



**ASSOCIATIONS CALL FOR PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS**  
Migrante-Macau and the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union celebrated International Migrants Day yesterday

P2



**CHRISTMAS MARKET WITH A PORTUGUESE FLAVOR**

P3



**CITY CANCELS FLIGHTS IN 2ND DAY OF SMOG ALERT**  
Beijing and 22 other cities imposed emergency measures after pollution soared to more than 10 times safe levels

P10

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** says its military seized a U.S. Navy unmanned underwater glider in the South China Sea but it would give the drone back. But President-elect Donald Trump tweeted later that the Chinese government should be told “we don’t want the drone they stole back” and “let them keep it!”

More on p11



AP PHOTO

**SOUTH KOREA** The jailed confidante of disgraced South Korean President Park Geun-hye begins a trial today that will explore a scandal that led to Park’s impeachment after millions took to the streets in protest.

More on p13

**SPAIN** Several thousand workers took to the streets of Madrid yesterday to protest the Spanish government’s labor policies of recent years as the country emerges from a long economic downturn.

More on backpage

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Person of the year:  
Donald Trump

F1

## AL PLENARY

# Controversial electoral revision green-lighted

P3

AP PHOTO



## Indonesian military transport plane crashes in Papua; 13 dead

P12



Lynzy Valles

**M**IGRANTE-MACAU and the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union celebrated International Migrants Day yesterday – continuing with their call for the protection of rights of domestic workers in the MSAR.

The celebration included the discussion of updated labor laws including the reduced number of days given to domestic employees who have had their contracts terminated by them or their employers.

Previously, local immigration authorities granted 10-day visas to these employees, but have now shortened their length to eight days.

Emer de Lina, chairperson of Migrante-Macau shared that, according to the Labor Affairs Bureau, those looking for jobs are not supposed to pay for agency fees as it is the employers' duty to pay such fees.

Lina explained how Filipino and Indonesian nationals are paying substantial fees to several agencies in the region.

"The collection of a big amount of agency fees is really rampant and that is a big burden to us," she explained to the Times.

## Migrant associations continue to call for rights protection



"Agencies require MOP18,000 from [someone] who applies and gets a job as a security guard," she lamented. "For domestic workers, they ask for MOP5,000 to MOP6,000."

The chairman reiterated that domestic workers in Macau are

in great need of having their rights protected. According to her, many members of vulnerable groups refuse to voice their concerns, as there is no protection for them.

Meanwhile, Migrante-Macau continues to call for the Phil-

ippine Consulate General (PCG) to open on Sundays.

Under the current plans yesterday was due to be the last week that the consulate is open on a Sunday.

Lina shared that the association is in an ongoing dialogue

with PCG and was allegedly told by the consulate that they are also waiting for further updates from the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs.

Along with the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union, Migrante-Macau is also calling for government-run shelters for its domestic workers.

"There are a lot of Filipino migrant workers that experience premature termination. It's their [consulate's] obligation to provide shelter to those who are in distress," she said.

Wari Yanti, a representative of the Indonesian association, also expressed her hope that an Indonesian consulate would be established in the MSAR. She noted that it is problematic for Indonesian domestic workers to seek assistance without a consulate that is based in Macau. **LV**

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## President's office requests that officials in questioning remain anonymous



Sonia Chan

**T**HE Office of the President of the Legislative Assembly (AL) has requested without precedent that a formal question in writing, issued by lawmaker Leong Veng Chai and be presented to the AL, be revised to not include references to the current Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, the former holder of the role, Florin-

da Chan, and the region's former top prosecutor, Ho Chio Meng.

Lawmaker Leong Veng Chai, who is a colleague of José Pereira Coutinho, was due to question the government on whether an investigation would be held into the alleged influence of Sonia Chan over the former top prosecutor, which may have resulted in the hiring of at least one of Chan's relatives.

Chan, who denied that she abused her power to influence the hiring process when she was serving as the director of the Office of Personal Data Protection, said on Friday that she will be more careful with her behavior in future.

The denial is in respon-

se to a claim made by Ho Chio Meng during the trial of the former top prosecutor last week. Ho alleged that the current secretary, as well as the former holder of the post, Florinda Chan, had exerted their influence over the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) to recommend the hiring of their relatives at the MP.

Lawmaker Leong was informed by the Office of the President of the AL that it was inappropriate to use the names of Sonia Chan, Florinda Chan and Ho Chio Meng in his speech to the assembly, as "the case is still being tried in court."

The lawmaker told Ponto Final that, "having been caught by surprise," the lawmaker accepted

the revisions, agreeing to the use of the term, "holders of the top posts," in

lieu of naming the current and former officials.

Sonia Chan admitted to

## Friday session of Ho's trial suspended

**T**HE trial of Ho Chio Meng had its latest session on Friday suspended shortly after its commencement following a procedural issue raised by the defense. The objection was raised by the defense when Ho was questioned about the delivery of contracts for his own alleged benefit. The defendant claimed that he was unable to adequately make his case without knowing the full details of the accusation.

The judges admitted that there was a discrepancy between the prosecution's initial charge and the questioning levied against Ho during Friday's session, however it was also noted that the discrepancy had been already redressed. Nevertheless, the court granted the suspension. The next session will take place today providing that Ho is in sufficient health to proceed.

reporters on Friday that although she recommended a relative to the position, the current secretary did not violate the law in doing so.

"Being the director of the Office for Personal Data Protection at that time, it was impossible for me to put any pressure [on Ho]" she told reporters on Friday.

"I do have relatives working at the Public Prosecutions Office. During that time, I had a chance to mention to the former chief prosecutor that there was such a candidate," she added, according to TDM, "[but] I've had neither decision nor power on that matter," she said, cited by public broadcaster TDM.

She also denied that there was any "exchange of benefits", adding that: "I believe I did not violate the law or engage in any wrongdoing. I did not interfere in the procedures of the other party. [The hiring] procedures were carried out according to the regulations." **DB**

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**T**HE Legislative Assembly (AL) gathered on Friday to revise and vote on legislation concerning electoral law. The changes put into effect through this vote will affect next year's election.

The revision covers several controversial aspects such as the recently introduced allegiance pledge, which is seen as a response to the "oath-taking controversy" triggered by Hong Kong legislators Yau Wai-ching and Sixtus Leung. The "oath-taking controversy" resulted in Beijing intervening and preventing the legislators from taking office. Three lawmakers - namely Au Kam San, Ng Kuok Cheong and Pereira Coutinho - voted against this allegiance pledge, claiming that it is not necessary.

"Premier Li Keqiang said that Macau is a hotbed for the implementation of the 'one-country, two systems' [policy] and that is a good thing," Au Kam San argued. "We definitely do not need to do things that are unnecessary or add content that is unnecessary. There is no problem with the 'one-country, two systems' policy when it comes to Macau," he said during Friday's debate.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, argued for the amendment, saying that the interpretation of the National People's Congress Standing Committee regarding Hong Kong

AL PLENARY

# Lawmakers pass controversial electoral amendments



Electoral campaign activity during the 2013 AL election

should be applicable to Macau. "If anything were to happen in the future, we would have no law to follow. We could not merely depend on the constitutional law. We cannot only depend on the Basic Law and the legal interpretation of the NPC Standing Com-

mittee," she said. Chan disagreed with Au's argument by saying, "This is not following blindly or doing things that are unnecessary." Chan did note that it is problematic to cite an example of the enactment of the law in relation

to the kinds of behavior that would be regarded as unsupportive of the MSAR and PRC governments. Thus she said that the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) would provide guidelines for candidates.

Other controversial aspects that were considered and voted on in Friday's session include a new definition of electoral campaign and the eligibility of individuals who can participate in the campaign. According to the new rules, only persons or groups who

officially support individual candidates will be able to engage in campaign activities. The AL will set a limit on the campaign budget, and candidates will have to deposit MOP25,000 "to prevent candidacies which are not representative." The money will not be returned if the candidate receives less than 300 votes.

In addition, the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) will have at least six more members, as well as extended powers to punish infractions.

## AL APPROVES BUDGET FOR 2017

**THE LEGISLATIVE** Assembly (AL) has approved the financial budget for the fiscal year of 2017. The total expenses for next year are estimated to be MOP95.7 billion, around MOP10.7 billion more than in 2016. It is projected that the 2017 income of the MSAR will be

MOP102.9 billion, a decrease of 0.3 percent year-on-year. As previously reported, the budget indicates that in 2017 the government expects to spend MOP20.8 billion on civil servants' salaries. This figure represents 23.7 percent of the total budget, also an increase compared to last year.

## Eligible Macau vehicles can drive in Hengqin from tomorrow

**A**scheme for eligible Macau A-registered vehicles to enter Hengqin Island in Zhuhai will commence tomorrow, the Macau government and authorities from the Zhuhai Municipal People's Government confirmed during a press conference on Friday.

The dual authorities unveiled their arrangements regarding the implementation of the first phase of the scheme, including a management plan and information on the relevant application procedures to acquire the necessary vehicle registration. It was announced that as of Friday, the authorities have begun accepting applications under the scheme.

In accordance with mainland law, cross-border motor vehicles must be covered by "Motor Vehicle Traffic Accident Liability Insurance" before entering the Hengqin New Area, according to a statement issued by the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM).

Coordinated by the AMCM, Macau single-plate car owners can purchase the relevant insurance coverage through local insurance companies. At present, the only companies in Macau that have established cooperative agreements with mainland partners are China Taiping Insurance (Macau) Company and Asia Insurance Company,

according to AMCM.

Officials from numerous Macau government departments, such as the Macau Customs Service, the Public Security Police Force and the Transport Bureau, in addition to officials from Zhuhai municipal authorities, attended Friday's press conference.

The director-general of the Macau Customs Service, Ng Kuok Heng, said during the press conference that the scheme represents a significant milestone in the continued cooperation between Guangdong and Macau, and that local authorities had therefore viewed it as a priority.

Meanwhile, the director of the Hengqin New Area Management Committee, Niu Jing, promised that the entry of Macau-registered vehicles to the island would enhance overall border-crossing efficiency between Macau and Zhuhai and improve the convenience of travel.

In June of this year, the negotiating parties of the Guangdong and Macau local governmental authorities agreed the initial terms of the scheme, which will allow Macau-registered vehicles to enter Hengqin.

On December 8, the Guangdong local government and Zhuhai municipal authorities issued provisional procedures and new measures to manage the presence of these vehicles in Hengqin.

Lynzy Valles

**T**HE Christmas market at Albergue SCM kicked off on Saturday, featuring 30 booths that offered Portuguese gourmet products, festive snacks and hand-made children's toys.

Co-organized by Albergue SCM and Rena Plus (Macau) Ltd, the Christmas market aimed to promote Portuguese products to locals and tourists alike.

The stalls at the event offered tastings of Portuguese gourmet food such as dried fruit, jams, honey, cheese, cookies, chocolate, olive oil, canned fish and wine.

Ana Maria de Senna Fernandes, project manager at Rena Plus, told the Times yesterday that the bazaar is different from the government's Christmas market in Tap Seac, which commences today.

Fernandes noted that the bazaar was also held in a bid to promote Albergue as a tourist attraction and she emphasized that Portuguese merchandises were the main offering of the fair. Many of the products available at the market have been made in Portugal.

"We would like to promote Portuguese products. That is our main goal. [There] are around 15 tables [fea-

## Christmas market with a Portuguese flavor



turing] Portuguese wine, cookies [and] rugs," she said in a phone interview.

Market stall holders are required to pay a registration fee of MOP100 per day.

Although the Portuguese-themed Christmas market's aim is to offer Portuguese products, some local associations and businesses are also offering several of their own products.

Platform Art, a community that promotes art, is present at Albergue, offering painting activities for children.

Cristina Lao, a volunteer said that the number of participants at the art booth has already exceeded the firm's expectations.

"There were 20 to 30 kids

staying here for drawing just this afternoon. It's really out of [our] expectation," she said.

According to Lao, such a bazaar is a vital place for the firm to promote its products and offerings.

She added that the art industry in the region is looking forward to the government's assistance its promotion.

"As I've heard, in the next coming years, they [the government] will put more effort into [promoting the] arts. It will be good for us," she concluded.

The Christmas market at Albergue SCM courtyard will be held on December 24 and 25. It will be open from midday to 9:30 p.m.



## TOURISM

# Artyzen Habitat wins award

A hotel brand of the Artyzen Hospitality Group, Artyzen Habitat, has been awarded the “2016 The Most Anticipated Hotel Brand” at the National Tourism Award 2016.

Artyzen is the hotel management arm of Shun Tak Holdings. The award was presented in a ceremony held jointly by Tourism Media and Best Travel Media last week in Beijing.

As cited in a press release issued by the group, Robbert van der Mass, president of the Artyzen Hospitality Group said that its Artyzen Habitat hotel will open in April 2017 at the Dongzhimen area in Beijing. The president noted that the 138-room hotel incorporates Beijing’s local cultural elements in a modern way.

Meanwhile, Edmond Ip, vice chairman of the Artyzen Hospitality Group remarked, “as an Asia-based international hotel management company, we view culture as ‘an informed attitude’ shared and kept alive by communities of like-minded individuals.”

According to Ip, each of their hotel brands bring the group’s philosophy of ‘Art, Culture and Emotional Wisdom’ to life through a concept that guides the respective brand’s design aesthetic and service style.

The vice chairman pledged that the group would continue to grow its ho-



Artyzen Habitat Dongzhimen Beijing room

tel portfolio in Asia Pacific.

Fueled in part by insights from the Airbnb phenomenon, the development of the Artyzen Habitat brand has focused on delivering accommodation that provides a more home-like environment with the living area forming the nucleus of the room instead of having the room designed around the bed.

This is the second award for the Artyzen Hospitality Group brands following its citizenM brand receiving the “2016 The Most Anticipated Ho-

tel Brand” award by the region’s leading travel trade publication, Travel Weekly China, in May 2016.

Artyzen Hospitality Group currently has 10 hotels under development or in operation in Greater China, mainly in key getaway cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, Nanjing, Macau and Taiwan.

The company said it is accelerating its development in Asia Pacific with more projects being developed in Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and other Asian market destinations.



## Stamp Festival commences

The “2016 Stamp Festival” has commenced at the Communications Museum. The theme for this year is Pillar Box. There will also be a series of interactive activities during the Stamp Festival which will be held from now till April 7. Themed guided visits will focus on the pillar boxes on stamps, miniatures from other places and interesting stories about pillar boxes.

## Foreign exchange reserves decrease

The Monetary Authority of Macau announced that the preliminary estimate of Macau’s foreign exchange reserves amounted to MOP151.4 billion (USD18.95 billion) at the end of November 2016. The reserves decreased by 1.9 percent from the revised value of MOP154.4 billion (USD19.33 billion) for the previous month. MSAR’s foreign exchange reserves at end-November 2016 represented 11 times the currency in circulation. The trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca rose 1.63 points month-to-month and 1.40 points year-on-year to 108.54 in November 2016, implying that overall, the pataca advanced against the currencies of Macau’s major trading partners.

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# Old Chong Sai Dispensary reopens as exhibition hall



A collection of exhibitions marking the 150th anniversary of Sun Yat-sen's birth opened at the Chong Sai Dispensary. The exhibitions also mark the opening of the facility that was reportedly established by the founder of the Chinese Republic. The building will now open as an exhibition hall for the public and will be established as a venue that will be able to

be adapted for specific themes in the future. Built before 1892, the Chong Sai Dispensary is a typical commercial and residential hybrid premise, which means it is a residential building with commercial space on the ground level. Upon the MSAR's purchase of the building in 2011, after several periods of rental and transfers, renovation works were undertaken.

The "Exhibitions in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's birth and on the conservation of No. 80 in Rua das Estalagens" will consist of four major exhibition areas; an archaeological artefacts and traces exhibition, an exhibition area dedicated to Sun Yat-sen and Macau, an exhibition which focuses on the building's renovation techniques, and an exhibition on the building's distinctive features. These exhibitions will allow visitors to further their understanding of the relationship between Sun Yat-sen and Macau as well as the characteristics and architectural features of this type of traditional commercial-residential premise. The building and exhibitions will be open from Wednesday to Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., including public holidays (closed on Tuesdays).

## E-SPORTS

# Local group signs deal with leading tournament in China

Two virtual gaming associations in Macau and Portugal have signed strategic partnership agreements with the World Cyber Arena (WCA), one of the biggest electronic sports (eSports) competitions in the world. The deals grant them exclusive rights to organize qualifiers for the tournament in the two territories.

The agreement was signed in Yinchuan, China earlier this month during the WCA Global eSports Summit, which was attended by more than 30 eSports alliances and associations from 20 countries and regions across the world.

Portugal's Grow uP Gaming and Macau's Grow uP eSports will now serve as their territories' ambassador associations through their liaisons with the WCA.

They will be responsible for organizing the annual WCA Qualifiers in Macau and Portugal and selecting the strongest eSports teams for their respective regions. These teams will then compete at the competition's Grand Finals in China during November and December each year.

Frederico Santos Rosário, the chairman of Grow uP eSports, said that it will be comparatively

easier for Macau residents to reach the finals of the competition than in other regions around the world due to the city's small population.

"Our advantage is that Macau is small and we don't have to compete with other provinces and cities inside China before reaching the finals," he told the Times yesterday. "Even our brothers [Grow uP Gaming] in Portugal might have to compete at the Portugal and then European Qualifiers before the finals."

This year's WCA tournament concluded yesterday in Yinchuan. Winning teams and individual players from around the world competed for a combined prize pool worth millions of RMB in electronic games such as DOTA 2, Starcraft II, Warcraft III, Hearthstone, CS:GO and League of Legends.

Founded last year, Grow uP eSports is a non-profit Macau association whose objective is to create and develop the eSports industry. It operates as an expansion to Grow uP Gaming, which was established over a decade ago and is today one of the largest and oldest virtual gaming groups in Europe. **DB**

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Brett Foley

# Packer's Crown reaps USD1.4b as Macau casino stake cut

**B**ILLIONAIRE James Packer's Crown Resorts Ltd. reaped AUD1.9 billion (USD1.4 billion) by slashing its stake in a Macau casino venture, cutting exposure to the volatile gaming market and refocusing its operations on Australia.

Crown agreed to sell 40.9 million shares in Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd., or about 2.8 percent of outstanding stock, the Melbourne-based company said Friday in a statement. It also agreed so-called cash-settled equity swaps on about 81.9 million shares, or a holding of more than 5.5 percent.

The sale came after Crown abandoned a proposed spinoff of international assets and announced it was selling half of its stake in the Macau venture to partner Melco International Development Ltd. Proceeds from the sales will be used to cut Crown's net debt by about A\$800 million and return A\$1.1 billion to shareholders, according to the statement.

The changes, which limit the company's exposure to a volatile Macau gaming market, are a "good outcome for shareholders," Ravi Reddy, an analyst for Morningstar Inc. said in a note to clients. "Crown will emerge as a domestic pure play with relatively defensive earnings and

growth options from Crown Sydney, positioning the company to continue leveraging the Chinese market from the safety of Australia."

Crown rose 2.4 percent to A\$11.64 at 11:03 a.m. in Sydney, paring this year's decline to 6.8

**Crown will emerge as a domestic pure play with relatively defensive earnings and growth options from Crown Sydney.**

RAVI REDDY ANALYST

percent.

The share sales, and an announcement that Crown is considering selling an undeveloped plot in Las Vegas, signal that Packer is reining in plans for a gambling empire spanning the world's largest gaming markets.

Even so, his retreat to Australia isn't without danger. More than a third of Crown's revenue at its Melbourne and Perth resorts comes from international visitors, predominantly mainland Chinese, and they will be the mainstay of the planned A\$2 billion Sydney casino. The roundup of 18 Crown staff in China in October for alleged gambling crimes has raised questions about the company's ability to draw in Chinese high rollers.

Amid the detentions, turnover from Crown's program for high-wagering, top-priority customers at its Australian resorts slumped 45 percent from a year earlier in the most recent 23-week period, Crown said Thursday.

The sale and equity-swap transaction announced Friday were



priced at \$5.33 per Melco Crown share, or equivalent to \$16 for the company's U.S.-listed depository receipts, Crown said. The swap provides the Australian company with a "price hedge" in respect to the Melco Crown shares.

The returns to Crown shareholders will comprise a special distribution of about A\$600 million and a buyback of about A\$500 million, the company said. Subject to the completion of the sale to Melco International, the special distribution and buyback will take place in the second quarter of 2017, Crown said.

Melco Crown listed in 2006 in

New York as a joint venture between Packer and fellow gaming billionaire Lawrence Ho and raised more than originally planned at \$19 per share. The stock price peaked in 2014, rising to \$45.16 that March and has since tumbled to below its debut price. Melco Crown shares closed 6 percent lower in New York Thursday at \$16.28.

Crown is continuing to study an initial public offering of 49 percent of a property trust that would hold some of its Australian hotels, it said Thursday. Packer owns about 48 percent of Crown Resorts. **Bloomberg**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "



Jake Pearson, New York

# After nearly 45 years, new NYC subway faces deadline to open

NEW Yorkers have become accustomed to waiting on the subway. But nearly 45 years?

That's how long it's been since construction began on a much-needed subway line beneath the east side of Manhattan. And if history is any guide, it's anybody's guess whether a Dec. 31 deadline to open it will actually be met.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been pushing the end-of-the-year deadline set by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority hard in recent days, saying it's become about more than the long-delayed Second Avenue subway — it's about the faith people have in government.

"Nobody believes it's going to be done on time, nobody," the Democratic governor said in a radio interview this week. But, he added, "if we can get it done on time... if we can open that thing up at the beginning of the year, maybe people will start to say once again, 'Wow. Maybe we can do something.'"

The Second Avenue subway, seen as crucial to alleviating traffic on one of the world's busiest transit systems, has been star-crossed since it was first envisioned by the city's transportation board in 1929. Those plans were derailed by the stock market crash a few months later.

It wasn't until 1972 that ground

was finally broken on the project. But again, a financial crisis in the nation's most populous city in the 1970s put to a halt to work. In the 1990s, two powerful U.S. senators from New York were able to secure vital federal funds. But then there were years of bureaucratic hurdles: zoning changes, environmental studies and pre-construction work to clear the city's underground of pipes and cables.

In 2007, the major tunneling work began on the \$4.4 billion project that's now set to open: a four-station, nearly 2-mile expansion of an existing subway line from Lexington Avenue and 63rd Street to 96th Street, with stops at 72nd and 86th streets in between.

It was supposed to be completed in 2013.

"Quite frankly, it's way overdue," said Richard Barone, of the Regional Plan Association, a transportation research and advocacy group. "In the long run, does it matter if it's a little late by weeks or months? No as long as it opens. But if the government says they're going to do it at this time, people should have a reasonable expectation that

AP PHOTO



they do."

Delays were due, at least in part, on the fact that construction is much different today than it was when most of the city's subways were built.

At the beginning of the 1900s, before certain worker safety protections were codified into law, New York subway construction was championed by the efficient so-called "cut and cover" method, where workers stopped traffic to dig up the streets, lay track and

then covered up the holes again.

During the Second Avenue subway construction, officials employed a 485-ton, 450-foot-long machine that bored through 50 feet of bedrock daily. But the pace was slowed, in part, because of political concerns about noise from the work.

About 5.6 million riders take New York City's subways on weekdays, according to the MTA, the state entity that controls the transit system. Ridership on Manhat-

tan's only north-south subway line on the east side has been surging, with overcrowded trains straining the system and causing delays that ripple throughout the city's underground.

Officials estimate about 200,000 daily commuters will take advantage of the new Second Avenue line, which is slated to expand north into Harlem.

But officials haven't yet set a date for when that phase of construction will begin. **AP**

## Airbnb seeks to increase fundraising round to USD1 billion

Olivia Zaleski

AIRBNB Inc. authorized the sale of an additional USD153 million in equity, bringing the size of its current fundraising effort to about \$1 billion.

The financing values the home-rental startup at about \$30 billion, people

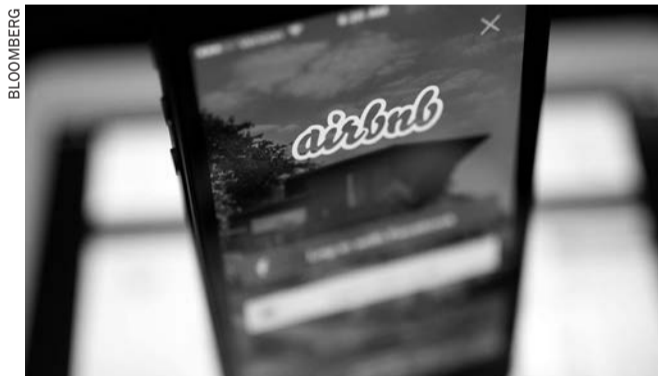
familiar with the matter have said. The additional equity was disclosed in a securities filing Friday, according to research firm CB Insights. Airbnb declined to comment.

Airbnb has sold at least \$556 million in shares as part of the recent fundraising, according to a regulatory filing in Sep-

tember. Investors in the round include Alphabet Inc. investment arm CapitalG and Technology Crossover Ventures, people familiar with the matter said at the time.

Since its founding in 2008, Airbnb has raised more than \$3 billion in equity, according to private stock market provi-

der Equidate. The company secured a \$1 billion debt facility this year from banks including JPMorgan Chase & Co., Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp. and Morgan Stanley. The company also used some of its capital this year to buy back shares from Morgan Stanley. **Bloomberg**



### corporate bits

#### SANDS CHINA ANNOUNCES ARTS COMPETITION WINNERS



Sands China announced the winners of its creative arts competition with an awards presentation and the opening of an exhibition displaying the works at The Venetian Macao.

Launched in August, "Sands China Presents: Macao's Past & Present Creative Arts Competition" was created in support of the region's art and cultural industries.

The competition invited members of the public to create pieces of art demonstrating the unique local charm of Macao's past and present. Entries could be submitted in artistic and creative forms such as painting, photography and sculpture.

Winners were chosen from each category, including a special award in each category for entries themed on The Parisian Macao, Sands China's newest integrated resort.

Winners received valuable prizes from a total prize pool of over MOP150,000, with their winning pieces now displayed at the exhibition.

The awarded works can be viewed at the exhibition at The Venetian Macao until December 29.

CTM will offer free CTM Wi-Fi at more than 1,300 affiliated restaurants of iFood Macau.

The kick-off ceremony of "Wi-Fi restaurant Project" was held at China Civil Plaza last week, according to the company's press release.

Ebel Cham, Vice President of Commercial at CTM said that broadening CTM Wi-Fi coverage to more than 1,300 affiliated restaurants of iFood Macau would enable residents and tourists to enjoy the convenience brought by high speed Wi-Fi services. She added that both parties will further strengthen the partnership in order to offer a greater array of exclusive privileges to CTM customers and iFood Macau

#### CTM BROADENS WI-FI SERVICE COVERAGE



members.

By the end of this year, more than 2,000 CTM Wi-Fi hotspots will be located at entry ports, tourism spots, hotels, hospitals, libraries,

shopping malls and on public transport. The company said it will continue to promote the development and application of the CTM Wi-Fi network.



# Cape Verde wants to join the Schengen area

**T**HE Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, Luís Filipe Tavares said that the possibility of Cape Verde being an extension of the free movement Schengen area in European countries that signed the agreement is under consideration.

The Schengen area is the result of an agreement signed by 30 European countries, including all members of the European Union (EU) – except Ireland and the United Kingdom – and three non-EU countries, namely Iceland, Norway and Switzerland with a view to opening up borders and allowing the free movement of people between signatory countries.

The head of Cape Verde's diplomacy speaking in



The port city of Mindelo, Cape Verde

**■ Cape Verde is experiencing strong growth in tourism**

Praia said the government was conducting the study and that it has an understanding from the European Union countries.

This possibility has arisen at a time when Cape Verde is experiencing strong growth in tourism, and the government intends to create conditions for tourism to improve in

quality.

The aim is to increase the flow of tourists, reducing barriers through use of the framework partnership for mobility with the European Union and in the future, consider the possibility of Cape Verdeans also moving freely in the Schengen area.

MDT/Macauhub

## EIU PREDICTS

# Mozambique will grow 3.6pct in 2016

**T**HE economic growth in Mozambique in 2016 is expected to be 3.6%, the lowest recorded in the last fifteen years by that Portuguese-speaking African country, according to a December report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The EIU report says, however, that Mozambique's GDP growth in 2017 is expected to be 4.2% as a result of increased productivity of the mining sector, in particular the coal industry whose international prices have been rising.

Also according to the EIU, published in London, due to rising international prices

of titanium, the exploration of this ore will grow and thus benefit economic growth.

The report notes that in 2018 GDP is expected to grow 4.6%, which will rise to 5.3% in 2019, 5.1% in 2020 and 5.5% in 2021 and will be below the average of 7.3% recorded in the period between 2005 and 2015.

Given the economic and financial situation of Mozambique, the EIU believes that there will be no major investment in the services and construction sectors, but notes that as of 2018, as a result of private investments, these two sectors will return to growth.

MDT/Macauhub

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	24 & 25.12.2016   6pm - 10.30pm <b>CHRISTMAS MENU</b> MOP 988*/person
Saffron 尚坊	25.12.2016   11.30am - 3pm <b>CHRISTMAS BRUNCH BUFFET</b> MOP 898*/person
	31.12.2016   6pm - 10.30pm <b>NEW YEAR EVE MENU</b> MOP 1,188*/person
Banyan Lounge 悅栢吧	24 & 25.12.2016   5.30pm - 8pm / 8.30pm - 11pm <b>CHRISTMAS EVE &amp; DAY DINNER BUFFET</b> MOP 558*/person
	30 & 31.12.2016   5.30pm - 8pm / 8.30pm - 11pm <b>NEW YEAR EVE DINNER BUFFET</b> MOP 558*/person
Cabana 悅濤廊 全	1 - 31.12.2016   3pm - 6pm <b>FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA</b> MOP 238**/set
	24, 25 & 31.12.2016   6pm - 10.30pm <b>FESTIVE THAI HOT POT</b> MOP 888**/ 2 persons

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## Prudent, neutral monetary policy for next year

China's top policy makers said they plan prudent and neutral monetary policy and proactive fiscal policy next year as they seek to sustain a steady expansion with room for reforms. Preventing and controlling financial risk to avoid asset bubbles will be a priority, along with deepening supply-side structural reform, according to a statement Friday from the official Xinhua News Agency issued after officials concluded the three-day Central Economic Work Conference in Beijing. Policy makers said they aim to ensure currency and liquidity levels are both kept basically stable.

## Insurance buying in Hong Kong to be restricted

Chinese residents buying insurance in Hong Kong will no longer be able to swipe their credit cards multiple times to get around previously imposed curbs intended to slow sales, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Purchases of insurance in Hong Kong using MasterCard Inc. and Visa Inc. credit cards issued in China have been capped at USD5,000 per insurance product, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because the changes haven't been made public. Hong Kong insurers were notified by the card companies about the change, which took effect Saturday, the people said.

## China, Japan more vulnerable to financial shocks

Asian economies including China, Hong Kong and Japan have become more vulnerable to financial shocks since the 2008 global crisis and are now among the most at risk, according to a Bank of England research paper. "The sluggish global recovery took its toll particularly on the Asian economies, with vulnerabilities rising to elevated levels over the past few years," Jack Fisher and Lukasz Rachel wrote in the paper, published on Friday. While vulnerabilities were high in the U.S. in the run-up to the financial crisis and relatively low for some large Asian economies, "it is now emerging markets and Asia in particular that appear to be the most vulnerable," they said.

A smog-shrouded Chinese city canceled airline flights yesterday due to poor visibility and parents took children to hospitals on the second day of a pollution alert across the country's north.

The official Xinhua News Agency said 35 flights in Tianjin, east of Beijing, were delayed or canceled. Highways into the city of 7.5 million people were closed "due to extremely low visibility."

Beijing and 22 other Chinese cities imposed emergency measures Saturday, including ordering cars off the road and telling factories and schools to close, after pollution soared to more than 10 times safe levels.

Yesterday, news website said the number of children being taken to Beijing hospitals with breathing trouble soared. Photos showed waiting rooms crowded with parents carrying children who wore face masks.

Chinese cities are notorious for noxious air blamed on emissions from older cars and trucks, coal-fired power plants and factories.

Members of the public closely watch levels of PM2.5, particles measuring 2.5 microns across that are easily inhaled and damage lung tissue.

The alert, this winter's first, lasts through Wednesday. The National Meteorological Center said pollution in a densely po-

# Tianjin cancels flights in 2nd day of smog alert



A security guard wears a mask during duty in Beijing

populated swath stretching from the country's northeast across Beijing to eastern China was likely to worsen on Monday.

Visibility in some areas was as little as 1,000 meters (3,280 feet), according to the weather agency.

Authorities in Jinan, south of Tianjin, raised that city's alert to the second-highest level yes-

terday after the city "basically disappeared" in the haze, the newspaper Jilu Evening News reported. Photos on its website showed downtown office towers as ghostly silhouettes at midday.

Beijing and other cities have tried to improve air quality by switching power plants from coal to natural gas and rolling

out fleets of electric buses and taxis.

The Beijing city weather bureau says that despite the latest spike, air in the Chinese capital has improved. It says days on which was it was rated good in the first half of the year increased by 19 to 107, while the number of heavily polluted days fell by two to 14. AP

# Gov't must curb speculation amid bubble, top official says



CHINA must do more to deflate a property bubble that expanded this year by "strictly" controlling speculation while also stepping up the fight to rein in excessive corporate borrowing, a top economic official said a day after leaders announced plans for next year.

"We need to give a higher priority to preventing and controlling financial risks," Yang Weimin, deputy director of the Office of the Central Leading Group on Finan-

ce and Economic Affairs, said Saturday at a forum in Beijing. "We need to defuse a flurry of risks, contain asset bubbles, and improve oversight to ensure there won't be a systemic financial risk."

Yang spoke a day after China's top policy makers said they plan prudent and neutral monetary policy next year to sustain a steady expansion with breathing room for reforms. Preventing and controlling financial risk to avoid asset bubbles will

be a priority, officials said in a statement Friday after the three-day Central Economic Work Conference.

"Houses are built to be inhabited, not for speculation," the post-meeting statement said. It proposed using finance, land, taxation, investment and other instruments "to establish a fundamental and long-term system to curb real-estate bubbles and market volatilities," according to a report Saturday from the official Xinhua News Agency.

Policy makers are shifting their focus to risk management after economic growth this year proved resilient, with President Xi Jinping saying they are on track to meet objectives. Threats to maintaining rapid expansion still loom ahead of a crucial party congress late next year, including potential trade tensions with U.S. President-elect Donald

Trump and the Federal Reserve projecting a steeper path for interest rates that may add pressure on the yuan.

The easing cycle by the People's Bank of China since late 2014 has been accompanied by a buildup in borrowing. Outstanding credit at year-end is on pace to be about 265 percent of gross domestic product, up from 247 percent at the end of 2015, according to a recent report by Tom Orlik, chief Asia economist for Bloomberg Intelligence in Beijing.

Credit taps are still flowing freely. The broadest measure of new lending jumped last month by the most since March, boosted by borrowing for home loans and a resurgence of shadow-banking activity. The main categories of shadow finance - bankers' acceptances, entrusted loans and trust loans - all increased significantly while longer-term

household loans accounted for more than two-thirds of total new yuan loans.

Yang, who helped draft Friday's statement, sits on the Communist Party's elite financial and economic panel led by Xi that is shaping policies to help support growth. The director of the panel's general office is Liu He, one of Xi's top advisers.

Maintaining stability doesn't mean inaction, Yang said at an event sponsored by the China Center for International Economic Exchanges. He said the economy's structure is improving and that cutting overcapacity will extend to more industries in addition to steel and coal.

Ning Jizhe, chief of the National Bureau of Statistics, told the forum that this year's targets for reducing excess steel and coal capacity have been met. In coastal regions, new industries and business models make up a big share of the economy, said Ning, who's also deputy chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, China's top economic planning body. Bloomberg



Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**C**HINA says its military seized a U.S. Navy unmanned underwater glider in the South China Sea but it will give the drone back. But President-elect Donald Trump says the Chinese government should be told “we don’t want the drone they stole back” and “let them keep it!”

This comes after United States officials had confirmed that they “secured an understanding” for the return of the device. Trump’s tweet Saturday evening may extend one of the most serious incidents between the American and the Chinese militaries in years.

The Chinese navy on Thursday seized the drone, which the Pentagon said was being operated by civilian contractors to conduct oceanic research. The U.S. lodged a formal diplomatic complaint and demanded the drone back.

Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun issued a statement late Saturday saying that a Chinese navy lifeboat discovered an unknown device in the South China Sea on Thursday.

“In order to prevent this device from posing a danger to the safe navigation of passing ships and personnel, the Chinese lifeboat adopted a professional and responsible attitude in investigating and verifying the device,” Yang said.

The statement said that after confirming that the device was an American unmanned submerged device, “China decided to transfer it to the U.S. through appropriate means.”

The U.S. said that “through direct engagement with Chinese authorities, we have secured an understanding that the Chinese will return” the unmanned underwater vehicle, according to a statement from Peter Cook, spokesman for U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

But Trump, after holding a rally to thank supporters for his election, took to Twitter to criticize the deal. “We should tell China that we don’t want the drone they stole back - let them keep it!” the president-elect tweeted Saturday evening. He earlier in the day had blasted the seizure.

Misspelling “unprecedented,” he tweeted: “China steals United States Navy research drone in international waters - rips it out of water and takes it to China in unpresidential act.” He later reissued the tweet, correcting the spelling.

The U.S. said China’s “unlawful seizure” came in international waters. Yet China pointedly accused the U.S. of long sending ships “in China’s presence” to conduct

# Beijing says it seized US Navy drone to ensure safety of ships

AP PHOTO



The USNS Bowditch, a T-AGS 60 Class Oceanographic Survey Ship, sails in open water

## ■ Trump’s tweet may extend one of the most serious incidents between the American and the Chinese militaries in years

“military surveying.”

“China is resolutely opposed to this and requests the U.S. stop such activities,” it said. “China will continue to maintain vigilance against the relevant U.S. activities and will take necessary measures to deal with them.”

Earlier Saturday, China’s foreign ministry said the nation’s military was in contact with its American counterparts on “appropriately handling” the incident, though it offered no details on what discussions were underway.

The drone was seized while collecting unclassified scientific data about 92 kilometers northwest of Subic Bay near the Philippines in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety, Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said Friday.

“It is ours. It’s clearly marked as ours. We would like it back, and we would like this not to happen again,” Davis told reporters. He said the drone costs about \$150,000 and is largely commercial, off-the-shelf technology.

The USNS Bowditch, which is not a combat ship, was stopped in international waters Thursday afternoon and recovering two of the gliders when the Chinese ship approached, Davis said. The two vessels were within about 450 meters of each other. He said the USNS Bowditch carries some small arms, but that no shots were fired.

According to the Pentagon, as the Chinese ship left with the drone, which is about 3 meters long, its only radio response to the U.S. vessel was, “We are returning to

normal operations.”

Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the seizure of the glider occurred inside the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines, not China, and appeared to be a violation of international law.

China delineates its South China Sea claims with a roughly drawn sea border known as the “nine-dash line” that runs along the west coast of the Philippines. However, it hasn’t explicitly said whether it considers those waters as sovereign territory, and says it doesn’t disrupt the passage of other nations’ shipping through the area. The U.S. doesn’t take a position on sovereignty claims, but insists on freedom of navigation, including the right of its naval vessels to conduct training and other operations in the sea.

Davis said that the incident could be the first time in recent history that China has taken a U.S. naval vessel. Some observers have called it the most significant dispute between the sides’ mi-

litaries since the April 2001 midair collision between a U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft and a Chinese fighter jet about 110 kilometers (70 miles) from China’s Hainan island that led to the death of a Chinese pilot.

The drone seizure seemed likely to fray the already tense relations between U.S. and China. Beijing was angered by Trump’s decision to talk by phone with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Dec. 2, and by his later comments that he did not feel “bound by a one-China policy” regarding the status of Taiwan, unless the U.S. could gain trade or other benefits from China. China considers the self-governing island its own territory to be recovered by force if it deems necessary.

There also have been increased tensions over Beijing’s ongoing military buildup in the South China Sea, mainly the development and militarization of man-made shoals and islands aimed at extending China’s reach in the strategically vital area, through which about \$5 trillion in global trade passes annually. **AP**



# Indonesian military transport plane crashes in Papua; 13 dead



Rescuers collect personal belongings of the victims of an Indonesian Air Force plane that crashed in the mountainous area in Wamena

Gerry Kossay, Ali Kotarumalos

**A**n Indonesian military transport plane crashed in bad weather yesterday in the country's easternmost province of Papua, killing all 13 people on board, officials said.

The Hercules C-130 plane was carrying 12 tons of food supplies and cement from Timika to Wamena, a distance of about 200 kilometers, when it crashed just minutes before its

scheduled landing, said air force chief of staff Agus Supriatna.

Three pilots and 10 other personnel were aboard the plane.

Bad weather and low clouds in Wamena, the capital of the mountainous district of Jayawijaya, were believed to be factors in the crash, deputy air force chief of staff Hadiyan Sumintaatmadja told a news conference.

"The tower in Wamena

spotted the plane, but it was not certain that the plane saw the runway," he said. He did not rule out that the plane hit a mountain.

An investigation was underway. Sumintaatmadja said the plane was airworthy and had 69 hours left until its next routine maintenance.

Indonesia received the plane early this year as a grant from Australia, where it was first used in the 1980s.

The plane took off from Timika at 5:35 a.m. and crashed about four minutes before it was scheduled to land in Wamena. TV footage showed rescuers and locals at the wreckage site, where they had recovered all the victims.

Another military Hercules plane flew to Wamena to take the bodies back to its home base in Malang in East Java province.

It was the third serious air accident in Indonesia in

less than a month. On Nov. 24, a Bell 412 EP helicopter from the Indonesian army crashed in Indonesia's part of Borneo island, killing three people. Nine days later, a police plane with 13 people aboard crashed into the sea on the way to the island of Batam, near Singapore.

Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago of more than 250 million people, has been plagued by transportation accidents in recent years, from plane and train crashes to ferry sinkings. The military, which suffers from low funding, has also regularly suffered airplane and helicopter crashes.

In July last year, an air force Hercules plane crashed into a neighborhood of Medan, Indonesia's third-largest city, killing more than 140 people, including military personnel, family members traveling with them and people on the ground. **AP**

## New Zealand PM shakes up cabinet

New Zealand's new Prime Minister Bill English has overhauled the government's ministerial team in the wake of John Key's shock resignation. English confirmed that Steven Joyce would be promoted to finance minister and Deputy Prime Minister Paula Bennett would add three portfolios to her existing two, when announcing his first Cabinet in Wellington yesterday. The ruling National Party overwhelmingly endorsed English as new leader on Dec. 12. "This new Ministry is focused on providing prosperity, opportunity and security for all Kiwis, including the most vulnerable in our communities," English said.

## Singapore dollar likely to slide

The Singapore dollar is likely to slide to levels seen in the aftermath of the global financial crisis as the Monetary Authority of Singapore resumes easing policy in April. So says an analyst who's correctly predicted the last three central bank decisions. The authority, which uses the currency as a tool to manage the economy rather than interest rates, is set to lower the center of the band within which it steers the local dollar as Singapore's export-driven economy feels more pain from China's slowdown in 2017, according to Vaninder Singh, an economist at NatWest Markets, part of Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc. The currency is set to weaken past SGD1.45 against the greenback within the next six months, Singh said, a level last seen in August 2009.

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# S. Korea to begin trial of impeached president's confidante

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

**T**HE jailed confidante of disgraced South Korean President Park Geun-hye begins a trial today that will explore a scandal that led to Park's impeachment after millions took to the streets in protest.

The trial of Choi Soon-sil, Park's friend of 40 years, is the biggest since the 2014 trial of the crew of a ferry that sank and killed more than 300 people, mostly teenagers. Ten others swept up in the scandal also face trial.

Speculation about Choi dominated local news every day for months, but she is still a mystery. She last appeared in public on Oct. 31, when, after losing a Prada shoe in a crush of media and protesters, she told reporters at the Seoul prosecutors' office that she had "committed a sin that deserves death."

What you should know:

## THE TRIAL

Today's hearing at the Seoul Central District Court will review the charges against Choi, who prosecutors say manipulated state affairs and extorted businesses. It will also set the trial schedule. Choi is not required to attend this session.

The trial is open to the public. Worried about a crush of spectators, the court last week raffled admission tickets.

It's not clear how long the trial will last. Courts normally issue a verdict within six months of indictment, so she'll likely get a verdict by May if prosecutors don't bring new charges.

## THE CHARGES

Choi is charged with abuse of power, extortion and attempted fraud. If convicted on all charges, she could receive up to 15 years in prison, according to court spokesman Shin Jae-hwan.

Before her arrest, Choi said she that received some of Park's speeches in advance but that she didn't know if they included confidential information. She denied the other allegations.

Prosecutors allege that Choi helped pressure 16 companies to donate a total of 77.4 billion won (USD65.6 million) to create two nonprofit foundations, Mir and K-Sports.

According to the prosecution, Park first brought up the idea of launching the foundations and ordered her senior secretary for policy coordination at the time, Ahn Jong-beom, to ask companies to finance their establishment while letting Choi handle the appointment of foundation officials.

Choi allegedly used a top Chinese official's visit to Seoul to propose pressuring firms to donate quickly to Mir.

Choi has been charged with pres-

uring Hyundai Motors and the KT telecommunication firm to sign \$6 million and \$5.7 million worth of ad contracts, respectively, with Playground, an ad agency she ran. She was also charged with pushing Hyundai to buy \$930,450 worth of car components from a company owned by an acquaintance.

## WHO IS SHE?

Choi, 60, is a daughter of the late Choi Tae-min, a purported cult leader who served as Park's mentor. Park, 64, is the daughter of Park Chung-hee, a dictator who ruled South Korea for 18 years until his 1979 assassination.

The two women became friends in the 1970s, around the time when Park Geun-hye began serving as first lady after her mother was killed during a failed 1974 assassination attempt on Park Chung-hee. Park Geun-hye once headed a patriotic group set up by the elder Choi, while Choi Soon-sil served as head of its college unit.

Park acknowledged her ties with Choi Soon-sil after the scandal broke in October, and described Choi as someone who helped her "when I had difficulties" in the past — an apparent reference to her parents' assassinations.

Choi's ex-husband served as chief of staff for Park when she was



Choi Soon-sil, a longtime friend of South Korean President Park Geun-hye, left, is escorted to get on a bus of Ministry of Justice as she leaves the Seoul Central District Court in Seoul

a member of parliament before becoming president in early 2013.

## OTHERS INDICTED

Among the others indicted are four former government officials.

Ahn, Park's former economic adviser, allegedly conspired with Park and Choi to extort companies. Another ex-presidential adviser, Jung Ho-sung, has been charged with passing on confidential documents to Choi. Former Vice Culture and Sports Minister Kim Chong allegedly pressured companies to donate money to a winter sports-related foundation run by Choi's niece, Chang Si-ho,

who has also been indicted.

A well-known music video director, Cha Eun-taek, is also on trial for allegedly using his ties with Choi to win key culture-related projects from government agencies.

Park has immunity from prosecution for most crimes while in office. She has acknowledged that she got help from Choi for editing speeches and unspecified "public relations" issues, but has denied any other legal wrongdoing.

The country's Constitutional Court is reviewing Park's impeachment. If it rules against her, she'll be formally unseated and must undergo a direct investigation. **AP**

Jim Gomez, Manila

**T**HE United States said yesterday it will work with the Philippine president to address any concerns after he threatened to terminate a pact that allows U.S. troops to visit the Philippines.

President Rodrigo Duterte was enraged after a U.S. government aid agency deferred a vote on a renewal of a major development assistance package for the Philippines over concerns about extrajudicial killings in Duterte's war on illegal drugs, which has left thousands dead.

Although no decision on the aid package has been taken, Duterte on Saturday launched an expletives-laden tirade, telling the U.S. to "prepare to leave the Philippines, prepare for the eventual repeal or the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement."

He was referring to a 1998 accord that governs Ameri-

can forces visiting the Philippines for joint combat exercises. The pact has helped the Philippines contain a violent Muslim insurgency in the south and train and equip Filipino forces facing an assertive China in disputed South China Sea waters.

"You know, tit for tat ... if you can do this, so [can] we. It ain't a one-way traffic," Duterte said, adding tauntingly, "Bye-bye America."

The U.S. Embassy in Manila said in a statement overnight that Washington will work closely with the Duterte administration to address any concerns it may have. It did not elaborate.

The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment, but spokesman Josh Earnest has said previously that the White House would not react publicly each time Duterte made an offhand remark.

The 71-year-old Duterte,

# US says it will work with Duterte after latest outburst

who describes himself as a left-wing politician, has made similar threats before and after taking office in June, but he and his officials have walked back on many of his public statements, causing confusion.

While calling Americans "sons of bitches" and "hypocrites," Duterte on Saturday praised China as having "the kindest soul of all" for offering what he said was significant financial assistance. "So, what do I need America for?" he asked.

He also said Russia can be a very important ally. "They do not insult people, they do not interfere," he said.

The Philippines had been slated for another aid pa-

ckage after its previous five-year, USD434 million poverty reduction program was successfully completed in May under Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III.

A spokeswoman for the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Laura Allen, said Thursday that it would continue to monitor events in the Philippines before the next board review in March 2017.

The U.S. decision is among the first signs of how concerns about the rule of law and human rights under Duterte could entail economic costs.

The U.S. government, along with European Union and U.N. officials, has raised concerns about Duter-

te's crackdown on illegal drugs, which has left more than 2,000 suspected drug users and dealers dead in purported gunbattles with police. More than 3,000 other deaths are being investigated to determine if they were linked to illegal drugs.

In a news conference in his southern hometown of Davao, Duterte was pointedly asked how many crime suspects he has killed in the past when he was still a crime-busting city mayor amid his vague and contradicting accounts of his exploits. The former government prosecutor again gave contrasting replies.

"Maybe one, two three ... I'm saying, maybe my bullets hit them, maybe

not, but after the burumbumbum, they're all dead," Duterte said.

Replying to another question, he said that he indeed has killed, but did not provide details and tried to justify his act. "When I tell you now that I killed, do not term them as suspects because all of them died while they were fighting government people."

He asked God for forgiveness in advance, saying he may not have time to pray if he's assassinated. "God, forgive me for killing these idiots," Duterte said, then blamed God for the presence of criminals. "You create a human monster so if you are God, why do you have to create these idiots? That's why they die." **AP**



Philip Issa, Beirut

**D**OZENS of buses and ambulances were poised to enter east Aleppo to resume evacuating rebel fighters and civilians from the opposition's remaining districts in the city, pro-Syrian government media said yesterday.

As part of a wider deal, convoys were also preparing to evacuate more than 2,000 wounded and sick residents from two villages that have been besieged by rebels, the reports said. The opposition's Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said buses had begun entering the villages, Foua and Kfarya.

Evacuations from Aleppo had been halted amid mutual recriminations Friday, after several thousand trapped civilians had already been moved from the city. The suspension of the evacuations had thrown an Aleppo deal brokered by Russia and Turkey last week into disarray.

The deal marked a turning point in the country's war. With the opposition leaving Aleppo, Syrian President Bashar Assad has effectively reasserted his control over the Syria's five largest cities and its Mediterranean coast nearly six years after a national movement to unseat him took hold.

## Syrian media say Aleppo evacuations to resume



Residents gathered near green government buses as they hold their belongings for evacuation from eastern Aleppo, Syria

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which has overseen the Aleppo evacuations, had no comment yesterday on the possible resumption of evacuations. The agency has said thousands of people, among them women, children, the sick and the injured, remained trapped in besieged areas of the city,

waiting in freezing temperatures for the evacuations to resume.

English teacher Wissam Zarqa, an Aleppo resident waiting to leave, said that families have been assigned bus numbers, in an apparent sign that evacuations would resume.

Syria's pro-government Al-

Ikhbariya TV and Al-Manar TV, the media arm of the Lebanon-based Hezbollah militant group that supports the Syria government, yesterday showed buses lined up at an access road leading into Aleppo. Al-Manar said 75 buses were to enter east Aleppo, and that convoys were also preparing to evacuate sick

and wounded from the two rebel-besieged villages.

Also yesterday, the U.N. Security Council was expected to vote on a resolution demanding immediate and unconditional access for the United Nations and its partners to besieged parts of Aleppo and throughout Syria to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The council scheduled consultations yesterday morning on the French-drafted resolution followed by an open meeting where members are expected to vote.

The draft resolution calls on Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to immediately redeploy U.N. humanitarian staff already on the ground to carry out "neutral monitoring" and "direct observation and to report on evacuations."

It stressed that evacuations of civilians must be voluntary and to the destinations of their choice.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said Friday he would examine the draft, but was skeptical that monitors could be deployed quickly. **AP**

POLAND

## President talks with opposition, new protests ahead



**P**OLISH President Andrzej Duda was meeting separately with opposition party leaders yesterday as he tried to help solve a political crisis, while anti-government protests were planned for the third straight day.

Political tension is rising between Poland's conservative government and the pro-EU opposition over

the ruling party's plan to restrict journalists' access to lawmakers in parliament.

Duda, aligned with the ruling party, expressed deep concern and has offered to mediate.

European Council President Donald Tusk, Poland's former prime minister, appealed Saturday for the ruling party to respect

the people and the constitution. Prime Minister Beata Szydlo blamed the opposition and appealed for calm and dialogue.

The president's spokesman, Marek Magierowski, said yesterday that a number of meetings were planned throughout the day, also with the head of the ruling party, Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

The first one was held with Ryszard Petru, leader of the Modern party.

Petru said later they discussed the media regulations and controversies around an irregular budget vote that was taken Friday, when the conflict began. The opposition is demanding a repeat of the vote.

"We are still in a stalemate," Petru said on TVN24.

Rallies supporting and opposing the government were planned yesterday in Warsaw. On Saturday, protests were held in some other cities, too.

The ruling party has increased welfare spending and still remains popular with many Poles, particularly those outside of the cities and on modest incomes. **AP**

YEMEN

## Blast kills at least 48 outside military camp

Ahmed Al-Haj, Sanaa

**A** suicide bomber blew himself up outside a military camp in the southern Yemeni city of Aden yesterday morning, killing at least 48 soldiers, a Health Ministry official said. The Islamic State group's Yemen-based affiliate claimed responsibility.

Abdel-Nasr al-Wali, a Health Ministry official based in Aden, told The Associated Press that 84 people were injured in the blast. Security officials said that preliminary investigations showed the blast was the work of a bomber wearing an explosives-laden vest. The attack took place as soldiers lined up to collect their salaries, they said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

The IS affiliate claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on IS-run Amaq news agency. It identified the bomber as Abu Hashim al-Radfani and published a photo of him smiling and wearing a white vest as he stood next to the group's black flag. It also posted photos it said were of

the blast that killed nearly 70. It was not possible to immediately verify the claim.

The blast took place at the same military base that was also struck by a suicide bomber on Dec. 10, killing 57 soldiers. The IS Yemeni affiliate also claimed responsibility for that attack.

In addition to IS, Yemen is the longtime home to an active branch of al-Qaida, widely regarded as the most dangerous of the international extremist group.

Aden is controlled by a loose coalition of troops loyal to the internationally-recognized government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, local militias and jihadi groups. They are battling Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, who seized Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in 2014 and later swept across much of northern Yemen.

The Houthi's advances forced Hadi to flee the country and seek shelter in neighboring Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition, mostly consisting of Gulf Arab states, subsequently intervened in Yemen in early 2015, launching a punishing air campaign against the rebels and their allies. **AP**



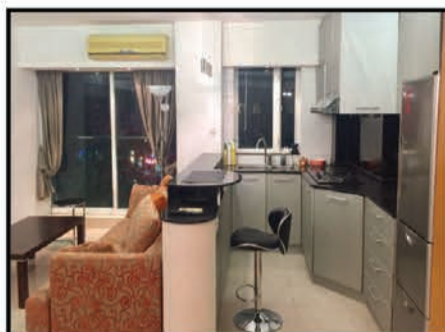
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## For Rent



### Jardim De Wa Bao

(Ref: 16100621)  
900sq. ft. HKD 12,000

Renovated and modernized apartment in Central Location, originally 2 bedrooms now changed to 1 large bedroom.

Open kitchen, simple and modern interior. Beautiful view to Macau Stadium. Easy access to shops, taxi's and Cotai strip.



### Office Space, Centro Commercial, Macau

(Ref: 16100625)  
674sq. ft. HKD 9,800

Office Space available in central Macau, great location. Unit E is currently divided into 3 areas, with one large space and 2 smaller offices.

Management fees of \$1,214 per month are paid by the tenant direct. Available from January 2017.



### Taipa Village ShopHouse, Taipa

(Ref: 16100620)  
1,400sq. ft. HKD 50,000

Located in the pedestrian shopping area of Taipa village, this is a unique opportunity to rent a great space. Recently upgraded by the owner the property had two toilets, one on each level.

With little investment this property could be turned into a commercial enterprise or a home.



### Hellene Gardens, Lot 4, D Unit

(Ref: 16100623)  
1,663sq. ft. HKD 13,500

Furnished 3 bedroom apartment that is bright and spacious. Large living room/dining room with a small balcony facing towards the sea and mountain. All bedrooms are of a good size with an en suite bathroom in the master bedroom. Hellene Gardens is a wonderful place to live with beach and beautiful trail walks, children's park, football courts, swimming pools, BBQ areas and Fernados Restaurant. One car park space is included.



### Macau, One Central Residences

(Ref: 16050589)  
1,819sq. ft. HKD 29,000

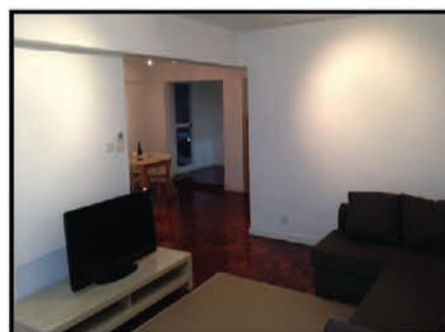
Fully furnished. 3 Bedroom apartment. Full club facilities. Fantastic views over Nam Van lake and back across Macau city. Central location next to Wynn & MGM Resorts in Macau. Available for tenancy with a 2 year agreement.



### Super Flower City Unit A

(Ref: 16060591)  
2,200sq. ft. HKD 15,500

Spacious apartment, in a desirable building located in the centre of Taipa. Close to children's park, supermarkets, cafes, banks, bus stop and Old Taipa Village. The apartment is unfurnished with three double bedrooms and two large bathrooms, one ensuite. Master bedroom is approximately 350 sq ft with stunning views across Old Taipa Village and the Taipa Stadium. Large windows with window ledges larger enough to be lovely window seats in each room. Well equipped modern kitchen with small outdoor drying area.

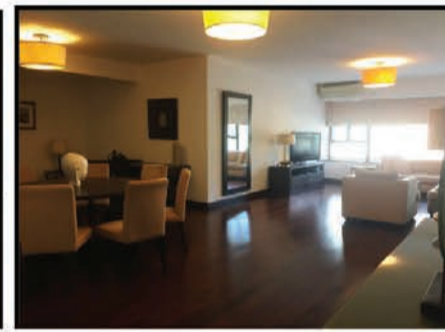


### Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau

(Ref: 16090610)  
627sq. ft. HKD 10,800

One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with build in wardrobes.

Modern shower room with build in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. S shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.



### D Unit, Manhattan Taipa

(Ref: 16100627)  
2,305sq. ft. HKD29,800

4 bedrooms apartment in an excellent location, in the 5-star residence: The Manhattan. High quality finishes and furnishings. Club House facilities include gymnasium, outdoor swimming pool & sun deck, golf simulator, children door & outdoor play areas, bbq facilities, lounge/party room with private kitchen. Perfectly located, close to super markets, restaurants, cafes, shops and walking distance of the Cotai Strip. Car Park not included.

## For Sale



### Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens Appealing Apartment

(Ref: 16045473)  
1,633sq. ft. HKD 7.88M  
Rate: HKD 4,776sq ft

Three good size bedrooms. Master bedroom with ensuite. Open style kitchen, made larger by incorporating the original maids quarters and back balcony. Living and dining area has a great layout and built in balcony. Views from the living room across the Coloane mountains and from the kitchen over the swimming pool towards the South China Sea. With only 7 floors in this block this apartment can be considered a low rise building. Renovated 10 years ago the property could benefit from a face lift although with some TCL it could also be a great rental property.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



### Nam Long, Taipa

(Ref: 16095500)  
515sq. ft. HKD 3.8M  
Rate: HKD 7,378sq ft

Taipa / Village apartment. Renovated and modernized apartment in Central Location, originally 2 bedrooms now changed to 1 large bedroom. Open kitchen, simple and modern interior, apartment sold as investment together with furniture and tenancy.

Easy access to shops, taxi's and Cotai strip. Extremely popular area where property is in high demand.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



### Taipa Warehouse, Pac On

(Ref: 16095501)  
1,652sq. ft. HKD 6.99M  
Rate: HKD4,231sq ft

Rare opportunity to purchase warehouse space in Taipa. Second floor storage space accessed by 3 cargo lifts. Air conditioned. Bright open space.

Building access 247. Cargo drop off available 6am-9pm. Management monthly Fee MOP700.00. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



### Taipa Car Park

(Ref: 16095495)  
0sq. ft. HKD 1.48M

Whether you live or work in Taipa parking is getting more and more difficult. Make life easier for yourself and your family by investing in a parking space.

Car park space available to buy in Chun Leong, Taipa. Great location opposite McDonalds, undercover on 2nd floor, space number 40. Good size space large enough to fit a people carrier.

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Lorraine  
(English Speaker)  
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Lorraine@JMLProperty.com



## what's ON

## THE STAMP FESTIVAL

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (no admission after 5:00 pm), closed on public holidays

UNTIL: April 7, 2017

VENUE: Communication Museum of Macao /

Estrada D. Maria II, No. 7

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

## EXHIBITION "TRACES AND VISION - LONGZHOU 'SHEHUO' FOLK PERFORMANCES, PHOTOGRAPHY BY WU XIAOPENG"

TIME: 9am-9pm

UNTIL: January 8, 2017

VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

## 'LUI CHUN KWONG THE DISTANT LINE'

EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 26, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery / Av. Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95, Macao

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

## FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

## MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM &amp; 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

## Offbeat



## RARE PLANT NAMED AFTER ROCK GUITARIST JIMI HENDRIX

California researchers have named a newly discovered rare plant after Jimi Hendrix.

The plant, found in Baja California, Mexico, has been christened *Dudleya hendrixii*, or "Hendrix's liveforever."

Liveforevers are a kind of succulent with enormous lifespans.

This one is a stalky plant less than a foot tall with pinkish-white flowers that dies in summer and re-sprouts in fall.

San Diego State University says a former graduate student, Mark Dodero, discovered the plant — supposedly while listening to Hendrix's song "Voodoo Child."

The university says Dodero and Stephen McCabe of the University of California, Santa Cruz, decided to name it for the late rock guitarist.

However, unlike Hendrix's music, the plant is in peril. San Diego State says its two-acre habitat is threatened by farming, off-road vehicles and development. **AP**

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
17:40	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
18:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sport
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

15 DEC - 21 DEC

## ROUGE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

(2D) ROOM 1

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45pm

Director: Gareth Edwards

Starring: Filicity Jones, Diego Luna, Ben Mendelsohn, Donnie Yen

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min

## DEATH NOTE: LIGHT UP THE NEW WORLD

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45pm

Director: Shinsuke Sato

Starring: Tatsuya Fujiwara, Kenichi Matsuyama, Noémie Nakai

Language: Japanese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 135min

## HER LOVE BOILS BATHWATER

ROOM 3

2.15, 7.15pm

Director: Ryota Nakano

Starring: Rie Miyazawa, Joc Odagiri, Tori Matsuzaka, Hana Sugisaki

Language: Japanese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 125min

## SING

ROOM 3

4:15pm

Director: Garth Jennings

Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 108min



## ROUGE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

(3D) ROOM 3

4.30 (15-16), 9.30pm

Director: Gareth Edwards

Starring: Filicity Jones, Diego Luna, Ben Mendelsohn, Donnie Yen

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min

## MACAU TOWER

15 DEC - 28 DEC

## ROUGE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

(3D) ROOM 3

2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Gareth Edwards

Starring: Filicity Jones, Diego Luna, Ben Mendelsohn, Donnie Yen

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min

## this day in history



## 2003 LIBYA GIVES UP CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Libya has made a surprise announcement undertaking to destroy its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

The government of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has also agreed to allow weapons inspectors into Libya immediately and unconditionally to oversee the elimination.

Under the agreement, Libya, which is included on the US list of state sponsors of terrorism, will dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and limit the range of its missiles to no more than 300 km.

It emerged that Tripoli has already allowed US and British experts to see elements of the weapons programs during two trips to Libya in October and December this year.

In its statement today, the Libyan Foreign Ministry said: "[Libya] believes that the arms race will neither serve its security nor the region's security and contradicts [Libya's] great concern for a world that enjoys peace and security."

The statement has been welcomed by the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the US President, George W Bush, who made televised addresses almost at the same time.

President Bush said the agreement, signed after nine months of secret negotiations, would "make the world and America a safer place, and the world more peaceful". He went on to hint that tough US sanctions on Libya would be scrapped if Tripoli kept its word.

Mr Blair praised the decision as "historic" and "courageous". "It shows that the problems of proliferation can be tackled through discussion and engagement," he said.

He revealed that Libya had approached Britain in March with an offer to open discussions on WMD. Until then, intelligence officers had suspected that it was working on chemical and biological weapons but had never been able to confirm it.

Mr Blair said Libya had acknowledged it was working towards developing a nuclear weapon, and had got close to achieving its objective. The breakthrough is the latest in a series of developments which have thawed previously frosty relations between Libya and the West.

One of the most significant was Tripoli's admission of responsibility in August this year for the Lockerbie air disaster in 1988, in which 270 people died.

Colonel Gaddafi agreed to pay \$2.7bn compensation to relatives of those killed in the attack, paving the way for UN sanctions against Libya to be lifted in September.

Courtesy of BBC

## IN CONTEXT

In March 2004, Libya submitted a full report on its chemical weapons programmes to the UN.

In it, the country declared a 20-ton stockpile of deadly mustard gas, as well as large amounts of chemical agents used in the manufacture of sarin and other toxins.

Later the same month, British Prime Minister Tony Blair made a controversial visit to Libya to meet Colonel Gaddafi.

It was the first time a British prime minister had visited Libya since Winston Churchill in 1943.

Most US sanctions against Libya were revoked in April 2004, and diplomatic ties between the US and Libya were formally resumed in June 2004.

Libya's efforts to end its pariah status have also led to payouts for relatives of victims of two more bombings, one of a French airliner in 1979 and the other of a disco in Berlin, Germany, in 1986.

The United States boycotts on trade and importing Libyan oil were lifted in September 2004. In the same month, the EU lifted its last embargo, on the sale of arms to Libya. The US restored full diplomatic relations in May 2006.

Gaddafi was ousted from power in the wake of the fall of Tripoli to rebel forces on 20 August 2011. The civil war continued and he was killed on 20 October 2011 during the Battle of Sirte.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You may not wake up this morning expecting a surprise, but there's definitely one on the agenda.

Taurus April 20-May 20 It's not often that you don't feel confident. That alone might mean you'd be tough to get along with.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 In your opinion, the astrological weather today is fine. Couldn't be better. There are scattered periods of change on the agenda.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The urge to hibernate hits everyone at one time or another, but the way you're feeling now, you're also in desperate need of some quality time alone.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 The universe has a big day planned for you, full of unexpected arrivals, surprise messages and at least one last-minute turnaround.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're the perfect person to share a secret with. First of all, you won't tell anyone who hasn't already been sworn to secrecy.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 At certain times, it's perfectly safe to give over the care of your belongings to the powers that be.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 These are surprising times, when even someone like you, who's in close to complete control of their immediate environment, can be caught off guard.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're far more of a fan of sudden, drastic change than you are of anything even remotely resembling boredom.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Surprises are fun for some folks, but for you... well, you'd rather have everything that's been penciled into your day planner go off just as you expected it to.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Someone you've been amazingly fond of for some time will suddenly let you know that the feelings are extremely mutual.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Apparently, some scientists have claimed that love is biologically the same as eating large quantities of chocolate.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

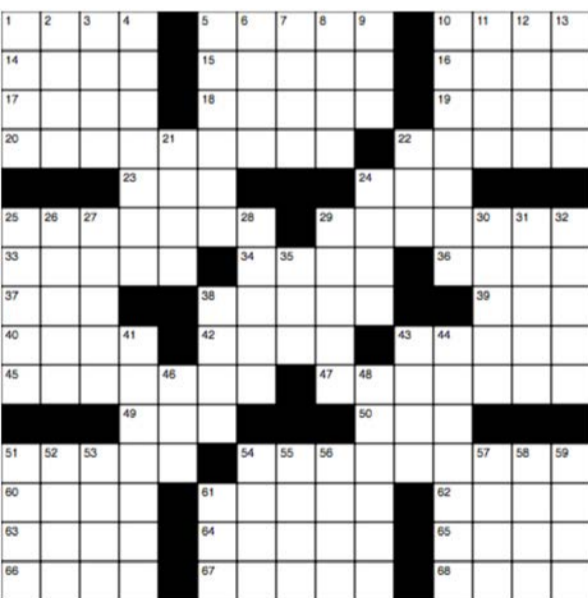
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"; 5- Personnel; 10- Cain's brother; 14- Like a line, briefly; 15- Swahili for "freedom"; 16- Sub station?; 17- Etheral; Prefix; 18- Farm machine; 19- Roy's "singin' pardner"; 20- Rising ocean water; 22- Doled (out); 23- \_\_\_ Aviv; 24- Operated; 25- U.S. space probe to Jupiter; 29- Oakland outfit; 33- Wonderland girl; 34- One who has something coming?; 36- Inter \_\_\_; 37- Back muscle, briefly; 38- Dwelling; 39- \_\_\_-relief; 40- Between ports; 42- Just okay; 43- Schemes; 45- A poorly-wiped window?; 47- Remote; 49- Surgery sites, briefly; 50- Bro or sis; 51- Muscat native; 54- Sporadic; 60- Anklebones; 61- "The dog ate my homework," e.g.; 62- \_\_\_ avis; 63- Intestinal sections; 64- Stories; 65- Fulda tributary; 66- British gun; 67- Discharge; 68- Parks on a bus;

DOWN: 1- Goof off; 2- Like Nash's lama; 3- Adopted son of Claudius; 4- Stupid; 5- Delicate in meaning; 6- Bangkok native; 7- \_\_\_ Lang Syne; 8- At liberty; 9- Fine hair; 10- List of extra items; 11- Fluff egg whites; 12- Fashion mag; 13- Fibbed; 21- Strike out; 22- \_\_\_ tai; 24- Few and far between; 25- Festive occasions; 26- As \_\_\_ resort; 27- Unit of volume; 28- Yippee!; 29- Free from; 30- Arm joint; 31- Lasso; 32- Impudent; 35- Dawn goddess; 38- Questions; 41- Eternal; 43- Prissy; 44- Worker; 46- Former Bush spokesman Fleischer; 48- Help; 51- Elevator man; 52- Germinated grain used in brewing; 53- Toward the sheltered side; 54- Smelting waste; 55- Heap; 56- Burrows and Vigoda; 57- Pedestal part; 58- Angers; 59- Irene of "Fame"; 61- Broke bread;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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Manhattan E Unit Taipa 1,626 sq ft / HKD 11.382M
Taipa Warehouse, Pac On Taipa 1,652 sq ft / HKD 6.99M
Nova Taipa Tower 29 Car Park, Taipa 0 sq ft / HKD 1.3M
Iau Lei Garden Taipa 1,015 sq ft / HKD 6.8M
Office Space, Centro Commercial, Macau
Happy Valley Taipa Studio Apartment Cozy Furnished
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Honda Macau





Jim Armstrong, Yokohama

FOOTBALL

# Ronaldo hat trick leads Real Madrid to Club World Cup title

**C**RISTIANO Ronaldo scored a hat trick yesterday as European champion Real Madrid claimed its second Club World Cup title by beating Japanese side Kashima Antlers 4-2 after extra time.

"This has been an unbelievable year for me and for the team," Ronaldo said. "A few days ago, I won the Ballon d'Or so it has been a perfect year for me."

With the score at 2-2 after normal time, Ronaldo received a pass from Karim Benzema in the 98th minute and calmly fired under Kashima goalkeeper Hitoshi Sogahata to make it 3-2.

The Portuguese star then sealed the win six minutes later with a left-footed shot to the roof of the net.

"We knew this was going to be a difficult match," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "The opponent was very aggressive and was attacking. But we always believe in our ability to attack the opponent. We have so many talented players, so we can achieve great things."

Benzema scored Madrid's first goal in the ninth minute of the final, pouncing on a rebound off Luka Modric's volley that was palmed away by Sogahata.

Gaku Shibasaki equalized in the final minute of the first half and put his team ahead seven minutes after the break when he evaded three defenders on the edge of the box and fired a left-footed strike past an outstretched Keylor Navas.

Kashima defender Shuto Yama-



Ronaldo scores his second goal past Kashima Antlers' goalkeeper Hitoshi Sogahata

moto took Lucas Vazquez down in the box on the hour mark and Ronaldo levelled the score at 2-2 with the resulting penalty kick.

Ronaldo, who was named man of the match, won the Club World Cup for the third time adding to titles in 2014 with Madrid and in 2008 with Manchester United.

Madrid captain Sergio Ramos returned to the starting lineup for yesterday's final.

The Spain international wasn't fully fit for Thursday's 2-0 semifinal win over Club America of Mexico and was almost sent off in the 90th minute when he took down Mu Kanazaki.

Madrid is unbeaten in any competition since April 6, a run that has lasted 37 games.

Madrid has the chance to become the first team to win the Champions League, Spanish league,

Spain's Copa del Rey, and the Club World Cup in the same season.

Kashima was the first Asian side to progress to the final. The J-League champions beat Auckland City, Mamelodi Sundowns, and Atletico Nacional to reach the final.

Atletico Nacional sealed third place earlier yesterday, beating Mexican side Club America 4-3

■ Madrid is unbeaten in any competition since April 6, a run that has lasted 37 games

on penalties after a 2-2 draw.

Substitute Miguel Borja converted the winning spot kick for the Copa Libertadores champion, after Osvaldo Martinez and Miguel Samudio had earlier missed for America.

Nacional took an early lead after an own-goal in the sixth minute by America defender Samudio.

Alejandro Guerra made it 2-0 in the 26th, steering home a cutback by Orlando Berrio, who was man of the match.

Michael Arroyo started the comeback for America in the 38th, slamming home from close range after Samudio's ball into the box.

Substitute Oribe Peralta then made it 2-2 from the penalty spot in the 66th after Samudio had been fouled by Farid Diaz. AP

## Atletico Nacional thanks Chapecoense fans for support

Sean Carroll, Yokohama

**A**TLETICO Nacional striker Orlando Berrio thanked Chapecoense fans for their support as the Colombian team finished third at the Club World Cup yesterday.

"[They] have all been behind us and that is one of the reasons why we were able to perform well," Berrio said after helping his team to a 4-3 win on penalties after a 2-2 draw against Mexican side Club America.

Nacional was scheduled to play Chapecoense in the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana final on Nov. 30 but the majority of the Brazilian team lost their lives in a plane crash while flying to the match.

Nacional appealed to the South American federation to declare Chapecoense the champion, a gesture which created a strong bond between the two clubs.

"Chapecoense is not a team from our country but their fans and everyone involved with the club supported us so I am very happy," Berrio said.

Nacional took an early lead in the third-place playoff after an own-goal in the sixth minute by America defender

Miguel Samudio.

Alejandro Guerra made it 2-0 in the 26th, steering home a cutback by Berrio, who was man of the match.

Michael Arroyo started the comeback for America in the 38th, slamming home from close range after Samudio's ball into the box.

Substitute Oribe Peralta then made it 2-2 from the penalty spot in the 66th after Samudio had been fouled by Farid Diaz.

America wasn't as ac-

curate from 18 yards in the shootout though, with Osvaldo Martinez and Samudio missing the side's first two efforts.

Substitute Miguel Borja then converted the winner with Nacional's final spot kick.

"We discussed the tragedy a lot," Nacional coach Reinaldo Rueda said.

"While playing we were thinking about the feelings of all the people related to Chapecoense and the families of the victims."

America coach Ricardo La Volpe was philosophical about his team's defeat.

"Unfortunately we lost but either team could have won," the Argentine said. "Penalty shootouts are like a coin toss." AP



Atletico Nacional players celebrates after beating Club America 4-3 on penalties after a 2-2 draw

■ Nacional was scheduled to play Chapecoense in the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana final on Nov. 30



opinion

**Views on China**

Christopher Langner, Bloomberg

**HONG KONG'S DOUBLE WHAMMY MEANS MORE PAIN'S ON THE WAY**

Hong Kong investors have nowhere to run. Their currency is pegged to the dollar and with Janet Yellen talking about accelerating the pace of interest rate increases, U.S. dollar funding costs have risen. But so have those in China, for completely different reasons. Sandwiched between the two, the Hong Kong interbank offered rate was pushed this week to the highest since 2009.

While the peg means that Hong Kong's monetary policy is dictated by the Fed, the spike in Hibor may have more to do with what's going on north of the border than across the Pacific.

For most of this year, Hibor's 89-day correlation with its Chinese yuan equivalent has been tighter than the link with Libor, the dollar benchmark. After the Fed's rate hike on Wednesday, the correlation with Shanghai rates was 2.6 times stronger than with the U.S. dollar interbank market.

That means Hong Kong banks should look to Beijing, not Washington, for comfort from the squeeze they're facing. They're unlikely to get it. Yuan borrowing costs have spiked onshore because of a cash crunch in the mainland.



The solution for banks may be to increase deposit rates, thus reducing their reliance on wholesale markets for funding. Doing so will cost them profits, though that cost is certain to be passed on to borrowers in the form of higher lending rates, which has uncomfortable implications for Hong Kong's economy and financial markets.

Apart from mortgages and corporate loans, margin finance is also tied to benchmark rates. If these suddenly become more expensive, borrowing money to invest in securities may stop being profitable. That could exacerbate a selloff in stocks and bonds.

No surprise, then, that Hong Kong was among the worst-hit major stock markets on Thursday. While the Hang Seng Index's 1.8 percent decline was partly explained by the Fed's move, the gauge also had a terrible day last Monday, when Chinese shares slumped as a result of an onshore cash crunch.

Critics of the peg have long pointed out the anomaly of tying Hong Kong's monetary policy to a far-away economy whose cycles may be out of sync with those of the city, a former British colony that returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

It turns out that Hong Kong's money markets are starting to dance to the beat of China's drum after all, even as the fixed exchange-rate regime endures. Unfortunately, it's happening at the worst possible time.

**THE LARGE COMPLEX OF AMUSEMENT PARKS CELEBRATES OPENING**

A massive complex of amusement parks in the southern desert of Dubai has celebrated its opening. Organizers held the event yesterday for the Dubai Parks & Resorts project after it formally opened Friday.

The park includes a Legoland, a Bollywood-themed park, a movie-themed Motiongate park, a hotel and a shopping district. The park hopes to have a Six Flags by late 2019.

The project, estimated to be worth over \$3 billion, sits along the dusty highway connecting Dubai to the United Arab Emirates capital of Abu Dhabi.

Dubai hopes to develop the previously empty expanse, which will host the 2020 World Expo, or world's fair. Dubai already has plans to one day handle over 200 million passengers a year at the nearby Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central.

ART

**Exhibition details 'change of times'**



Eric Fok beside one of his latest artworks

**Daniel Beitter**

**T**HE inauguration evening of Eric Fok's "Change of Times" solo exhibition was held last week at the IFT Café at "Anim'Arte Nam Van Lake."

The local artist, who is known for his intricate and detailed drawings of historical Macau, showcased around a dozen artworks fashioned onto a variety of mediums including paper canvases, wooden boards and antique, seafaring chests also made of wood.

His works explore the changes the city has faced in terms of its urban development, particularly in the Nam Van area, which was once one of Macau's most important harbors, dotted with traditional sailing boats.

One landscape piece illustrates the bygone 17th-century coastline of Macau on the site of what is now Nam Van Lake. Famous historical structures can be observed in the drawing, including the

Ruins of St. Paul, the Penha Church and what appears to be Monte Fort.

Situated on the opposite wall to that landscape is an almost identical piece, except it includes modern structures from the 21st-century such as the Macau Tower, and casinos Grand Lisboa, Wynn Macau, MGM Macau and Sands Macau.

The structures appear in the middle of the sea, some distance from the 17th-century coastline in the drawing's background, and are supported by minuscule islands no wider than the buildings themselves. As the artist informed, the modern structures stand on their true geographical location today, with their distance from the coast testimony to the many land reclamation projects in the waters around Macau and the rapid urban development of the city.

In another surreal fusion of old and new, seafaring Chinese boats (junks) can be seen sailing between the casinos and the coast, which

Fok humorously regards as "casino shuttle boats."

Fok's latest piece, however, marks a dramatic turn from his earlier works that mainly depict semi-historical maps. For the piece, Fok created animal characters from his imagination attempting to portray "a world with just animals" and devoid of humankind.

Other works from Fok on exhibition at the IFT Café include his seafaring chests, purchased from antique stores and adorned with his artwork. They are equally reflective of historical Macau, said Fok.

"It's a little bit nostalgic. When I was a child I found old documents of Macau and I think that these are the main culture left behind in Macau from that period," he said. "Many Westerners went to the Orient and published many books, journals and maps. They recorded the old Macau and this gives me a reference to create my work."

Asked about heritage protection in the city and whether the efforts of cultural authorities have been sufficient, Fok smiled and remarked on the difficulty of balancing preservation with urban development.

"It's very difficult to find a balance between the conservation of the city and its development," he said. "I just want to record the changes the city has undergone through my drawings."

The exhibition will remain open to the public until February 10 next year.

**CCM holds Children's Choir Annual Concert**

**T**HE Macao Cultural Centre (CCM) presented its Children's Choir Annual Concert at the Small Auditorium yesterday. The young children performed a wide range of internationally known tunes, from folk to pop to jazz, including songs like "Lullaby of Birdland" and "Why We Sing". This year's concert had plenty of novelties such as the two a cappella songs: "Red Sun" and "I'm Yours" while "Laugh, Kookaburra!" was accompanied with physical performances by the choristers.

The song "Happy" from the movie "Despicable Me 2" was accompanied with children playing fun games on stage. Some of



the young singers were also involved in the choreography of their moves, and the performance included projections throughout in which the choir shared memories of their experiences of this year.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	55-75 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate	
Ambient	6-95 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**SPAIN**'s two main labor unions, UGT and CCOO, organized a march in the capital under the theme "People and their rights first." The march follows more than 60 smaller protests held by unions in recent days across the country.



**POLAND**'s president met separately with opposition party leaders yesterday to help solve a political crisis, as anti-government protests were held for the third straight day. Political tension is rising between Poland's conservative government and the pro-European Union opposition over the ruling party's plan to restrict journalists' access to lawmakers in parliament. [More on p14](#)

**RUSSIA** The Investigative Committee said yesterday that at least 18 people had got poisoned after consuming a bath lotion containing alcohol in Irkutsk, Russia's sixth-largest city with a population of 1.1 million. Eight of them have died and the 10 others have been hospitalized in grave condition.



**MEXICAN** football star Cuauhtemoc Blanco said Saturday he has gone on a hunger strike to defend his mayoralship of the city of Cuernavaca. Blanco began sitting outside the city's cathedral before dawn underneath a banner reading "respect the votes of the citizens." Blanco was elected to the mayorship last year, despite his lack of previous political experience.

**VENEZUELA** President Nicolas Maduro extended the use of the nation's 100 bolivar bill until Jan. 2 after the government's decision to pull its largest denomination note out of circulation left the country short of cash, sparking violent protests and looting. Maduro's decision to extend use of the most-widely-used bill came as the president said replacement higher-denomination notes were unavailable because three planes transporting them to the country were "victims of international sabotage." He did not give details of the alleged sabotage.