



### CASINO TRADE UNIONS FOR FULL SMOKING BAN

A joint signature campaign is set to be launched by the Fed of Trade Unions to collect citizens' signatures in support of the cause

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### AN HOUR WITHOUT FACEBOOK

Facebook said it suffered a self-inflicted outage lasting an hour yesterday that made its site inaccessible to users worldwide

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

### WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA-USA** For the first time, all varieties of apples from the United States will go on sale in China, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Monday. A deal was reached last week between officials for the United States and Chinese governments to grant access to all U.S. apple varieties, instead of just Red Delicious and Golden Delicious.

**CANADIAN** health authorities said Monday they have diagnosed a case of bird flu in a British Columbia woman who recently returned from China and suspect a man who travelled with her also had it. This is the first time this particular type of bird flu — H7N9 — has been detected in a Canadian or American. The strain first emerged in China two years ago and most cases have been linked to contact with poultry.

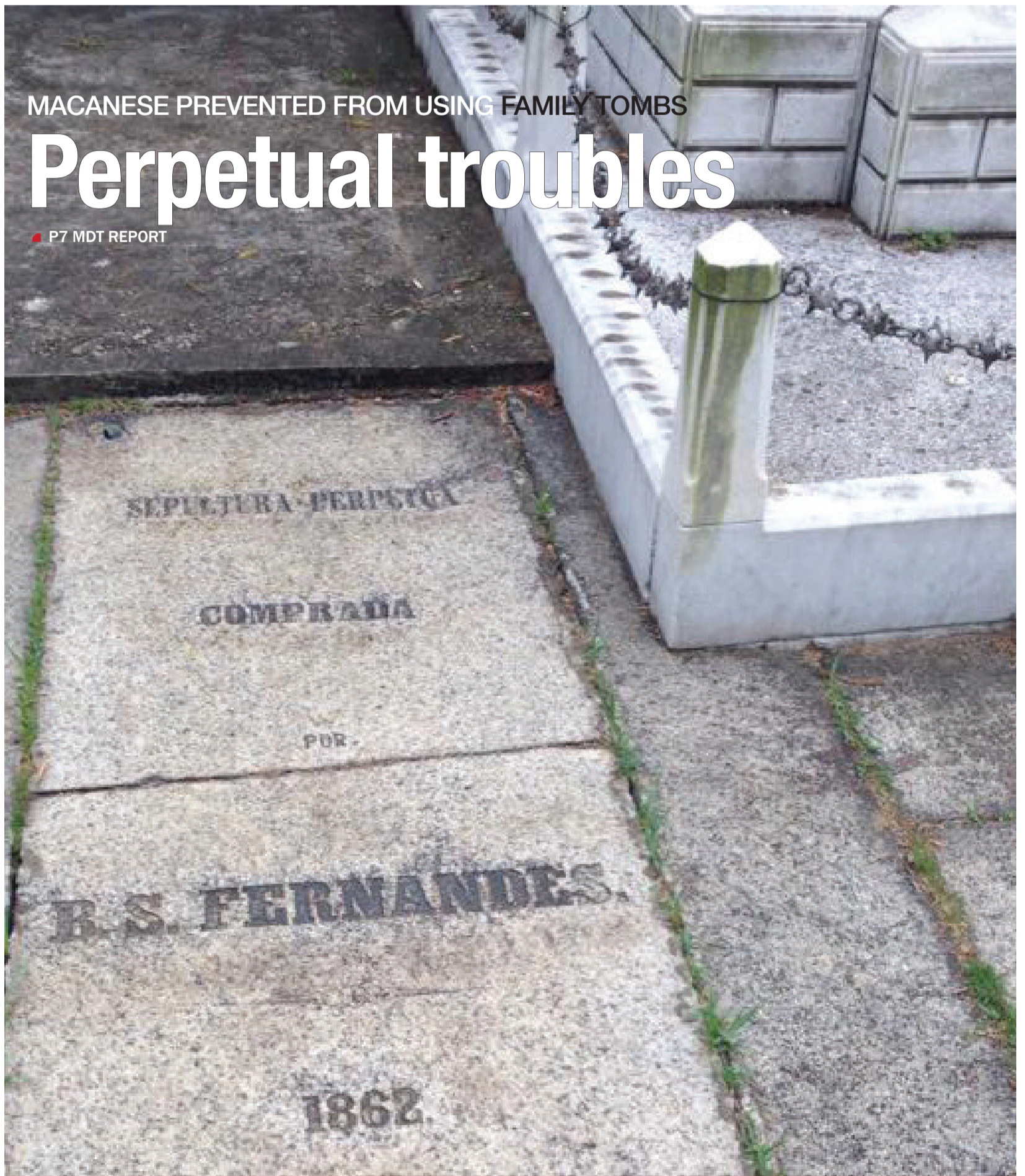
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## 2015

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### MACANESE PREVENTED FROM USING FAMILY TOMBS

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# Casino staff unions launch signature campaign for full smoking ban

Brook Yang

**CASINO** staff trade unions have urged the government to further step up the city's smoking control by implementing a full smoking ban inside all casino indoor areas within the year.

A joint signature campaign is set to be launched by the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FOAM) and its affiliated casino staff unions, to collect citizens' signatures in support of the cause.

"Since the government set a full smoking ban inside other entertainment venues from January 1 this year, all indoor public spaces have prohibited smoking, with casinos being the only exception," stated director-general of the Macau Gaming Enterprises Staff's Association, Choi Kam Fu, at a press conference yesterday.

Mr Fu said that this year is the year where the government will review the results of its smoking control measures. Authorities also promised to release a report by the end of this month.

"The report won't reflect the real situation, because after all, the authorities couldn't inspect the casinos around the clock or during the peak hours with the largest flows of visitors. They only conducted spot-checks," he stressed, "but still, we expect it to be released as soon as possible and will see it as a reference."

Back in 2012 the Macau go-



Tang Fong Chan and Choi Kam Fu

vernment launched a smoking ban in most indoor public spaces, while casinos got a discretionary transition period and were allowed to set up smoking zones that could be no larger than half of the public use area in size. From October 6, 2014, casinos prohibited smoking in their mass gaming areas.

Nevertheless, Mr Choi indicated that some casino operators "have shown their indifference to employees' health by taking irresponsible measures to counter the smoking ban."

"Even under such easing of regulations, we've seen that the casino operators are not really cooperating with the government's determination on a total smoking ban," Mr Choi stressed. "They took advantage of various legal loopholes that put employees in a smoking environment that's even worse than before the [partial] smoking control."

"So far the implementation of the full smoking ban on mass floors has proved ineffective, as within half a month there had

already been casinos breaching the law," he added.

Mr Choi stressed that long periods of exposure to a second-hand smoking environment has caused the workers physical and psychological distress, while their families are also suffering from third-hand tobacco exposure.

"Many studies have proved that second-hand smoking is severely harmful to human health. Except in a complete non-smoking environment, passive smoking can't be pre-

vented by setting any types of smoking zone," he emphasized, "thereby a full smoking ban in casinos is the public's expectation and also a general trend."

Ms Tang Fong Chan, director-general of the Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) employees' union, told the media that she "believes the government is able to achieve the full smoking ban," since as a "frontline casino worker" she has noticed that "gamblers have got used to the smoking control policy."

"They would go to the smoking rooms to smoke and come back to our non-smoking gambling tables," she explained, "and when I told them that they can't smoke at the table, they wouldn't be unreasonable and reject [it]."

The signature campaign will firstly be launched at the Border Gate on Friday and extend to all over the city through FOAM's offices and networks as well as on its websites and Facebook pages. Mr Choi said that the campaign would go on for a week to ten days and they expect to collect ten thousand signatures.

"Casino workers and their families have awaited the total ban on smoking for two years and have put up with the tobacco hazards during the past two years," he added. "We'll discuss what measures to take next, depending on the feedback of the campaign."

**STRENGTHENING** Sco-operation with regions in the Pan-Pearl River Delta is the most important feature in the Macau SAR's proposals for the country's 13th five-year plan, according to the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On.

In the social and economic development blueprint for 2016-2020, the government will press ahead on the collaboration projects with Nansha in Guangzhou and Hengqin in Zhuhai, he said, according to a press release issued by the Government Information Bureau

CHUI IN BEIJING

## Pan-Delta cooperation is key for next five years



Chui Sai On meets with the Minister of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, Zhang Zhijun, in Beijing

(GCS).

Macau was awaiting approval from the Central Government for further moves in the establishment of the Guangdong-Macau co-operation display zone, together with the Zhongshan government.

Mr Chui, who is leading an official delegation on a four-day visit to Beijing, disclosed this yesterday in a press briefing after visiting the National De-

velopment and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Commerce and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council.

According to the GCS press release, in the next five years, "the government would step up efforts to turn Macau into a world center for tourism and leisure and a commercial and trade co-

operation service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, to bring in more innovative ideas to the projects."

Mr Chui said he would meet with Guangdong government officials soon to discuss issues on developing Hengqin and Nansha and the country's development direction. A visit to the neighboring province is scheduled for this Friday.

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HKSE

# Casino shares jump as industry sees gain after year-end dip

**M**ACAU casino shares jumped in Hong Kong trading after gaming revenue in the world's biggest gambling hub gained last week, which analysts took as a sign the industry may be out of its free-fall of late last year.

The industry's gross gaming revenue for table games rose 6 percent for the week ending Jan. 25 from a week earlier, which "could further indicate stabilization" after President Xi Jinping's Macau visit last month, Bank of America Merrill Lynch analysts led by Billy Ng wrote in a note. The measure still fell 7 percent compared with a year ago.

Xi's visit coincided with government efforts that included plans to crackdown on illicit funds funneled through Macau amid his anti-graft campaign, leading to seven straight months of declines that peaked at a 30 percent plunge in December. Union Gaming analyst Grant Govertsen upgraded the sector to a buy rating on Monday, writing that evidence is mounting "that we've finally reached the bottom," and Macau gaming names "are poised for a rally".

Shares of Wynn Macau Ltd. jumped 8.4 percent to end at HK\$21.90 by the close of trading, the biggest increase since last April. MGM China Holdings Ltd. and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. both gained 6.5 percent, Melco Crown En-

AP PHOTO



tertainment Ltd. was up 5.6 percent, and Sands China Ltd. increased 3 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng index fell 0.4 percent.

The Bloomberg Intelligence Macau (China) Gaming Market Index slumped almost 40 percent last year, amid policies that included restrictions on the use of UnionPay's debit cards at casinos, making it harder for bettors to buy pricey items that they exchange for cash to gamble with. The index

## We've finally reached the bottom

GRANT GOVERTSEN  
ANALYST, UNION GAMING

closed 1.8 percent higher on Monday, and gained a further 5.9 percent yesterday.

Casinos are going to end Ja-

nuary with year-on-year drops in takings of 16 to 18 percent, according to data from operators seen by the Portuguese news agency Lusa that puts Galaxy Resorts at the top of the ranking.

The figures from operators such as MGM Macau, Galaxy Resorts and Wynn Macau point towards January ending with a drop of between 16% and 18% with gross takings of between MOP20.62 and MOP20.68 billion. **MDT/Agencies**

## Lionel Leong predicts gaming revenue to remain at 2014 level



**L**IONEL Leong, Secretary for Economy and Finance, estimates that Macau's monthly gaming revenue in 2015 will remain between MOP23 billion and MOP28 billion; a range similar to that in the second half of 2014.

Mr Leong made the comment yesterday in Beijing. He said that there has been a relatively large adjustment to the gaming revenue over the last seven months, and that revenue levels will remain similar if changes are not made. He also said that some adjustments in monthly gaming revenue might be seen over the upcoming Chinese New Year period, as well as this year's Labor Day and National Day golden weeks.

Moreover, Leong said that he is optimistic about Macau's economy in the long term. Nevertheless, he said that he still does not have any forecasting figures regarding the city's economic condition in

2015, due to the fact that some of the factors are changing relatively rapidly.

"I still do not have a forecasting figure now. I am currently conducting research for the budget... At this moment, our economic forecast for the year is [that we have to be] cautious," he said.

Mr Leong said the administration will monitor external factors that may contribute to an earlier increase in interest rates. These include the possibility that the United States may raise its interest rate, which will affect interest and currency rates all over the world. He also mentioned the quantitative easing measure that some regions have adopted recently.

Nevertheless, he stressed that a particular country's change in interest rate may not immediately impact Macau, since it also depends on whether the change will trigger effects in other regions. **JPL**

## A lesser free economy – Heritage Foundation

Macau stands 9th place in the ranking of the freest economies in the Asia-Pacific, falling two places compared to 2014, according to the Heritage Foundation 2015 report, released yesterday by the Monetary Authority. Among 42 economies in the region, the MSAR is behind Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia. Worldwide, Macau ranks 34 in a total of 178 economies, also recording a decline comparing to 2014, when it ranked in 29th. The city received 70.3 points and the mark of "relatively free," the same as in the past seven years.

## Taiwanese man allegedly rapes mainland tourist

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has detained a Taiwanese man who allegedly impersonated a police officer before robbing and raping a mainland woman. A PJ spokesperson said that the 25-year-old suspect told a mainland woman in a casino in Taipa that he was a police officer. He then demanded the victim bring him back to her hotel room, claiming that he suspected her of involvement in prostitution and drug-related crime. The man took the victim's mobile phone and chips worth HKD19,000 from her, proceeding to lose them on the gaming tables. He then returned to the victim's room, threatening to beat and arrest her if she refused to have sex with him. The woman later managed to contact a friend, who notified the police. The authorities also found out that he was involved in a fraud case in the city last year.

## Fatal car accident involving alleged DUI driver

A man in his 60s was killed after being hit by a car near the Border Gate underground tunnel on the Avenida Norte do Hipodromo at around 6.30 a.m. yesterday. Police information suggests that the man was crossing the road without using appropriate pedestrian facilities when a vehicle hit him. He was later pronounced dead in hospital. The driver allegedly had a blood alcohol content of 1.17 grams, which indicates he may have been drink driving. The police said that there are no road-crossing facilities within 50 meters of the scene, and are calling for eyewitnesses to come forward.

# Obra das Maes calls for gov't to invest in elderly care

Brook Yang

WITH elderly care becoming a pressing need in Macau society, social service organization Obra das Maes has suggested that the government should increase its investment in related services.

"With Macau's population stepping into an aging society, services for the elderly have drawn a larger demand from the public. The two elderly homes affiliated with our organization have limited residential spaces, but we have deeply felt the earnest expectations from citizens," stated Obra das Maes' president, Ms Ho Teng Iat, in her speech at a media dinner on Monday.

The non-profit organization runs two residential care homes for the elderly, admitting those over the age of 60 and who are unable to care for themselves. The two homes currently accommodate a total of 92 residents and have a long



waiting list, with nearly 350 applicants hoping to move in.

"I think care services for elderly people are an urgent need of Macau and its citizens. We hope that the government will increase its investment in this area," the president stressed, "because we hope to enhance service quality to our [clients] and add more facilities, so that our elderly residents can enjoy their old age."

Ms Ho explained that

Obra das Maes tries to strengthen its services according to the pace of Macau's development and social demands; over the years, it has overcome many difficulties in order to carry out nursing, elderly care and childcare services through its social welfare facilities.

Many families choose to send elderly relatives with special needs to live in a care home, which can provide professional services round the clock, such as

basic healthcare and physiotherapy treatment.

"It's safer for them to live in elderly homes, because they are provided with what one single domestic worker cannot do. For instance, when you bathe an elderly person, you may need to help them stand up. It's hard for a domestic helper to manage that, but in care homes, several care workers would work together," explained Ms Kong Sio Leng, an association supervisor.

Although they can see the pressing demand for elderly care services, the association has no plans to open another care home.

"We don't have [the] manpower for that; that needs more care workers. And it's very difficult to recruit care workers from outside, because the rent is too high for them to stay here," explained an association member. "[The lack of a] venue is also a problem; we don't have space."

## Unemployment rate steady at 1.7 pct

MACAU'S unemployment rate stood at 1.7 percent between October and December last year, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The number of unemployed people reached 7,000, an increase of 100 compared to September-November last year. First job seekers accounted for 15.2 percent of the total unemployed; a decrease of 5.1 percent.

DSEC's employment survey for October-December last year revealed that the underemployment rate stood at 0.4 percent.

The total labor force increased to 405,500 and the labor force participation rate stood at 74.4 percent. Total employment reached 398,600, representing an increase of 2,400 over September-November 2014.

Over last year's fourth quarter, the general unemployment rate remained steady at 1.7 percent, as in the previous quarter; while the unemployment rate of local residents (2.4 percent) edged up 0.1 percent. Total employment increased by 6,500 quarter-to-quarter. Analyzed by industry, employment in gaming (87,000) increased by 5,500. Median monthly employment earnings of the employed (MOP14,000) and employed residents (MOP16,000) rose by MOP1,000 and MOP400 respectively quarter-to-quarter.

DSEC said that for the whole of 2014, the general unemployment rate stood at 1.7 percent and the unemployment rate of local residents was set at 2.3 percent, both down by 0.1 percent year-on-year. The median monthly employment earnings of the employed amounted to MOP13,000, up by 10.8 percent year-on-year. CP

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

**B**EHIND every great man is a great woman, or so the saying goes. An updated version of the old adage might say “beside,” rather than behind, and that sentiment would certainly apply to Sands CEO Edward Tracy’s wife, Janet Tracy – “a strong, kind-hearted woman with a love for life, animals and the community,” say those who know her best.

Originally moving from the United States to join her husband in Macau in October 2010, during the four years she has lived in the city, Janet has lent her support to various charities and associations in the local community by helping to promote animal rights and support underprivileged groups including the disabled and the elderly.

Back in February 2011, Mrs Tracy found out from her friends that ANIMA, the local charity that rescues pets and shelters abandoned animals, was looking for donations, dog walkers and volunteers. When she showed up at ANIMA to help and saw a once abandoned dog named Shu Mai, it was love at first sight. And after Janet saw Shu Mai again during an organized dog walk to Coloane Hill, soon after, she and Mr Tracy made the decision to adopt the pup.

For an organization like ANIMA, receiving hands-on assistance from someone like Mrs Tracy is critical. She often visits the charity, and regularly donates dog food and supplies. Several times she has asked the organization to help animals in the street and, through her own initiative, she’s also spearheaded events, as well as helping to transform ANIMA’s landscaping and building into a garden and ‘nature park’ for visitors

JANET TRACY

# A story of engagement with the community



and pets alike.

Albano Martins, ANIMA’s President, commented, “Janet is not only a friend of ANIMA – she is part of our big family. She adopted her beloved dog Shu Mai from ANIMA and when it comes to animals, she has always been deeply committed to ‘helping us help them.’”

Besides her love of animals, Mrs Tracy has also shown care and concern for society’s less fortunate through engaging in community service. Although initially not very familiar with

Macau, she began joining the activities of the Sands China Care Ambassador program as a way to get involved in the local community. Every year, she takes part in the annual SCCA tradition of offering spring cleaning and gift packs for Macau’s live-alone elderly.

Janet has also shown her care and concern for the mentally handicapped. After reading about the Macau Down Syndrome Association in the paper, she took the initiative to meet with them to understand their needs.

She’s likewise been a supporter of activities organized by the Fuhong Society of Macau, a non-profit organization providing occupational skills development, training and employment services to the mild to moderately mentally handicapped.

“We are very grateful for having met Mrs Tracy and for her work with Fuhong”, Maria de Fátima Salvador dos Santos Ferreira, Fuhong’s President, acknowledged. “She has given her time and worked with us on many occasions... Fuhong

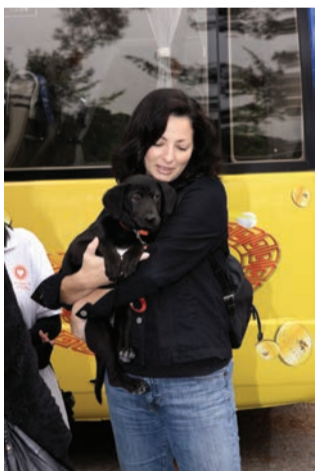
really benefits when people with such positive attitudes and with a sense of care volunteer with us.”

Janet has similarly worked with the Rotary Club of Macau since 2012, and has spent much time sharing ideas on how to extend more support to the needy. The organization appointed her as Chairlady of its Service Projects Committee in 2014. According to Kevin Lei, the Rotary Club of Macau President, “She has been very active and adapted easily to the true spirit

**Besides her love of animals, Janet has also shown care for the less fortunate by engaging in community service**

of Rotary – Service Above Self.” He moreover praised Mrs Tracy’s leadership and creativity in helping launch a new fundraising campaign benefiting the Concordia School for Special Education, the Macau Autism Association, Macau Down Syndrome Association and Rotary’s Guangxi Education Project.

All communities need people who are willing to give their time and energy to support those in need. Mrs Tracy is one of those people. As she prepares to leave Macau to return to the United States, her new community will be lucky to have her. **VM**



Mrs. Tracy attends the dog walk to Coloane Hill in 2011 with Shu Mai



Mrs. Tracy participates in a DIY Green Soap workshop with a group of Fuhong Society of Macau members



Mr. and Mrs. Tracy participate in the annual Sands China Care Ambassadors tradition of doing cleaning for the elderly



Mrs. Tracy emcees the Rotary Club of Macau’s 66th Annual Ball “The Masquerade”

SINO-LUSO MEDICAL FORUM

# Harvard Medical School professor shares experience on managing disasters



Susan Briggs

**H**ARVARD Medical School professor Susan Briggs will be sharing her experiences managing complex disasters, such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Hurricane Katrina and the Boston Marathon bombing, during the Sino-Luso International Medical Forum (Series 23) taking place in Macau between January 31 and February 2.

The three-day medical forum, chaired by the Macau University of Science and Technology's Faculty of Health Sciences, will examine "Managing Complex Disasters: Lessons Learned."

Professor Briggs will be accompanied by her medical rescue team, who will share their insights on managing disasters with Macau's frontline medical providers.

Dr. Roy Alson, Medical Director for the North Carolina State Office of the EMS Disaster

Medical Response System will be speaking at the forum, regarding the current and deadly outbreak of the Ebola virus. Dr. Alson is an associate professor of Emergency Medicine at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and director of the office of Pre-hospital and Disaster Medicine at Wake Forest.

The delegation consists of nursing experts as well, including Ms Lin-Ti Chang from Massachusetts General Hospital, who will deliver a presentation on the "Evaluation of Mass Casualty Incidents and Responses to Disasters."

Experts from Hong Kong have also been invited to attend the forum. These include Dr. Jimmy Chan, president of the Hong Kong Association for Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine, and Dr. Chow Yuk-Yin, founding vice-president of the

Hong Kong Association for Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine, who will be conducting workshops regarding Extremity Injury.

"Our longstanding forum is committed to developing quality healthcare training programs in the preparedness and response for major incidents and disasters through collaborative partnership programs within our local healthcare institutions and overseas strategic partners," said professor Manson Fok, president of the Sino-Luso Medical Forum, in a statement.

Hong Kong and US experts will also provide an overview of what kind of prevention measures prevailed after the contamination triggered by the Fukushima nuclear plant meltdown, and during rescue missions after the Sichuan ear-

thquake.

Moreover, both teams will be running competency-based skills training workshops, including exercises based on potential scenarios, so that they are able to assess different situations within disaster-related healthcare.

"We are all aware that disasters - whether natural or man-made - are on the increase internationally, and also in our region, including typhoons and radiation scares. This forum is an opportunity to develop networks and lines of communication, to foster relationships with our medical partners in China and this region, and to sustain our regional emergency preparedness efforts," said professor Fok.

Experts from the Philippines will also be participating in the forum to address super typhoon-

related matters.

Keynote lectures commence at 2pm on Saturday at the Dr. Stanley Ho Medical Development Foundation - located at Landmark Macau. A full-day workshop runs from 9:30am to 5pm on Sunday at the Faculty of Health Sciences skills center at MUST.

The Sino-Luso Medical Forum is chaired by the Macau University of Science and Technology's (MUST) Faculty of Health Sciences, and organized by the Macau Healthcare Management and Promotion Association. The event is supported by the National Health and Family Planning Commission, and the Chinese Medical Doctors Association, among other international organizations.

Our longstanding forum is committed to developing quality healthcare training programs in the preparedness and response for major incidents and disasters

PROFESSOR MANSON FOK  
PRESIDENT, SINO-LUSO MEDICAL FORUM

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MDT REPORT

# Macanese families facing hurdles to bury loved ones at S. Miguel Arcanjo

**W**HEN Nuno Senna Fernandes Jr's father passed away last year, his family strived to respect one of his last wishes: to be cremated and buried at the family tomb in the S. Miguel Arcanjo cemetery.

Nuno José de Senna Fernandes died in May, but his wish hasn't been completely fulfilled yet due to a rather bureaucratic issue: the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) requested that the family present a proof of receipt showing that they bought the plot at the cemetery.

The problem is, said Nuno Senna Fernandes Junior, the tomb was bought back in 1862 and such a receipt is now lost.

"About twenty of my relatives were buried in the same tomb (...) their inscriptions are all there. I have photocopies of the areas at the cemetery that we bought but the only thing missing here is the receipt. I can't find it because it was bought ages ago," he told The Times.

About two weeks before his father passed away, Mr Fernandes requested permission from IACM to open up the family tomb. Three years before other relatives had been buried in the very same place.

"I went to IACM to ask permission but got rejected. My father had asked for cremation and for his ashes to be put there. I approached IACM again after my father died and wrote a second letter to them," he recalled.

A first letter from IACM responding to his request was received in June last year. The bureau said that according to an administrative decree the rights of people to so-called perpetual graves in public cemeteries are regulated by specific rules and conditions dating back to when they were acquired. Furthermore, the bureau reiterated that the law states it is obligatory to present proof that the family owns the perpe-



The Shrine at Nuno Senna Fernandes Jr's house

**IACM says the law states it is obligatory to present proof that the family owns the perpetual grave**

tual grave.

According to the letter, which The Times reviewed, IACM said that Mr Fernandes' family was not able to provide proof of who owns the tomb. It added that the bureau also tried to verify through the registry archives the ownership of the perpetual grave, but failed to locate any data regarding the sale of the mentioned plot. The request was subsequently denied and a

**“About twenty of my relatives were buried in the same tomb (...) their inscriptions are all there**

NUNO SENNA FERNANDES JR

second letter from Mr Fernandes would see a similar reply from IACM.

"IACM asked me for proof of sale. My question to them was: you want me to provide the receipt but you're the ones who sold the plot. So where's your registry of that plot being sold?" he questioned.

In a letter addressed to IACM, Mr Fernandes recalled that over twenty of his relatives have been buried in that tomb. "It is impossible for my family to produce the original bill of sale as many years have passed since it was purchased by my ancestors. I feel that this responsibility also falls on your department to find proof on our behalf," he wrote.

Furthermore, Mr Fernandes recalled that three years ago his family was allowed to bury other loved ones there.

"When my ancestors and other relatives were buried there before, they [IACM] didn't ask for the receipt. When my cousin Miguel [de Senna Fernandes]

buried his parents he basically took birth certificates and [the signature of two witnesses] and permission was granted," he continued.

"So I don't see why there's so much of a problem when there's proof that this is our family tomb," he stressed.

This is not an isolated case. Other Macanese families have faced challenges when trying to bury their loved ones at the same cemetery. Last year, newspaper Ponto Final reported that Gabriel Pedruco was not granted permission to bury the ashes of four family members in a perpetual grave bought by his grandfather at S. Miguel Arcanjo.

Mr Pedruco claimed that the grave was bought by his grandfather back in 1916 and that several of his relatives had been buried there. IACM denied his request as he also could not present proof of receipt showing that, indeed, his grandfather had bought the plot. Mr Pedruco appealed the decision in court but the request was denied.

Ponto Final reported last year that there were at least six Macanese families facing the same problem.

Mr Fernandes recalled that people have questioned whether this issue arose as a result of the ten perpetual graves scandal involving former Secretary for Administration and Justice Florinda Chan and former IACM president Raymond Tam, among other employees. The case dates back to 2001, when an acquaintance of Ms Chan was granted a permanent cemetery grave by the former provisional city hall.

The perpetual grave-grating process was allegedly illegal. Florinda Chan was cleared from any wrongdoing in the case by the Court of Final Appeal. Mr Raymond Tam and other IACM employees had been accused of delaying the delivery of documents related to the case to the Public Prosecutions Office, but the Court of First Instance also found them innocent.

Mr Fernandes said that if all his current attempts fail to succeed, they will take the case to court. "My father's ashes are at my house, we put up a small shrine for now," he said.

The Times contacted IACM but the bureau did not reply to our queries before going to press.



A tombstone inscription reads perpetual grave bought by R.S. Fernandes



corporate bits

COTAI WATER JET LAUNCHES NEW SERIES OF SERVICES AND TICKET PROMOTIONS



Cotai Water Jet has introduced a new series of services and ticket promotions, and has set up a new service counter. To make purchasing ferry tickets for Cotai Water Jet city and airport routes easier, a new service counter has been set up at shop 305D-B at the Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal in Sheung Wan, offering face-to-face ticket sales and information about the latest promotions. Furthermore, complimentary Wi-Fi will be available on board in all first class cabins.

Cotai Water Jet Facebook Fans Promotion

From now until June 30, Cotai Water Jet Facebook fans can receive a promotional code by sending a text message to a special number. With the code, customers who purchase a Cotai Class single ticket on a city route can purchase a set of Cotai Class round trip tickets at a special price (with a 20 per cent discount), or a Cotai First round trip ticket with the promo code.

Taipan Ferry Terminal Parking Card Promotion

From now until Dec. 31, drivers who present a Taipan Ferry Terminal parking slip when purchasing a Cotai Water Jet city or airport route ferry ticket at the regular price can enjoy a discount on the ferry ticket - a savings equivalent to 10 hours of free parking. The Taipan Ferry Terminal parking deck is located adjacent to the terminal.

Birthday Celebration Promotion

Special tickets will be available to celebrate customer birthdays. Available until Dec. 31, 2015, customers will be entitled to two sets of discounted round-trip Cotai Water Jet city route tickets during their birthday month.

E-ticket Promotion

Travellers who purchase e-tickets using Cotai Water Jet's on-line booking system can choose either a free upgrade to Cotai First or a discount on Cotai Class tickets on city routes until Dec. 31.

Cotai Water Jet operates daily from 6:30 a.m. to 3 a.m., with sailings every 30 minutes between 6:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Huawei to ship 100m smartphones in overseas push

HUAWEI Technologies Co. will boost smartphone shipments by a third this year and surpass 100 million units as the company makes a greater push to target high-end consumers and international markets.

Smartphone shipments will increase from 75 million last year, Shao Yang, vice president of marketing for the Consumer Business Group, said on a conference call yesterday. The Shenzhen, China-based company plans to boost the portion of sales from high-end devices - including the Mate 7, P7, or Honor 6 - to more than 30 percent from 18 percent, he said.

Huawei is expanding its lineup of mobile devices priced above USD300 to move away from competition with



An attendant displays a Huawei Technologies Co. Ascend Mate 7 smartphone at the Cutting-Edge IT & Electronics Comprehensive Exhibition in Chiba, Japan

cheaper devices from fellow Chinese vendors Xiaomi Corp. and Lenovo Group Ltd. Huawei sees consolidation in the smartphone industry and wants to move into the ranks of the world's top suppliers alongside Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc.

"We are giving up the low end of the market," said Ri-

chard Yu, chief executive officer of Huawei's consumer unit. "Many vendors are suffering. Only two vendors have had a good life: Apple and Samsung."

Huawei ranked fifth in global smartphone shipments during the third quarter, with 5.1 percent share, according to researcher Strategy Analytics. It trailed

Samsung, Apple, Xiaomi and LG Electronics Inc., respectively, Strategy Analytics reported in October.

"Over the last two to three years, and in 2014 in particular, we have seen Huawei make concerted efforts in the mid-range of the market," said Kiranjeet Kaur, a Singapore-based analyst at International Data Corp. "Their flagship models, like Honor 6, have helped them achieve their ambition to move up the value chain."

The portion of Huawei's smartphone sales coming from international markets will rise to more than 60 percent this year from 52 percent last year, the company said in yesterday's statement.

Huawei's smartphone sales may rise to \$16 billion this year, from \$12 billion last year, Yu said. Huawei plans to focus for now on organic growth rather than seeking to buy rival manufacturers, he said.

"Currently, we have no short-term acquisition plans," Yu said. "In the future, that may be possible. In the short term, we are mainly focused on our own capability, building our own capability." Bloomberg

AD

Winter in VENICE 冬日威尼斯 Photo Competition Results Announcement CHAMPION 黎維紀 (Lai Wai Kei) First Runners-Up: 吳嘉浩 (Ng Ka Hou), 陳淑儀 (Chan Sok I), 李文樂 (Li Man Lok), 錢光興 (Qian Guang Xing), 李光然 (Lei Kuang In). Awards of Merit list follows.

thermomix THE WORLD OF THERMOMIX 美善品輕鬆「煮」意. Advertisement for the Thermomix multi-cooker, highlighting its compact size, ease of use, and versatility. Includes contact info for Ming Jia Import/Export Ltd.



# Botswana wants to export coal via Mozambique

**B**OTSWANA plans to start exporting coal from ports in Mozambique and South Africa, ahead of completion of a railway linking the country to Namibia, the chief executive of Botswana's Chamber of Mines said recently.

Noting that mining of coal deposits in the Mmambula region in southern Botswana depends on completion of the Trans-Kalahari Railway, Charles Siwawa said mining companies operating locally expect to start their projects by exporting through the ports of Maputo in Mozambique and Richards Bay, South Africa.

The CEO of the Botswana Chamber of Mines, a private entity that brings together several companies with interests in mining, said the wait for completion of the railway could prove "disastrous" for the eco-



conomic ambitions of country, which include providing coal to countries like India and China.

In the face of a drop in coal prices on international markets, Siwawa stressed that mining should not make a rise in prices a condition for launching coal exploration, noting that exporting through Mozambique and South Africa will help operators develop their logistics capabilities.

With an export target of 60 million tons by rail between Botswana and Namibia, over

a distance of 1,500 kilometres, the various operators installed in the Mmamabula coal region may bring coal production forward, with export capacity of around 20 million tons through the ports of Maputo and Richards Bay.

The Matola coal terminal at the port of Maputo, operated by Grindrod Limited, offers an annual export capacity of 6 million tons, which may increase to 26 million in the future, based on an ongoing expansion plan. **MDT/Macauhub**

## ANGOLA

# Australia's Lucapa Diamond extracts 266.7 carats of diamonds

**D**IAMOND mining in the Lulo alluvium, in the Angolan province of Lunda Norte, began in January with production of 266.7 carats, Australia's Lucapa Diamond Company said in a statement recently.

Preliminary work in block 29 of the Lulo concession was "successfully" completed and in just eight days of operation 17.33 carats of diamond per 100 cubic meters of rock have been extracted, according to the same information.

In total, the company found 286 diamonds, weighing 266.7 carats, said Lucapa Diamond, whose Angolan partner for this project is state diamond company Endiama and private group Rosas & Pétales.

Block 29 is the first alluvial diamond operation in the Lulo area since the Australian company and its partners last November signed a contract for the concession



in that area, valid for 35 years.

Previously, in the prospecting phase which lasted for six years, the company extracted 876.5 carats of diamonds from the Lulo area, notably a single 131.4 carat stone, the largest ever found by Lucapa.

The Lulo concession granting of Lulo lies 150 kilometers from the Catoca diamond mine, which is the biggest in Angola and the fourth largest of its kind in the world, and both are located in the same geological area. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD

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U.S. President Barack Obama, right, shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they participate in a CEO roundtable discussion at The Taj Mahal Hotel in New Delhi

## Beijing's shadow looms large over Obama visit to India

Julie Pace  
White House Correspondent,  
New Delhi

AS President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met in New Delhi this week, the shadow of a third player hung over the talks: neighboring China, which has complicated relationships with both the United States and India.

To Obama, forging deeper ties with India fits in neatly with his efforts to deepen U.S. influence in countries on China's doorstep. And as the world's largest democracy, India is a particularly attractive partner to the U.S. as it seeks to cultivate a robust regional counterbalance to communist China.

India and China are ostensibly allies, and Modi warmly welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping to New Delhi last year. But India is also worried about China's maneuvering

in the region— particularly in the Indian Ocean and at the Himalayan border between the two countries — and sees fostering improved relations with the U.S. as key to bolstering its own defense posture.

"There is a triangular game in play from Delhi's point of view," said Ashley Tellis, a South Asia expert at the Washington-based Carnegie

Endowment for International Peace. Modi wants "all of the benefits that come from being seen as working in close collaboration with the United States," including access to American technology, expertise and military cooperation, said Tellis.

The U.S. and India have each cast Obama's three-day visit to New Delhi as a symbol of their efforts to strengthen a relationship that has been plagued by tension and suspicion. Obama is the first U.S. leader to visit India twice as president, and the first to be honored as the chief guest at India's annual Republic Day parade.

Obama and Modi sat side-by-side Monday in a glass-enclosed viewing box as Indian tanks and rocket launchers rolled by and fighter jets sped across the sky overhead. The president later convened a meeting of U.S. and Indian business executives, a gathering aimed at bolstering eco-

**India does not want to seem like it's banding together with the US or with other countries to go against China**

MICHAEL KUGELMAN  
SOUTH ASIA EXPERT  
THE WILSON CENTER

nommic cooperation between the two countries.

Obama's trip didn't go unnoticed in China, where foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said U.S.-India relations "could promote mutual trust and cooperation in the region." But the state-run Xinhua news agency dismissed Obama's visit as "more symbolic than pragmatic, given the long-standing division between the two giants, which may be as huge as the distance between them."

Commentary in China's government-controlled media is frequently used as a means of criticizing or casting doubt on the diplomatic moves of other countries.

When asked about the Chinese take, Obama's deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said, "It's notable that they should feel like they have to go out of their way to comment on this visit."

The subtle jab underscored the complexity of the dynamic

between the U.S. and China, the world's two largest economies.

Obama's visit to Beijing in November generated a surprising amount of consensus on a range of issues, including an ambitious agreement on cutting greenhouse gas emissions that the White House hopes will push nations like India toward similar pacts. But Washington has deep concerns about Beijing's actions on such matters as regional territorial disputes, computer hacking and currency manipulation.

India is particularly concerned about China's quiet quest for greater influence in the Indian Ocean, where has long been New Delhi's domain. The tankers that move through the Indian Ocean are critical for India's oil supply, and any significant slowdown in tanker traffic could cripple its economy. India is also concerned about the Chinese troops that regularly move across its unmarked Himalayan border with China.

Rahul Bedi, an analyst for Jane's Information Group, said India's goal within the next two decades is to develop military capabilities that would enable them to take on China.

"India can't do that on its own, so we need somebody like America to hold our hand," Bedi said.

Obama and Modi agreed to extend a 10-year defense pact that the White House said would allow for deeper military-to-military engagement and increase maritime cooperation. Pentagon chief Chuck Hagel said a defense partnership between the U.S. and India "will help forge security and stability in Asia and across the globe."

Still, regional experts caution that there are limits to how far India, a nation that championed a policy of nonalignment during the Cold War, will go in joining together with the U.S. to counter China.

"India does not want to seem like it's banding together with the United States or with other countries to go against China," said Michael Kugelman, a South Asia expert at the Wilson Center. Kugelman said that while Modi is moving away from his country's nonalignment policy, "its influence is very strong." AP

over a personal issue, the spokeswoman said, asking not to be identified, citing the police force's rules.

The man was a vice president at the bank in Hong Kong, the people

said, asking not to be identified as it's a private matter.

Citibank Plaza is an office complex that comprises Citibank Tower and ICBC Tower. The Hong Kong office of Industrial Bank is located on the 39th floor of ICBC Tower, according to the website of the Hong Kong Association of Banks. The bank opened its first branch in Hong Kong in March 2014.

HONG KONG

## Industrial Bank employee said to fall to his death

A man who fell to his death at an office building located in Hong Kong's business district was an Industrial Bank Co. employee, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

A 31-year-old man was certified dead at the scene at Citibank Plaza in the Central district yesterday morning, a police spokeswoman said by phone. Initial investigation indicated it was

over a personal issue, the spokeswoman said, asking not to be identified, citing the police force's rules.

The man was a vice president at the bank in Hong Kong, the people

said, asking not to be identified as it's a private matter.

Citibank Plaza is an office complex that comprises Citibank Tower and ICBC Tower. The Hong Kong office of Industrial Bank is located on the 39th floor of ICBC Tower, according to the website of the Hong Kong Association of Banks. The bank opened its first branch in Hong Kong in March 2014.

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The incident was reported to the police at 7:17 a.m., the spokeswoman said, without disclosing which company the man worked for.

Industrial Bank, a mid-sized Chinese bank, declined to comment. The Hong Kong branch had 49 employees as of June 30, according to its half-year report.

Yuri Kageyama  
Business Writer, Tokyo

## JAPAN

# People turn to 'I am Kenji' Facebook page on hostage crisis

**T**HE plight of freelance journalist Kenji Goto, taken captive by Islamic State group militants, has gripped Japan, and the people's hopes for his safety are now on Facebook with a simple, unifying plea: "I am Kenji."

The video, posted online last week, showing Goto and another Japanese hostage, has dominated mainstream media here, a peaceful and relatively crime-free nation unaccustomed to such violence.

But as government officials made stately pronouncements on TV news, regular people were taking action of their own — online, with some rallying to Goto's support and others mocking the terrorists with images — in a quiet but massive show of defiance.

"We want Kenji to come home," said Taku Nishimae, a Japanese filmmaker living in New York, who started the "I am Kenji" Facebook page, right after seeing last week's video demanding Japan pay USD200 million within 72 hours for the hostages' release.

The page, now with more than 25,000 "likes" and growing, asks people to post self-portraits and other photos with a sign that says: "I am Kenji."

It's a reference to the "Je Suis Charlie," or "I Am Charlie," worldwide slogan showing solidarity with Charlie Hebdo, the Paris weekly newspaper where 12 people were killed in a terrorist attack earlier this month.

"Let's show that we're united, and tell that it's unjust to kill innocent citizens and it's meaningless to turn entire nation against you," the Fa-



Protesters chant "Free Goto" during a demonstration in front of the Prime Minister's Official residence in Tokyo

cebook page says in English, followed by a translation in Japanese.

Nishimae, 52, stressed the page is not about taking political sides, or even about freedom of the press, but a more general human statement, like a desperate prayer.

About a thousand people have posted photos, some of them portraits holding handwritten messages, some identifying themselves as Muslim, but all with the same message.

The slogan has taken off. "I am Kenji" was among the signs held up at a demonstration of

about 1,000 people outside the prime minister's office over the weekend, demanding the government do more to save the hostages.

"It's great people are getting inspired," said Nishimae, who has known Goto, 47, for 12 years and has worked with him

on documentary movies. "Even now, I can't believe it. But it is Kenji. It feels so unreal."

They had hit it off right away, he recalled. Goto devoted his life to telling the stories of refugees and children in war zones, and had worked with UNICEF.

Another video over the weekend, whose authenticity could not be confirmed, appeared to show Goto holding a photo of the body of Haruna Yukawa, the other hostage, with the demand changing to a prisoner exchange. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said that video is likely credible.

Over the last week, Japanese Twitter has seen a stream of doctored images taken from the first video, including cutesy manga-like figures juxtaposed on top of the images of the two kneeling hostages as well as the masked man standing in the middle.

Nobuyuki Hayashi, a consultant and technology journalist, who happened to know Goto in junior high school, says he finds Twitter chatter disturbing, because of the anonymity that allows people to voice irresponsible and sometimes hurtful views.

"We needed to avoid these Japanese netizens cloaked under anonymity to make any constructive discussion," Hayashi said.

Many Japanese are worried for Goto, but don't know what to do and feel frustrated, he said. The Facebook page allowed them to do something. They can also see the concerns of others around the world.

"And that is encouraging," Hayashi said. "And we can all hope that, when Kenji returns to Japan sometime soon, he would be happy to see so many people supporting him." AP

## Special envoy hopeful about release of hostage, pilot

Mari Yamaguchi and  
Elaine Kurtenbach, Tokyo

**A**Jordanian expressed hope that both Japanese hostage Kenji Goto and a Jordanian pilot held by Islamic militants will return home "with a smile on their faces," as questions rose yesterday over the government's handling of the crisis.

In the Jordanian capital, Amman, Deputy Foreign Minister Yasuhide Nakayama seemed determined, saying he believed there were "firm ties" between Japan and Jordan.

"I hope we can all firmly work hard and join hands to cooperate, and for the two countries (Japan and Jordan) to cooperate, in



Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Yasuhide Nakayama, left, answers a reporter's question in Amman, Jordan

order for us to see the day when the Jordanian pilot and our Japanese national Mr. Goto, can both

safely return to their own countries with a smile on their faces," Nakayama, a lawmaker sent to coordinate efforts in Amman to

save two Japanese hostages of the Islamic State group, said late Monday night.

It was the first mention by a Japanese official of Jordanian pilot 1st Lt. Mu'ath al-Kaseasbeh, who has been held by the

extremist Islamic State group after crashing in December. It wasn't clear when the pilot's possible release had entered the picture.

The issue of a prisoner swap is sensitive, given Jordanian concern over the pilot, and Nakayama emerged from the Japanese Embassy yesterday with no new updates.

"There are other parties involved, so I don't want to comment on details of the negotiations," he said.

Goto, a journalist, was seized in late October in Syria, apparently while trying to rescue 42-year-old Haruna Yukawa, an adventurer who was captured by the militants last summer.

Over the weekend, an

unverified video surfaced showing a still photo of Goto, 47, holding what appears to be a photo of Yukawa's body. It included a recording of a voice claiming to be Goto, saying his captors wanted the release of Sajida al-Rashawi, an Iraqi woman sentenced to death in Jordan for involvement in a suicide bombing that killed 60 people.

The message retracted a demand for payment of USD200 million in ransom for the two Japanese, made in an earlier online message, and said Yukawa had been killed. It threatened to kill Goto unless al-Rashawi was released.

Japanese officials are

treating the video released over the weekend as authentic and thus accepting the likelihood that Yukawa was killed. However, the new message varied greatly from previous videos released by the Islamic State group, and The Associated Press could not verify its contents and whether they actually reflect the group's demands.

Securing the release of al-Rashawi would be a propaganda coup for the Islamic State, enabling the group to reaffirm links to al-Qaida in Iraq. Al-Rashawi fled but was captured after her explosive belt failed to detonate in the attack in Jordan. She pleaded not guilty. AP

AP PHOTO



People watch a TV news program showing Kim Yo Jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul

## NORTH KOREA

# Kim Jong Un relies on improbable pair of women amid purges

Sam Kim

ONE sports a Christian Dior handbag and favors Western clothes. The other carries a notebook and wears dark uniforms. These fashion opposites are the two most influential women in North Korea.

While Kim Jong Un's wife Ri Sol Ju and younger sister Kim Yo Jong are currently allies in sustaining one of the world's most reclusive leaders, their overlapping influence makes them potential rivals in a regime where family ties aren't strong enough to protect against Kim's penchant for purges.

These women of Pyongyang offer insight to an opaque regime that, while struggling to feed its people, is capable of maintaining 1.2 million men under arms and threatening neighbors with nuclear annihilation. Ri commands a growing following among the wives of North Korean elite while Kim Yo Jong now holds a senior position in the ruling

Workers' Party and serves as an adviser to her brother.

"Uneasiness is inevitable in a relationship like this," Kang Myong Do, a son-in-law of North Korea's former Prime Minister, Kang Song San, said by phone. "The wife wouldn't like it if her husband got too close to his sister; the sister wouldn't like it if her brother got too close to his wife."

The sister would try to oust Ri if the first lady - a "rag-tag commoner" compared to Kim Yo Jong - sought political power beyond the role of burnishing her husband's public image, said Kang, who now teaches North Korean studies at Kyungmin University near Seoul.

Kim Yo Jong chooses to remain in her brother's shadow at public events, while Ri locks arms with Kim Jong Un. In a photo released Jan. 21 by the state-run Rodong Sinmun newspaper, Kim Yo Jong hides behind a pole as she watches the back of her brother speaking to people at a shoe

factory.

Still, Kim Yo Jong "has a lot of control over who has access to her brother, what they say to him, what documents they hand over - in short, she is a combination gatekeeper and traffic cop," said Michael Madden, editor of the North Korea Leadership Watch blog.

She joined her brother in handing out awards to troops at an air force competition in May and that suggests she commands the party's Organization and Guidance Department, which handles everything from promotions to purges, Cheong Seong Chang, a senior analyst at the Sejong Institute near Seoul, said in an e-mail.

Kim's sister remained out of the public eye until she was spotted on state television at her father's funeral in a black mourning dress. In footage shown less than a year later, she was riding a white horse alongside her aunt Kim Kyong Hui.

The aunt hasn't been seen in public since her husband Jang

Song ThaeK, once considered the leader's mentor, was executed by his nephew in December 2013 after accusations of graft and factionalism.

Kim Yo Jong began appearing more in public after the purge, and the official Korean Central News Agency last November referred to her as a deputy director of the party, the first time she had been cited with a formal title.

The purge of Jang may have also strengthened the hand of Ri with the North Korean elite looking to avoid a similar fate. Kim Jong Un last year executed another 50 officials on charges ranging from graft to watching South Korean soap operas, South Korean lawmaker Shin Kyung Min said in October after attending a National Intelligence Service briefing.

"The kind of authoritarianism that exists there, you almost can't duplicate anywhere else," President Barack Obama said in an interview on YouTube Jan. 22, in which he answered questions from three of the video website's personalities. "It's brutal and it's oppressive, and as a consequence, the country can't really even feed its own people."

There are accounts that the wives of North Korean elite used their ties to Ri to "limit the number of officials removed from office due to the Jang purge," Madden said.

"What we'll need to watch for is whether Ri Sol Ju becomes

Queen Bee among the wives or if that role is assumed by Yo Jong," he said in an e-mail. "They are a quiet but politically influential cohort in the North Korean elite."

In public Ri offers a softer side of the Supreme Leader and has been a regular in North Korean propaganda. In 2005, she traveled to South Korea as a teenage cheerleader for North Korean teams at an athletic competition. Seven years later she was revealed as his wife at an appearance with Kim at an amusement park in July 2012.

■ While Kim Jong Un's wife Ri Sol Ju and younger sister Kim Yo Jong are currently allies, their overlapping influence makes them potential rivals

Still, so little is known about their relationship that it took former NBA star Dennis Rodman to reveal the couple had a child after a trip to Pyongyang in 2013 to play basketball. Rodman told the Guardian newspaper that he held Kim's daughter Ju-ae and that Kim is a "good dad and has a beautiful family."

Citing conversations with people who have been in the room with both women at the same time, Madden said the two appeared friendly to each other as they sat at opposite sides - Ri with her husband and Kim with senior party officials.

Kim was born to the same Korean-Japanese dancer, Ko Yong Hui, as Kim Jong Un. In February 2011 South Korean broadcaster KBS showed what it identified as Kim Yo Jong and her other brother, Kim Jong Chol, enjoying an Eric Clapton concert in Singapore.

Yonhap News said Jan. 2 she married one of party secretary Choe Ryong Hae's sons, citing two people in China it didn't identify and a photo of her wearing a ring. Dong-A Ilbo newspaper rebutted the report days later.

The power of women has been growing in North Korea and they are destined to "rule behind the scenes in the Confucian-minded Korea," Leonid Petrov, a Korea studies researcher at the Australian National University, said by e-mail. **Bloomberg**



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Meghan Barr, New York

USA

# Millions hunker down as snowstorm totals downgraded

TENS of millions of people along the U.S. East Coast hunkered down for a storm that for most failed to live up to predictions that it would be one of the worst they'd ever seen.

Forecasters originally said the storm could bring up to about a meter of snow and punishing hurricane-force winds. But early yesterday, they downgraded most of those numbers, saying New England would fare the worst, but even then not as bad as expected.

Bruce Sullivan of the National Weather Service said Boston and Providence, Rhode Island, could get the most snow, about half a meter. New York could see up to 50 centimeters, Hartford, Connecticut, up to half a meter, and Philadelphia and central New Jersey about 15 centimeters.

The National Weather Service over the weekend had issued a blizzard warning for a 400-kilometer swath of the region, meaning heavy, blowing snow and potential whiteout conditions.

On Monday, life abruptly stopped across the region as officials ordered workers to go home early, banned travel, closed bridges and tunnels, and assembled their biggest



Pedestrians make their way through snow in New York

plowing crews.

"When you wake up in the morning, it is going to look like a blizzard," said Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, echoing the concern of many government leaders.

Light snow fell steadily early yesterday in midtown Manhattan as a few municipal trucks rumbled down empty streets. The city had an almost eerie feel to it. No airplanes in the sky, making for an unexpected quiet.

More than 7,700 flights in and out of the Northeast were canceled, and many of them may not take off again until today. Schools and businesses let out early. Government offices closed. Shoppers stocking up on food jammed supermarkets and elbowed one another for what was left. Broadway stages went dark.

Mayor Bill de Blasio urged New Yorkers to go home and stay there, adding: "People have to make smart decisions from this point on."

Commuters like Sameer Navi, 27, of Long Island, were following the advice.

Navi, who works for Citigroup in Manhattan, said he takes a train every day and left work early Monday after warnings by local officials to get home before the brunt of the storm.

"I did leave earlier than usual," he said. **AP**

IRAQ

## Emirati airlines halt flights to Baghdad after shooting

Adam Schreck, Dubai

MULTIPLE airlines from the United Arab Emirates said yesterday they were cancelling flights to Baghdad after a passenger plane arriving from the Mideast's busiest airport in Dubai came under fire as it landed in the Iraqi capital.

A prolonged suspension could seriously limit the travel options for Iraqi travelers and foreign businesspeople, diplomats and aid workers who rely on busy international transit hubs in the oil-rich Gulf.

Discount carrier FlyDubai said its flight 215 was struck on the fuselage by what appeared to small-arms fire. All passengers were able to disembark normally and none required medical attention, the Dubai government-owned carrier said.

Passengers heading back to Dubai were put on a different plane, the airline said, and a flight due to depart to Baghdad yesterday had been cancelled.



An Etihad Airways plane prepares to land in Abu Dhabi Airport, United Arab Emirates

Dubai-based Emirates, the region's biggest airline, separately said it is suspending flights to and from the Iraqi capital because of "operational and safety concerns" until further notice.

"We remain committed to our customers in Iraq and hope to resume services to Baghdad as soon as operational conditions allow," the airline said in an emailed statement.

Emirates will continue to fly to the northern Iraqi city of Irbil and the southern oil hub of Basra.

Etihad Airways, based in the Emirati capital of Abu Dhabi, said it was also suspending operations to Baghdad indefinitely following a directive from the Gulf country's civil

aviation authority.

Iraqi officials told The Associated Press that bullets hit the FlyDubai flight as it touched down Monday. It was unclear who was behind the shooting and whether the plane was deliberately targeted.

Baghdad International Airport is surrounded by a vast and heavily guarded security perimeter lined with concrete blast walls, making it difficult for insurgents to fire on incoming planes.

Several airlines rerouted flights that pass through Iraqi airspace but aren't bound for the country last year as a precaution against Islamic State militants, who have seized large parts of the north and west of Iraq. **AP**

FACEBOOK

## Internal glitch causes hour-long global outage

Youkyung Lee, Technology Writer, Seoul

FACEBOOK said it suffered a self-inflicted outage lasting an hour yesterday that made its site inaccessible to users worldwide.

The glitch reported in Asia, the United States, Australia and the U.K. affected access from PCs and Facebook's mobile app. The social media giant's Instagram service was also inaccessible.

A Facebook statement said the disruption was caused by a technical change it made to the site and wasn't a cyberattack. Lizard Squad, a group notorious for attention seeking antics online, claimed responsibility on Twitter for the outages.

"This was not the result of a third party attack but instead occurred after we introduced a change that affected our configuration systems," Facebook said.

The temporary loss of service may be Facebook's biggest outage since Sept. 24, 2010 when it was down for about 2.5 hours.

On its website for developers, Facebook said the "major outage" lasted one hour.



A Facebook logo is displayed on the screen of an iPad in New York

Facebook has about 1.35 billion active users and Instagram has some 300 million.

News of the Facebook outage set rival social network Twitter alight, propelling the hashtag "facebookdown" to top trend on the site. It comes ahead of Facebook reporting its quarterly earnings today.

As access to Facebook returned, some users in Asia reported that the site was loading slowly or not offering full functionality.

Lizard Squad on Monday claimed responsibility for defacing the Malaysia Airlines website and has said it will release data from the airline. The group has claimed responsibility for a variety of hacks over the past year, most of them aimed at gaming or media companies. **AP**

Peter Prengaman, Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA

# President seeks overhaul of intelligence services

**P**RESIDENT Cristina Fernandez called on Congress to dissolve Argentina's intelligence services in the wake of the mysterious death of a prosecutor, strongly denying his accusation that she had sought to shield former Iranian officials suspected in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish center.

In a nationally televised address late Monday (yesterday, Macau time), her first since the death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman hours before he was to give potentially explosive testimony on the alleged cover up, Fernandez said her proposal to create a new spy agency would be presented to lawmakers by the end of the week.

She did not say who might have killed Nisman, but in recent letters posted on social media she had suggested that rogue intelligence agents may have orchestrated the death in a plot against her government. In the speech, she provided no new details of the alleged plot and Fernandez herself oversees the intelligence agencies in question.

She said reforming the clandestine services was a "national debt" the country has had since the return of democracy in 1983. Argentina had several years of a brutal dictatorship, and Fernandez suggested that the problems of today had their roots in the years of that military government.

While government officials had previously labeled Nisman's allegations as absurd, Monday's speech was the first time Fernandez had taken them on directly.



A television screen in a restaurant shows a nationally televised address by Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez, her first public comments since the death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman, in Buenos Aires

"It's unreasonable to think our government could even be suspected of such a maneuver," said Fernandez, who spoke while sitting in a wheelchair because of a fractured ankle.

Nisman, 51, was found dead Jan. 18 in the bathroom in his apartment, a bullet in his right temple. A .22 caliber gun was found next to him. His death came days after he gave a judge a report alleging Fernandez secretly reached a deal to prevent prosecution of former Ira-

nian officials accused of involvement in the 1994 bombing of Argentina's largest Jewish center, which killed 85 people. She allegedly reached the deal in exchange for economic and trade benefits with Iran.

Iran has denied the accusation.

Nisman's death has produced anti-government protests and a myriad of conspiracy theories, ranging from suicide to the involvement of Iranian intelligence agents.

Appearing rested and calm,

Fernandez began with a spirited defense of all her government had done to try to solve the 1994 case.

She lamented that more than 20 years later nobody had been convicted or even detained. She noted that her predecessor, husband and former President Nestor Kirchner, had appointed Nisman to the case after years of paralysis.

She said a 2013 memorandum of understanding with Iran, which many in the country have bitterly criticized, was

aimed at obtaining cooperation with the Middle Eastern powerhouse to finally seek justice for the bombing.

Employing the fiery rhetoric she is known for, at the end her televised speech, Fernandez said she had a message for her countrymen.

"I will not be extorted, I am not afraid" of being cited by judges or denounced by investigators, she said. "They will not make me move even a centimeter from what I have always thought." AP

WW2

# Dwindling group of survivors to mark Auschwitz 70 years on

Vanessa Gera, Oswiecim

**A**decade ago, 1,500 Holocaust survivors traveled to Auschwitz to mark the 60th anniversary of the death camp's liberation. Yesterday, for the 70th anniversary, organizers were expecting 300, the youngest in their 70s.

"In 10 years there might be just one," said Zygmunt Shipper, an 85-year-old survivor who will attend the event in southern Poland to pay homage to the millions killed by the Third Reich. In recent years, Shipper has been traveling around Britain to share his story with school groups, hoping to reach as many people as



Visitors walk by barbed wire fences at the Auschwitz Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, Poland

he can while he has the strength.

"The children cry, and I tell them to talk to their parents and brothers and sisters and ask them 'why do we do it and why do

we hate?'" he said. "We mustn't forget what happened."

But as the world moves inevitably closer to a post-survivor era, some Jewish leaders fear that people

are already starting to forget. And they warn that the anti-Semitic hatred and violence that are on the rise, particularly in Europe, could partly be linked to fading memories of the Holocaust.

Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, says that the recent massacres in Paris, which targeted Jews and newspaper satirists, are proof of growing hatred and extremism. It's a message he was planning to stress in a speech yesterday at the former site of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where the Nazis killed more than 1.1 million people, most of them Jews.

"Shortly after World War

II, after we saw the reality of Auschwitz and the other death camps, no normal person wanted to be associated with the anti-Semitism of the Nazis," Lauder said. "But, as the Holocaust grows more distant and survivors disappear, extremists grow more bold in targeting Jews. Stoked by a false narrative that blames Israel for a litany of the world's problems, anti-Semitism is resurgent and deadly."

Distance from the Holocaust is only one factor behind the rising anti-Semitism, and experts also fault the ease with which hateful propaganda is spread on the Internet and the growing presence of radical Islam in Europe. In Hungary and Greece, far-right movements have grown stronger amid economic decline.

"Fading memories are one reason for the rise in anti-Semitism, but anti-Semitism was always

there," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League and a survivor himself. "We have hidden it, made it unacceptable, made it un-PC, but we never really eliminated it. The consciousness of what anti-Semitism was, of Auschwitz, was prevalent; it kept the lid on it. It wasn't acceptable to be anti-Semitic."

Despite the troubling trend, there are also reasons for hope. Mainstream society has become more vigilant, and Holocaust educators say that interest in the Holocaust keeps growing. Also, anti-Semitism remains a huge taboo for most politicians and mainstream societies in the West. Political opposition to anti-Semitism was underlined by the presence yesterday of the presidents of Germany, France and Poland, along with many other European leaders and royalty. AP

## what's ON

## COOKIN' NANTA

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)  
5pm & 8pm (Saturdays & Sunday)  
8pm (March 22, 2015)

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Sands Theatre at the Sands Macau/  
No.203, Largo de Monte Carlo, Macau  
ADMISSION: MOP280 up

## EXHIBITION "FOAM TIP BY ARLINDA FROTA AND TRANSMUTATION BY CAROL KWOK"

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: SIGNUM Living Store, Rua do Almirante  
Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8925

## APAIXONADO PASSIONATE CUBA - MARCO SZETO &amp; 10 CUBAN ARTISTS JOINT EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: February 18, 2015

VENUE: Dare to Dream flagship store  
and art gallery, Calçada da Barra No.16 A,  
Edifício San Chak, Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2830 2012

## "ONE HUNDRED PHOTOGRAPHERS FOCUS ON MACAU" EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Level 2 Showcase, MGM Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

## PENGUINS UNDERCOVER ICE WORLD WITH THE DREAMWORKS GANG

TIME: 11am-8pm

UNTIL: March 8, 2015

VENUE: Cotai Expo  
ADMISSION: MOP120  
ENQUIRIES: 2882 8818

## MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM &amp; WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431,  
basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

## Offbeat

## SENTENCING DAY FOR CHICAGO TWINS WHO TURNED ON CARTEL



The twin brothers from Chicago are reviled by Mexican cartels but praised by prosecutors as the most valuable traffickers-turned-informants in recent U.S. history.

Pedro and Margarito Flores will be sentenced today

(Macau time) at federal court in their hometown amid tight security.

They pleaded guilty at a secret 2012 hearing to running a nearly USD2 billion U.S. trafficking franchise. Their partners included Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

The risk of reprisals to them and anyone associated with them is so great that even their lawyer's name has been kept secret.

Prosecutors are requesting a remarkably lenient prison term of around 10 years. They say it's reward for cooperation that led to indictments of Guzman and 50 others. With time served, they could be out within a few years.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Series
00:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

22 JAN - 28 JAN



## BLACKHAT

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Michael Mann

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Viola Davis, Wei Tang

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 133min



## INTO THE WOODS

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Robert Marshall

Starring: James Corden, Emily Blunt, Meryl Streep

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 125min



## AMERICAN SNIPER

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Clint Eastwood

Starring: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller, Kyle Gallner

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 132min

## MACAU TOWER

24 JAN - 4 FEB

## BLACKHAT

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Michael Mann

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Viola Davis, Wei Tang

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 133min

## this day in history



## 1986 SEVEN DEAD IN SPACE SHUTTLE DISASTER

The American space shuttle, Challenger, has exploded killing all seven astronauts on board.

The five men and two women - including the first teacher in space - were just over a minute into their flight from Cape Canaveral in Florida when the Challenger blew up.

The astronauts' families, at the airbase, and millions of Americans witnessed the world's worst space disaster live on TV.

The danger from falling debris prevented rescue boats reaching the scene for more than an hour.

In 25 years of space exploration seven people have died - today that total has been doubled.

President Ronald Reagan has described the tragedy as "a national loss".

The Challenger's flight, the 25th by a shuttle, had already been delayed because of bad weather. High winds, then icicles caused the launch to be postponed from 22 January.

But Nasa officials insist safety remains their top priority and there was no pressure to launch the shuttle today.

The shuttle crew was led by Commander Dick Scobee, 46. Christa McAuliffe, 37, married with two children, was to be the first school teacher in space - picked from among 10,000 entries for a competition.

Speaking before the launch, she said: "One of the things I hope to bring back into the classroom is to make that connection with the students that they too are part of history, the space programme belongs to them and to try to bring them up with the space age."

President Reagan has put off his state of the union address. He was meeting senior aides in the Oval Office when he learned of the disaster.

He has called for an immediate inquiry into the disaster but he said the space programme would go on - in honour to the dead astronauts. Vice-President George Bush has been sent to Cape Canaveral to visit the victims' families.

This evening, the president went on national television to pay tribute to the courage and bravery of the seven astronauts.

He said: "We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them this morning as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A memorial service was held three days later, in Houston, Texas, for the seven crew. It was addressed by President Reagan.

The Rogers commission reported on the cause of the Challenger disaster in May. It found the explosion had been caused by a leak through a faulty seal or O-ring in one of the solid rocket boosters.

The Challenger disaster was a severe blow to the American space programme. There were no further manned flights until September 1988.

On 1 February 2003 the space shuttle Columbia exploded as it was attempting re-entry after a 16-day mission.

All seven astronauts on board, including the first Israeli in space, were killed.

Tributes to the astronauts were led by US President George W Bush.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your values are tested today — but that's not so bad for someone like you!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your affection for a friend or family member is leading you in some interesting new directions — so keep heading down that way!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Someone needs to hear from you today — so draw deep from your well of wisdom and serve up the best possible advice.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Original thinking is one of your many gifts, and today you need to push past everyone else's groupthink to get to the bottom of some new issue.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 A legal issue becomes more important — though it may not be negative in any way! It could be that the law is definitely on your side, or simply that a hobby has acquired greater significance.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You need to dig into something new today — maybe a job prospect, maybe a new way of thinking about your spiritual side.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Take a second look at that problem that has been bugging you lately — you may need to rethink everything once you've seen that one clue you've been missing.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your inclination toward doing your own thing may be problematic today — try to get others' feelings into consideration first and foremost.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Though you may not be all that interested in the small stuff, that's where the action is today — so make sure that you're really paying attention!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Can you stick with the program? It's harder than it looks, but you've got the right kind of energy to focus and keep on track despite an avalanche of distractions.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Are you reliving your past more than you'd like? Now is the time to dive deeply into it and get it over with.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to take it easy today — things are going your way already, so there's no need to rush or force them.



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles: Easy and Easy+. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled. Easy puzzle: Row 1: [ ] [ ] [ ] 6 [ ] [ ] 1 5; Row 2: 9 [ ] 3 [ ] [ ] 4 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 3: [ ] [ ] [ ] 5 8 7 3 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 4: 6 [ ] 7 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 5: [ ] 8 [ ] 4 [ ] 7 [ ] 9 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 6: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 8 [ ] 2 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 7: [ ] 4 9 2 8 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 8: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 1 [ ] [ ] 2 [ ] 9 [ ] [ ]; Row 9: 1 6 [ ] [ ] 4 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]. Easy+ puzzle: Row 1: [ ] 3 [ ] 5 [ ] [ ] 7 [ ] 6 [ ]; Row 2: 1 [ ] 7 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 9 [ ]; Row 3: [ ] [ ] 5 9 1 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 4: 4 8 1 2 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 5: [ ] 7 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 9 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 6: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 4 8 3 2 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 7: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 3 1 9 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 8: 6 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 1 [ ] 8 [ ]; Row 9: 7 [ ] 4 [ ] [ ] [ ] 5 [ ] 6 [ ] [ ] [ ].

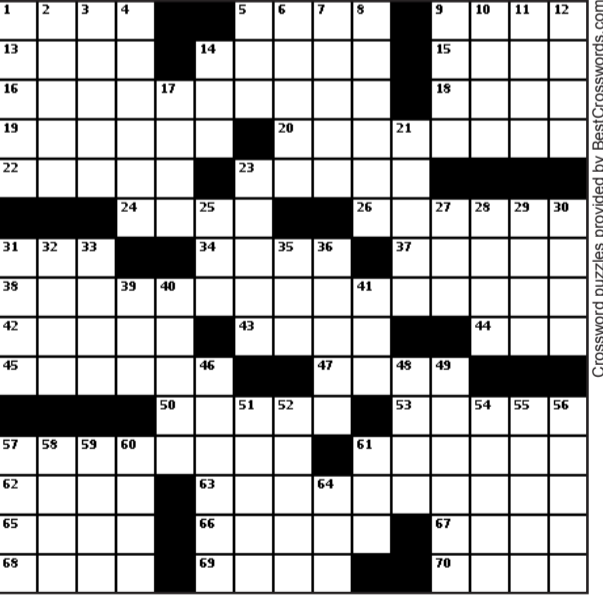
Sudoku puzzles: Medium and Hard. Medium puzzle: Row 1: 9 [ ] 4 [ ] [ ] [ ] 5 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 2: 2 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 9 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 3: [ ] [ ] [ ] 1 [ ] 2 4 [ ] 9 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 4: [ ] [ ] 6 [ ] 3 [ ] [ ] 7 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 5: 4 [ ] [ ] 5 [ ] [ ] 3 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 6: 3 [ ] [ ] 2 [ ] 6 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 7: 4 [ ] 3 2 [ ] 6 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 8: [ ] [ ] [ ] 8 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 7 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 9: [ ] [ ] 9 [ ] [ ] [ ] 2 [ ] 1 [ ] [ ] [ ]. Hard puzzle: Row 1: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 2 4 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 2: 3 [ ] [ ] [ ] 8 [ ] [ ] [ ] 6 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 3: [ ] [ ] 9 [ ] [ ] [ ] 7 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 4: [ ] 2 [ ] 4 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 5: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 1 3 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 6: 1 [ ] [ ] [ ] 6 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 5 [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 7: [ ] [ ] [ ] 2 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 8: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] 1 [ ]; Row 9: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ].

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Magic stick; 5- Money-related; Abbr.; 9- The Elder or The Younger; 13- That's \_\_\_; 14- Outspoken; 15- \_\_\_ and terminator; 16- Resembling sugar; 18- Aromatic plant; 19- Unprincipled; 20- State of drowsiness; 22- Apartment sign; 23- Marsh of mystery; 24- Architect Saarinen; 26- Attire; 31- \_\_\_ were you...; 34- Cereal grain; 37- Like some vbs.; 38- In spite of; 42- Mountain nymph; 43- Petty quarrel; 44- CIA forerunner; 45- Strict disciplinarian; 47- Not of the cloth; 50- Not express; 53- Swedish imports; 57- Adjustable resistor; 61- Literary ridicule; 62- Over-50 org.; 63- Self-centered; 65- \_\_\_ Cong; 66- Horne and Olin; 67- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 68- Greek goddess of strife; 69- Caustic substances; 70- Goes wrong; DOWN: 1- Attended; 2- Memorable mission; 3- Actor Williamson; 4- Formal order; 5- Pro; 6- Frosting; 7- Capital city of Yemen; 8- Ecclesiastic; 9- Silver salmon; 10- Affirmative votes; 11- Actress Hatcher; 12- Globes; 14- Actor Kilmer; 17- Abhor; 21- General Powell; 23- \_\_\_ Ark; 25- Go bad; 27- Old California fort; 28- Threesome; 29- Coop group; 30- Breakfast staple; 31- Are you \_\_\_ out?; 32- \_\_\_ song (cheap); 33- Tabloid tidbit; 35- Sugar amt.; 36- Stable compartment; 39- Armed conflict; 40- Graven images; 41- Loss leader?; 46- No kidding!; 48- This \_\_\_ outrage!; 49- Bovine animals; 51- Shrewd; 52- Make up for wrongdoing; 54- Broadcaster; 55- Prickly plant; 56- Religious offshoots; 57- Pan's opposite; 58- "Aquarius" musical; 59- \_\_\_ saw Elba; 60- Chooses; 61- Paris possessive; 64- \_\_\_ in Charlie



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
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Millennium Court Tower 1 Unit F,Macau 1,501sq ft / HKD 15.30M HKD 10,193sq ft
Bright & Spacious Ref: 14075407

Designer Apartment Perfect weekend home Macau 679 sq ft / HKD 6.588M HKD 9,702sq ft
Overlooking St Pauls Ref: 14105421

Warehouse, Keck Seng Macau Warehouse for Rent Immediate Occupation HKD 32,800 / 3,755 sq ft Ref: 14080435

One Oasis D and J Units Coloane 2 Bedrooms Apartment Great Location HKD 19,500 / 1,177 sq ft Ref: 14100446

EDF. HOU CHAN Macau 8 Bedrooms Apartment Building in Old Macau HKD 40,000 / 2,390 sq ft Ref: 14090440

The Manhattan, Unit D Taipa Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Luxury Residence HKD 36,000 / 2,488 sq ft Ref: 15015429

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## FOOTBALL | ASIAN CUP

# Australia beat UAE 2-0 to reach final

Keiran Smith, Newcastle

**A**USTRALIA remained on course for its maiden Asian Cup title after defeating United Arab Emirates 2-0 in a semifinal at Newcastle Stadium on a wet day.

Playing in Newcastle for the first time in almost 20 years, the Socceroos took a firm grip on the contest when defenders Trent Sainsbury and Jason Davidson punched in their first international goals inside the first 15 minutes.

"Our intention was we wanted to start really strong," Australia coach Ange Postecoglou said. "We thought if we can get through that early period with not conceding and possibly with the bonus of scoring, then we could control the game after that."

Australia march on to the final against South Korea at Sydney on Saturday, when the host hopes to go one step better than its 2011 final loss to Japan. South Korea beat Australia 1-0 in the group stage 10 days ago.

"For us to be there is a fitting way to end a fantastic tournament," Postecoglou said. "You can always dream if we win it, it will be one of the biggest games (in Australia) ever."

UAE, which knocked out defending champion Japan 5-4 on penalties in the quarterfinals, couldn't find a breakthrough to spark a fightback, despite another leading per-



Australia's Mathew Leckie, left, and UAE's Ismail al Hammadi battle for the ball during the AFC Asian Cup semifinal soccer match between Australia and United Arab Emirates in Newcastle

formance by star Omar Abdulrahman.

UAE faces Iraq in the third-place playoff at the same venue on Friday.

Australia and the UAE had never met in a competitive match, and their last two friendlies ended in scoreless draws, but the host needed only three minutes to make a dream start.

Massimo Luongo's corner

was met by Sainsbury, who took advantage of some slack marking to guide in his header.

Australia's eagerness to dominate midfield in the first half was best epitomized by Robbie Kruse, who dispossessed Abdulrahman while missing one of his boots.

Kruse created the next Australia chance when the winger's dinked cross fell close to Tim Cahill. In the ensuing scramble,

Mathew Leckie's shot was blocked, but Davidson's follow-up shot slid past goalkeeper Majed Naser to double their advantage in the 14th.

Davidson became Australia's 10th different scorer of the tournament.

"We can score goals from anywhere," Postecoglou said. "We knew, if we played our style of football and got players in the positions where

we can score, including set-pieces."

Ahmed Khalil, who was UAE's most impressive player in the first half, fired a warning of UAE's strength in attack when his shot from a low cross hit the outside of the post.

UAE started the second half better than the first, with Abdulrahman getting on to the ball increasingly more in threatening areas, but Australia goalkeeper Mat Ryan was rarely tested.

"We tried our best to come back into the game but it was not easy," UAE coach Mahdi Ali said.

"We played three strong matches; Iran, then Japan, then Australia. Many players were tired, and we didn't have enough power to come back into the game."

Cahill, who was largely contained by the defense, was withdrawn for Tomi Juric just after the hour by Postecoglou, who may have had thoughts of keeping his talisman fresh for the final.

A concern for Postecoglou, though, will be the fitness of left back Ivan Franjic, who appeared to injure his groin late, when Australia had already used its three substitutions.

"We'll see how he cools down," Postecoglou said. "But it's a final of a major tournament, and I reckon unless they chop his leg off he'll put his hand up to be part of it." AP

**E**VEN with all its star power, the Ivory Coast may have to depend on the luck of the draw to reach the quarterfinals at the African Cup of Nations.

All four teams in Group D have two points after 1-1 draws in every match.

Today, Yaya Toure and his Ivorian teammates will face Cameroon at Malabo Stadium, while Guinea takes on Mali in Mongomo.

"We fight like elephants to try to win this game," said veteran Ivory Coast defender Kolo Toure, referencing the national team's nickname. "This game is going to be different, and I can't wait. We need to give everything to prove we are a great team."

More draws could mean that the quarterfinalists from the group will be drawn by lots. But if

## AFRICAN CUP

## Ivory Coast, Cameroon may need luck for tournament progress



Ivory Coast's national soccer team poses for a team picture before the start of their African Cup of Nations Group B match against Sudan at Malabo Stadium in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

both matches produce a winner, then those two teams will go through.

The pre-tournament favorites from the group,

Ivory Coast and Cameroon, will need a high-scoring draw in Malabo and another draw in Mongomo in order for

both to advance.

"We go for a win," Cameroon coach Volker Finke said on Tuesday. "But I know we have to work very hard against the ball. There are excellent individual players in the team of Ivory Coast."

Besides Yaya Toure, who recently won his fourth African player of the year award, the Ivorians also have Wilfried Bony and veteran Salomon Kalou. But they will be missing Gervinho, the Roma forward who will be serving the second of his two-match suspension for getting a straight red card in the

opening match.

In their first two matches in Malabo, the Ivorians had to come back to earn their draws. They got a late equalizer from Seydou Doumbia in the opening group match against Guinea, and Max Gradel scored an even later equalizer against Mali.

For Guinea, one of the three worst-affected countries in the Ebola outbreak, the results so far have been welcome good news.

"We've played two of the favorites of the competition and not lost," Guinea captain Ibrahima Traore said after

the draw against Cameroon. "We just have to continue the way we're playing. We have what it takes to qualify."

Guinea, however, will likely be playing without Florentin Pogba, the older brother of Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba. Florentin, a defender who plays for Saint-Etienne, injured his right hamstring against Cameroon.

But despite injuries and suspensions, today is the final chance for all four Group D teams to ensure advancement from their play on the field, rather than luck.

"It's always very important to increase your pace step by step and not to start very quickly, and not be without energy after the second game," Ivory Coast coach Herve Renard said. "We are in a good way." AP

opinion

**World Views**

The Editors, Bloomberg

**GREECE'S CRAZY LEFTISTS HAVE A GOOD IDEA**

Amid the populist rhetoric that propelled the far-left Syriza party to victory in Greece's parliamentary elections, there's one idea that Germany in particular should take to heart: revive growth in the euro area by giving the hardest-hit countries a break on their debts.

Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras, who was sworn in Monday as Greece's new prime minister, has long been calling for a "European debt conference" – a summit meeting at which the region's leaders would reduce the debilitating obligations of Greece and other financially troubled euro-area governments. Unlike the rest of the party's program, this idea makes sense.

Greece has already been granted some debt relief, but not enough to make its fiscal position sustainable. Tsipras is calling for a writedown of about one-third.

There's plenty of historical precedent for relief on this scale. One case in particular ought to resonate with German officials, who are among the most steadfast opponents of debt relief. After World War 2, Germany's creditors recognized that full payment of the country's debts would make revival harder and could destabilize the whole of Europe. In 1953, they agreed to forgive about 50 percent of West Germany's debts, and made the rest contingent on economic performance. The creditor countries acknowledged at the time that the debt relief was in their own interests.

Today, Germany is the most powerful creditor nation in the euro area. A prolonged financial and economic crisis – together with fiscal and regulatory mismanagement on all sides – has left Greece and others in financial distress. Concerned that further debt relief would encourage profligacy, Germany opposes writedowns and insists on severe fiscal austerity. The results have been disastrous. In Greece, one in four workers is unemployed and – by one estimate – almost half the population is now in poverty.

This enforced hardship isn't improving the countries' ability to pay their debts or helping the European Union's economic prospects. Slow growth has eroded the fiscal benefits of austerity. Despite spending cuts and tax increases, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and even France will be unable to get their ratios of debt to gross domestic product down to the euro area's permitted maximum of 60 percent in the foreseeable future.

Debt forgiveness tied to pro-growth economic reforms would help. In some countries, the cost of servicing debt exceeds 10 percent of government expenditures. Some of this money would be better used for spending that would put people back to work. Higher employment and faster growth would make it easier for governments to pay their remaining obligations. That's why, in circumstances as dire as these, the true cost of debt relief to creditors is low, at worst, and in some cases could even be negative.

There'd be other benefits too – above all, easing the suffering already inflicted on Greece and others, and restoring popular support for the European project. As a principal stakeholder in that project, Germany stands to gain a lot. Its refusal to countenance further debt relief is economically damaging and politically dangerous. For its own sake, Germany should think again.

**THE BUZZ US: UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FALL IN 42 STATES AMID BROAD HIRING**

Unemployment rates fell in 42 U.S. states last month, the latest sign that strong hiring is boosting job opportunities nationwide.

The Labor Department said yesterday that rates rose in just four states last month and were unchanged in four others.

Job gains remained healthy in states with large oil and gas industries, suggesting that plunging oil prices have yet to cause significant layoffs. Texas gained 45,700 jobs in

December, the most in the nation. Overall, 41 states gained jobs, while nine said they had lost jobs.

Nationwide, nearly 3 million more Americans are earning paychecks now compared with 12 months ago. That should help boost consumer spending and accelerate the economy's growth. Analysts forecast that growth should top 3 percent this year for the first time in a decade.

MOVIES

**Why Ryan Reynolds says he's a dangerous poker player**



Actors Ryan Reynolds, left, and Ben Mendelsohn pose at the premiere of "Mississippi Grind" during the 2015 Sundance Film Festival

**Lindsey Bahr**  
 Film Writer, Park City (Utah)

**R**YAN Reynolds and Ben Mendelsohn ventured deep into the heart of America to film the gambling drama "Mississippi Grind," a gritty, 70s-style road trip movie about two near-strangers travelling from Dubuque, Iowa to New Orleans.

The production spanned the heartland as they drove all over Mississippi, Missouri, Louisiana and Alabama, going to little towns and little casinos and off the beaten path racing tracks, often filming the "road trip" scenes while they were also actually travelling elsewhere.

"I got to go to place that I'd never see otherwise," said

Reynolds yesterday. "I love the South. I go all over the South all the time. My wife (Blake Lively) and I are addicted to New Orleans. But we've never been to those steamboat casinos or anything like that."

To prepare for their roles as expert gamblers, the two went out on the town with a "poker czar" a few times before they were "thrown to the wolves with genuine, 14-hour a day sitting at a table grinding killers," said Mendelsohn.

"They see us coming and they slide over to that table," added Reynolds.

It was Reynolds, though, that had the advantage at the tables, mostly because he just isn't that good at poker.

"I would say that I am mediocre at best. I noticed that they were more afraid of me. The idiot who shows up at the table and doesn't know what he's doing is the most dangerous," he said.

Reynolds admits that he did have to get past some initial assumptions about the real life players he was interacting with.

"You get there and you cast all these aspersions, like 'Oh man, these guys are the dregs. What is this going to be like?' And then you fall in love with each and every one of them. You really do. They have stories to tell and they have lives that they've led. They may sit at poker tables for 14 hours a day...," he said.

Many of the casinos, however, would only allow the production to shoot during off hours.

"They like having all the guys that lose the money come in there at the prime hours. So we would shoot from about 2 a.m. to 1 p.m. which is a terrible time to be awake," said Reynolds.

The production was so small that most of the time people didn't notice that Reynolds and Mendelsohn were sitting two tables down from them – except when the actors were in the way of a machine a particular customer wanted to play on.

For Mendelsohn, an Australian actor, the film, which premiered at Sundance, was once in a lifetime experience. "You get to sort of pseudo live these lives for a time. You would never do it of your own volition. It's one of the great pleasures of the job," he said. **AP**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**



Big voices for big boys. Ariana Grande (pictured) isn't the only big-voiced singer performing at the NBA All-Star Game: Christina Aguilera has been added to the lineup. The NBA announced that Aguilera will perform ahead of the 64th annual game on Feb. 15 at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-80 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: D5IMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**INDONESIA's** military halts its recovery efforts for the crashed AirAsia plane, including attempts to locate bodies and raise the fuselage from the Java Sea.



**PHILIPPINE officials** remove the commander of a police special action force from his post after at least 44 anti-terror commandos were killed in a clash with Muslim rebels in the country's south. The government's biggest single-day combat loss in recent memory shocked many and led to fears it could endanger a recent peace deal with the biggest Muslim rebel group.

**PHILIPPINES-USA** The Philippines rejects an appeal by a U.S. Marine that it drop a murder case against him in the death of a transgender Filipino woman last year.

**INDIA** and America's declaration of a breakthrough in contentious nuclear energy cooperation is met with a lukewarm response from industry and analysts. Few expect the potentially lucrative Indian market to suddenly become less complicated for U.S. nuclear companies.

**USA** Tens of millions of people along the East Coast hunkered down for a storm that for most failed to live up to predictions that it would be one of the worst they'd ever seen. *More on p14*

**SAUDI ARABIA-USA** President Barack Obama led a delegation of lawmakers, senior U.S. officials and two former secretaries of state to Saudi Arabia yesterday to pay respects to the royal family following King Abdullah's death.

**POLAND** Holocaust survivors and world leaders including the presidents of Germany and Austria are preparing mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by the Soviet Red Army, but Russian President Vladimir Putin will not be among those gathered. Poland apparently snubbed Putin, failing to send him an invitation. Poland is extremely critical of Russian actions in Ukraine. *More on p15*