



MACAU FAMINE 2017 AIMS TO RAISE MOP1.1 MILLION
The funds will be used to support World Vision's food security, health and nutrition, and livelihood projects in African countries

P4



MACAU DRAWN WITH INDIA, MYANMAR AND KYRGYZSTAN

P5 FOOTBALL



TRUMP PROPERTIES FACE GLOBAL TERROR RISK
Businesses around the world bearing U.S. President Donald Trump's name face an increased risk now that he is in the White House

P15



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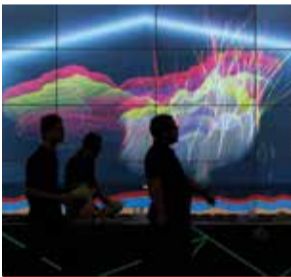
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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA The ship involved in the recently halted hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 returned to port in western Australia yesterday, where officials from the countries that funded the fruitless search gathered to thank them and to defend their decision to end the hunt despite recommendations from investigators that it continue.

AP PHOTO



CHINA is beefing up a campaign to root out services that circumvent the government's internet censorship with a 14-month-long "clean-up" of the internet industry. More on p10

AP PHOTO



THAILAND When Sapaeing Basor, the spiritual leader of many Muslims in insurgency-torn southern Thailand, recently died in self-imposed exile in Malaysia, it wasn't just thousands of followers that noted his passing. Thai PM Prayuth Chan-ocha expressed his condolences. More on p12

JAPAN A gov't panel studying a possible abdication of Emperor Akihito released an interim report in favor of enacting special legislation that would apply to him but not to future monarchs. The panel is looking at how to accommodate Akihito's apparent abdication wish. More on p12

More on backpage

AL PLENARY

Casino executives should be 85pct from Macau

P3

AP PHOTO



China shuts down 111 golf courses

P11

IC organizes lineup of New Year activities



THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will organize an event titled "Let's Celebrate the Lunar New Year of the Rooster," comprising workshops, exhibitions, lectures, concerts and other performances.

The planned activities this month include a "Couplets Workshop", which will teach participants how to create their own couplets in Chinese calligraphy.

On January 21, 22 and 27, the workshop will take place at the Mandarin's House. Two sessions at the Macau Museum of Art on January 22 will be primarily for children aged five and above.

The Jao Tsung-I Academy, the Lou Kau Mansion, General Ye Ting's Former Residence and the building at No. 80 at Rua das Estalagens will offer similar events until early February.

From January 24 to February 2, Jao Tsung-I Academy will host a "Monotype Workshop". From January 28 to 30, General Ye Ting's Former Residence will organize a "Fans Painting Workshop" to teach participants about fan painting through Lunar New Year-themed works.

The Macao Tea Culture House will also host "Traditional Crafts Workshops" on February 11 and 12. The

10:30 a.m. session will be dedicated to the application of glass beads in embroidery, and the 3 p.m. session will focus on the creation of kites in Yangguang style.

The "Performance of Artistic Group of Liannan Yao Autonomous Country of Guangdong Province" will present their "Tambourine Dance of Liannan Yao Autonomous County of Guangdong Province" during the Lunar New Year period. From January 27 to 30, they will perform in several locations around Macau and the outlying islands.

The Mandarin's House will host the "Lion Dance Performance - Dragon's Ascension and Tiger Leaping" on January 28, while Lou Kau Mansion will serve as the stage for "Chinese New Year Concerts" from January 28 to 30.

On New Year's Eve, January 20, the Macau Chinese Orchestra is holding a "Spring Concert 2017" at the Pak Wai Activity Centre. The Macau Conservatory will also present the "Concert for Welcoming the New Year and Spring" on January 24.

Many other activities will be held during this period. Interested parties can refer to the IC website for more information.

THE exhibition "Spring Breeze to the Southern Greenly Land - Exhibition of the Lunar New Year Traditions of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong S.A.R. and Macao S.A.R." will open tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m., at the Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau.

Organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and several institutions, the exhibition will feature hundreds of exhibits related to Spring Festival traditions in Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macau.

The Guangdong Province section will exhibit a variety of traditional handmade crafts, including Nianhua wood engraving (New Year woodblock prints), lanterns, exquisite pa-

Spring Festival exhibition opens tomorrow



per cut artworks, carved olive pits, Yangjiang kites, hand-made glass bead embroidery, clay

sculptures and regional opera costumes, as well as Yao ethnic costumes and accessories.

Hong Kong, despite being a modern and cosmopolitan city where Eastern and Wes-

tern cultures merge, has retained many ancient customs. This exhibition will feature, for instance, an exhibit explaining boat-rowing rituals from the "Tai Ping Hung Chiu" ceremony in the rural areas of Hong Kong's New Territories, as well as Wong Tai Sin divination cylinders and sticks, ancestral lanterns dedicated to newborn sons, the Hakka unicorn ("qilin"), the pinwheel from Che Kung Temple in Sha Tin and posters and flyers of various Cantonese opera performances, among other unique items.

The Macau section of the exhibition features various images of the times when the city was a small riverside village, as well as traditional Lunar New Year items, such as pig-shaped money boxes, calendars,

firecrackers, fireworks, red packets ("lai si") and candy boxes.

In keeping with the theme of the exhibition, the IC will also organize a lecture entitled "Guangdong Spring Festival Celebration", conducted by Prof. Liu Xiaochun, a researcher at the Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage Research Centre and a professor at the Chinese Department of Sun Yat-sen University. The lecture will analyse the five cultural regions of Guangdong Province and the various Lunar New Year traditions of each region that make up the culture of Lingnan. The lecture, conducted in Mandarin, will be held on February 11 and 12 (Saturday and Sunday), from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the Long Sam Tong Pavilion in Lou Lim Ioc Garden.

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AL PLENARY

Gov't says casino executives should be 85 percent from Macau this year

Renato Marques

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) gathered yesterday afternoon in a plenary session exclusively dedicated to replies from the government to spoken enquiries from lawmakers.

One of the highlight topics of the session, accounting for seven of the 12 total enquiries during the session, concerned proposals for extra restrictions on non-resident workers (TNR). Specifically, the director of the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL), Wong Chi Hong, unveiled plans to raise the quantity of residents working in management positions in the gaming industry.

In the city's first Five-Year Development Plan, one of the goals was to have 85 percent of casino upper and middle management in the territory composed of Macau residents by 2020. With the proportion increasing from 81.9 percent in January 2015 to 84.8 percent in September 2016, according to figures provided by the DSAL, this target has been pushed forward to the end of this year. "The government hopes that in 2017 this percentage will hit 85 percent when it comes to local managers and top executives," said Wong Chi Hong. It seems there are over 100 non-local workers on resort facility management. And we have already told the gaming companies we will not renew those work permits," he added.

However, concerns regarding non-resident workers discussed in yesterday's plenary session extended far beyond casino executives, including the contentious issue of local versus imported drivers.

Kwan Tsui Hang was the first to address the issue of non-resident workers, calling for government intervention over what she considers to be a violation of the driver's special licenses that, according to the lawmakers, have been used to allow non-residents to occupy job positions as drivers - a position that has by law been restricted exclusively for residents.

The basis for the dispute is a law from 1984 that the government has promised to review since 2009 but did not see light until yesterday.

Defending the government, the Director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Lam Hin San noted that since 2009 "the government has established a quota of 1,018 licenses dedicated to Chinese based institu-

tions in Macau aiming at better control."

The reply was complemented by a representative of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) who said that between June 2010 and the end of last year, there were a total of 37,584 inspections, concluding that "all inspected vehicles had records of entry and exit of Macau and no infractions [of this kind] were detected."

Kwan Tsui Hang in her follow-up question and comments highlighted the fact that authorities "had not referred anything new, naming only the 2009 measures that we all knew about." She complained that her questions remained unanswered.

Lam then explained: "There was a tentative review in 2012 but that couldn't be completed since the issue required a change in the Road Traffic Act to allow the input of sanctioning measures." Lam reaffirmed that DSAT has the intention to introduce a mechanism of quotas "to avoid abuses," adding that the services are "working on these new rules."

Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam

“We have already told the gaming companies we will not renew those work permits.”

WONG CHI HONG
DSAL DIRECTOR

San also intervened on the topic to say that the government is not doing enough and that the rules in force are obsolete.

Au remarked: "The owners of those licenses in the past used to transport goods and people across the border but nowadays they are at the service of the gaming concessionaires."

Ella Lei accused the authorities of failing to conduct proper inspections - namely the DSAL - since "professional drivers can't be imported."

"There are people hired as cooking helpers or others that then do driving services," she claimed, pointing to "clear abuse" and calling for an urgent law revision to "tackle the loopholes."



The director of the Labor Affairs Bureau, Wong Chi Hong

The debate generated a few contributions from other legislators such as Tsui Wai Kwan and Pereira Coutinho.

Tsui recalled a case from last December when a number of illegal workers were caught by the authorities and were found to be earning salaries well above the average (between RMB10,000 to 12,000 per month). In questioning what would justify the employer to pay such high salaries, Tsui implied that the employers had no other option due to a short supply in the workforce.

Pereira Coutinho expressed his regret at the lack of the presence of the secretary responsible for the field, noting that the directors present had no capacity to answer questions regarding the policies. "These are questions that need to be replied by the secretary. I hope the leaders [of the bureaus] can take the topic to higher deliberation."

Lam in a final reply added: "We are going to consider this topic in the upcoming [amendment] to the Road traffic act," adding, "we are already preparing the revision of that legal document."

But this was not the only enquiry regarding restrictions to the TNR.

The vice president of the AL, Lam Heong Sang, remarked: "Since the entry into force of the law for the hiring of non-resident workers [...] the loopholes

haven't stopped popping up."

The lawmaker urged the government "to establish a ceiling for the TNR in general and for sector and profession; to reinforce the inspection mechanism over these workers in order to safeguard their basic rights including salary and benefits; to establish a mechanism for the replacement of the TNR by resident workers; to put an end to situations in which [the TNR] do not work for the company or employer that requested their import; to aggravate the sanctions and penalties to irregular activities; as well as to define a regime of qualification for the job agencies or intermediary people working on this field."

In the reply by the director of DSAL, Wong Chi Hong recalled a number of measures taken by the government to reinforce the control and guarantee the rights of the workers highlighting the implementation of the minimum wage for cleaning and security staff working in

building administration, reaffirming the compromise of the government to extend it to all other sectors of activity "within three subsequent years of the implementation [of such law]," adding that a public consultation on the topic will be held "during this year."

Once more Lam noted the "lack of novelty" in the reply as well as the lack of action by the government.

Wong replied that addressing such topics "involves a consensus between both parties" - a task that "demands a great effort."

Ng Kuok Cheong intervened to ask, "Why are we assuming an 'open' attitude to the hiring of the TNR?" highlighting the example of Hong Kong where the proportion of non-resident workers in the workforce is far lower than in Macau.

"The best is that [the number of TNR] wouldn't be bigger than 50 percent [of the workforce]," added Ng.

Au Kam San urged the government to "assume this dominant position" as "at the moment, the bigger threat to residents has to do with the abuses in the hiring of the TNR," he said.

Song Pek Kei added that, "in order to hear the population the government must have a proposal first." She noted that the current lack of action is "harming both the workers and the employers."

On the other hand, Chan Chak Mo emphasized to the lawmakers that their opinions were uninformed as they are not employers themselves.

"[You say this] because you aren't aware of the reality of running a real business," Chan said, adding that it is necessary that lawmakers "think well when they speak and have a real notion of the topic that they are addressing."

In his final remarks Wong said that the government is currently working on measures to deal with the possibility of tourists entering the region with the purpose of finding work as non-resident workers.

ANIM'ART NAM VAN TO OPEN BIDS TO ALL SPACES

THE SECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, clarified yesterday during a reply to a spoken enquiry at the Legislative Assembly that Anim'Art Nam Van would open bidding for all its commercial spaces. The announcement complemented information aired last week by the Director of

the Macau Government Tourism Office who had advanced that the space would open a public tender during this year.

At the time it was not clear if the public tender was to be issued for all of the commercial spaces or just for the food and beverage venues.

Macau Famine 2017 aims to raise MOP1.1m



World Vision of Macau Association Amelia Che

Lynzy Valles

THE Macau Famine 2017, organized by World Vision of Macau Association, held its opening ceremony last week.

The association has planned fundraising activities such as "Skip-A-Meal," "10-hour Famine" and "Red Pocket Campaign," among others.

The funds will be used to support World Vision's food security, health and nutrition, and livelihood projects in African countries such as South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Somalia.

This year's theme is "Food for every child" and the main fund-raising event will run from February to

May.

Amelia Che, the manager of World Vision of Macau Association, stressed that there are nearly 800 million undernourished people worldwide.

Che said the number of participants in this year's campaign has increased compared to last year, while its target amount remains the same at MOP1.1 million.

"The number of participants has slightly increased. These people are from local associations and students," Che told reporters.

The manager also noted that due to limited space, World Vision could not accommodate as many partici-

pants as originally hoped. In response, the association came up with the "Skip-A-Meal" event to raise hunger awareness on an ongoing basis. "There will be no restrictions in the space, time and schedule, which will encourage more groups participate in the event," Che said.

She added that the association has been working to raise awareness of food waste in the region.

When questioned whether there were improvements in schools' kitchen waste, Che responded, "Macau should really let the students experience and see more videos about this [famine]."

She claimed that World Vision had shared with more than 10,000 local students each year about the significance of cherishing food.

Celeste Vong Yim Mui, president of the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), announced that it will cooperate with the Environmental Protection Bureau on kitchen waste and environmental protection measures.

She said IAS would collaborate with social workers to help the region with kitchen waste and recycling.

Coutinho questions gov't on hiring of non-locals

Renato Marques

LAWMAKER Pereira Coutinho has questioned the government through a written enquiry on the alleged hiring of non-local workers by several public services, mainly from mainland China, to occupy positions within the administration.

Dated mid-December last year, the enquiry is now waiting for a reply from the administration.

In the enquiry, Coutinho claims to have received complaints from several civil servants alleging that the services that employ them are hiring workers under the Individual Labor Contract regime (CIT). The regime clearly states that its use is restricted to very special and particular cases, such as when the supply of such professionals is crucial or when the candidate has a high degree of specialization.

Additionally, the lawmaker presented a reminder that when it comes to hiring non-resident workers (TNR),

the laws in force clearly state that they must be specialized workers with a higher academic degree, higher technical skills or professional experience.

According to Coutinho, the cases reported do not comply with these rules as the mainland Chinese workers are mainly employed in functions related to translation and interpreting. Such functions could be performed by members of the local workforce.

The law also states that in these cases, the employer is duty-bound to provide accommodation to these workers, raising the question of whether the government is in fact following the law and, in that case, if the costs to the public coffers were properly accounted for.

The same enquiry notes that, as of September 2016, the hiring of non-resident workers amounted to 6.63 percent of the total hired workforce (2,006 workers), leading Coutinho to suspect that the CIT regime is being abused.

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Julie Zhu

More witnesses unaware of MP office's existence

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) yesterday continued the trial of the city's former top prosecutor, Ho Chio Meng. The prosecution called four witnesses, most of whom are current employees at the Prosecution Office (MP) who also worked there when Ho still held the leadership position.

A few of them used to work at the MP offices in the Hotline Center on the 16th floor, while others were personnel of MP's Finance Department and Support Department.

A witness, surnamed Wu, who is currently a legal affairs consultant at the Office of the Prosecutor General, answered questions by prosecutor Kuok Un Man regarding the Hotline Center MP office and some key elements of Ho's trial, including Wong Kuok Wai, Lei Kun Pun, Mak Im Tai, among others.

According to Wu, he used to work at the Hotline Center MP office (in one of the two sides located at the 16th floor) but never knew that the entire floor was being rented by MP, and claimed to have never been to the other side of that floor.

Wu noted that the two sides of the floor were not connected, and that the other side had no directory.

"I didn't know what the opposite side was," said Wu, adding that no one had ever told him what it was. Wu claimed to have also never known of the existence of the "teacher's resting room."

Prosecutor Kuok then showed several images to Wu, who claimed to have seen Wong Kuok Wai and Ho Chio Meng's brothers-in-law.

Wu also saw Lam Hou Un, brother of the former head (Lam I Na) of the Judiciary Assistance Department of the Office of the Prosecutor General, who stands accused of working for shelf companies involved in Ho's case. Wu explained that he thought Lam Hou Un had worked at the Hotline Center on the 16th floor.

Another witness, surnamed Chan, used to be an assistant commissioner at the Commission Against Corruption and is currently working at MP's Hotline Center office.

Prosecutor Kuok showed him the same images shown to Wu, although Chan claimed to have ne-



ver seen those faces at the Hotline Center, except for Wong Kuok Wai. Chan, like Wu, did not know that the MP rented the entire 16th floor, and had never been to the other side of said floor.

Chan revealed that Ho Chio Meng visited Hotline Center to meet him in his office twice, and claimed he had never heard of the teachers' resting room.

When the morning trial was about to finish, Ho Chio Meng issued a request to add two additional pieces of evidence from another former head of the Judiciary Assistance Department.

First, Ho made a comment regarding one of yesterday's witnesses, surnamed Chow. "Chow had brain surgery twice, [...] you should allow him to talk slowly [...] if you talk faster than him, he will have troubles."

Regarding Chan's testimony, Ho said, "[He] has a sentence to finish, and he saw me several times [at the Hotline Center]. I saw him several times in the lobby in front of the elevator. I was carrying briefcases and I was speaking Mandarin."

The trial resumed at 3 p.m. Cheang Hang Chip, former deputy chief of Prosecutor-General's office, was present for more than three hours in the afternoon to testify.

Cheang said during her testimony that she used to argue with, and report to, her supervisor Lai Kin Ian about several matters. These included MP's internal payments such as flight tickets and accommodation; information that became pertinent to Ho's case.

Cheang said she would some-

times deliver all legally required documents to Lai, along with a proposal. However, Lai would not make decisions that aligned with her suggestions.

MP's current Support Department was a former division of MP until it became a standalone department.

The Support Department optimizes daily operations through utilizing and managing all devices and equipment.

It supports legal proceedings, administrative and finance management, and legal research using up-to-date information technology.

Cheang said that after this division was established, she argued with Lai Kin Ian on several occasions in regard to a few of the department's affairs.

Back in 2004, Cheang wrote a

letter to Ho asking to be excused from participating in the department's operations. Cheang also suggested that the division arrangements should be Lai's responsibility.

In court, Cheang read excerpts from her own letter. "The structure and the mode of this division has brought me many problems and concerns."

■ The cost of the entrance ticket for an event was over MOP60,000. Cheang said that such an amount was 'a little bit exaggerated'

Cheang noted that although the organizers of several international events could have invited MP's prosecutors to bring their spouses, she did not recall whether Ho Chio Meng's wife was invited, nor did she know the place of Ho's wife in regards to Ho's trip to Europe.

The prosecution presented an invoice showing that the cost of an entrance ticket for a certain event was more than MOP60,000. Cheang said that such an amount was "a little bit exaggerated."

Cheang also said that she had never handled any issues regarding outward trips of prosecutors' spouses.

The prosecutors then mentioned several people, who happen to be Ho's relatives, who had been hired by the MP.

At the end of yesterday afternoon's trial, Ho said "two [other] prosecutors brought their wives to attend 2013 Russia's International Association of Prosecutors Conference."

"If nobody made an invitation, why are you bringing your wife along?"

He claimed he had never strayed from the standard recruitment procedures, even when the applicants were his relatives.

Cheang will be present at tomorrow's court session to give further testimony.

FOOTBALL

Macau drawn with India, Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan

INDIA was handed a chance to qualify for the 2019 Asian Cup yesterday, placed in a group containing Macau, Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan at a draw held in Abu Dhabi.

India, coached by Englishman Stephen Constan-

tine, has to finish in the top two to reach the continental competition, which begins in January 2019 in the United Arab Emirates.

The 12 nations that reached the third round of qualification for the 2018 World Cup

have already sealed their spots at the Asian Cup, meaning that continental giants such as Australia, South Korea and Japan were absent from the draw.

With the tournament expanding from 16 teams in 2015 to

24, that leaves 12 places open.

Jordan is the highest-ranked team that has to qualify and will take on Cambodia, Vietnam and an Afghanistan team looking to appear at the Asian Cup for the very first time.

North Korea has been drawn

with Lebanon, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Australia is the current champion, defeating South Korea in the final of the 2015 tournament in Sydney. The qualifiers will kick off on March 28. **AP**



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Tourism sector ends 2016 on high note

THERE were 2,814,450 visitor arrivals in December 2016, according to information released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), up by 6.8 percent year-on-year and 8.7 percent month-to-month.

Overnight visitors surged by 16.5 percent year-on-year to around 1.55 million (about 55 percent of the total), while same-day visitors decreased by 3.1 percent to around 1,264,000.

The average length of stay for all visitors to the territory held steady in December at 1.2 days, while it stood at 2.1 days on average for the overnight category.

Visitors from mainland China increased 7.8 percent year-on-year to 1,785,764 in December, with those traveling under the Individual Visit Scheme (850,204) rising by 15.4 percent year-on-year. Mainland visitors were mainly from Guangdong Province (741,107), Hunan Province (83,108) and Fujian Province (67,362).

Meanwhile, visitors from Hong Kong (604,872), Taiwan (94,686)

XINHUA



and South Korea (70,740) went up by 2.3 percent, 11.2 percent and 28.9 percent. Long-haul visitors from the U.S. (18,698) and Canada (7,278) increased year-on-year, while those from Australia (9,308) and the U.K. (4,631) decreased.

In December, visitor arrivals by land (1,527,466), sea (1,064,311) and air (222,673) rose by 3.6 percent, 10.1 percent and 14.8 percent, respectively, year-on-year.

For the whole of 2016, visitor arrivals totaled 30,950,336, according to DSEC, up slightly by 0.8 percent year-

on-year. Overnight visitors went up by 9.8 percent to 15,703,616, constituting some 50.7 percent of total visitors, while same-day visitors decreased by 7.1 percent to 15,246,720.

Analyzed by place of origin, visitors from mainland China edged up by 0.3 percent to around 20.45 million, with around 44 percent coming from Guangdong Province. Visitors from South Korea (662,321) and Taiwan (1,074,525) grew by 19.5 percent and 8.8 percent respectively, while those from Hong Kong (6,419,839) decreased by 1.8 percent.

Region's travel alert system suffering delays

SCHEDULED to launch in the middle of last year, the redesign of Macau's outbound travel alert system has been delayed due to the clarification of some legal terms.

According to Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, the scheme is already on its third draft. She added that they have also been revising bilingual translations.

"The main problems were on legal terms and this is the third draft already. We have been reviewing the Portuguese and Chinese versions in order to make the whole document easily understandable," said Fernandes in a TDM report.

The MGTO director also noted that when the alert is on, it does not necessarily forbid travellers from traveling to a specific country.

Fernandes previously said that the bureau could currently only issue travel alerts as a warning or reminder, since there is no specific legislation for the alerts to have legal effect.

In the first phase, the system will cover all the frequent travel destinations of local residents as well as all Portuguese-speaking countries. The scheme will cover 74 countries in total.

Like Hong Kong, the MSAR's pending alert scheme will operate a three-level Outbound Travel Alert system (OTA), comprising a yellow alert (signs of threat), a red alert (significant threat) and a black alert (severe threat).

Once implemented, the travel alert system will be operated under the Crisis Tourism Management Office, which will work with the Monetary Authority of Macao.

AD



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Mark Shenk

HEDGE funds are showing they have some faith in OPEC. Their bets on rising West Texas Intermediate crude prices reached the highest since June 2014 as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers reduce output to balance the market. Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Kuwait have already made deeper cuts than required, while Russia has been able to reduce supply faster than expected, ministers from the countries said over the weekend in Vienna as they gathered for the first meeting to monitor adherence to their output-cut accord.

Funds increased their net-long position, or the difference between wagers on a price increase and bets on a decline, by 14 percent in the week ended Jan. 17, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission data show. WTI advanced 3.3 percent to \$52.48 a barrel in the report week. March futures lost 6 cents to \$53.16 a barrel at 2:19 p.m. Singapore time yesterday.

"Money managers are buying oil, as they say in Texas, like too much ain't enough," Tim Evans, an energy analyst at Citi Futures Perspective in New York, said by phone. "They are trading based on confidence that OPEC and non-OPEC producers will reduce output enough to send prices higher."

WTI climbed to an 18-month high after OPEC and 11 non-members agreed on Dec. 10 to end two years of unfettered production. Prices have dropped about 3 percent from the highs as traders await evidence that the cuts are being adhered to.

Too much ain't enough as investors bet on oil rebound



OPEC's production fell by 220,900 barrels a day to 33.085 million a day in December, according to secondary sources data in the group's monthly report published Jan. 18. The declines still leave output about 1.8 million barrels a day higher than the average of 31.3 million the group is targeting in the first half of the year, underscoring a need to press on with cuts.

The first two weeks of January saw "very strong" compliance and the majority of producers are already exceeding their pledged cuts,

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy and Industry Khalid Al-Falih said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday. About 1.5 million barrels a day of output has been withdrawn from the market, he told Al Arabiya television on Friday, reiterating the number to reporters in Vienna.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouk, who chairs the supply-cut monitoring committee, emerged smiling from the meeting in Vienna with a message of success: the producers were in "total

agreement" on the monitoring mechanism and wouldn't accept anything less than 100 percent compliance with the cuts. They intended to prove OPEC is serious about eliminating a global glut and dispel skepticism stemming from previous unfulfilled promises.

They are trading based on confidence that OPEC and non-OPEC producers will reduce output enough to send prices higher.

TIM EVANS
ENERGY ANALYST

"This market has a bullish cast," John Kilduff, a partner at Again Capital LLC, a New York-based hedge fund that focuses on energy, said by phone. "There's a lot of commentary out there that points to a tightening market,"

Money managers' net-long position in WTI rose by 43,601 fu-

tures and options to 349,510. Longs rose 14 percent to a record 406,723, while shorts climbed 11 percent.

In fuel markets, net-bullish bets on gasoline rose 0.4 percent to 63,678 contracts, the highest since July 2014, as futures advanced 3.5 percent in the report week. Money managers increased net-bullish wagers on ultra low sulfur diesel by 6.3 percent to 34,539 contracts as futures climbed 2.3 percent.

Producers are erring on the side of caution. U.S. oil companies are using the rally to hedge their price risk for the next two years. Producers' short positions, protecting against a drop in prices, increased to 677,479 contracts, the most since 2007.

Drillers added 29 oil rigs in the U.S. last week, the biggest gain since April 2013, Baker Hughes data show. The U.S. raised its domestic output forecast for 2017 to 9 million barrels a day from 8.78 million projected in December, according to the Energy Information Administration's monthly Short-Term Energy Outlook released Tuesday.

"This is exactly what we saw before prices fell off a cliff in 2014, with managed money length at a record," Kilduff said. "Producers are locking in cash flows now. They're profitable at this level and want protection in case prices crash again." **Bloomberg**

Angolan banks appeal for bailout

Candido Mendes,
Colin McClelland

ANGOLAN banks are appealing to the government to help put together a bailout package to protect account holders as lenders reel from low oil prices that make up almost all of the nation's foreign-exchange earnings.

Financial assistance could come from the administration of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos or be shared by all of the southwest African country's 28 operational lenders, Amilcar Silva, chairman of the Association of Angolan Banks, said in an interview in the capital, Luanda. He didn't specify whether lenders were calling for a liquidity boost that would improve the industry's ability to convert short-term assets into cash, or capital injections aimed at struggling

banks.

"Banks must be helped because they have liquidity problems that can cause negative situations in the whole system, putting its credibility at stake," Silva said. "What we need to do is look at the matter in-depth and then decide the best way," he said, adding that any agreements between the industry and financial authorities would have to cover the future viability of banks, and "if they have to return the money and when."

The Angolan economy, sub-Saharan Africa's third-largest, has been crippled by oil prices that have halved since mid-2014, with the International Monetary Fund estimating zero growth for 2016. Those woes have knocked the banking industry, causing bad debts to soar and business to slow as the government

cuts spending. Dollar supplies have also dried up as foreign banks pulled out of supplying greenbacks to the country that Transparency International ranks among the world's 20 most corrupt because of poor compliance with anti-money laundering rules.

■ Troubled loans more than tripled to 15 percent of total credit

Troubled loans more than tripled to 15 percent of total credit in September when compared with levels in 2010, and were at their highest as a proportion of regulatory capital require-

ments since 2014, according to data compiled by the country's central bank and consultancy Eaglestone Advisory SA, which has offices in Johannesburg, Lisbon and Luanda. Foreign exchange fell to about a third of bank deposits from more than half in 2012, the data show.

Some of the country's smaller lenders have been hit particularly hard, said Silva, whose group represents 24 of the country's banks. Most of the industry's profit in 2016 was split between foreign-exchange transactions and loans, he said. The association has set up a group of experts to improve member compliance with international rules and best practices, he said.

A spokeswoman at Angola's central bank didn't answer calls to her mobile phone or respond to

e-mailed and text-message requests for comment. Angola's kwanza weakened 20 percent against the dollar in 2016.

Revenue at the country's banks might be "slightly" higher in 2016, Silva said, after the central bank raised the benchmark interest rate three times last year to a record 16 percent. While the industry's return on equity is growing, it is still less than half of the 32 percent earned in 2010, according to the central bank and Eaglestone.

The central bank's 2015 financial stability report showed almost half of the country's banks would fail a stress test of holding 10 percent capital reserves if their loan book was lowered by two notches out of the seven risk levels, according to a Jan. 13 report in Luanda-based Expansao newspaper. The risk adjustment would also cut the industry's 141.3 billion kwanzas (USD848 million) net profit that year to a loss of 413.7

billion kwanzas and reduce the solvency ratio to 11.7 percent from 19.8 percent, the newspaper said.

Three of the banks wouldn't meet liquidity requirements if clients withdrew half of their deposits, according to Expansao.

Lenders with liquidity or capital problems should consider combining with other banks, Banco BIC SA Chairman Fernando Teles told reporters in Luanda on Monday. BIC will continue lending to the government in 2017 because it is a "good payer," he said, adding that about half of the \$6.4 billion the company has extended in credit in Angola since starting operations there in 2006 has gone to the state.

"We don't have liquidity problems, otherwise we wouldn't renewing" our pledge of increasing loans, Teles said. BIC's bad-loan ratios are "not significant," and adequately covered by provisions, he said, without being more specific. **Bloomberg**

Samsung says batteries caused Note 7 fires, delays new phone

AP PHOTO



A Samsung Electronics' Galaxy Note 7 smartphone

Youkyung Lee, Seoul

SAMSUNG Electronics says flaws in the design and production of batteries used in its Galaxy Note 7 smartphone, not its hardware or software, made it prone to catch fire.

Samsung said yesterday that it was responsible for not ensuring the design specifications given to its suppliers were failsafe but believed its investigation into the problem would help the entire industry counter overheating risks with lithium batteries. Analysts questioned if the world's largest smartphone maker had really gotten to the bottom of the problem.

The South Korean company delayed the launch of its next Galaxy phone — the Galaxy S8, which usually would come in February. It also announced tighter quality controls and more rigorous tes-

ting to ensure safety.

During a two-hour press conference live streamed in English, Chinese and Korean, Samsung said tests of more than 200,000 phones and 30,000 batteries showed different problems with each of the two kinds of batteries used in the Note 7.

Some experts had speculated that the phones' ultra-thin design or water-resistant features could have made them prone to overheat. Koh Dong-jin, president of Samsung's mobile division, said the investigation found no such problems.

The Galaxy Note 7 featured one of the biggest battery capacities so far for smartphones at 3,500 mAh, or milliampere hour, which gave it the highest energy density of all Samsung's devices. However, Koh said Samsung and outside inspectors found no evidence that the high energy density alone

was to blame.

Samsung introduced the Note 7 on Aug. 2 and weeks later recalled the first batch after reports emerged that the phones were overheating and in some cases exploding. After replacement phones also started catching fire, aviation authorities banned them on flights and the company dropped the product for good. It has estimated the quality control fiasco will cost it \$5.3 billion through early this year.

The Note 7 isn't the only gadget to catch fire thanks to lithium battery problems, which have afflicted everything from laptops to Tesla cars to Boeing's 787 jetliner. Manufacturers like the batteries because they weigh less and pack much more energy into the same space than other types of batteries.

But rechargeable lithium batteries like those used in smartphones are more susceptible to overheating than other types of batteries if they are exposed to high temperatures, are damaged or have manufacturing flaws.

Having taken heat for failing to fix the problem after the first Note 7 recall in September, Samsung brought in three private inspectors to help. U.S. companies UL and Exponent examined batteries from Samsung's suppliers Samsung SDI and Amperex Technology Ltd., or ATL. The German company TÜV Rheinland analyzed the Note 7 supply chain as part of the investigation.

Inspectors found damage to the upper corners of batteries made by one manufacturer — likely Samsung SDI — and used in the initial batches of Note 7s.

That, combined with overly thin separators and high energy density, caused the phones to overheat,

Samsung said. The cell-pouch design of the battery also did not have enough space to safely accommodate its electrodes — another flaw.

In other batches of batteries from a second manufacturer, presumably China-based ATL, used in replacements for the recalled smartphones the researchers found welding defects and a lack of protective tape in some battery cells.

Rechargeable lithium batteries like those used in smartphones are more susceptible to overheating than other types of batteries

Patrick Moorhead, president of Moor Insights & Strategy, said the odds of two different suppliers having issues with the same phone are extremely low.

The case "may signal we may have reached an inflection point in smartphone battery technology," Moorhead said.

Samsung's latest findings were not that different from the ones announced after the first Note 7 recall, said Park Chul Wan, a former director of the next generation battery research center at the state-owned Korea Electronics Technology Institute.

"Samsung said the weaknesses could make the phone prone to catch fire. That I understand but what did trigger fires in such conditions? Did they discuss if there is another cause? No," said Park of the Korea Electronics Technology Institute.

Though Samsung faulted the batteries from its suppliers, it said it would bear all costs from the Galaxy Note 7 debacle.

"We are taking responsibility for our failure to ultimately identify and verify the issues arising out of battery design and manufacturing," it said in a statement.

It was unclear to what extent the battery makers were responsible for those problems since Samsung said only that it had provided "targets," such as how thin the batteries should be and what their capacity should be. That may suggest a breakdown both in communication between Samsung and its suppliers and in quality control and testing.

"We suggested that the Note 7 has innovations and a compact design and a 3500 mAh (battery) but we did not know how to make the separators within (the battery) or how many millimeters thick they should be," Koh told reporters.

He said Samsung would use what it learned from its investigations to improve lithium battery safety for the industry.

To avoid further problems, Samsung said it was introducing an 8-point battery safety check with more intense durability tests; a new test on accelerated usage and a charge and discharge test. The tighter safety measures will be implemented in "every element of the company's devices," it said, including overall design and materials used.

Samsung said it also will seek advice on battery safety and innovation from a group of battery experts.

The company has recalled 3.06 million Note 7 phones. About 4 percent, or 120,000 units, of the recalled Galaxy Note 7s have not been returned. **AP**

corporate bits

SANDS RESORTS PRESENTS 3D LIGHT SHOWS FOR CNY



Sands Resorts Macao welcomed the Year of the Rooster in an opening ceremony on Friday to usher in the New Year and launch the all new seasonal 3D Light and Sound Spectacular, 'Seasons of Prosperity' for Chinese New Year.

The light show will run every 30 minutes between 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., from now until February 14.

The 3D Light and Sound Spectacular, "Seasons of Prosperity," beams Chinese New Year images on the façade of The Venetian Macao, and is the resort hotel's annual celebration to welcome Chinese New Year in style for all the family.

Meanwhile, The Parisian Macao's Eiffel Tower will also feature a Chinese New Year Grand Illumination Show, which will take place every 15 minutes between 6:15 p.m. to midnight from now until February 14.

According to the gaming operator's press release, the show features Chinese New Year red-gold and pink-white themes and a "starshine" motif using over 6,600 RGB color mixing pixels.

CEM AWARDS WINNERS OF ENERGY SAVING CONTEST



CEM held the "Macau Energy Saving Contest 2016" award ceremony at the Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre yesterday.

The competition ran from May to October last year with two categories: the Public Building Facilities Group and the Hotel Group.

A total of 44 hotels and 484 build-

ings participated in the contest.

The number of participants hit a new high in 2016 and saved up to 38 million kWh of electricity, according to a statement issued by the electrical company.

The Hotel Group was divided into A, B and C Group, saving a total of 18 million kWh of electricity during the contest.

MACAO WATER CO-HOSTS 2017 ANNUAL DINNER

The Macao Water Supply Company Limited and the Sino French Water Development Co. Ltd. co-hosted their "2017 Annual Dinner" last week at the Grand Ballroom of the JW Marriott Hotel Macau.

The 40-table banquet was attended by more than 400 guests representing the government, business and industry sectors, public utilities and community associations, as well as the staff members of Macao Water and Sino French Water.

Macao Water said in a press release that it has received numerous international recognitions. Special mention was made of its Geographical Information System (GIS) being awarded by the Environmental Systems Research



ch Institute.

Last year, the water company's "Enterprise Asset Management System" was awarded 2nd Runner-Up of the Innovation Awards for Franco-Chinese Teams by the Comité France Chine.

The company said it would strive to commence the Coloane Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant project by mid-2017.



VPNs

China cracks down on tools used to get around web filters

Gerry Shih, Beijing

CHINA is beefing up a campaign to root out services that circumvent the government's internet censorship with a 14-month-long "clean-up" of the internet industry.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said in a directive that it forbids the operation of virtual private networks (VPNs) or leased lines that allow users and businesses to access blocked overseas websites without government permission.

Between now and March 2018, authorities will enforce the regulations with inspections of cloud-hosting and content-delivery services, an industry that has shown signs of "disorderly development," the ministry said.

The new enforcement measures are the latest steps in the Chinese government's efforts to cement its grip over the domestic internet and closely control what information may be accessed by the country's 731 million internet users.

President Xi Jinping's administration has championed a vision of "internet sovereignty" in which governments have the right to wall off their nation's cyberspace from unwanted elements as if it were physical territory.

The censors' reach has extended beyond websites.

Earlier this month, China's top internet regulator said it would begin regulating mobile app store offerings after it found apps that disseminated information it considered illegal or a danger to social stability. The announcement came weeks after Apple removed apps by The New York Times from its app store in China in response to a government request.

■ The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said in a directive that it forbids the operation of VPNs or leased lines

To get around the government's filters, numerous foreign and domestic companies in China use VPNs to conduct business, and private citizens often use the technology to access banned foreign websites such as Google, Facebook and overseas news outlets.

In response, China has blocked access to VPNs and regularly disrupts their channels.

Wu Xiaodong, director of the China Digital Information and Security Industrial Alliance, said VPN services have previously been targeted by Chinese regulators but never with this degree of clarity.

Under the new directive, all internet service providers, data centers and content distribution networks must be licensed with the government. They must also conduct "self-inspections" for any unlawful activity taking place on their servers, which would include those discreetly providing VPN services.

A co-founder of U.S.-supported anti-censorship group Greatfire.org who goes by the pseudonym Charlie Smith said it was unclear whether the internet services industry would comply with government orders to fully snuff out VPNs.

"They will push back, quietly ... if they deem the cost of running these checks to be too high," said Smith, whose group helps internet users inside China bypass blockages on censored content. "Even the authorities recognize that there are legitimate needs for VPNs and other circumvention services." AP

Trump set for 'antagonistic' China relations, Citigroup says

DONALD Trump's administration may be on course for a fraught relationship with China amid disputes over trade policy, according to Citigroup Inc., which warned the new U.S. government could introduce more protectionist measures against manufactured goods from Asia's top economy.

"There are growing signs that the Trump administration is heading for antagonistic relations with China," the bank said in a report that examined how commodities including metals and farm goods may fare in the upcoming lunar year. While the bank stuck with its view that a trade war could be avoided, it did anticipate "increasing trade frictions" between the two.

Trump made trade relations a central theme of his election campaign, maintaining that the U.S. was getting a raw deal from agreements ranging from Nafta to the putative Trans-Pacific Partnership. The new president hammered on an "America First" message in his inauguration speech, and his administration immediately vowed to withdraw from the Pacific deal.

"We are more likely to see the U.S. aggressively targeting China in sectors where the U.S. runs a large deficit with China or with significant SOE presence," Citigroup said, using initials for state-owned enterprises. China has options to react, including bringing cases to the World Trade Organization, using countervailing measures and possibly banning exports of strategically important commodities such as rare earths, it said.

Trump has nominated billionaire investor Wilbur Ross for commerce secretary. In testimony on Wednesday in Washington before the Senate Commerce Committee, Ross called China the most protectionist of the world's major economies and vowed to level the playing field with the Chinese on trade, especially in reducing overcapacity in its steel industry.

Trump has pledged to use "every lawful presidential power to remedy trade disputes" with China, including tariffs. He once broached a tax of 45 percent on Chinese imports, then denied bringing it up. Still, the president has already walked back from some criticisms and so far hasn't followed up on a pledge to label China a currency manipulator on his



■ We are more likely to see the US aggressively targeting China in sectors where the US runs a large deficit with China.

CITIGROUP

first day in office.

There have been mixed signals from China's media. After the inauguration, the Global Times, a Chinese newspaper run by the Communist Party, said the speech signaled a "high possibility" of trade frictions. Still, the official Xinhua News Agency congratulated Trump on his inauguration and said it hoped for "win-win" cooperation between the two nations, and an editorial run by state-backed newspaper China Daily took a similar tone.

Not everyone foresees a full-blown trade confrontation. Australia's Finance Minister Mathias Cormann has said he doesn't expect an all-out trade war between the U.S. and China. Trump's focus on making the U.S. economy strong is "going to be good for the world," he told Bloomberg. **Bloomberg**



AP PHOTO

Beijing swings back at golf, shutting down 111 courses

Nomaan Merchant, Beijing

CHINA has launched a renewed crackdown on golf, closing 111 courses in an effort to conserve water and land, and telling members of the ruling Communist Party to stay off the links.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency said the courses were closed for improperly using groundwater, arable land or protected land within nature reserves. It said authorities have imposed restrictions on 65 more courses.

China banned the development of new golf courses in 2004, when it had fewer than 200. Since that time, the number of courses has more than tripled.

Developers build courses under the guise of parks or other projects, often with the tacit approval of local officials. In one example chronicled by state media, an illegal golf course boasting 58 villas was originally built as a "public sports park," only to be secretly converted later. Many of China's cities, meanwhile, face severe land shortages and skyrocketing real

estate prices.

Golf has also come under scrutiny by way of the sweeping anti-corruption campaign launched under Chinese President Xi Jinping. The ruling Communist Party warned its 88 million members in 2015 not to play golf, likening it to "extravagant eating and drinking" and other bad habits that were at odds with the party's stated principles. An editorial in the China Daily newspaper the following spring clarified that party cadres were not to take free memberships or rounds.

China has veered over the years

between rejecting and supporting golf. Amid a spirit of austerity and attacks on the country's former elites, Mao Zedong banned golf after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. One Shanghai golf course was turned into the city zoo.

Golf began to take off in the 1980s under Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader who instituted sweeping economic reforms and courted foreign investment. By the 1990s, a course designed by Jack Nicklaus opened at Mission Hills in the southern Chinese city of

Shenzhen. Mission Hills now has 12 courses and is the largest golf resort in the world.

As in football and basketball, the government has invested in developing homegrown golf talent by importing coaches and promoting the sport. Australian golfer Greg Norman served for a time as an adviser to China's national team. And there are as many as 10,000 youth golfers and more than 300 international-standard competitions each year, said Wang Liwei, secretary-general of the China Golf Association.

According to Xinhua, every one of China's 33 provinces and regions has a golf course except for Tibet. Even mountainous, remote Xinjiang, home to most of Chi-

■ According to Xinhua, every one of China's 33 provinces and regions has a golf course except for Tibet

nese's ethnic Uighur minority, has golf courses in the capital of Urumqi and two other cities.

Josh Summers, an American who has lived in Xinjiang for a decade and runs the website Far West China, said he had never met anyone in the region who had played a round of golf.

But, he said, "the elite perception of the sport ensures that, at least for now, the courses and random driving ranges still remain." AP

A star Chinese stock trader who was arrested after a market collapse in 2015 was sentenced yesterday to 5½ years in prison on charges of manipulating prices and insider trading.

Xu Xiang was one of a series of brokers and others in the securities industry who were detained after share prices plunged. That prompted suggestions the ruling Communist Party was trying to deflect blame for the rout that wiped out some USD5 trillion in stock value.

Xu and two co-defendants were sentenced by a court in the eastern city of Qingdao after pleading guilty at the start of their trial in December. A court statement at that time indicated the charges were based on activity that began before the 2015 market boom.

Co-defendant Wang Wei was sentenced to three years and Zhu Yong received a two-year term with a three-year reprieve. The

COURTS

Star Chinese stock trader jailed for manipulating prices



Xu Xiang

court said on its microblog account the three also were fined but gave no amounts.

The three were accused of conspiring with executives of 13 companies from 2010 to 2015 to in-

flate share prices through large purchases and favorable public statements, the court said. It said the executives' cases were being handled separately.

They faced a maximum of up to 10 years in prison. Xu's sentence of five years was unusually light by the standards of a Chinese system in which some defendants have been sentenced to death for financial offenses.

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

Zexi's value increased 218 percent during the first three quarters of

2015, far ahead of the second-place competitor, which rose 94 percent, according to Caixin, a business magazine.

The Qingdao court said yesterday that the defendants "severely undermined" the stock market's healthy functioning.

Earlier news reports said Xu and his co-conspirators were accused of making several billion yuan (several hundred million dollars) in profit.

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

Prices hit a peak on June 12, 2015, and collapsed

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

The downturn triggered complaints that politically favored insiders profited at the expense of small investors.

Xu was detained in November 2015 and formally arrested in April 2016.

Also in April, the official Xinhua News Agency said the general manager of China's biggest brokerage, state-owned Citic Securities Ltd., and two other executives were arrested on insider trading charges. No developments have been reported.

Two other brokerages announced at that time they also were under investigation, but no arrests were reported. A reporter for a business magazine also was detained. AP

Dake Kang, Bangkok

THAILAND

Spiritual leader of southern insurgents dies in exile

MORE than a decade ago, Sapae-ing Basor was one of Thailand's most wanted, his face plastered on posters around the south offering 10 million baht, more than USD250,000, for his capture.

But when the spiritual leader of many Muslims in insurgency-torn southern Thailand died at 81 in self-imposed exile in Malaysia Jan. 10, it wasn't just thousands of his followers mourning in mosques that noted his passing.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha expressed his condolences. So did Thawee Sod-song, the officer who signed Sapae-ing's arrest warrant, meeting relatives in Pattani, the insurgency's epicenter.

The government's careful treading indicates how large Sapae-ing loomed in the imagination of southern Thailand, where a grinding insurgency has killed some 7,000 people since 2004. Several separatist groups are active in the three provinces closest to the Malaysian border, and Sapae-ing was associated with the most powerful, the Barisan Revolusi Nasional or BRN.

Malay Muslims who make up the majority in of the three provinces have resented what they see as an imposition of Buddhist culture for decades. After a nationalist military junta seized power in 1932, Thailand passed the "National Culture Act" to press a uniform culture on the country. Lessons taught in local Jawi script were switched to Thai, and Muslim courts were replaced by civil



Sapae-ing Basor, the spiritual leader of many Muslims in southern Thailand, died this month in Malaysia

courts, sparking resistance.

Sapae-ing was educated in local Islamic schools before departing for Mecca, Saudi Arabia, to study Islamic law in 1964. After his return, he swiftly established himself as a charismatic theologian with a potent authority. He became headmaster at Thamma Witthaya, a prominent Islamic school.

He "was not only leader of his family, but was also the leader of a family of tens of thousands," the school said in

a statement. "He was not just headmaster of the school, but the headmaster of society in general."

Over the 1960s and 70s, the rebellion was sporadic and fractured among dozens of separatist groups. Violence waned in the 1990s, as Thailand allowed limited cultural rights.

In the early 2000s, attacks escalated dramatically, led by the BRN. Sapae-ing was senior in the BRN but his official role in the organization is unclear.

Don Pathan, a southern Thai-

land security analyst, said that although there was little proof Sapae-ing was involved organizing day-to-day fighting, he served as a "one-man religious police."

"It was enough to build a new generation of separatists," Don said.

Sapae-ing urged southerners to hold fast to their Malay Muslim identity and values while decrying the Thai government as a corrupting influence.

"He would go around the pubs and bars and look for his students, and if he'd see them he'd beat them," Don said. "They look at the rest of the country and see that 'This isn't what we want for our kids.'"

Then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra launched a bloody crackdown on separatists in 2004. Lawyers disappeared. Imams were shot. An army roundup on a single October day left 85 protesters dead; seven were shot to death and the rest suffocated in overcrowded trucks taking them away to be detained.

Police suspected Thamma Witthaya to be a "hotbed of recruitment for the militants." Accusing Sapae-ing of spearheading the insurgency, police issued a warrant for his arrest, and he fled to Malaysia

in 2004.

Don said that although Sapae-ing said little publicly after leaving Thailand, he remained an influential figure in the south.

"He has moral authority, but he's not a politician," Don said. "He's like a pope without a church."

After a decade of violence, the Thai government reached out to Sapae-ing. Jaded, he balked but eventually sent representatives calling for greater autonomy instead of outright independence, a reconciliatory step that took insurgents by surprise. But he refused to meet Thai officials and talks went nowhere.

Sapae-ing died after suffering from stomach illnesses and complications from diabetes, said Srisompob Jitpiromsri, director of the independent monitoring group Deep South Watch, who has been in touch with Sapae-ing's relatives.

His death comes as new rounds of peace talks are underway. But the BRN has opted out and few think things will change.

"For now, they do not trust the military government," Srisompob said. "It depends on the progress of the peace dialogues. Just wait and see. AP

JAPAN

Panel's report to support letting Emperor Akihito abdicate



Emperor Akihito reading a statement to formally open the ordinary Diet session at the upper house of parliament in Tokyo, last week

A government panel studying a possible abdication of Japanese Emperor Akihito is to release a report that supports enacting special legislation that would apply to him but not to future monarchs.

The panel is looking at how to accommodate Akihito's apparent abdication wish, which he expressed last August when he cited concerns that his age and health may start limiting his ability to fulfill his duties. Akihito turned 83 last month.

The report will pave the way for a parliamentary discussion. Its primary positions were disclosed in media reports during

the day, but the emperor's title, role and other details of his post-abdication life would be addressed later.

The six-member panel, after interviewing constitutional and monarchy experts, agreed that allowing an abdication was the most appropriate way to meet Akihito's request, but that setting a permanent system covering all future emperors would be difficult.

If legislation is enacted, Emperor Akihito would be the first to abdicate since Emperor Kokaku 200 years ago.

Panel members have said they planned to include various opinions. Some experts have said

the Imperial House Law, the supreme law overseeing Japan's monarchy, needs to be revised.

The current law, established in 1947, is largely inherited from a 19th century constitution that banned abdication as a risk to stability. But the experts said there was no such risk in today's political system.

Throughout much of its history, Japan's monarchy served more of a ceremonial and religious function than a governing one. But late 19th century modernizers elevated the throne to use as a rallying point for the nation.

Akihito's father was worshipped as a living god during Japan's wartime aggression in Asia before renouncing his divinity and become redefined as a symbolic figure under the postwar constitution. Akihito devoted himself to being a symbolic figure, whi-

le trying to soothe the wounds from his father's era.

Many Japanese ultra-conservatives want greater status for the emperor and oppose abdication as a potential risk to a stable monarchy.

The government panel in its report avoids some of the most heated issues, such as whether females should be allowed in the current male-only succession and concerns about a shortage of successors to the Chrysanthemum throne. Akihito has two sons but only one of his four grandchildren is male.

Some experts say Akihito's possible abdication is a wakeup call to the larger issues of aging and a shortage of successors in Japan's 2,000-year-old monarchy — issues that reflect overall concerns about the country's aging society and declining population. AP

Turkish president targets cleric's schools on Africa visit

Christopher Torchia, Johannesburg

TURKEY has courted Africa for more than a decade, boosting trade, opening more than two dozen new embassies and Turkish Airlines routes and dispatching aid to conflict-torn Somalia. More recently, the Turkish government lobbied African nations to close or take over local schools linked to Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, accused by Turkey of masterminding a failed coup attempt last year.

So while Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan travels with a big business delegation to Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar this week, he is also focusing on what he calls a security threat. Turkey accuses international schools inspired by Gulen of providing militant recruits for his movement, which in turn says an increasingly authoritarian government is casting as wide a net as possible for perceived opponents.

"It is only expected that they are trying to fight the battle in Africa with the Gulenists," said Ahmet Kasim Han, an associate professor of international relations at Kadir Has University in Istanbul.

"There is also the understanding that the existing Gulenist networks in the West are harder to take on because of Turkey's capability limitations in the West, especially when it comes to influence and imagery problems," Han said.

Turkey, a NATO member repairing frayed ties with Russia, has



Turkey accuses international schools inspired by Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen (above) of providing militant recruits for his movement

a sometimes testy relationship with old allies in the West over Turkey's human rights record and other matters. The overtures to Africa are partly an effort to build Turkey's international profile as a partner and counter to global powers on a continent with a bitter history of Western colonialism and Cold War-era conflict.

Turkey's involvement in Africa feeds into the Turkish ruling party's "self-perception as the protector of Muslims and Muslim minorities around the world," said Sener Akturk, associate professor in the international relations department at Koc University in

Istanbul.

And winning African support dovetails with Erdogan's argument that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia — "do not represent and do not serve the world" and the U.N. should be reformed, Akturk said.

Shortly before leaving for Tanzania yesterday, Erdogan said he planned to talk to African leaders about the "intense activities" of the Gulen movement on the continent.

"Sensitivities toward this organization and its intentions are increasing within friendly African

countries," said Erdogan, who ends his trip on Thursday [Macau time]. "There is no longer the possibility for these bands of murderers to hide, claiming dialogue, service, education and trade."

On Jan. 9, Erdogan said Gulen's organization previously had schools in 115 countries, and that Gambia was among six nations that had shut them. Schools in the African countries of Guinea, Somalia, Chad, Senegal, Mauritania, Niger and Gabon have been transferred to Turkish government control, he said.

The overtures to Africa are partly an effort to build Turkey's international profile as a partner and counter to global powers

The schools follow national curricula, serve children through high school and are popular with local elites because of good academic results. They deny any link to the botched military uprising in Turkey in July that led to a purge of alleged loyalists of Gulen, a U.S.-based critic of Erdogan who

had expanded his international influence with a message of inter-faith harmony.

The schools once had the approval of Erdogan's government, whose former alliance with Gulen partly derived from joint opposition to the hard-line secular circles that had ruled Turkey. The partnership evolved into an increasingly acrimonious rivalry several years ago.

In Ethiopia, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said this month that schools linked to Gulen will be transferred to Turkish government control. He said he discussed the matter with Erdogan during a visit by the Turkish president.

"I told him that if there is something wrong with the establishment of the schools, then he should give us a way out how to keep the schools running," the prime minister said. "They agreed on this and they have set up a foundation."

In Tanzania, 11 schools in the Feza system inspired by Gulen have a total of 3,000 students, just over half of them Muslim.

Turkish diplomats have tried to "convince government officials to give these schools as a gift to Erdogan during his visit," Feza director Ibrahim Yunus said in an email to The Associated Press. He dismissed the allegation that the schools are a security threat.

Some parents asked the Feza system to start a university, and the Tanzanian government allocated land 60 kilometers (37 miles) north of Dar es Salaam for the institution, according to Yunus.

Turkey's crackdown on suspected supporters of Gulen has undermined the plan.

"Unfortunately, because of the purge on businesspeople in Turkey, we are having difficulty in finding donors for that project," Yunus said.



GAMBIA

Ex-leader made off with millions; president-elect to return 'ASAP'

Ahmad Fatty told journalists that the president "will return home as soon as possible."

Underscoring the challenges facing the new administration, Fatty confirmed that Jammeh made off with more than USD11.4 million during a two-week period alone. That is only what they have discovered so far since Jammeh and his family took an offer of exile after more than 22 years in power and departed late Saturday.

"The Gambia is in financial distress. The coffers

are virtually empty. That is a state of fact," Fatty said. "It has been confirmed by technicians in the ministry of finance and the Central Bank of the Gambia."

Fatty also confirmed that a Chadian cargo plane had transported luxury goods out of the country on Jammeh's behalf in his final hours in power, including an unknown number of vehicles.

Fatty said officials at the Gambia airport have been ordered not to allow any of Jammeh's belongings to leave. Separately, it appeared

that some of his goods remained in Guinea, where Jammeh and his closest allies stopped on their flight into exile.

Fatty said officials "regret the situation," but it appeared that the major damage had been done, leaving the new government with little recourse to recoup the funds.

The unpredictable Jammeh, known for startling declarations like his claim that bananas and herbal rubs could cure AIDS, went into exile under mounting international pressure, with

a wave to supporters as soldiers wept. He is now in Equatorial Guinea, home to Africa's longest-serving ruler and not a state party to the International Criminal Court.

Jammeh's dramatic about-face on his December election loss to Barrow, at first conceding and then challenging the vote, appeared to be the final straw for the international community, which had been alarmed by his moves in recent years to declare an Islamic republic and leave the Commonwealth and the ICC. **AP**

EXILED Gambian ruler Yahya Jammeh stole millions of dollars in his final weeks in power, plundering the state coffers and shipping out luxury vehicles by cargo plane, a special adviser for the new president said yesterday.

Meanwhile, a regional military force rolled in, greeted by cheers, to secure this

tiny West African nation so that democratically elected President Adama Barrow could return home. He remained in neighboring Senegal, where he took the oath of office Thursday because of concerns for his safety.

At a press conference in the Senegalese capital, Barrow's special adviser Mai



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Trump Towers, center, are pictured in Istanbul

Trump properties face global terror risk

BUSINESSES around the world bearing U.S. President Donald Trump's name face an increased risk now that he is in the White House, security experts warn, especially as several are in areas previously targeted by violence.

As Trump remains a brand overseas, criminal gangs or militants could target buildings bearing his name in gold, abduct workers associated with his enterprises for ransom or worse, they say.

"They may kidnap a Trump worker and not even want to negotiate," aiming for publicity instead, said Colin P. Clarke, a political scientist with the RAND Corporation who studies terrorism and international criminal networks.

Predicting an attack keeps police, intelligence agencies and security experts awake at night around the world — and, by its very nature, it remains speculative.

U.S. brands have been targeted in overseas violence before, but they never belonged to a president. That's the difference.

Asked about security issues, the Trump Organization said in a statement it has "extensive protocols in place at our Trump-owned and -managed properties" in the United States and abroad.

"Our team continues to work very closely with local law enforcement," the statement said. "We are also working in tandem with the local developers at Trump-branded properties worldwide to ensure that all residents, guests and associates remain safe and secure." The organization did not elaborate.

While Trump has said he will put his business assets in a trust and hand over management control of his company to his two adult sons and a longtime Trump Organization executive, it's still his name on the projects.

That hasn't worried Kim Ok Kyu, who lives in a Trump-branded apartment tower in Seoul, South Korea. She said security at her building is quite

good, with many guards and strict restrictions on outsiders entering the building

"Terror? I don't think about it. I just hope my home prices go up," Kim said.

But other properties are in areas that have seen violence, like Trump Towers Istanbul, the Turkish city hit hard by a string of bomb and gun attacks carried out by the Islamic State group. Flags and banners around the site bear the president's name, while private security guards man X-ray machines and metal detectors at its entrances, a standard practice in the city.

In Bali, where bombs planted by the Islamic extremist group Jemaah Islamiyah targeting bar-goers killed 202 people in 2002, Trump's organization has licensed the president's name to a planned luxury resort. Bali police spokesman Hengky Widjaja said no one had requested extra security for the property.

A Trump-named residential tower is under construction in the Indian city of Mumbai, which was hit by a 2008 terror attack blamed on the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba that killed 166 people. Mumbai police spokesman Ashok Dudhe said he had no knowledge of any additional security around the tower.

Another tower is being built in Manila in the Philippines, a nation where Abu Sayyaf militants conduct frequent kidnappings for ransom and where President Rodrigo Duterte wages a brutal crackdown on drug dealers. Philippine police say they haven't monitored any specific threat toward Trump properties, though a tower rising in Manila sits in an area under an intensified security watch after Duterte declared a "state of lawlessness" following a September bombing.

Even Trump's soon-to-open golf course in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates could be a target, despite the fact the Gulf Arab nation has largely escaped the violence gripping its Mideast neighbors. **AP**

澳門 百鳥朝凰 報春曉

Parade for Celebration of the Year of the Rooster

正月 初三 30/01 20:00~22:00

Route

- Centro de Ciência de Macau
- Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen
- Praça do Lago Sai Van

正月 初八 04/02 20:00~21:30

Route

- Rua Norte do Patane
- Av. do Conselheiro Borja
- Estrada do Arco
- Estrada da Areia Preta
- Av. de Venceslau de Moraes
- Jardim do Mercado Municipal de Iao Hon
- Rua do Mercado de Iao Hon
- Av. da Longevidade
- Rua Quatro do Bairro da Areia Preta

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* Please be aware of the traffic arrangement for the parade.
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what's ON



CHINESE NEW YEAR'S EVE FLOWER MARKET
9am-midnight (January 20-26, 2017)
9am-2am (next day, January 27)
VENUE: Tap Siac Square (Flower, snacks and traditional New Year gifts stall)
9am-10pm (January 20-26, 2017)
9am-midnight (January 27)
VENUE: Iao Hon Market Park (Flower stall)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 7676

MACAU STORYBOARD - A REMINISCENT COLLECTION BY DIXON LEI
TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: January 30, 2017
VENUE: Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2893 3339

BROADCASTER LEONG SONG FONG - 33 YEARS IN RADIO
TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: February 5, 2107
VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy, Av. do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, no. 95 C-D
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

LEONG WAN SI ART EXHIBITION
TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: February 2, 2017
VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, no.10
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

DESTINY IS A MATTER OF CHOICE FOR YOURSELF' LEONG WAN SIN EXHIBITION
TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
UNTIL: February 2, 2017
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: 10 Fantasia, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lazaro
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

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

Offbeat

HOW LOW? 'LIMBO QUEEN' SLIPS UNDER AIRPORT BENCH ON LAYOVER

A record-setting limbo dancer gave Philadelphia airport passengers some free entertainment this week when she scooted under a bench at a terminal. Shemika Charles, who goes by "The Limbo Queen," had a layover in Philadelphia on her way to a scheduled performance at a basketball game in Wisconsin. She says on Twitter she "had to get loose" and decided to have a little fun. She posted video of herself successfully dancing through the tiny opening between the bottom of the bench and the floor. Charles set the current Guinness World Record mark for lowest limbo by a female when she passed under a bar just 8.5 inches off the ground in 2010.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
15:30	Nos League: Porto - Rio Ave (Repeated)
17:10	Happy Endings Sr.2
17:50	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Once Upon A Time S2
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

23 -2 JAN

ARRIVAL

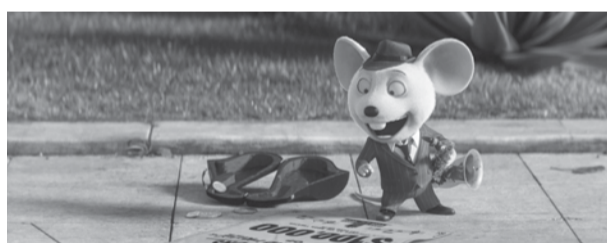
ROOM 1
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
Director: Denis Villeneuve
Starring: Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker
Language: English
Duration: 116min

A STREET CAT NAMED BOB

ROOM 2
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Roger Spottiswoode
Starring: Luke Treadaway, Joanne Froggatt, Ruta Gedmintas
Language: English
Duration: 103min

10000 MILES

ROOM 3
2:30, 9:30pm
Director: Simon Hung
Starring: Yuan Huang, Megan Lai, Darren Wang
Language: Mandarin (Cantonese, English)
Duration: 103min



SING

ROOM 3
4:30, 7:30pm
Director: Garth Jennings
Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane
Language: Cantonese (English)
Duration: 108min

MACAU TOWER

19 JAN - 27 JAN



ARRIVAL

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
Director: Denis Villeneuve
Starring: Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker
Language: English
Duration: 116min

this day in history



1965 WINSTON CHURCHILL DIES

Sir Winston Churchill has died at the age of 90 with his wife Lady Clementine Churchill and other members of the family at his bedside.

He suffered a stroke 15 days ago and gradually slipped into a deep sleep from which he never awakened. Sir Winston died in his London home at Hyde Park Gate.

Earlier in his illness, there had been crowds anxiously waiting for news at the top of the quiet Kensington cul-de-sac - but when the announcement finally came there was only a handful of journalists in the street.

News of his death was announced on the BBC shortly after 0800 GMT. Within half-an-hour, crowds began to gather near his home to pay homage to Britain's greatest wartime leader.

When Sir Winston fell ill, he was visited by one of the country's leading neurologists, Lord Brain, who advised on his treatment.

Since then, regular medical bulletins have been issued by Sir Winston's own doctor, Lord Moran.

Sir Winston has spent the past few days lying in the downstairs room he converted to a bedroom after a fall four years ago in which he injured his back.

Members of the family were summoned to his bedside at 0700 GMT. Lady Churchill and the couple's eldest surviving daughter, Mary Soames, have been with him throughout his illness.

Their son, Randolph Churchill was seen arriving with his son, Winston. Soon after, Sir Winston's actress daughter, Lady Sarah Audley, looking pale and drawn, arrived with her daughter, Celia Sandys.

Many television and radio programmes have been cancelled or re-scheduled to make way for tributes to Sir Winston.

Sir Winston will lie in state in Westminster Hall - an honour not accorded any English statesman since Gladstone in 1898. His body will remain there for three days, before the funeral at St Paul's cathedral on Saturday.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Sir Winston Churchill was laid to rest in the Oxfordshire parish churchyard of Bladon, with only family members present at the private burial.

The church lies just outside the Blenheim estate, where he was born. During the three days lying-in-state, a total of 321,360 people filed past the catafalque. Huge silent crowds lined the route to St Paul's for the funeral.

His political career began as a Conservative MP for Oldham in 1900 - but he became disaffected and joined the Liberals in 1906.

He was First Lord of the Admiralty during World War I - but shortly afterwards switched sides again, to rejoin the Conservatives in 1924. Much to his own surprise, he was made Chancellor of the Exchequer in Stanley Baldwin's government. He came into his own during World War II. He became prime minister in May 1940. His ceaseless energy, unflinching determination to beat the enemy and an ability to make great speeches, inspired the entire nation and eventually helped win the war.

He lost power in 1945 after a general election brought Labour to government - but returned for a final stint as prime minister at the age of 77 in 1951. Failing health forced him to step down in 1955, but he continued as a backbencher until 1964.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Your focus for the next few days will be on one thing, and one thing only: making sure your dear ones feel warm, wonderful and, above all else, well-loved. And you'll be extremely well equipped for the job.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You haven't committed all your free time to one particular person - because more interesting, exciting and exotic admirers are en route, one of whom might disrupt the routine of your day in a wonderful way.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
For better or worse, someone has captured your attention, totally and completely. You can't remember the last time you felt this way. And there's a good reason for that: You probably haven't ever felt this way.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Who loves entertaining more than you do? Right, no one. And who loves coming to your place? Everyone! So don't be surprised if the urge to open up your home for dinner, drinks and some light-hearted socializing comes along.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Be careful who you flirt with today, because it will be all too easy to capture someone's heart without even trying. Does that mean you can't talk to anyone at all? Well of course not.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Thinking of doing something different with your hair, your body or your wardrobe? Good for you. Change is good for the soul and refreshing to the spirit. Just don't get too carried away.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Finally you're ready to come out of your cocoon. And not a moment too soon, in the opinion of your sweetheart and your friends, all of whom have probably been pouting since you decided to hide out a few days ago.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
It's easy for you to become rather focused on - okay, even obsessed with - a tiny thing. So if you're worried about something and you don't see any end in sight, talk to someone about it.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Who's jealous? You? You might be. If you feel guilty about working so much and taking time away from your loved ones, the attention that someone else shows them could be enough to stretch even the most open-minded.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Someone is working hard from behind the scenes to cause a problem between you and a person you love. So if you've had that feeling lately and you thought you were losing your mind, you can rest assured that you're not.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You've been thinking about this for days. Are you going to stay and try to work this out, or let go of the whole thing and start over? You've laid out all the pros and cons in your mind and you're still just not sure.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Intimacy isn't something that comes easily to you. At least not now that you've had time to tuck a couple of years under your belt and learn how fickle some people can be.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-8	4	clear/cloudy
Harbin	-26	-11	clear
Tianjin	-5	3	clear
Urumqi	-14	-4	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	2	6	overcast
Lhasa	-7	11	clear
Chengdu	6	13	drizzle/cloudy
Chongqing	9	12	overcast
Kunming	4	18	cloudy
Nanjing	-1	9	clear/cloudy
Shanghai	1	9	clear/cloudy
Wuhan	1	11	cloudy
Hangzhou	0	9	clear/cloudy
Taipei	11	17	drizzle
Guangzhou	12	19	overcast
Hong Kong	16	18	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-7	-1	flurry
Frankfurt	3	-1	flurry
Paris	1	6	drizzle
London	-2	4	overcast/drizzle
New York	6	8	drizzle/shower

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Belle or Bart; 6- Gen. Robt. ___; 10- Out of the wind; 14- Golfer Palmer, to his army; 15- Cordelia's father; 16- Male swine; 17- Radioactive gas; 18- "Jurassic Park" actress; 19- Knowledge; 20- Spring mo.; 21- Australia's ___ Rock; 23- Leaves port; 24- Late bloomer?; 26- Fills to the gills; 27- Dated; 29- Icon; 31- Mother of Hermes; 32- Yoga posture; 33- Sephia maker; 36- In spite of; 40- British verb ending; 41- Article of bedding; 42- Diamond family name; 43- Me too; 44- Crownlike object; 46- World-weariness; 48- Tribal symbol; 49- Sandy bathing beach; 50- Foremost part; 52- Guido's high note; 55- Behind schedule; 56- Change direction; 57- Devoured; 59- List finish; 60- Shipped off; 61- Pee Wee of the Dodgers; 62- Boxer Oscar ___ Hoya; 63- Keats creations; 64- Metal fastener;

DOWN: 1- Franklin D.'s mother; 2- Mouse catcher; 3- Calcium-iron garnet; 4- Carnival site; 5- Soprano Scottio; 6- Born before, senior churchman; 7- Sly look; 8- "à la countrymen, lend me your ___"; 9- Sea eagle; 10- Remove by melting; 11- Sarge's superior; 12- Viscount's superiors; 13- "___ Tu" (70s hit); 22- Are we there ___?; 23- Astronomer Carl; 25- "Saint Joan" playwright; 26- Yemen's capital; 27- Prefix with present; 28- Asian country; 29- Japanese immigrant; 30- Damon of "Good Will Hunting"; 32- Excuse me; 33- 0.621 miles; 34- Party to; 35- Juan's water; 37- Magazine copy; 38- Asian cuisine; 39- Be bold; 43- Bassett or Lansbury; 44- Jailbird; 45- Fury swimmers; 46- Tickle pink; 47- Birth-related; 48- Legal wrongs; 49- Answered a charge; 50- Give eats; 51- Actor Auberjonois; 53- ___ majesty; 54- Again; 56- Brandy letters; 58- Former nuclear agcy.;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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<p>Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau 2 Bedroom Apartment Unique in Design HKD 23,000 / 2,000 sq ft Ref: 16120629</p>	<p>Kingsville, Taipa (1 Unit) Taipa 3 Bedroom Apartment Recently Redecorated HKD 16,800 / 1,200 sq ft Ref: 17010631</p>	<p>Manhattan - B unit Taipa 3 Bedroom Apartment Spacious and Furnished HKD 22,000 / 1,680 sq ft Ref: 16120630</p>	<p>Hellene Gardens, Lot 4, D Unit, Coloane 3 Bedroom Apartment Car Park Included HKD 12,800 / 1,663 sq ft Ref: 16100623</p>



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

FOOTBALL | EPL ROUNDUP

Costa returns to Chelsea side, scores on 100th appearance

Rob Harris, London

STILL to clear up the ambiguity over last weekend's absence from the Chelsea team, Diego Costa did his talking on the pitch yesterday.

Costa marked his return to the side for his 100th Chelsea appearance by scoring the opener in a 2-0 victory over Hull that sent the Premier League leaders eight points clear.

After netting his 52nd Chelsea goal from close range at the end of the first half, the league's joint-top scorer alluded to all the speculation surrounding his Chelsea future by performing a chatter gesture with his hands while celebrating.

Publicly, Chelsea said Costa missed last Saturday's game at Leicester due to a back injury. What manager Antonio Conte did not dispute was that the striker was dropped over a dispute with the coaching staff amid suggestions of a big-money offer from China.

"It's important Diego played a good game," Conte said. "I hope with this game to finish the speculation about him, about Chelsea, about me and him. We showed we are a team with great unity."

Costa's 15th goal of the campaign came in the seventh minute of stoppage time, the result of a lengthy delay after a clash of heads between Chelsea captain Gary Cahill



AP PHOTO
Chelsea's Diego Costa, left, and Hull City's Curtis Davies challenge for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Hull City

and Ryan Mason which led to the Hull midfielder being carried off on a stretcher as oxygen was administered before being taken to the hospital.

Cahill was able to remain on the field and he headed in Chelsea's second in the 81st minute after getting on the end of a free kick from Cesc Fabregas.

While Hull is next from bottom in the standings after a ninth strai-

ght away loss, Chelsea opened up an eight-point advantage over Arsenal.

ARSENAL 2, BURNLEY 1

It was a fiery end to a game that witnessed two penalties in stoppage time and Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger appearing to push the fourth official.

Arsenal went into additional time leading through Shkodran

Mustafi's header but with 10 men after Granit Xhaka was sent off for a two-footed lunge on Steven De- four in the 66th minute.

"He has to control his game and not punish the team with a lack of control in his tackling," Wenger said of Xhaka, who has been sent off twice this season for Arsenal.

Wenger's heated confrontation with the fourth official came as he tried to watch the rest of the game

from near the tunnel after being sent off.

"I regret everything. I should have shut up, gone in and gone home," Wenger said. "I apologize for that."

That came as Andre Gray looked to have snatched a point when he netted from the spot after substitute Francis Coquelin tripped Ashley Barnes. Wenger's mood was lifted in the seventh minute of stoppage time when Arsenal was awarded a penalty for Ben Mee's high foot challenge on Laurent Koscielny.

SOUTHAMPTON 3, LEICESTER 0

Leicester has mounted the most feeble defense of a Premier League title and is now in a relegation dogfight. Having lost half of their 22 games, Claudio Ranieri's players are sitting only five points above the drop zone. Not since Manchester City in 1938 have the topflight title winners been relegated the following season.

James Ward-Prowse, Jay Rodriguez and Dusan Tadic scored the goals as Ranieri, once known as the "Tinkerman," rued switching his team around.

"I tried to help my players in the last two matches, I changed our normal shape against Chelsea, to three at the back and today I played with a diamond, and this led to some misunderstanding," Ranieri said. "My players are used to playing 4-4-2, or 4-2-3-1, so for this reason I have made mistakes and it's my fault in the last two matches."

"It's one thing trying it in training and another entirely on the pitch. Today there was something wrong and it's my responsibility. If we make mistakes, yes they make mistakes but also it's myself who has to explain better." AP

GOLF

Abu Dhabi win caps career turnaround for Fleetwood

Steve Douglas, Abu Dhabi

IT was the summer of 2015 and Tommy Fleetwood had climbed inside the world's top 50 for the first time in his career when he tried to change is swing.

"I thought it would make me a world-class golfer," Fleetwood recalled of his "naive" vision.

Instead, a player who already had one title to his name — the Johnnie Walker Championship in 2013 — and was thought to be on the verge of special things entered the worst spell of his professional career. Even his driving, the strongest part of his game, went awry.

"It was killing my golf game off, really," Fleetwood said, taking about



AP PHOTO
Tommy Fleetwood

the "dark days" when he was no longer enjoying a sport he excelled in as an amateur.

So, the northern Englishman with long, flowing hair and an affable personality went back

to his old coach, Alan Thompson, who was first with him as a 13-year-old, and re-employed his old caddie, Ian Finnis.

It was a slow process as Fleetwood, at one stage down to No. 188 in

the rankings, rebuilt his swing with Thompson and started afresh with Finnis, his long-time friend. But things started to improve in the second half of 2016, with Fleetwood earning regular top-20 finishes on the European Tour.

The break for Christmas, coming soon after a third-place finish in Hong Kong, arrived at the wrong time but belief had returned to Fleetwood's game and his first event of 2017 could be a career-changer.

Yesterday, the 26-year-old Fleetwood topped what could be the strongest field of the year on the European Tour to win the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship by a shot. His swing held up in the

most trying of circumstances in the final round, with major champions Dustin Johnson, Henrik Stenson and Martin Kaymer also in contention on a crammed leaderboard.

"It's been an awkward curve," he said after picking up a winner's check of USD450,000 and the huge Falcon Trophy for finishing at 17 under. "The only thing left was, 'Let's get a win' ... Just shows a lot can happen in golf."

There's plenty more to look forward to for Fleetwood, who woke Monday ranked No. 53. The top 50 is the promised land for players of Fleetwood's stature, as it would guarantee a trip to the Masters if they are there in late March.

Fleetwood has never

played at Augusta National.

"I have to stay on it really," he said. "You don't want to be hanging around. I got to No. 47 once and I dropped out very quickly ... I want to get as high as I can."

It will help that there appears to be a resurgence in English golf. It's two titles in two weeks for English players to open 2017 on the European Tour, after Graeme Storm's victory at the SA Open following a playoff win over Rory McIlroy.

Danny Willett is the current Masters champion, Matt Fitzpatrick won the World Tour Championship at the end of last year, and Justin Rose is the Olympic champion. AP

opinion

Our Desk
Lynzy Valles



ON ABUSIVE PLACEMENT FEES

Last week, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) said that it is working towards restricting visitors from seeking work in Macau.

Although conducting job searches while holding tourist visas has long been discouraged, it has never stopped hopeful visitors from coming to Macau to find work.

Authorities said that the practice came from different associations in Macau, including recruitment agency groups, who currently accept applicants on tourist visas.

As far as I know, employment agencies are permitted to collect placement fees that are equivalent to the one-month salary of an employee.

Yet in Macau, it has been common for these recruitment agencies to abuse their role by charging job seekers exorbitant fees.

The fees allegedly range from MOP5 per application to non-refundable fees of up to MOP1,000 for a chance to interview with a potential employer.

This practice of charging insane placement fees could bring prospective employees to debt even before getting their contract signed.

It would be a shame if these migrants move along a continuum of exploitation, in which they could experience a wide range of abusive situations after already being exploited by extremely high agency fees.

In a previous report by the Times, scholar Cecilia Ho said that domestic helpers could be charged an agency fee amounting to six to eight months of their salaries.

Describing the matter as a kind of modern slavery, citing that these people have no labor protection, the scholar also noted that there are very few regulations on recruitment agencies in the law.

Macau even lacks regulations as to how much a prospective employee should pay an employment agency, which should depend on the job role and its salary range.

Perhaps a bill that seeks to ban appalling practices in the recruitment industry should be enforced and prioritized, not only to aid victims of costly recruitment fees but also to establish an acceptable and effective policy concerning the matter.

Although the DSAL licenses these recruitment agencies, there seems to be an absence of regulatory framework governing the kind of placement fees that these agencies charge.

I believe a policy restraining the recruitment agencies to reasonable boundaries would be a more rational course of action, instead of launching new policies that totally ban foreigners from looking for jobs.

Although several pro-local rights' groups have pressured the government for this bill, wouldn't it be more problematic that when such a bill has been passed, employment agencies would find more loopholes to continually increase recruitment fees?

If it is currently possible to charge up to MOP18,000 — particularly to newly employed security guards — how can it not be feasible to charge a higher fee in the future, when such a law has been enforced?

It should always be remembered that most foreigners, trying their luck in Macau, are not seeking management-level positions. They are not searching for professional jobs; instead, they are seeking for domestic employment and low-paying jobs that the local community refuses to take.

They should not be seen as a threat to the community but as a significant advantage to the MSAR.

We couldn't afford to see the region's image being tarnished due to the negligence of logical and basic policies over appalling situations.

Confiscation of passports, underpayment, secret contract clauses, excessively long working hours with no compensation and the absence of a right to public holidays are just a few of the circumstances that some of them are facing.

Exploitation of the most vulnerable groups in Macau's working community is a lamentable matter that is being ignored, and it is humiliating that no one dares to address these difficulties.

THE BUZZ LAWSUIT: TRUMP BUSINESSES VIOLATE CONSTITUTION

A legal watchdog group is filing a lawsuit alleging that President Donald Trump is violating the Constitution by allowing his businesses to accept payments from foreign governments.

The group says Trump is violating the so-called emoluments clause in the Constitution that prohibits him from receiving money from diplomats for stays at his hotels or foreign governments for leases of office space in his buildings. The language

in the clause is disputed by some legal scholars.

White House Director of Strategic Communications Hope Hicks says that "the president has no conflicts," and referred to arguments made by Trump lawyer Sheri Dillon at the president's news conference earlier this month.

Dillon says the framers did not intend for the Constitution prohibition to apply to fair-value exchanges.

Duterte tames his words for Miss Universe hopefuls

Bullit Marquez, Manila

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte delivered a speech without sex jokes and expletives yesterday, telling a gathering of Miss Universe contestants that he was told to be careful with his language.

Duterte told pageant contestants at the Malacanang presidential palace he had never been in a "roomful of beautiful women," adding "I hope that this day will never end."

Eighty-six women will vie for the Miss Universe crown on Jan. 30 in Manila.

The president known for his expletives-laden impromptu speeches said he read prepared remarks for the beauty pageant contestants "because they told me that I must behave in my language, in the adjectives that I would be using to characterize or define your beauty, all of you."

Duterte, 71, has been criticized for a number of his remarks on women, including a comment in November about the length of Vice President Leni Robredo's skirt in a Cabinet meeting and a rape joke about an Australian murder victim during the presidential campaign last year.

His speech departed from routine also by not mentioning his deadly crackdown on illegal drugs. Duterte instead heaped praise on



Miss Universe contestants walk back to their seats after posing with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

the Miss Universe aspirants and later smiled as they had several pictures taken with him.

"I must say that God is really good," he said. "Aside from the worries of governance, with all the troubles in the world, when we look at you, we forget the universe but only you."

He thanked Miss Universe officials for allowing the Philippines to host the international pageant, which he said has brought enormous pride and joy for countries of winning candidates, including the Philippines, where three winners have come from.

"More than presenting beauty and brains, the Miss Universe competition or any beauty contestant for that matter is an opportunity for you to represent your country, to promote

your advocacies, and to advance women empowerment to a greater audience," Duterte said.

Left-wing activists, however, said the pageant couldn't be used to gloss over exploitation of women.

"Despite the pomp and supposed celebration of women power surrounding the 65th Miss Universe pageant, women here and abroad remain in their unglamorous and exploited state," the left-wing Rep. Emmi De Jesus said of the Gabriela party-list group.

"In the Philippines, 22 women and children are raped every day. Women workers remain concentrated in low-paying, contractual jobs. And mothers face rising budget pressure amid looming price hikes in basic commodities, power and water," she said. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski



Old factions. A woman looks at an exhibit in the Museum of the Second World War, an ambitious new museum under creation for nine years has opened its doors for a day to historians, museums and reporters in Gdansk, Poland, yesterday.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	50-70 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	50-70 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA An actor was killed while filming a scene featuring several guns for an Australian band's music video, police said. The man died at a bar in the Queensland city of Brisbane while filming the video by hip hop group Bliss n Eso. Members of the band were not on the set at the time.



MIDDLE EAST Negotiators for the Syrian government and representatives of rebel factions traded accusations of terrorism after their first face-to-face meeting yesterday, as talks in Kazakhstan arranged by Russia and Turkey got off to a rocky start. The gathering in Astana is the latest in a long line of diplomatic initiatives aimed at ending the nearly six-year-old Syrian war.



AUSTRIA Police urged Vienna residents yesterday to be on heightened alert for suspicious objects and activities as they hunted for possible associates of a suspected Islamic radical who they say might have been planning a bomb attack. A 14-year old was among those questioned.

GERMANY Berlin police say a man suspected of killing an elderly man and collecting his pension for a decade, before police found his body in a freezer, may have had a second victim: 92-year-old Irma Kurowski had not been seen since the end of 2000 and had lived in the same building in trendy Prenzlauer Berg neighborhood as the 55-year-old suspect. They say the suspect, whose name wasn't released, had access to her pension payments.