Four years into Chinese President Xi Jinping's sweeping war on corruption, rights campaigners warn that widespread use of "shuanggui" — a system of detention and interrogation of party cadres at off-the-book sites outside of the criminal justice system — is undermining the very rule of law that top party leaders say they are trying to strengthen.

Probes by the party's feared internal anti-graft investigators hit 330,000 in 2015, more than double the figure from 2011, before Xi took power, according to official news sources. The 2015 figure implies that 33,000 to 66,000 cases involved the shuanggui interrogation practice, assuming it was used in 10 to 20 percent of all cases, according to a Human Rights Watch estimate. The group wants the system abolished.

Corruption plagues Chinese politics, and Xi's vow to severely

## HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

# Mainland's opaque anti-graft probes rife with abuse

punish both "tigers" and "flies" — high- and low-ranking corrupt officials — has mostly been cheered by China's fed-up public. But the opacity of shuanggui, which by design operates unchecked by the courts and police, has raised concerns that some officials have been targeted as a result of intra-party feuding and personal rivalries rather than legitimate corruption claims.

Under Xi, emboldened anti-corruption investigators from the party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, or CCDI, have reached into the most sensitive arms of the state, the judiciary, military, banks and the media, casting a pall over vast swaths of China's state sector. But officials are particularly "terrified at the prospect of being put in shuanggui," said Human Rights Watch China Director Sophie Richardson.

"The idea of combating corruption is extremely politically popular, and that makes sense [...] it's a huge problem," Richardson said. "But the use of this party system for which there is no legal basis and which yields evidence of extremely dubious credibility and that tortures people along the way is deeply problematic."

Human Rights Watch said it analyzed 35 detailed cases involving shuanggui reported in the media since the start of Xi's anti-corruption campaign. Close to 40 more cases from a large database of court verdicts were



Copies of reports of Human Rights Watch are seen at The Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong

analyzed, and the group interviewed four former detainees and more than a dozen lawyers and prosecutors to glean a picture of the system in which party members are detained and interrogated in almost every city and jurisdiction. Relatives are often detained as well.

In recent years, the Communist Party has made efforts to combat torture and improve judicial transparency. Evidence obtained through torture must be excluded in criminal proceedings, but shuanggui is not covered by these legal provisions.

As part of a new transparency initiative, since 2014, Chinese courts have published millions of verdicts in an online database. The database showed that

from January 2014 to November 2015, roughly 1,700 cases cited evidence obtained during interrogation under the shuanggui mechanism, while 90 of

the verdicts — nearly all of which were guilty — acknowledged the use of "torture to extract confession," Human Rights Watch said. **MDT/AP**

## UN PRESSES CHINA ON MISSING RIGHTS ACTIVIST

A UNITED Nations representative has pressed China to investigate the fate of prominent human rights campaigner Jiang Tianyong, who disappeared two weeks ago and is believed by friends to be held by state security agents. Philip Alston, the U.N. special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, said yesterday that he is concerned Jiang's disappearance was "reprisal" for a meeting between the two in

August. Jiang has been detained and beaten by police as part of his past human rights work involving some of China's most sensitive cases. He recently helped publicize the plight of nearly two dozen lawyers arrested as part of a sweeping 2015 crackdown. Friends and family say authorities in Beijing, Jiang's hometown of Zhengzhou and Changsha, where Jiang was last seen, have refused to investigate.

## SOUTH SUDAN

# Another 120 peacekeepers deployed

**T**HE first 120 troops of a 700-member Chinese U.N. peacekeeping force have departed for South Sudan, deepening China's commitment to the troubled East African nation, where two of its peacekeepers were killed in fighting over the summer.

The new troops are part of the third Chinese battalion to be sent to South Sudan to protect civilians, U.N. staff and humanitarian workers, and to conduct patrols and provide security escorts.

South Sudan has seen continuous fighting since



In this November 2014 file photo, Chinese peacekeepers parade ahead of their deployment to South Sudan

its civil war broke out in December 2013. The more than 12,000 U.N. peacekeepers already in the country have been criticized for failing to protect civilians. China was an early investor in the new state's energy sector, but fighting and corruption have largely prevented it from reaping any benefits.

In July, two Chinese peacekeepers died and five others were wounded after their vehicle was struck with a rocket-propelled grenade as fighting swept the capital, Juba.

China has maximized publicity of its contribution to U.N. peacekeeping as part of its push to raise its international profile. China is now the biggest contributor of peacekeepers among the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, with 2,639 currently deployed on six missions, mostly assigned to medical, engineering and transport duties. Yet in actual terms, that still leaves China ranked 12th overall among nations that have contributed peacekeepers, led by Ethiopia, India and Pakistan.

In total, China contributes about 3 percent of total U.N. peacekeeping forces. In South Sudan, Chinese forces make up less than 10 percent of the total. Chinese peacekeepers also make up only a tiny fraction of the People's Liberation Army's 2.3 million personnel.

In a high-profile announcement at the U.N. General Assembly last year, President Xi Jinping said that China would also set up a permanent peacekeeping standby force of 8,000 troops to be deployed whenever necessary. No details were given on the makeup and mission of that force, and there has been no word on whether it has been established yet. **AP**



Rohingya from Myanmar make their way in an alley at an unregistered refugee camp in Teknaf, about 300 kilometers south of Dhaka in Bangladesh



Fishermen work on the bank of the Naf River, which marks the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar

**T**HE Myanmar soldiers came in the morning, the young mother says. They set fire to the concrete-and-thatch homes, forcing the villagers to cluster together. When some of her neighbors tried to escape into the fields, they were shot. After that, she says, most people stopped running away.

"They drove us out of our houses, men and women in separate lines, ordering us to keep our hands folded on the back of our heads," says 20-year-old Mohsena Begum, her voice choking as she described what happened to the little village of Caira Fara, which had long been home to hundreds of members of Myanmar's minority Rohingya community. She said that when about 50 people had been gathered together, the soldiers, along with a group of local men, pulled four village leaders from the crowd and slit their throats.

Muslims in an overwhelmingly Buddhist nation, the Rohingya have long faced persecution in Myanmar, where most are denied citizenship. The latest outbreak of violence was triggered by October attacks on guard posts near the Bangladesh border that killed nine police officers.

The government, which has implied the attacks were carried out by Rohingya sympathizers, has acknowledged using helicopter gunships in support of ground troops in the sweep. While survivors and human rights groups have tracked waves of anti-Rohingya violence in recent weeks, the Myanmar government insists that stories like Begum's

## BANGLADESH

# Rohingya who fled Myanmar recount killings, rapes, burnings

are exaggerations.

Myanmar's leader, the Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, has accused the international community of stoking unrest.

"It doesn't help if everybody is just concentrating on the negative side of the situation, in spite of the fact that there were attacks on police outposts," she said in a recent interview on Singapore's Channel News Asia.

Suu Kyi, whose party took power in March after decades of military-backed rule, has been accused of not acting strongly enough to curb the violence against the more than 1 million Rohingya believed to be in the country.

"It helps if people recognize the difficulty and are more focused on resolving these difficulties rather than exaggerating them, so that everything seems worse than it really is," she said in the interview.

But Begum says she has no need to exaggerate what happened in Caira Fara.

She said that after the four leaders were killed, violence churned through the village in chaotic scenes of horror. Begum's husband, a poor, illiterate farm laborer, was beaten and then murdered by having his throat slit, along with an

unknown number of other villagers, she said. Their bodies were eventually driven away in a truck.

She said attackers knocked her young son knocked from her grasp, then raped her. Finally, when the soldiers weren't paying attention, she grabbed her son and ran into the nearby hills. After hiding for two days, her brother gave her enough money — about USD38 — to pay smugglers to get her and her son into Bangladesh. When Bangladeshi border guards stopped them, she began to weep.

"I told them I have no one to protect me there," she says, and told them: "Look at my baby! He will die if I go back there." After that, they let her pass.

Some 15,000 Rohingya have arrived in Bangladesh over past month, often brought in by smugglers, according to police and intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the government refuses to release numbers publicly. They have joined up to 500,000 undocumented Rohingya who have been living in Bangladesh after arriving from Myanmar in waves since the 1970s. Some 33,000 registered Rohingya refugees live the Cox's Bazar

district. Bangladesh does not welcome Rohingya — its maritime patrols sometimes turn back refugee boats full of them — but it is seen as a haven compared to Myanmar.

The U.N. says up 30,000 Rohingya Muslims have abandoned their homes amid the recent violence. Satellite images analyzed by the rights group Human Rights Watch show 1,250 structures destroyed in November in Rohingya villages.

Osman Gani, a thin, fast-talking Arabic teacher, fled after his village, Gouzo Bil, was attacked Nov. 11. "They came and killed mercilessly. They burned our homes," said Gani. "No one was there to save us."

He hid with his family for about a week near the village. But when searches intensified, and with soldiers targeting

men, he was forced to leave Myanmar without his family.

As he fled north, he used his mobile phone to film destruction in other Rohingya villages he passed through. In some, the blackened remains of what appear to be children can be seen amid the wreckage of homes. Gani's voice can be heard in some of the videos but The Associated Press could not confirm their authenticity.

"They [the army] oppressed us and fired at us from aircraft," Gani says. "People were killed in front of my house. They chased the girls and gunned them down. And they burned many people. They burned them in front of my house."

"I have shot videos!" he says, holding out his mobile phone to a reporter. "Don't you see the charred bodies?" **MDT/AP**

## 'MOST FRIENDLESS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD'

**ALTHOUGH ROHINGYA** — a Muslim ethnic minority of about 1 million among Myanmar's predominantly Buddhist 52 million people — have lived in Myanmar for generations, most people in the country view them as foreign intruders from neighboring Bangladesh. Bangladesh, which hosts many Rohingya refugees, also refuses to recognize

them as citizens. Most Rohingya live in western Myanmar's Rakhine state, where the military has stepped up operations since November. "The Rohingya are probably the most friendless people in the world. They just have no one advocating for them at all," Kitty McKinsey, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said in 2009.

## SOUTH KOREA

# Lawmakers say president will accept impeachment outcome



Protesters shout slogans as they march toward the presidential house during a rally calling for South Korean President Park Geun-hye to step down in Seoul

Kim Tong-hyung, Seoul

**S**OUTH Korean President Park Geun-hye is willing to “calmly” accept the outcome if the opposition-controlled parliament votes for her impeachment this week, but prefers to resign on her own terms, lawmakers from her party said yesterday.

Chung Jin Suk, floor leader of the conservative ruling party, said after an hour-long meeting with Park that she was willing to accept a now-

withdrawn proposal by the party for her to voluntarily step down in April to set up a presidential election in June. If lawmakers vote to impeach her, Park said she would make “every available effort” to prepare for a court process that would determine whether she would be formally removed, according to Chung.

The party's chairman, Lee Jung Hyun, who also attended the meeting, said it seemed that Park was hoping

lawmakers would accept her resignation rather than push ahead with an attempt to impeach her.

Park has been accused by state prosecutors of helping a close confidante extort money and favors from large companies and manipulate state affairs.

On Saturday, opposition lawmakers registered an impeachment bill for Park to set up a floor vote that could take place as early as Friday. If the bill goes through, Park would

be suspended as president but not yet removed. Her duties would be temporarily transferred to the prime minister while the country's Constitutional Court reviews whether her impeachment could be constitutionally justified.

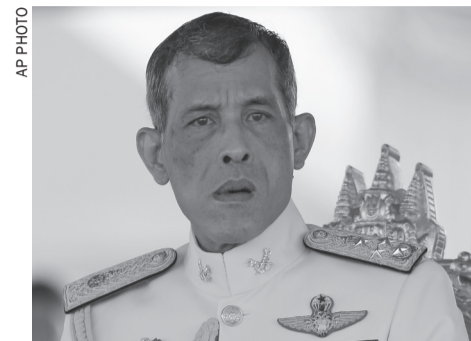
Following a conditional offer by Park to leave office last week, a group of anti-Park lawmakers in the ruling party called for her to announce by today that she will step down voluntarily in April. However, they changed their stance after millions of people rallied across the country over the weekend calling for Park's removal. The ruling party lawmakers said on Monday that about 35-40 of them will vote on Friday to impeach Park regardless of whether she promises to quit.

Park said she was ready to “calmly move ahead for the state and the people and to see what happens with the Constitutional Court” if lawmakers vote to impeach her, Chung said.

The impeachment bill needs the support of at least 200 lawmakers from the 300-seat parliament to pass. If it passes, the Constitutional Court would be required to rule within 180 days. If six of the court's nine justices support the impeachment, Park will be officially removed from office. The country then has to hold a presidential election within 60 days. **AP**

## THAILAND

## New king appoints small council



Thailand's new king named an 11-member council of advisers yesterday, bringing in three new officials, including a former army chief and two representatives of the ruling junta. The so-called Privy Council of Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun is smaller than the 16-member council of his father, the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died on October 13. “The new appointments lend a more military presence to the Privy Council,” said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political science professor at Chulalongkorn University, but “there has been more continuity from the new line-up than anticipated.” The seven advisers who were retained are an ex-bureaucrat, an ex-minister, a former prime minister, three ex-jurists and the former chief of the air force. Vajiralongkorn faces a challenged country in which democracy has struggled to take root amid frequent coups and where political factions wage bitter battles.

## PHILIPPINES

## Probe finds police murdered mayor

The Philippine government's investigation agency said yesterday it has filed murder complaints against two dozen police officers and personnel after a probe showed they shot to death a jailed town mayor linked to illegal drugs and that there was no gunbattle as claimed by the law enforcers. The National Bureau of Investigation said the Nov. 5 shooting to death of Mayor Rolando Espinosa Sr. and another inmate, Raul Yap, in their cells was a “rubout.” It said the policemen most likely put pistols and illegal drugs in their cells to justify a police raid. The findings cast a black mark on President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly anti-drug crackdown. There are suspicions that some of the more than 4,000 slain drug suspects may have been killed deliberately by law enforcers.

## CAMBODIA

## Drug sentences upheld for foreigners

A Cambodian appeals court yesterday upheld the prison terms of a French woman, an Australian woman and a Nigerian man for trying to smuggle heroin to Australia. Judge Pol Sam Ouen said the sentences given by the Phnom Penh Municipal Court in May 2014 to then-19-year-old Frenchwoman Charlene Savarino, 41-year-old Ann Yoshe Taylor of Australia and 23-year-old Precious Chneme Nwoko of Nigeria were correct and accorded with the law. The lower court had sentenced Savarino to 25 years in prison, Taylor to 23 years and Nwoko to 27 years. Nwoko, Savarino's boyfriend, was believed to have masterminded the smuggling and asked Savarino to make the arrangements. Cambodia is not a major producer of illegal drugs but has increasingly become a smuggling transit route.

## JAPAN

# Abe won't apologize at Pearl Harbor

**J**APANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won't apologize for Japan's attack when he visits the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor later this month, a government spokesman said yesterday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said that “the purpose of the upcoming visit is to pay respects for the war dead and not to offer an apology.”

Abe announced late Monday that he would have a summit meeting with President Barack Obama in Hawaii and visit Pearl Harbor. He will be the first Japanese leader to go to the site of the Japanese attack that propelled the United States into World War II.

The unexpected announcement came two days before the 75th anniversary of the attack and six months after Obama became the first sitting American president to visit Hiroshima for victims of the U.S. atomic bombing of that city at

the end of the same war.

“We must never repeat the tragedy of the war,” Abe said. “I would like to send this commitment. At the same time, I would like to send a message of reconciliation between Japan and the U.S.”

The White House confirmed that Obama and Abe would visit the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 27. It said “the two leaders' visit will showcase the power of reconciliation that has turned former adversaries into the closest of allies, united by common interests and shared values.”

Tsuneo Watanabe, a senior research fellow at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, said that together with Obama's visit to Hiroshima, the Pearl Harbor visit will complete the reconciliation process and help smooth bilateral relations under any administration.

“Historical disputes tend to be brou-



U.S. President Barack Obama (right) talks with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Lima last month

ght up when relations become thorny [...] but once you put them behind and move on, it makes a difference if there is any negative sentiment in the future,” he said. **MDT/AP**

Lorne Cook, Brussels

**N**ATO and the European Union are moving forward on deepening cooperation, the alliance's chief said yesterday, as U.S. President-elect Donald Trump insists European allies start pulling their own military weight.

Preparing to chair a meeting in Brussels of the 28-nation military alliance's foreign ministers, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters that "we have a momentum now."

He said NATO and the EU would endorse 40 proposals for boosting cooperation on cyber security and hybrid threats, operations at sea and helping neighboring countries better defend themselves.

Stoltenberg said "questions have been asked with respect to the strength of the trans-Atlantic bond" and that the best way to respond is to boost NATO-EU cooperation.

Trump lambasted Europeans during the U.S. campaign for not paying their fair share of defense budgets and wants NATO to do more to combat terrorism. Fewer than half a dozen of NATO's 22 EU allies spend the target 2 percent of gross domestic product annually on defense.

By far NATO's biggest funder, the U.S. has for years demanded that its partners spend more, but Trump's heated and unpredictable rhetoric has unsettled many allies. They are also wary of Trump's uncritical view of Vladimir Putin even

# NATO chief trumpets new 'momentum' with EU military ties



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (second right) speaks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende (left) and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (second left)

as the Russian president makes more assertive use of his armed forces in Europe.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, appearing at his last NATO ministerial meeting, said that "unity is very, very important."

"We need to come together, to make sure there is a strong Europe, a strong NATO and that the values and the interests that we all share, we are continuing to work on together," Kerry told reporters.

The two-day meeting in Brus-

■ The meeting is partly to reassure the incoming U.S. administration that European allies are spending more

sels is aimed in part at reassuring the incoming U.S. administration that European allies are spending more and that the world's biggest military alliance is already doing plenty to combat terrorism.

Indeed, some allies are waiting for Trump to spell out exactly what more he believes they can do. Part of the talks will focus on NATO's effort to help bring stability to Iraq and Syria. A NATO early warning radar aircraft is helping to improve air safety in war plane-filled

skies over Syria. The alliance has also been training military officers from conflict-torn Iraq, and plans to start doing it in Iraq from next month.

Despite 22 common members, NATO-EU cooperation has been hindered by different visions over which organization should have primacy in defense matters and by a long-standing dispute between NATO member Turkey and EU member Cyprus. Cyprus has routinely held up Turkey's EU membership bid, although it isn't alone in doing so. Meanwhile, Turkey has resisted attempts by the organizations to work more closely together.

Among the 40 proposals, a quarter relate to countering hybrid threats like propaganda, political and economic interference, or disguising trained military personnel as militias, as Russia did in Ukraine.

Others relate to better coordinating the two organizations' crisis response activities, and studying whether to conduct joint and coordinated military exercises. But they remain proposals and nothing concrete in terms of defense programs are on the table. **AP**



In this file photo taken on May 9, Russian soldiers march during the Victory Day military parade marking 71 years after the victory in WWII in Red Square in Moscow



In this file photo taken on Sept. 9, Russian navy ships and military paratroopers take a part in a landing operation at the Black Sea coast, Crimea

## Putin's Russia seeks to project power with modern military

**W**ITH an aircraft carrier deployed off Syria's shores and hundreds of new jets, missiles and tanks entering service each year, President Vladimir Putin can project Russian military power on a scale unseen since Soviet times.

A massive reform effort launched in the wake of

Russia's 2008 war with Georgia has transformed a crumbling, demoralized military into agile forces capable of swift action in Ukraine and Syria. Long gone are the days when Russia was forced through financial hardship to scrap dozens of warships and ground most of its air force. Whereas many young

men long dodged their obligatory military service, recruits today speak of extending assignments in a better equipped, trained and paid army.

"The military reform has given Russia, the Kremlin [and] Mr. Putin a usable instrument of foreign policy which Russia did not have for a quarter century," said

Dmitry Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center think tank.

Putin's military power today stands in stark contrast to the dying days of the Soviet Union, when Russia inherited the bulk of the 4-million-strong Soviet army, conscript-heavy forces it could barely afford to feed.

During its five-day war with tiny Georgia, army units starved for new equipment for 15 years experienced chronic vehicle breakdowns, communications failures and friendly-fire casualties from inaccurate salvos. Incensed by those setbacks, Putin and military commanders committed to a program of radical restructuring and spending.

Perhaps the most important change today is in the caliber of the soldiers themselves. While all men aged 18 to 27 still face a mandatory year of military service, Russia increasingly is attracting volunteers for at least two years and building a culture emphasizing the military as a career.

Russia's Defense Ministry says contract soldiers, most of them former conscripts who opt to stay, have outnumbered conscripts in the ranks since 2015.

Moreover, the prospect of future deployments is real. Russia since 2014 has stoked tensions with the West in ways unseen since the Cold War.

First came Russia's lightning seizure of Crimea from neighboring Ukraine, followed by surreptitious aid to pro-Russian rebels in the country's breakaway east. Next, Russia launched an air campaign in Syria in support of President Bashar Assad and against American-backed rebel groups as well as their shared Islamic State foe.

In the past month Russia's sole aircraft carrier, the Admiral Kuznetsov, has joined land-based aircraft in bombing targets in Syria — the first attacks mounted by carrier in Russia's history. Russia is using the Syria campaign to test several new designs of cruise missiles, fighters, bombers and helicopter gunships in combat for the first time.

Analysts warn that Putin's forces could be poised to act more freely in Syria, Ukraine or elsewhere in expectation that U.S. president-elect Donald Trump will prefer to cut deals with Russian interests, not confront them. **MDT/AP**

# MAGNUS SECURITY SERVICES

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## what's ON



**THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE**  
**TIME:** 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)  
**VENUE:** Tai Fung Tong Art House, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

**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

**MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM**  
**TIME:** 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)  
**VENUE:** Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

**MACAU ARTS WINDOW 2016: DWELLING ON OBJECTS – FRAGMENTS DRAWN BY YUEN-YI LO**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** December 4, 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

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR EXHIBITION**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm daily, (Except Thursdays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** February 21, 2017  
**VENUE:** Macau Science Centre, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen  
**ADMISSION:** Exhibition Centre MOP25; Planetarium MOP60-80  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2888 0822

**TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP**  
**TIME:** 10:30am-7pm (Closed on the first Monday of every month)  
**VENUE:** No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2835 7911

## Offbeat

## POLICE NAB SUSPECTS, FOWL ACCOMPLICE IN BREAK-IN

Two suspects in a weekend break-in at a Massachusetts convenience store had a fowl accomplice.

Northampton officers investigating a robbery in progress at a store quickly found two men and a live rooster in a nearby car.

The men were arrested on breaking and entering and other charges, and the stolen property was recovered.

The rooster was not charged, but was taken to the station for safe keeping.

Police said on their official Facebook page that while they have provided temporary shelter for a variety of animals before, this was the first rooster.

There was no word on why the suspects had the bird. Their names were not released.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
18:00	Once Upon A Time Sr.1 (Repeated)
18:50	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:40	TDM Interview (Repeated)
20:15	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Criminal Minds S10
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live



## CINETEATRO

01 DEC - 07 DEC

## CRAYON SHINCHAN MOVIE 2016\_

ROOM 1  
**2.15, 6.00, 9.45 pm**  
**Director:** Wataru Takahashi  
**Language:** Cantonese (English and Cantonese)  
**Duration:** 104min

## YOUR NAME

ROOM 1  
**4.00, 7.45 pm**  
**Director:** Makoto Shinkai  
**Language:** Japanese (English and Cantonese)  
**Duration:** 115min

## FANTASTIC BEASTS &amp; WHERE TO FIND THEM\_

ROOM 2  
**2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm**  
**Director:** David Yates  
**Starring:** Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol  
**Language:** English (Cantonese)  
**Duration:** 133min

## THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS\_

ROOM 3  
**2.30, 4.45, 7.15 pm**  
**Director:** Derek Cianfrance  
**Starring:** Michael Fassbender, Alicia Vikander, Rachel Weisz  
**Language:** English (Cantonese)  
**Duration:** 133min



## SHUT IN\_

ROOM 3  
**9.30 pm**  
**Director:** Farren Blackburn  
**Starring:** Charlie Heaton, Naomi Watts, Jacob Tremblay  
**Language:** English (Cantonese)  
**Duration:** 91min

## MACAU TOWER

01 DEC - 07 DEC

## UNDERWORLD BLOOD WARS\_

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm  
**Director:** Anna Foerster  
**Starring:** Kate Beckinsale, Theo James, Lara Pulver  
**Language:** English (Cantonese)  
**Duration:** 91min



## this day in history



## 1993 ACTIVISTS LOSE BATTLE OVER CHESTNUT TREE

Dozens of people have been injured at the end of a 20-year battle to save a 250-year-old chestnut tree in east London.

Twenty protesters were arrested after they clashed with 200 police officers sent to ensure a court order to cut down the tree was enforced.

The tree - now reduced to stump - was growing at George Green, Wanstead, the only open space left in the area. Contractors plan to build a tunnel link through the green to the M11 at Redbridge with the Blackwall Tunnel road in Hackney.

Environmentalists built a house in the tree, formed a human shield around it and chained themselves together with steel tubes.

Protester Emma Must said: "They cannot remove us unless they hacksaw through the tubes, which is going to take them some hours."

Violence broke out as police moved the activists amid claims officers used excessive force.

Some reports suggested women were dragged by their hair and punches were thrown, but these were strongly denied by police.

Chief Supt Stuart Giblin said: "My officers acted professionally despite some of the comments and behaviour of the protesters."

They were finally pulled away from the tree but later formed a blockade by lying across the road to prevent a crane approaching.

It was the worst day in several years of action against the controversial construction of the link road.

"You're killing the Earth," they shouted at contractors.

"We are full-time guardians of the Earth. We want to stop the Earth from being killed," said one protester.

They claim the 3.5 mile (5.6 km) link, on which work began in September, will not only damage the local environment but waste money, costing £230m.

Eventually most of the area was cleared, but the crane was forced to go into action with one activist still chained to it and several others up the trunk.

But following 10 hours of scuffles, the remaining people were removed and the tree chopped down.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The tree had been recognised by the High Court as a legal dwelling because the Post Office delivered mail to it from around the world.

A small book of some of this post was published. The M11 protest was one of the first of its kind in the country and set a precedent for similar scenes during future road building.

It was the first where bunkers and tunnels were dug and even after the tree was gone, protesters continued to wreak havoc in the area by occupying surrounding buildings due for demolition.

Despite the difficulties the extension was completed and open by the end of 1999.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If you can imagine it, you can have it. That may sound crazy -- or overused, at least -- but it's not. So, right now, take a minute to imagine what you want, right down to the very last detail.

Taurus April 20-May 20
An authority figure who seems to have been less than forthcoming lately is secretly planning to come clean and tell you exactly what's been going on in their mind, but there's no reason to worry.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
Think about it: Exactly how long has it been that you've been thinking, wishing, hoping and actually dreaming about taking off for parts unknown? (Unknown to only you and possibly one lucky companion, that is.)

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your home is a warm, comfortable nest, and everyone you know always wants to come over. If things get a little tricky and you have too much company, mention that you'd like some time alone.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Do what it takes to make that voice in the back of your head stop yelling at you. If it involves someone you've been keeping company with, think hard about whether or not you trust them.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
There's passion and romance on the agenda for your sign, and you're most definitely game. You've been dealing with someone else's problems for what seems like weeks, and it's time for some fun with one special person.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
Put all the nonsense of the past few days behind you and focus on the day ahead, which is due to be interesting and unusual. Start preparing yourself to meet someone new who'll be quite different from anyone else you know.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Everyone around you will be feeling everything just as intensely as you do all the time. You'll also notice that they're operating a bit more from their guts and a lot less from the 'shoulds' they were taught as a child.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Ready to have 'em all laughing in the aisles again and rejuvenate your reputation as a party animal? Well, if you're not, someone else will be only too happy to do it for you: someone who's seen you in action.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
After days of feeling like that tension in your shoulders was never going to go away, you'll wake up this morning feeling like a brand-new person. And it's probably going to keep getting better, too.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You can come out now, and you can stop worrying, too. You've been dealing with an internal tug-of-war for days, trying to decide whether to choose the responsible thing to do or the fun thing to do.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
You have one more day of that to go and then you'll be ready for some serious fun -- and some serious romance, too, by the way. The good stuff starts early this evening



SUDOKU

Easy and Easy+ Sudoku puzzles. Easy puzzle grid: 6 4 2, 2 1 5 7, 6 5 3, 6 7 1, 9 2 4, 7 3 2, 1 9 8, 8 6 9 5, 9 3 8. Easy+ puzzle grid: 5 2 9 4, 1 5 2, 9 5 1, 6 7 4 1, 6 8, 5 3 7 9, 7 1 4, 4 6 8, 6 5 3 1.

Medium and Hard Sudoku puzzles. Medium puzzle grid: 8 1 7, 1 3, 2 7 3, 4 5 8, 1 5 9, 3 4, 8. Hard puzzle grid: 1 6 5 7 2, 3 1 5, 2 4 8 9 4, 1 8, 5 8 7, 3 8 9, 4 9 3, 9 4 2 7.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Personal quirks; 5- Pressing need; 9- Architect I.M.; 12- \_\_\_ of Man; 13- Singer Shore; 15- Profit; 16- Designer Christian; 17- Jack Sprat could \_\_\_ fat; 18- Coffee servers; 19- Beg; 21- Initially; 23- \_\_\_ girl!; 24- Actor Linden; 25- Missouri feeder; 28- Make pretty; 33- Embankment; 34- Poet Angelou; 35- Days of \_\_\_; 36- 7th letter of the Greek alphabet; 37- Dog-\_\_\_ (like some used books); 38- \_\_\_ the season...; 39- Currency exchange fee; 41- Pub potables; 42- Wipe off; 44- No long-distance charge; 46- Bottles; 47- Put down, in slang; 48- ... saw Elba; 49- Respire; 53- Teases; 57- Floe; 58- Papal garment; 60- Bluesy James; 61- Without full use of a leg; 62- Mineral used as a gem; 63- Tatum's dad; 64- Lady of Sp.; 65- Mayberry boy; 66- Mex. miss;

Down 1- It may turn; 2- The doctor \_\_\_; 3- Coagulate; 4- Notched; 5- Think; 6- Lasso; 7- Thunder Bay's prov.; 8- Grandma; 9- Henry VIII's sixth; 10- Half of zwei; 11- Technical sch.; 14- Short-tempered person; 15- Culpable; 20- Suffix with cigar; 22- Blubber; 25- Fold; 26- Release; 27- Be of use to; 28- European capital, in song; 29- Deli breads; 30- Little bits; 31- Frolic; 32- Affirmatives; 34- Boy or man; 37- Hearing distance; 40- Methuselah's claim to fame; 42- Waiting for the Robert \_\_\_; 43- Oakland outfit; 45- In shape; 46- Change into ice; 48- Zhou \_\_\_; 49- OPEC units; 50- Back; 51- Humorist Bombeck; 52- Switch ending; 54- Interstellar dist.; 55- Coup d'\_\_\_; 56- Yemen's capital; 59- PC program;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Honda Macau



Doug Ferguson, Nassau

GOLF

# More time needed before Tiger Woods is judged by his scores

A flop shot that required feel. A wedge to a back pin that he had to trust. Tiger Woods followed those two birdies with a perfect 6-iron that he wanted to be even better, urging it to move "one yard ... one yard!"

The golf ball didn't listen. Television viewers did.

And his three straight birdies after going 466 days without competition sure got everyone's attention, even those who were playing.

"When I saw that he was 4 under through eight, I wanted to withdraw so I could go watch him," Russell Knox said.

Was he back to being Tiger Woods?

Of course not.

This was only the front nine of the first round at the Hero World Challenge. By the end of the week, Woods was 15th out of 17 players. What returned was the excitement of having him inside the ropes again.

"Everybody loves the comeback story," Matt Kuchar said. "A guy like Tiger, good or bad, draws attention. If it's good, it gets really exciting."

So he's back. And now he's gone again.

Still to be determined is when he will play and how much. There has been chatter, and nothing more at this stage, of Woods playing in the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship the third week in January. HSBC already has Rickie Fowler and Dustin Johnson, not to mention Rory McIlroy and Henrik Stenson, and might not want to break the bank. But a happy and healthy week for Woods in the Bahamas — not to mention his 24 birdies — certainly raised interest.

AP PHOTO



Tiger Woods hits from the rough on the 18th hole during the final round at the Hero World Challenge golf tournament

Torrey Pines is a week later and a more likely start.

Woods said in his "heart of hearts" he wants to play a full schedule. It will be a different one, at least early.

Riviera is back on the schedule because his foundation runs it. The Valspar Championship

at Innisbrook is in play because it's a week after one World Golf Championship and two weeks before another — both in the month leading to the Masters. Woods isn't eligible for either WGC event and won't be unless he wins before then.

That leads to the more critical

question.

When will it be time to stop marveling at seeing the red shirt and start judging him by red numbers on the scoreboard?

Woods doesn't like any victory that doesn't come with a trophy, so he was quick to

point out "silly mistakes" and six double bogeys whenever he caught himself getting too excited talking about his good golf. But he had reason to smile. Only the winner, Hideki Matsuyama, had as many sub-par holes. Woods shot 65 in the second round with no bogeys, not a tall order at Albany except that it was his first tournament in 15 months.

This was a good week for him.

His swing showed very little stress. It was graceful, not violent. Woods knows he isn't among the top power players anymore, though he showed ample length off the tee, even finding an extra gear on occasion. He said before the tournament he had all the shots, and there was little evidence to suggest otherwise.

He just didn't score very well. But only those wanting to see him fail cared about that after such a long layoff.

That will change over time. There's just no consensus on when.

"Give him three or four tournaments, maybe six tournaments, maybe around the Masters," Henrik Stenson said. "Probably give him a number of tournaments and he might be in contention in one of the early ones next year. Then you know you have the answer quicker. It's easy to overanalyze a very limited amount of golf."

Kuchar said he has low expectations of Woods in the Bahamas, and was impressed to see him start 73-65-70.

"I still don't hold him to any standard just yet," he said. "He's kind of a new man. Great to see. Shoot, he gets back in the hunt and wins a tournament, you'd have to put those expectations right back on him. For having nearly two years off, it's hard to hold a guy to his typical expectation level."

Brandt Snedeker was curious to see how much progress Woods makes in his next tournament. Others, like Jordan Spieth and Zach Johnson, had a longer view when it came to measuring Woods by his scores.

"To me, it's if we can chat next year at this point," Johnson said. "It's not so much the golf game and the golf swing and the putts being holed and contention. It's physically. Can he withstand a Tiger year, which is what, 15 to 20 events?"

Curiosity has given way to anticipation. Doubts have been replaced by optimism.

Reality is still months away, if not longer. AP



Europe's Peter Hanson (left), and assistant captain Thomas Bjorn

THOMAS Bjorn was appointed as captain of Europe's 2018 Ryder Cup team yesterday, a reward for his long and successful association with the event as a player and vice-captain as well as his commitment to the European Tour.

The 45-year-old Dane became the first Scandinavian to lead the European team, which will look to regain the cup at Le Golf National in Paris in 2018 after its 17-11 loss to the United States at Hazeltine in October.

"I have lived and breathed the European Tour for so long," Bjorn said, "and now I will do the same with the Ryder Cup for the next two years."

Bjorn is held in high respect in Euro-

## Thomas Bjorn appointed Europe's Ryder Cup captain for 2018

pean golf, having represented players' interests in his role as chairman of the tour's Tournament Committee since 2007. He has also won 17 titles worldwide since turning professional in 1993, including taking down Tiger Woods in the Dubai Desert Classic in 2001 when the American was at the height of his game.

The Ryder Cup is close to Bjorn's heart, having being on the winning side in all three of his appearances as a player — in 1997, 2002 and 2014 — and three out of four times as a vice-captain. The only loss was under Darren Clarke at Hazeltine.

"I saw first-hand what he was like as a vice-captain in 2010, and he was exceptional," said Colin Montgomerie, who led the European team to victory that year. "I used him possibly more than any other vice-captain at Celtic Manor."

"He wears his heart on his sleeve and I think that's important for the role."

Montgomerie spoke of Bjorn's "combustible and fiery nature," qualities that might fire up Europe's players in the heat

of Ryder Cup week. But serving as an assistant under four captains — Bernhard Langer in 2004, Jose Maria Olazabal in 2012, as well as Montgomerie and Clarke — will have given him valuable experience of the type of calculated decisions needed from a team leader.

Clarke and Olazabal were on the five-man panel that selected the 2018 captain.

"I studied a lot of captains as a player and as a vice-captain and always wondered what that feeling would be like to be the one leading out a team of 12 great players," Bjorn said. "Now it's my turn to do just that."

The Ryder Cup returns to mainland Europe for the first time since the 1997 match at Valderrama. Bjorn knows Le Golf National well, having played the French Open there on 14 occasions, finishing third in 2007.

Europe has won the Ryder Cup the last five times it has been staged on European soil. AP

opinion

**Macau Matters**

Richard Whitfield



**COIN CONCERNS**

Everybody in the developed world is very familiar with the problems posed by coins. When you buy stuff with cash you pay mostly with notes and get change mostly in coins. As soon as you get home you drop the coins on your bedside table or some other place because they are heavy and clumsy to carry around, and they quickly wear holes in the bottoms of your pants pockets.

Then you periodically get rid of all your accumulated coins by giving them away to children or charities or, in civilised countries, depositing them at your local bank branch. Unfortunately, new arrivals in Macau and Hong Kong are often caught out when the bank refuses to accept their stash of coins, after standing for a long time in a bank queue. Shopkeepers also have considerable problems in getting coins from local banks - they are only available sometimes!

I have always been very annoyed by this practice, which is very easily resolved by requiring banks to always accept and distribute all values of legal currency as part of their licensing. Shame on the local monetary authorities for not enforcing such rules, as they do in most parts of the developed world.

I am sure that banks complain that handling coins is expensive, but my answer is that this is simply a reasonable cost of doing business. Also, nowadays, in most countries banks have automatic coin counting and dispensing machines so that the handling cost is minimal - why can't Macau and Hong Kong banks buy some of these machines?

Another way to (at least partially) resolve this issue has been widely adopted in Hong Kong where Octopus debit cards can nearly always be used for purchases to give the merchant the exact amount. These debit cards were initially developed for use in public transport but have been extended to cover many different kinds of purchases in many different kinds of retail outlet. Octopus cards are also very easily "refilled" by electronic funds transfers. Again, the Macau monetary authority has had years of this example to follow and promote, but they have done very little so that MacauPass cards are still not widely enough used, and they can only be "refilled" in limited ways.

In many other parts of the world the use of small purchase debit cards (like Octopus) are being supplanted by smartphone Apps that contain an electronic wallet and near-field or wifi communications technologies are used to communicate with merchant equipment and transfer funds securely at the point of sale. When buying something using these technologies, people simply wave their smartphone near a reader (and possibly give an authorisation code) to make a payment. Again, the Macau monetary authority and the local banks seem to be dragging their heels in legally authorising and setting up these systems for locals and tourists to use.

I hate to sound like a broken record, but Macau should be positioning itself as a showcase for the latest and greatest "21st century" technologies for making life easier and more sustainable. We are small and rich so we can afford to do it, and we have a very large tourist population that will be impressed at how modern life is in Macau. These tourists will also create regional demand for implementing the technologies showcased in Macau which will open up opportunities for consulting and other exportable services. This is the best way that I can think of for diversifying Macau's economy. What is holding us back?

**THE COURT REJECTS HO CHIO MENG'S APPEAL, TRIAL STARTS FRIDAY**

The Court of Final Appeal (TUI) rejected the request filed by former prosecutor general, Ho Chio Meng, contesting the participation of the court's president, Sam Hou Fai, in the trial. Ho's trial will have its first session on Friday, December 9, TUI announced last night.

Invoking Article 32 of the Penal Code, Ho's defense made the case last week that Sam should not preside over the final judgment. During the investigation held by the Commission Against

Corruption, Sam had authorized the investigation for the assets declaration of the former prosecutor general and his wife, and had taken part in the ruling over the request for a habeas corpus based on unlawful imprisonment in early March this year.

The former procurator has been accused of over 1,500 counts of crimes including 19 counts of fraud amounting to a total of MOP167 million.

**Poland's top court upholds refusal to extradite Polanski**



Roman Polanski

**Monika Scislowska, Warsaw**

**POLAND'S** Supreme Court yesterday confirmed that the country would refuse to detain and extradite filmmaker Roman Polanski to the U.S.

The ruling upholds the decision of a lower court that was challenged by the justice minister, and closes the matter in Poland.

"Game over," said Jan Olszewski, one of Polanski's lawyers. "The case is definitively closed. We won in a fair struggle. We feel satisfaction."

Polanski, 83, is wanted in the U.S. in a case involving sex with a minor that has haunted him for almost 40 years. He is subject to an Interpol warrant in 188 countries.

He has avoided extradition by traveling only between three countries. He lives in France, where he was born, and also has a home in Switzerland, which in 2011 rejected a U.S. request to extradite him. He has often visited Poland, where he survived the Holocaust, grew up and studied at a film academy.

Poland's three-judge panel rejected a request by Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro to overturn the extradition refusal, and upheld the decision made by a lower court

in Krakow in 2015.

Ziobro said yesterday that he accepted and respected the court's ruling but also insisted that "proceedings concerning the sexual abuse of minors should be enforced consistently regardless of who committed the crime or when."

Polanski pleaded guilty in 1977 to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl during a photo shoot in Los Angeles. In exchange, the judge agreed to drop other charges and sentenced him to prison for a psychiatric evaluation. Polanski was released after 42 days by an evaluator who deemed him mentally sound and unlikely to offend again.

The judge then said he was going to send Polanski back to prison for the remainder of the 90 days and that afterward he would ask Polanski to agree to a "voluntary deportation." Polanski fled from the United States before he was sentenced.

The U.S., which has been seeking to bring Polanski back before a court, asked Poland last year to extradite him.

Olszewski said Polanski has paid dearly for what he has done, with all the films that he was not able to make in Hollywood and the 40 years of stigma.

Polanski was preparing to make a film in Poland, but transferred it to France after Ziobro's move. His lawyers said this was also the reason why Polanski did not travel to Poland to attend the funeral of another leading film director, Andrzej Wajda, in October.

Polanski will not comment on the decision, his lawyer in France, Herve Termime, told The Associated Press.

The justice minister revived the case in May, months after the conservative government took office. Ziobro argued that Polanski should be punished and that his celebrity status was the only thing shielding the Oscar-winning director from being extradited.

The lower court had argued that Polanski had served over 350 days of prison terms and house arrest in the U.S and Switzerland, which was more than the original U.S. verdict. It also said he would probably not get a fair trial in the U.S. if he were extradited.

Polanski won an Academy Award for best director for his 2002 film "The Pianist," which he filmed in Warsaw, but he did not travel to the U.S. for the ceremony. He was nominated for his 1970s' movies "Chinatown" and "Tess."

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	60-80 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**SOUTH KOREA**

President Park Geun-hye is willing to "calmly" accept the outcome if the opposition-controlled parliament votes for her impeachment this week, but prefers to resign on her own terms, lawmakers from her party say. [More on p13](#)

**IRAN-SAUDI ARABIA**

A court in Saudi Arabia yesterday sentenced 15 people to death and several others to prison terms in a case involving an alleged Iranian spy cell, a sign of the continuing tension between the two Mideast powers.

**IRAQ**

The Iraqi army yesterday pushed into another neighborhood held by the Islamic State group on the southeastern edge of Mosul, according to a military statement and Iraqi commanders on the ground.



**ALBANIA**

A European security organization says it has helped Albania's army dispose of 140 metric tons of hazardous military chemicals, which are ready to be taken by ship to France for destruction.



**GERMANY**

Chancellor Angela Merkel has won a new two-year term as leader of Germany's main conservative party. Merkel ran unopposed yesterday for the leadership of the Christian Democratic Union — the springboard for her run for a fourth term as chancellor in next year's German election. She won 89.5 percent of delegates' votes, short of the 96.7 percent she won two years ago.