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Analysts say Beijing will likely join other members of the U.N. Security Council in imposing tougher economic sanctions on its communist ally

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Eleven workers trapped underground in a coal mine collapse have died, authorities in central China said, the latest in a series of mining disasters. The miners were found yesterday afternoon, a day after the mine in Shaanxi province collapsed, Yulin city's propaganda department said in a statement. The reason for the collapse is under investigation, it said. The rest of the 49 miners who had been working in the privately run mine escaped.



MIDDLE EAST President Barack Obama and Iraq's leader are discussing ways to prevent a diplomatic dust-up between Saudi Arabia and Iran from exacerbating ongoing sectarian conflict in Iraq. Obama spoke by phone with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. The White House says both leaders were concerned about Saudi Arabia's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric and subsequent attacks against Saudi diplomatic outposts in Iran.

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GHANA Two men who were captured in Afghanistan and held at the U.S. base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for nearly 14 years without charge have been released and sent to the West African nation of Ghana for resettlement, officials say.

More on backpage

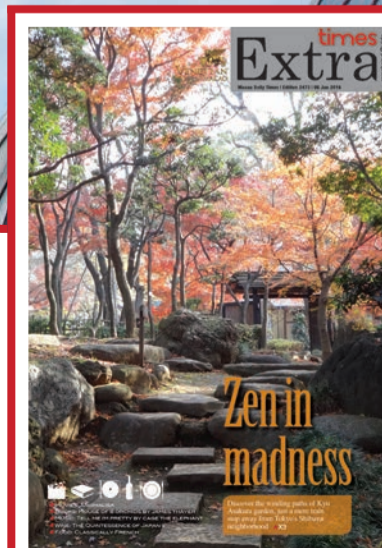
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Asian indexes fall as China trading halts again after stocks plunge

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INSIDE

Trial starts for Alan Ho



Alan Ho at the moment of his arrest

After waiting for one year, the trial of the former executive director of Hotel Lisboa Alan Ho is scheduled to start today at the Court of First Instance, Lusa reported. Ho, who is a nephew of Stanley Ho, was arrested on suspicion of managing a prostitution ring at the casino complex Hotel Lisboa. He was among the 102 people taken by the Judiciary Police during the January 2015 operation.

MMC to hold graduation ceremony

The 2016 Macau Millennium College (MMC) Graduation Ceremony will be held on Saturday, January 9 at the Macau Fisherman's Wharf Convention and Exhibition Centre. The ceremony marks the conclusion of the graduating students' academic studies at the private institution. The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, and the institution's Chancellor, Ambrose So, will both attend. The MMC was founded in 2001 by educators and businessmen in Hong Kong and Macau. It offers Associate Degree and Bachelor Degree programs as well as a Continuing and Professional studies program.

Weekend art fair showcases local products



The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau will host an art fair this weekend at the Hong Kung Temple Square. The event, entitled "Art Fair @5 Outubro Street", will be held both tomorrow and on Sunday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., and will see 36 participant booths showcasing original handicraft products and creative food and beverage, from Macau and Hong Kong. The products on sale will include leather goods, porcelains, silver accessories, textiles, eco-friendly utensils, and natural beauty products. In addition local singers and bands will perform at a mini-concert in the same space. The IC says that admission to the art fair is free.

Health Bureau claims it is 'unnecessary' to treat girl with cancer in US

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has made a public statement regarding the case of a child seeking cancer treatment, acknowledging that is their responsibility to "provide an adequate and timely treatment to the illness, and that the Bureau is making every possible effort to treat the girl." The statement issued on January 6 follows a fundraising campaign organized by a group of local citizens, which aimed to collect money for the child's treatment in the U.S. The sick child is a local student and was diagnosed with the illness in 2012.

According to information released by the SSM, the child was sent to Hong Kong after being diagnosed with cancer. A bone marrow correspondence examination was then carried out in order to test her compatibility with the Hong Kong bone marrow donor bank, which is part of an international database for bone marrow donors.

In view of the above, the SSM considered that was neither



productive nor necessary to search for such services in another country; should there be a compatible donor outside of Hong Kong, the Macau patient will be considered, monitored and transported to Hong Kong.

The bureau also added that it "is aware of new solutions and treatments and will consider

all medical opinions in order to provide adequate treatment to the patient."

The SSM made the donors' database available to Macau citizens in December 2012. Over 700 local citizens have been registered on this database at last count.

A bone marrow or cord

blood transplant is a medical process that replaces unhealthy bone marrow. It can be used to treat patients with life-threatening blood cancers like leukemia, diseases that result in bone marrow failure like aplastic anemia, and other immune system or genetic diseases. **RM**

Taiwanese protest outside Grand Lisboa

PROTEST organizers were seen outside the Grand Lisboa yesterday in preparation for a demonstration planned for tomorrow night.

A man setting up a banner outside the casino resort told the Times that a demonstration was due to be held on Saturday night to protest a recent investment scandal in Taiwan.

According to the protester, who did not want to be identified, Taiwanese resi-

dents who were scammed by the investor are organizing the protest to demand their money back. They claim that the scammer is linked to casino executives.

A banner reads: "Lei owes the Taiwanese fellows their hard-earned savings. Brother Fu should come out and uphold justice."

One of the scam victims was supposed to arrive in Macau yesterday to make a speech at 7 p.m., but no one was present when the Times visited the area. **Staff reporter**



TOURISM

Hilton to collaborate with Clark Sunvalley

HILTON Worldwide and Hilton Hotels & Resorts signed an agreement last month with Clark Sunvalley Resort to collaborate on a new project in the Philippines called "Hilton Clark Sunvalley Resort," according to the Inquirer.

The new resort, which is expected to open towards the end of 2017 in the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga, supports Hilton's strategy to improve

the company's brand presence in the Philippines.

"We are committed to growing Hilton Worldwide's presence in the Philippines," said Andrew Clough, a representative of the company.

The resort will be situated only five kilometers away from Clark International Airport, which connects the area with key cities in the region through direct flights to destinations

such as Macau, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The joint agreement is "integral to our portfolio expansion plans for the country, which [focuses] on key gateway cities, economic hubs and emerging secondary cities," added Clough.

The Hilton group operates the Conrad Macao, a hotel on Macau's Cotai strip, and is affiliated with Las Vegas Sands,

sharing many of the group's facilities. The city of Clark is directly connected to Macau through flights operated by Cebu Pacific.

"We are pleased to bring our flagship brand to this dynamic city, where Hilton Clark will be the choice hotel for guests looking for memorable travel experiences," said Rob Palleschi, a senior executive at Hilton Worldwide.

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Melco Crown hits historic high in market share

THE opening of Studio City in October appears to be a glimmer of hope for Melco Crown Entertainment in the otherwise gloomy backdrop of Macau gaming's dismal 2015 revenues.

The entertainment group's market share rose above 16 percent in Macau, up from 13 percent in October, immediately following the opening of the Studio City resort.

Despite a slight drop in December compared with the previous month, the resort



The main entrance of Studio City casino resort, developed by Melco Crown Entertainment

the VIP gaming element in favor of mass-gaming and non-gaming entertainment – is already setting a precedent for Macau's other gaming groups.

Sands' Parisian, the Wynn Palace and MGM Cotai are all slated to open this year, and are expected to focus more on non-gaming elements.

Although gaming analysts noted earlier this week that the Hollywood-themed Studio City complex has not managed to reverse the dwindling fortunes of the casino industry, most forecasters agree that the resort is currently best placed to thrive, should the gaming slump extend into 2017.

However, in an article published yesterday in the Times, the Wall Street Journal noted that the opening of three new resorts could bring an oversupply to the territory. They say that adding hundreds of tables into an already saturated market will not be conducive to a gaming recovery unless

there is a notable increase in Macau's tourist traffic this year.

The owners of Studio City are betting that in the new gaming environment, it will be the non-gaming elements that differentiate the resort from its competitors.

According to the Bernstein report, Studio City's average daily revenue saw a promising growth of 19 percent in December on a month-to-month basis, reaching MOP11.1 million.

Owners expect the resort's new entertainment features to help Studio City lead the way in the territory's gaming diversification. Among them is a figure-of-eight ferris wheel, a Batman-themed simulator and a new "Event Center" arena, where pop star Madonna will perform an intimate gig next month.

But observers will need to wait a little longer to see if it all pays off. **Staff reporter**

SANDS LEADS GGR MARKET SHARE IN DEC.

IN DECEMBER, Sands China Ltd attained the most market share by total gross gaming revenue. The group saw its share rise by 2.1 percentage points to 23.7 percent and, according to Sanford Bernstein, "benefited from increased visitor arrivals over the holiday season." Galaxy Entertainment Group and Wynn Macau

saw slight gains, up 1.3 percentage points and 0.4 percentage points, respectively. Meanwhile, SJM Holdings slid 1.5 percentage points in December, with MGM China Holdings and Melco Crown Entertainment following suit with declines of 1.9 percentage points and 0.4 percentage points, respectively.

has helped Melco Crown attain a historic high in its share of total gross gaming revenue.

"Since Studio City opened in late October, Melco Crown has grown its market share to above [the] 16 percent level, versus being historically around 13 to 14 percent," said Bernstein analyst Vitaly Umansky.

The resort – the first of its kind in the SAR to play down

MARKET SHARE BY GGR

Sands China	23.7pct
Galaxy Entertainment	23.1pct
SJM Holdings	20.3pct
Melco Crown Ent.	16.2pct
Wynn Macau	9.1pct
MGM China	7.5pct

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Poly Macau opens with rare art collection

THE opening ceremony and ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the Poly Auction Macau Art Fair and Art Auction took place yesterday at the Regency Hotel in Taipa, formally launching the four-day cultural experience.

The opening, co-organized by Poly Auction Macau Ltd. (Poly Macau) and Chiu Yeng Culture Ltd., was attended by former Chief Executive Edmund Ho, lawmaker Angela Leong, and Chiu Yeng Culture founder Sabrina Ho.

During the ceremony, Angela Leong expressed that the two events are “in sync with the Macau Government’s vision of building a diverse cultural environment and improving the tourist and creative industries to bring a vibrant new dimension to Macau’s non-gaming cultural landscape.”

The Poly Macau Art Fair project brings together 60 young artists from the Greater China region, whose works are installed in separate rooms at the Regency Hotel. Sabrina Ho, who personally oversaw the rooms’ design, sought to



Wu’s “Yunnan Landscape”, expected to fetch between HKD8.5 – 12 million

reinvent ordinary living areas and offer visitors a unique experience in each space.

The Poly Macau Art Auction features both traditional masterpieces and contemporary artwork from across Asia, divided into a number of categories.

The auction, which will take place on Sunday, January 10, presents connoisseurs with ancient artworks such as Bu-

ddhist art and Qing Dynasty ceramics.

The preview for the auction began yesterday and will run until January 9, the day before the auction is held.

At a media preview yesterday, the Times had the opportunity to scope out some of the works set for the auction on Sunday.

The highlights included a series of works by the late Chinese

artist Wu Guanzhong, taken from a collection entitled, “Life and Death in Art.” Two of the pieces most prominently displayed in the auction hall are Wu’s “Yunnan Landscape” and “A Village in Guizhou,” with the former expected to fetch between HKD8.5 to 12 million if sold.

Printed on an information board next to the exhibition is a quote from the patriotic artist, who passed away in 2010: “I want to donate the best of my paintings to the people, to the country. This is my wish.”

In a partially walled-off room behind the Chinese painting section sits a unique set of works by Xu Bing, titled “New English Calligraphy – a poem by W.H. Auden.”

The works comprise eight calligraphy masterpieces adorned with nonsensical characters, which are in fact a blend of traditional Chinese characters and Western words using the Latin alphabet.

A former gallery assistant who attended the media reception explained to the Times that the eight-piece set,

valued between HKD2.8 to 4.8 million, represents a blend of East and West. “Xu creates a unique language through these hybrid characters.”

Also on display were contemporary art pieces such as Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara’s 1993 surrealist acrylic painting, “Dog From Your Childhood.”

Zhang Xi, the deputy general manager of China Poly Group Corporation, said that the event marks the start of a series of art and cultural events hosted by Poly Auction Macau, which will “bring a breeze of new life into the development of Macau’s cultural diversity.”

He added that in the group’s 10th year, “Poly Auctions [in China] achieved RMB9 billion in sales, continuing [their] leading position in the global market of Chinese art.”

Meanwhile, Angela Leong praised the Poly Macau events for their role in “building a bridge that connects local art and culture around the globe.”

“We hope that Macau will become an art hub in the future,” she concluded. **Staff Reporter**

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MAJOR League Baseball signed its first national media partnership in China, a three-year deal that gives billionaire Jack Ma-backed Le Sports exclusive rights to live-stream games in the world's most populous country.

The partnership gives LeTV Sports Culture Develop (Beijing) Co. exclusive rights in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau to broadcast about 125 games per year, including the entire World Series. Le Sports, which has 14 million unique visitors per day, or about 3 percent of China's online video users, will also hold the rights to rebroadcast those games through video on demand.

The deal fuses two of baseball's top priorities under first-year commissioner Rob Manfred - cultivating new markets and delivering games digitally. It may also pave the way for China to host regular-season MLB games for the first time. "This will be the first generation of what baseball in Mandarin looks like and feels like," said Chris Park, head of baseball's international business.

As of now, baseball's Chinese fan base is small. The General Administration of Sport of China last month proposed a 10-year plan to develop baseball into a 50 billion yuan (USD7.67 billion) industry with more than 20 million viewers in the country by 2025. It's a modest goal for a country of 1.4 billion, where an estimated 300 million people have already embraced basketball.

But then, the NBA had been actively courting its Chinese fans for 10 years before Yao Ming was the top pick in the 2002 NBA draft and the game's popularity exploded. Baseball, on the other hand, was considered a symbol of Western indulgence and ban-

MLB-Le Sports streaming deal includes Macau, HK



MLB and Le Sports executives seen at a press conference for Le Sports and MLB announcing their strategic partnership in Las Vegas

ned until Mao Zedong's death in 1976. The MLB opened an office in Beijing in 2007 and has been running development centers in China since 2009. The Baltimore Orioles in July made 19-year-old prospect Xu Guiyuan the first MLB player to come through that training system.

"Growing the game isn't as simple as turning a fire hose on and making games available," said Park, MLB's Senior Vice President of Growth, Strategy & International. "It's about promoting our game and packaging our players and teams in a favorable light, but also about presenting them in a way that is the most culturally relevant."

Le Sports is familiar with MLB's China-specific brand and has worked with baseball on a number of offline initiatives, including managing fan festival events and university leagues. As part of the new partnership, Le Sports will continue to co-produce MLB Perfect Pitch, a baseball reality show, and work with baseball on events and marketing.

Le Sports also has a novel way to sell baseball paraphernalia. Vice President of Strategy Yu Hang said that during games, a column on the right of the screen could provide options for fans to purchase hats of the teams on the field, or the jersey of the pitcher on the mound.

"This may be the first time in China that we integrate e-commerce elements while live-streaming sports," Yu said in a telephone interview. Both Park and Yu declined to provide terms of the partnership.

Funded by the son of China's richest man, real estate billionaire Wang Jianlin, Le Sports is a subsidiary of Le Holdings (Beijing) Co. Minority owners also include Yunfeng Capital, a venture capital firm backed by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s billionaire co-founder Ma. The company recently raised \$122 million in a Series A round that brought its valuation to \$430 million. A second round of financing is

■ The partnership gives Le Sports exclusive rights to broadcast about 125 games per year

under way with a goal of reaching a \$3 billion valuation.

There is high demand for streaming content in China, similar to the U.S. broadcast market, where live sports of almost any nature are a hot commodity. In China Le Sports competes primarily with Alibaba and Tencent Holdings Ltd., offering its content for free over the Internet and across devices like smartphones and smart TVs. This deal will run alongside MLB's regional television contracts in China.

In addition to MLB, recent Le Sports rights acquisitions include Wimbledon, English Premier League soccer, and Pac-12 athletics. Those deals are part of a broader focus on China's emerging middle class, a group of young parents that are well educated, city-based and beginning to incorporate sports into their lifestyle.

"That is the most important target audience for Le Sports," Yu said. "They treat themselves well, some have lived abroad in the U.S., and they have purchasing power. They have the capability to spend on things like Major League Baseball." **MDT/Bloomberg**

Pacquiao to retire after Bradley fight

FILIPINO boxing champion Manny Pacquiao will end his career after his next bout with Tim Bradley to focus on a career in public service.

"My April 9 fight against Timothy Bradley will be my last. I'm retiring from boxing to focus on my new job," he announced.

Reports say that Pacquiao is running for a seat in the Philippines Senate in the May 2016 elections. Various surveys in the country have pegged him as a winning



Manny Pacquiao

candidate.

"My survey rankings have been consistent and I expect it to improve once the campaign starts," he said.

Pacquiao, winner of an unprecedented eight titles, will try to win Bradley's World Boxing Organization welterweight crown in a scheduled 12-rounder at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on April 9.

Last November, 32-year-old Bradley knocked out Brandon Rios in the 9th round, something Pac-

quiao did not achieve in his fight with Rios at the Venetian Cotai Arena in Macau.

The boxing legend also dismissed the reports that he would only step away from boxing if there was a rematch with American boxer Mayweather, who retired after beating him.

In his career of over 20 years, Pacquiao has won 57 fights, lost six, and finished in two draws with 38 knockouts.

The fight against Bradley will be Pacquiao's first in almost a year, after facing Mayweather in a megabuck match said to have broken all existing records.

Sinosky halts natural gas supply to CEM amid rising deficits



Hoi Chi Leong, the new head of the Office for the Development of the Energy Sector

THE natural gas supply to Macau had still not resumed yesterday, as the MSAR government and Sinosky, the monopoly importer of gas to Macau, failed to reach a consensus over a supply dispute.

The government granted Sinosky a 15-year monopoly on the provision of natural gas in 2007. This has not stopped the sole importer from halting the supply, which it says is causing an increasingly large deficit for

the company.

The company claims that it has accumulated losses of almost MOP180 million, because the selling price in Macau is below the price paid to import the gas.

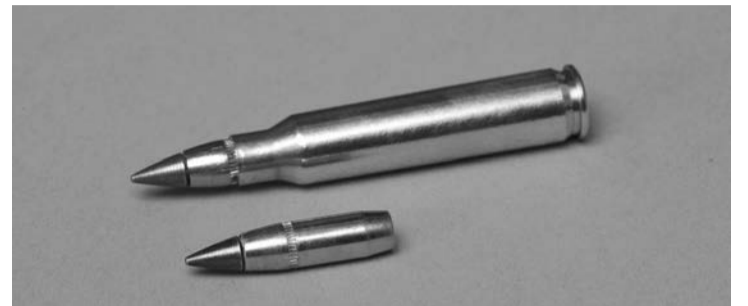
TDM reported a short blackout in the Border Gate district on Wednesday morning, prompting the new head of the Office for the Development of the Energy Sector (GDSE), Hoi Chi Leong, to clarify that the supply to private household users has remained unaffected.

He said that only the natural gas intended for electricity generation by CEM has been disrupted.

Hoi is due to meet with CEM to discuss a solution to the current crisis, and to make Macau less reliant on electricity from mainland China by generating it locally at the electricity company.

"We have to ensure that Sinosky can supply gas for electricity generation in the long-term. It involves Macau's entire electricity generation plan," Hoi said.

Filipina caught with bullet on Macau-bound flight



AN overseas Filipino worker was discovered to be carrying a bullet in her bag while aboard a Macau-bound flight on January 2.

Inspector Jose Riegozumell Gaspar and Chief Inspector Renato Engcot of the PNP-Aviation Security Unit told the Philippines media that a passenger – identified as 34-year-old Gina Maliwat of Poblacion Sur, Talavera, Nueva Ecija – was carrying a caliber .45 bullet in her cabin bag on Philippine Airlines flight PR352.

The case occurred at Manila Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2 at around 10:15 a.m. Maliwat was intercepted by the operator of a baggage scanner, which picked up the image of a suspected piece of ammunition in her

bag. Further searches allegedly led to the discovery of the projectile inside the side pocket of her shoulder bag.

According to Manila media People's Tonight, Maliwat was released by the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office after almost 12 hours of investigation by the Philippines authorities. The conclusions of the investigations are unclear.

The incident comes after a sequence of widely reported cases known as the "tanim-bala" scam, in which airport staff and security allegedly planted bullets in passengers' bags in order to extort money.

The controversy elicited a response from President Aquino in November 2015, who said he "doubted an organized 'tanim-bala' extortion scheme existed." **RM**

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Your Financial Health In The New Year - Part 2

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



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Last week we looked at why it is that people might want to review their investment strategy and how to start forming investment goals. This week's article looks at two more steps that are important considerations for achieving those goals.

4. Be clear on the Timescale - Is this a long-term or short-term investment?

When exactly do you need the money? You may need to factor in contractual investment periods e.g. fixed term bonds for three or five years or possibly how long an investment property sale takes to complete. When will you need the money to be available?

5. Income or Capital Investment?

Do you want a regular income or a lump sum as the

end of the investment? Further considerations are - How long do you want to tie this money up for? Will you put it in to high or low risk investments?

If you are looking to grow a lump sum over a longer period of time say two years or more, then considering the capital growth of a well-invested property would be worthwhile.

If you are considering needing a regular income, looking at rentable properties might be the way forward for you.

If you choose rental income then how much on a monthly basis do you need to make? When does the property need to start earning for you?

Property prices in Macau have dropped significantly over the past year, and whilst there is no guarantee for the future, you should find that a good

rental investment will out-perform money sitting in the bank or under the mattress so to speak.

There is certainly no magic answer when it comes to making money (if there was we would all be doing it!), so taking time to consider our goals and options to make the most of what we have is always a good idea.

Offer To MDT Readers:

If you would like a casual chat about your investment strategy and making part of that strategy investing in property, JML are offering an exclusive chance to MDT readers to spend time with one of our consultants for free, discussing the investment opportunities available to you and reviewing your property portfolio.

Wishing you a very happy and successful 2016

Advertisement for Delta Bridges featuring a handshake image, text 'new business opportunities are just a handshake away', and logos for 'DELTA BRIDGES', 'MACAU AFTER WORK', and 'DELTA INTER CHAMBER'.

Large advertisement for RCR Electronics (Macau) Ltd. (中葡電子(澳門)有限公司) listing various services like ELV Systems, Surveillance Systems, and Fire Detection, with corresponding images and contact information.

RED MARKET

Asian indexes fall as China halted again after stocks plunge

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

CHINESE stocks nosedived yesterday, triggering the second daylong trading halt of the week and sending share markets, currencies and oil prices lower as investor jitters rippled across Asia.

The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index tumbled 7.3 percent to 3,115.89 before new "circuit breakers" suspended trading for the day. The smaller Shenzhen Composite Index slumped 8.3 percent to 1,955.88.

Government measures introduced last year to prop up share prices after a meltdown in June are being gradually withdrawn while investors are also unnerved by possible signs China's economy is in worse condition than thought.

The Shanghai benchmark has dropped 12 percent so far this year, which is barely a week old

"The sell-off in Chinese equities we have seen this week only emphasizes the point that the stock market intervention may have only delayed the sell-off," said Angus Nicholson, market analyst at IG in Melbourne, Australia.

Chinese stock trading was also suspended on Monday after a plunge that roiled Wall Street and other global markets.

The Shanghai benchmark



Investors gather near a display board showing the plunge in the Shanghai Composite Index at a brokerage in Beijing

has dropped 12 percent so far this year, which is barely a week old. Yesterday's market plunge may have been exacerbated by investors rushing to sell before they were locked out, some analysts said.

The circuit breakers trip when there are big swings in the CSI 300 index. Trading halted temporarily barely 14 minutes into the morning session when stocks plunged 5 percent. When trading resumed 15 minutes later, stocks plunged further, falling more than the 7 percent limit that triggers a daylong trading freeze.

"There was some apparent panic selling with investors trying to reduce exposure before the mandatory triggers entered into effect," said Gerry Alfonso, trading head at Shenwan Hongyuan Securities in Beijing.

"Sentiment seems to be rather fragile at the moment as the soft macroeconomic en-

vironment together with the fear of not being able to sell during a market correction causing some anxiety among investors," he wrote in a note

to clients.

Nicholson said, "It's difficult to see the circuit-breakers surviving long in their current form, given they only seem to be further contributing to the volatility in the Chinese market."

The latest slump comes after China's government guided the yuan sharply lower, in a sign that authorities are prepared to weaken the tightly controlled currency to boost flagging exports. The yuan rate was set Thursday morning at 6.5646 to the U.S. dollar, the weakest in nearly five years, the official Xinhua news agency reported, citing data from the China Foreign Exchange Trading System.

Among other Asian stock markets, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index fell 2.3 percent to 17,771.97 and South Korea's Kospi lost 0.9 percent to 1,907.32.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 2.8 percent to 20,401.54 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 retreated 2.2 percent to 5,010.30.

Benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also fell.

Oil prices touched their lowest in more than a decade. Benchmark U.S. crude futures fell 85 cents, or 2.5 percent, to USD33.10, the lowest price since January 2004, in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract on Thursday dropped \$2, or 5.6 percent, to settle at \$33.97 a barrel. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, fell \$1.14, or 3.3 percent, to \$33.09 a barrel in London.

In currency markets, the dollar fell to 117.95 yen from 118.67 yen in the previous day's trading as investors bought the yen as a safe haven.

Some other Asian currencies retreated in concert with the yuan. The dollar gained 0.1 percent against the South Korean won and rose 0.3 percent against India's rupee. The Australian dollar fell 0.6 percent.

The euro rose to \$1.0825 from \$1.0778. **AP**

CASINO CHIPS DOWN 5.4PCT OVERALL

ALL THE big-six casino operators suffered heavy losses yesterday at the Hong Kong stock exchange in line with the Chinese markets nosedive and after a session mostly in the red in NYC for the parent companies. Sands China (-7.07%) and Galaxy (-6.45%) lead the fall, followed by Wynn Macau (-5.81%), SJM (-5.1%), MGM (-4.72%) and Melco (-4.51%).

NAME/SYMBOL	CLOSE (HKD)	CHG.	CHG. %	VOLUME	TURNOVER
GALAXY ENT 00027.HK	22.5	-1.55	-6.45%	18.18M	413.24M
MELCO INT'L DEV 00200.HK	10.16	-0.48	-4.51%	968.00K	9.89M
SJM HOLDINGS 00880.HK	5.02	-0.27	-5.10%	12.16M	61.48M
WYNN MACAU 01128.HK	8.12	-0.41	-4.81%	7.31M	59.43M
SANDS CHINA LTD 01928.HK	23.65	-1.8	-7.07%	24.85M	596.47M
MGM CHINA 02282.HK	8.88	-0.44	-4.72%	15.04M	134.27M

Source HKSE

AD



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Association of Macau Portuguese Speaking Physicians

**AMLPM GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CALL TO MEMBERS**

According to the regulations and in compliance with article 8 no. 3 and 9 no. 4 of the Articles of Association of the Association of the Portuguese-Speaking Physicians of Macau, published in the Official Gazette of the MSAR no. 38 - 2nd Series, of 22 September 2010, members are called to the General Assembly of the Association, which will take place at the Clube Militar de Macau on January 28, 2016, at 7:00 pm, with the following agenda:

1. Annual Report, Results and Accounts of 2015- the opinion of AMLPM Supervisory Board and Vote of the Annual Report and Accounts referred to the year 2015

All the members admitted, according to Article 4th, n0.2 and Article 9th, n0.8 and N0.9, of the Statute, have the right to vote.

If at the scheduled time a quorum is not achieved, the General Meeting shall convene on second call, at 7:30pm on the same day, whatever the number of members present, in compliance with article 9 no.7 of the Articles of Association.

Macau, on January 8th, 2016

The President of General Assembly:
Maria Paula de Matos Pimenta Simões

China flies 2 commercial jets to man-made island

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A pair of Chinese civilian jet airliners landed at a newly created island in a disputed section of the South China Sea in a test to see whether its airstrip was up to standard, state media reported yesterday.

The China Daily newspaper said the two planes on Wednesday made the two-hour flight to Fiery Cross Reef from Haikou on the southern island province of Hainan.

It said the test flights proved the runway's ability to safely handle large civilian aircraft. Photos showed one of the planes to be a China Southern Airlines Airbus A319-115.

The flights followed a maiden voyage on Saturday that drew an angry protest from rival claimants Vietnam and the Philippines.

China's creation of seven new islands by piling sand on reefs and atolls has been condemned by its neighbors and the United States, which accused China of raising tensions in an area where six governments maintain overlapping maritime territorial claims.

The U.S. State Department responded to Saturday's flight by reiterating calls for a halt to land reclamation and militarization of outposts in those waters.

In Manila, visiting British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said yesterday that freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea was non-negotiable and urged rival governments to avoid provocative steps.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario warned that China may next impose an air defense identification zone above the contested region.

China has rejected calls for a halt in island construction, saying its claim of sovereignty over the entire area gives it the right to proceed as it wishes. It says the new islands are principally for civilian use but also help defend Chinese sovereignty.

China's robust assertions of its claims have sparked a series of tense exchanges, mainly among China, Vietnam and the Philippines, over long-disputed and potentially oil- or gas-rich offshore territories also claimed by Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

That's also creating new tensions with the U.S., which has refused to recognize the new islands as geographic features deserving of territorial waters and other aspects of sovereignty.

While Washington takes no formal position on the various sovereignty claims, it insists that disputes be settled peacefully and that freedom of navigation be maintained in waters through which more than 30 percent of global trade passes.

Fiery Cross Reef is the largest of the seven new islands that in total compose more than 800 hectares of reclaimed land. Its 3-kilometer airstrip is long enough to handle any plane operated by the Chinese military.

Another runway is being built on Subi Reef, with signs of similar work underway on nearby Mischief Reef. If all are completed, China would possess four airstrips in all on its South China Sea island holdings. AP



A Chinese paramilitary policeman stands guard outside the North Korean Embassy in Beijing

Border quiet as Beijing weighs North Korea nuke test response

TRUCKS rumbled across the Chinese-North Korean border yesterday in a sign that trade was continuing despite Beijing's anger over the North's avowed hydrogen bomb test, which could spark economic retaliation and further estrangement between the once-close communist allies.

There were no obvious signs of disruption in the northeastern city of Dandong that sits on the Yalu River directly across from North Korea's Sinuiju. The twin cities are the conduit through which much of North Korea's international trade passes.

China condemned Wednesday's purported test, which sent tremors across parts of northeastern China near the North Korean border and alarmed residents.

"I think it is a threat and sabotage to China and to the world peace for such a country to own nuclear weapons," Dandong resident Tian Zhibin said in an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday.

Analysts say Beijing will likely join other members of the U.N. Security Council in imposing tougher economic sanctions on its communist ally.

Beijing could also introduce unilateral measures such as tighter inspections of the trucks that cross the Yalu carrying mostly consumer goods bound for the North. China-North Korean economic projects could be suspended and Chinese companies and banks discouraged from doing business with North Korea.

Yet as North Korea's neighbor and chief backer, Beijing is un-

likely to take steps that might seriously undermine Kim Jong Un's hard-line communist regime. Apart from a traditional friendship dating back decades, China is fearful of a collapse that could bring chaos, sending refugees across the border and possibly leading to a U.S. military presence in the North.

Although willing to notch up sanctions, Beijing likely won't reduce energy and food assistance or impose overly harsh economic sanctions, said Bonnie Glaser, an expert on China at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

"Economic relations and nuclear issues are likely to remain on two separate tracks," Glaser said.

Despite the ups and downs in relations, China continues to have a vested interest in maintaining friendly ties with Pyongyang. Apart from providing material assistance, that includes defending North Korea from condemnation at the United Nations over its human rights abuses and designating refugees from the North as economic migrants rather than asylum seekers.

For Beijing, the North Korea issue is not simply one of nuclear proliferation, but also of peninsular stability, the balance of power in Northeast Asia and its growing rivalry with the United States, said Jingdong Yuan, an Asia-Pacific security expert at Australia's University of Sydney.

"Rather to live with a bad situation than to leave it completely to chance and lose all

control," Yuan said.

But even with that sense of resignation, China still needs to consider increasingly negative public opinion toward Pyongyang, analysts say.

The state-run China Daily said in an English-language commentary that, if proven, Pyongyang's actions were "irresponsible and reckless."

The nationalist tabloid Global Times emphasized the danger to social stability in northeastern China, which lies as close as 50 kilometers from the test site. Schools and office buildings were evacuated after residents were shaken by the magnitude 4.8 earthquake caused by the detonation. Technicians were also monitoring the air for signs of contamination.

"Pyongyang must consider the long-term negative impact on Beijing-Pyongyang ties and its own development," the Global Times said.

While China's total control over the media and public discourse allows it to squash such opinions at any time, in this case "a bit of strategic stirring by the Chinese Communist Party of limited public resentment at North Korea seems to make sense," said Adam Cathcart, a specialist in China-North Korea relations at Britain's University of Leeds.

That's especially true when the issue involves environmental damage or the threat of radiation along the border, Cathcart said.

"Call it the Fukushima effect," he said, a reference to fear and outrage in China over Japan's 2011 nuclear crisis. AP



People pose for a group photo together after landing at the airfield on the Spratly Islands, also known as Nansha Islands in Chinese, in the South China Sea

ACT OF WAR

S. Korea announces start of anti-North propaganda broadcasts

Foster Klug & Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

IN response to North Korea's latest nuclear test, South Korea yesterday announced it would resume cross-border propaganda broadcasts that Pyongyang considers an act of war. Seoul also began talks with Washington that could see the arrival of nuclear-powered U.S. submarines and warplanes to the Korean Peninsula.

From Seoul to Washington, Beijing to the United Nations, world powers are looking at ways to punish Pyongyang for the test of what it called a new and powerful hydrogen bomb.

The loudspeaker broadcasts, which will start Friday, believed to be the birthday of young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, are certain to infuriate authoritarian Pyongyang because they are meant to raise questions in North Korean minds about the infallibility of the ruling Kim family. South Korea stopped earlier broadcasts after it agreed with Pyongyang in late August on a package of measures aimed at easing animosities that had the rivals threatening war.

Experts, meanwhile, are trying to uncover more details about the detonation that drew worldwide skepticism and condemnation.

It may take weeks or longer to confirm or refute the North's claim that it successfully tested a hydrogen bomb, which would mark a major and unanticipated advance for its still-limited nuclear arsenal. Even a test of an atomic bomb, a less sophisticated and less powerful weapon, would push its scientists and engineers closer to their goal of building a nuclear warhead small enough to place on a missile that can reach the U.S. mainland.

Statements from the White House said President Barack Obama had spoken to South Korean President Park Geun-Hye and to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. The statements said the countries "agreed to work together to forge a united and strong international response to North Korea's latest reckless behavior."

Obama reaffirmed the "unshakeable U.S. commitment" to the security of South Korea and Japan, according to the statements.

Park's office said she also spoke with Abe over the phone and that they vowed coo-



South Korean Defense Minister Han Min-koo, left, speaks during a press conference as U.S. Forces Korea Commander Curtis Scaparrotti, right, listens at the Defense Ministry in Seoul

peration to ensure that the U.N. Security Council imposes strong and effective measures against the North.

South Korean and U.S. military leaders also discussed the deployment of U.S. "strategic assets" in the wake of the North's test, Seoul's Defense Ministry said Thursday.

■ US, S. Korea, Japan 'agreed to work together to forge a united and strong international response to N. Korea's latest reckless behavior'

Ministry officials refused to elaborate about what U.S. military assets were under consideration, but they likely refer to B-52 bombers, F-22 stealth fighters and nuclear-powered submarines.

When animosities sharply rose in the spring of 2013 following North Korea's third

nuclear test, the U.S. took the unusual step of sending its most powerful warplanes — B-2 stealth bombers, F-22 stealth fighters and B-52 bombers — to drills with South Korea in a show of force. B-2 and B-52 bombers are capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

The U.N. Security Council held an emergency session and pledged to swiftly pursue new sanctions against North Korea, saying its test was a 'clear violation' of previous U.N. resolutions.

Four rounds of U.N. sanctions have aimed at reining in the North's nuclear and missile development programs, but Pyongyang has ignored them and moved ahead to modernize its ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons.

When Seoul briefly restarted the loudspeaker broadcasts in August for the first time in 11 years in retaliation for land mine blasts blamed on Pyongyang that maimed two South Korean soldiers, the North threatened to attack the South.

In August, Seoul signed a package of agreements with Pyongyang on easing the standoff, which included a stop to broadcasts unless "abnormal" situation should occur again. Senior presidential official Cho Tae-yong said Thursday the broadcast will resume because the North's bomb test

was a violation of the August agreement.

South Korea also said Thursday it will limit entry to a jointly run factory park in North Korea, the last major symbol of inter-Korean cooperation. The park's operation won't likely be affected much as the restriction will apply to clients, potential buyers and service providers from South Korea, rather than managers who commute to work with North Korean laborers.

North Korea said Wednesday it had successfully tested a "miniaturized" hydrogen bomb that elevated the country's "nuclear might to the next level."

But an early analysis by the U.S. government was "not consistent with the claims that the regime has made of a successful hydrogen bomb test," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

South Korea's spy service said it thought the estimated explosive yield from the blast was much smaller than what even a failed hydrogen bomb detonation would produce.

Some believe North Korea might have detonated a boosted fission bomb, a weapon considered halfway between an atomic bomb and an H-bomb.

But even if the North exploded a boosted fission bomb,

its explosive yield, estimated at six kilotons, showed the test was likely a failure, a South Korean defense official said Thursday. An explosion two to five times more powerful would have been reported if it were successful, the official said, requesting anonymity because of department rules.

The North's 2013 test produced an estimated yield of 6-7 kilotons of explosives, according to South Korean officials.

Fusion is the main principle behind the hydrogen bomb, which can be hundreds of times more powerful than atomic bombs that use fission. In a hydrogen bomb, a nuclear fission explosion sets off a fusion reaction responsible for a powerful blast and radioactivity.

The hydrogen bomb already is the global standard for the five nations with the greatest nuclear capabilities: the U.S., Russia, France, the U.K. and China. Other nations may either have it or are working on it, despite a worldwide effort to contain such proliferation.

Just how big a threat North Korea's nuclear program poses is a mystery. North Korea is thought to have a handful of rudimentary nuclear bombs and has spent decades trying to perfect a multistage, long-range missile to carry smaller versions of those bombs.

Some analysts say the North probably hasn't achieved the technology needed to make a miniaturized warhead that could fit on a long-range missile capable of hitting the U.S. mainland. But debate is growing on just how far the North has advanced.

To build its nuclear program, the North must explode new and more advanced devices so scientists can improve their designs and technology. Nuclear-tipped missiles could then be used as deterrents and diplomatic bargaining chips — especially against the U.S., which Pyongyang has long pushed to withdraw its troops from the region and to sign a peace treaty formally ending the Korean War.

U.S. aircraft designed to detect evidence of a nuclear test, such as radioactive particulate matter and blast-related noble gases, could be deployed from a U.S. base on the Japanese island of Okinawa. Japanese media said Tokyo mobilized its own reconnaissance aircraft over the Sea of Japan to try to collect atmospheric data. **AP**

ANALYSIS

H-bomb or A-bomb, N. Korean nuke test is about Kim

Foster Klug, Seoul

IT'S a single image released by an enormous propaganda apparatus, showing a note handwritten by a dictator. And it contains a telling clue to the mindset behind North Korea's surprise and disputed claim to have tested its first hydrogen bomb.

The Dec. 15 note from Kim Jong Un calls for a New Year marked by the "stunning sound of the explosion of our country's first hydrogen bomb." The document closes with his signature — almost like a rock star signing an autograph.

The photo, released after the North's nuclear test Wednesday, points to this conclusion: While the world focuses on how the explosion will resonate beyond the nation's borders, the whole thing is really all about Kim, North Korea's third-generation leader.

Four years after his abrupt ascent following his father's sudden death, analysts are split on whether Kim is coming into his own as a leader,

confidently balancing competing interests among powerful military and political camps, or whether he's struggling to put his mark on a Shakespearean churn of political jockeying and bloodshed that roils beneath the smooth propaganda surface.

Whether Kim is confident or desperate, the note provides a look at the careful calibration behind the nuclear test's propaganda. The date on the note, from three weeks ago, and the missive's almost poetic tone are meant to show both deliberation and pride from a leader who approved and orchestrated the test.

The note speaks of making "the entire world look up to" North Korea and the ruling party, while giving no regard to the international outrage the nuclear test was certain to generate, including from China, the North's most important ally. The test was aimed not at external forces, but at showing Kim's citizens that he is in full command at an important moment.

John Delury, an expert on Korea and China at Seoul's Yonsei

University, describes the note's message like this: "Let no one be confused; there's no factional struggle; the military isn't telling him what to do."

Whether that's a true representation of what's happening in one of the world's most secretive governments is another matter, especially regarding the powerful military.

With little diplomatic progress and nearly three years since the last nuclear test, Kim might have calculated that it was time to agree to his military's push for another. Or, as some analysts speculate, maybe the order was given as soon as scientists were ready to detonate.

Kim may be associating himself closely with what his state media call the "H-bomb of justice" in part because a hydrogen bomb would be a clear advance on the nuclear tests conducted under his father's rule. And to the people of his isolated country, international doubts about whether the device was truly an H-bomb probably won't matter.

"Our hydrogen bomb test is like the big thunder of a great

country, and it really makes me feel great and happy," said Ri Chon Hyang, a Pyongyang resident. "Not just me, my friends are also so happy, we don't know how to put it into words."

North Korean state media routinely cast nuclear weapons as the only way to stand up to the country's archenemy Washington. The military needs nuclear tests to advance its quest for a warhead small enough to fit on a long-range missile.

Propaganda has always been crucial for the Kim family's control of the North, but it's especially important for Kim Jong Un. Thought to be in his early 30s — and celebrating a birthday today — he has been dealt much different cards than his father, Kim Jong Il.

Kim Jong Un took power in late 2011, while still in his 20s. Although he had a few years as the anointed heir, his experience was paltry when compared with his father. Kim Jong Il was given increasingly important responsibilities by his own father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, over a long apprenticeship and was

middle-aged when he took power in 1994.

From the beginning, Kim Jong Un moved quickly when he perceived challenges from his lieutenants.

He had his uncle, and the country's No. 2 power, Jang Song Thaek, publicly shamed and then executed for treason in December 2013. The year before, he purged another supposed mentor, North Korean army chief Ri Yong Ho, whose fate is still unknown.

A think tank affiliated with South Korea's spy agency said last year that Kim has executed more than 100 senior officials. Last year, he ordered a defense chief executed with an anti-aircraft gun for complaining about the young ruler, talking back to him and sleeping during a meeting, the spy agency told lawmakers in a briefing.

The recent car crash death of Kim Yang Gon, the top official in charge of ties with Seoul, was viewed with suspicion in the South because crashes have previously been seen as ways to get rid of unwanted officials.

Kim's note represents a different way of cementing his position over North Koreans. He's making himself a part of history, however it's seen outside his country's borders. In a land awash with portraits and statues of his father and grandfather, the note is part of Kim's effort to claim a place beside them. **AP**



North Korean soldiers turn and look towards leader Kim Jong Un as they carry packs marked with the nuclear symbol during a parade marking the 60th anniversary of the Korean War armistice in Pyongyang



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Lori Hinnant & Elaine Ganley, Paris

FRANCE

Man with knife shot dead at Paris police station

OFFICERS shot and killed a knife-wielding man wearing a fake explosive vest at a police station in northern Paris yesterday, French officials said, a year to the day after an attack on the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo launched a bloody year in the French capital.

Luc Poignant, a police union official, said the man cried out "Allahu akbar," Arabic for "God is great."

The man was wearing what looked like an explosive vest, but it was fake, according to two French police officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation. They said the man has not yet been identified.

Just a few minutes earlier, elsewhere in the city, French President Francois Hollande had finished paying homage to police officers killed in the line of duty, including three shot to death in attacks last January.

A Paris police official said police were investigating the incident at the Paris police station yesterday as "more likely terrorism" than a standard criminal act. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be publicly named according to police policy. The neighborhood in the Goutte d'Or district of northern Paris was locked down.

Hollande had said earlier that what he called a "terrorist threat" would continue to weigh on France.

On Jan. 7, 2015, two French-born brothers killed 11 people inside the building where Charlie Hebdo operated, as well as a Muslim policeman outside. Over the next two days, an accomplice shot a policewoman to death and then stormed a kosher supermarket, killing four hostages. All three gunmen died.



French President Francois Hollande shakes hands with police officers at the Paris police headquarters

Hollande had said earlier that a 'terrorist threat' would continue to weigh on France

In a speech to police forces charged with protecting the country against new attacks, Hollande said the government was passing new laws and ramping up security, but the threat remained high.

Hollande especially called for better surveillance of "radicalized" citizens who have joined Islamic State or other militant groups in Syria and Iraq when they return to France.

"We must be able to force these people —and only these people— to fulfill certain obligations and if necessary to put them under house arrest ... because they are dangerous," he said.

Three police officers were among the 17 dead in the attacks last January, which ended after two days of bloodshed in the Paris region.

Hollande said officers die in the line of duty "so that we can live free."

Following the January attacks, the government announced it planned to give police better equipment and hire more intelligence agents.

France has been on high alert ever since, and was struck again Nov. 13 by extremists in attacks claimed by the Islamic State group that killed 130 people at a concert hall and in bars and restaurants.

Survivors of the January attacks, meanwhile, are continuing to speak out.

Cartoonist Laurent Sourisseau, the editor-in-chief of Charlie Hebdo, who is known as Riss, told France Inter radio "security is a new expense for

the newspaper budget."

"This past year we've had to invest nearly 2 million euros to secure our office, which is an enormous sum," he said. "We have to spend hundreds of thousands on surveillance of our offices, which wasn't previously in Charlie's budget, but we had an obligation so that employees feel safe and can work safely."

After the attacks, people around the world embraced the expression "Je suis Charlie" to express solidarity with the slain journalists, targeted for the paper's caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

"It's a phrase that was used during the march as a sign of emotion or resistance to terrorism," Charlie Hebdo cartoonist Corinne Rey — known as Coco — told France Inter radio. "And little by little, I realized that 'I am Charlie' was misused for so many things. And now I don't really know what it means." AP

POLICE CLEAR THE AREA

POLICE HAVE cleared hundreds of people from the neighborhood of the attack amid fears that other assailants could be at large. Tensions were high in the Goutte d'Or neighborhood in Paris' 18th arrondissement, a multi-ethnic district not far from the Gare du Nord train station. Police expanded the security cordon about an hour after the attack, swiftly and roughly clearing out hundreds who had gathered at a subway station and along nearby streets. Shops were ordered to be shuttered along neighboring streets.



Police officers take position after a fatal shooting which took place at a police station in Paris

MIDDLE EAST

Iran says Saudi strike hits embassy in Yemen; no damage seen

IRAN yesterday accused the Saudi-led coalition battling Shiite rebels in Yemen of hitting its embassy there in an overnight airstrike, but the building bore no visible damage.

The accusation comes amid a dangerous rise in tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia in recent days following the kingdom's execution of a Shiite cleric and attacks on Saudi diplomatic posts in the Islamic Republic.



Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, hold posters of late Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr, who was executed in Saudi Arabia, during an anti-Saudi protest outside the Saudi embassy in Sanaa

Analysts had feared the dispute could boil over into the proxy wars between the two Mideast rivals in Yemen and in Syria.

Iran's state-run news agency said yesterday that a Saudi-led airstrike last night hit its embassy in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa, citing the country's Foreign Ministry spokesman. However, an Associated Press reporter who reached the site just after the announcement saw no visible damage at the building.

Saudi officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

The diplomatic standoff between Iran and Saudi Arabia began

on Saturday, when the kingdom executed al-Nimr and 46 others convicted of terror charges — the largest mass execution it has carried out since 1980.

Iranian protesters responded by attacking the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and its consulate in Mashhad. Late Sunday, Saudi Arabia announced it was severing relations with Iran because of the assaults. On Wednesday, Iranian diplomats in Saudi Arabia returned to Tehran, according to state media.

Since Saudi Arabia severed ties to Iran, a host of its allies have cut or reduced their ties as well. AP

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:10	Cougar Town S.4
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Documentary Serie
21:50	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie
01:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

10:30	Boonie Bears - Sr.2
11:35	Young Adult
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
18:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
18:20	Contest
19:15	Miscellaneous
19:45	Documentary Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Drama
22:00	Drama
23:00	TDM News
23:30	On The Edge
01:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

10:35	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:30	Young Adult
17:40	Documentary Serie
18:10	Miscellaneous
18:55	Action
19:45	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Contraponto
22:00	Apple's Broken Promises
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report

offbeat

DICAPRIO'S HAPPY LEADERS TAKING CLIMATE CHANGE MORE SERIOUSLY

Leonardo DiCaprio feels optimistic that the debate over climate change has begun to wane and world leaders are finally starting to take it more seriously.

"The scientific community has been screaming out loud. Ninety-nine per cent of the scientific community is in agreement that man is contributing to (climate change)," DiCaprio told The Associated Press on the red carpet for his new film, "The Revenant" on Wednesday.

"The argument is over. Anyone that doesn't believe that climate change is happening doesn't believe in science," said DiCaprio, who has remained an active player for the issue.

The actor previously has addressed the United Nations on climate control, donated millions of dollars to environmental causes, and narrated the 2014 short film, "Carbon," which presents ideas for climate change solutions.

But after the U.N. Climate Conference in Paris, which ended last month, he feels world leaders are finally willing to address the issue more seriously.

cinema



CINETEATRO

7 JAN - 13 JAN



THE 33

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Patricia Riggen

Starring: Antonio Banderas, Rodrigo Santoro, Juliette Binoche

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min



SECRET IN THEIR EYES

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Billy Ray

Starring: Chiwetel Ejiofor, Nicole Kidman, Julia Roberts

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 111min

IP MAN 3

ROOM 2

7.30 pm

Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun

Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang

Language: Cantonese (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 110min



SHERLOCK: THE ABOMINABLE BRIDE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Douglas Mackinnon

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman, Una Stubbs

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 89min

THE BOY AND THE BEAST

ROOM 3

7.15 pm

Director: Mamoru Hosoda

Language: Japanese (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 119min

MACAU TOWER

17 DEC - 8 JAN

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J.J. Abrams

Starring: Teresa Palmer, Luke Bracey, Édgar Ramírez

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 135min

this day in history



1961 FRENCH VOTE FOR ALGERIAN FREEDOM

The French people have voted to grant Algeria its independence in a referendum.

The result was a clear majority for self-determination, with 75% voting in favour.

In Algeria, a slightly lower percentage - 69% - voted in favour. More than 40% of the electorate abstained in response to a campaign by the rebel pro-independence group FLN to boycott the vote.

The FLN, led by Ben Bella, has been waging an increasingly violent guerrilla war against French colonists for seven years, causing a political crisis in France.

The French President, Charles de Gaulle, was elected back into office three years ago on a mandate to prevent the war in Algeria spilling over into France.

The referendum result was welcomed by French Prime Minister Michel Debré as a "clear and striking response".

General de Gaulle was informed of the results by telephone at his country home at Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises and remarked that the "good sense" of the people had prevailed.

He had staked his political future on the referendum result, saying in a broadcast to the nation three days ago that it would be a matter between himself and the individual voter.

There was an atmosphere of high tension in Algeria as voting took place.

Security was at its highest in the capital, Algiers, where an estimated 20,000 French troops were on patrol.

In the event, however, the voting passed off relatively peacefully.

There was some violence - in one of the worst incidents, ten Algerians and a French army corporal were killed in the south of the country when officials said the rebel FLN staged a raid on a polling booth. But overall the authorities expressed relief that it had not been worse.

Algeria has the largest white settler population of any French African colony, with a million people of French descent holding power over eight million Algerian Muslims.

The Muslim population has little political or economic power, and few legal rights, and discontent is now at such a level that half a million French troops are stationed in the country.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

French settlers in Algeria reacted with outrage to this clearest sign yet that Algeria was heading towards independence. The former military commander in Algeria, General Raoul Salan, founded the Organisation de l'Armée Secrète (OAS), an extremist organisation of French settlers determined to fight the independence movement.

Led by Salan and a group of French army officers it staged an unsuccessful coup in Algiers in April 1961 as well as carrying out several bomb attacks in mainland France and attempting to assassinate President de Gaulle on several occasions. Salan was captured in Algiers in 1962 and imprisoned from 1962-1968.

After his arrest the OAS gradually disintegrated. The Evian Agreements between the French government and Ben Bella for the FLN brought independence to Algeria in July 1962.

French officials estimate the eight years of terrorism and warfare leading to independence cost 350,000 lives - Algerian sources put the figure much higher at 1.5 million.

In 1965 de Gaulle was elected president for a second term but resigned in 1969.

He died of a heart attack on 9 November 1970, aged 79.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Make sure your thoughts and feelings are independent from your financial woes today. Do some exploring into the brave new world you find yourself in, but don't dwell on why you're there.

Taurus April 20-May 20

You know the phrase, once burned, twice shy. You've taken some financial risks and now you're being extra cautious of others. That's both wise and necessary. In fact, make it your new MO.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21

One good thing about friendships is that they are based on something mutual. If you aren't coming at life from the same angle, you might want to rethink the relationship. You have enough strife in other areas.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22

When money flowed, so did your energy. Now things are all a bit stifled. But that shouldn't be a private life problem unless you or your friends let it be. Go ahead, make some noise.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You deserve some fun, and you can afford it, too. The kind you're up for today is cheap anyway, but you'd be tempted even if it cost the farm. Get out there and enjoy the adventure.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You want to rush ahead with your financial plans, but like the rest of the world's, yours are on hold. Make the most of this down time. Force yourself to learn something from it, if not to enjoy it.

Libra Sep. 23-Oct. 22

It's good to be expressive, to a point. What you have to say is better kept to yourself. If you let out just how you feel about your finances, brace yourself for a less than positive response.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Be careful taking even small risks. You should know by now how these things can snowball. Once they start getting larger and larger, you have something big and bad on your hands, like interest-only payments on a debt.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Most worthwhile investments require some planning, research and exploration. But every now and then the unexpected happens, even in today's economic climate. Enjoy your little windfall.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Things get worse before they get better. But while you're slogging along, they're suddenly done, and seemingly out of the blue. Just keep going at your task with structure and discipline.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Don't alienate your connections by showing your hand. Dole out the bad news on a need to know basis only. Keep letting all others think your assets are rosy.

Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20

If it seems an odd day of the week to be worrying about signing legal documents, it is. But that's just the beginning of what's off about this transaction. It's only a matter of time before you become aware of others.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Single serving, like sugar; 7- Kemo ...; 11- Sun. speech; 14- Greek goddess of wisdom; 15- In the blink ... eye; 16- Singing syllable; 17- Land, as a fish; 18- Steadfast partisan; 20- Plain surrounding Rome; 22- Draw a bead on; 23- Samuel's teacher; 24- Coquettish; 25- Unintelligent; 27- Missing; 29- Exhort; 31- Suffix with exist; 32- Takes by theft; 35- Dynamic opening?; 37- Author Rand; 38- Riddle; 41- Wet spongy ground; 44- Essential point; 45- Cedes; 49- Extent of space; 51- Nuisance; 53- Italian bread?; 54- Paint oil; 56- Road curve; 59- Hockey goal part; 60- Lend ... (listen); 61- Most lucid; 63- Screw bean; 66- Comfortable; 67- Andean tuber; 68- Layer of paint; 69- One with a bullet?; 70- Cambodia's Lon ...; 71- Plays are divided up into these; 72- Goes in;

DOWN: 1- Packages; 2- Piggid out; 3- Woman's undergarment; 4- Seaweed; 5- Early computer; 6- Latin-American dance; 7- Slugger Sammy; 8- P.m.; 9- Sheepish comment; 10- China's Zhou ...; 11- Endurance; 12- Fallibility; 13- Heavy napped woolen fabric; 19- Fermented grape juice; 21- Big Apple sch.; 25- Long in the tooth; 26- Crowd together; 28- Tic ... Dough; 30- Tirades; 33- Limb of a felled tree; 34- Long-billed sandpiper; 36- Yes, to Yves; 39- Not new; 40- Singer Torme; 41- Lake in W Hungary; 42- River in N South America; 43- Not limited to one class; 46- Striped; 47- Sock site; 48- Lounges; 50- Slippery ... eel; 52- ... Aviv; 55- "All My Children" vixen; 57- Bobby of the Black Panthers; 58- Glossy fabric; 61- Camp beds; 62- Take a breather; 64- Rapper Tone ...; 65- Back muscle, briefly

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

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-72.

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
Airport 59 888 88



FOR SALE FOR RENT advertisement with contact info for JMLProperty.com.

Real estate listings for H Unit in Gladiolus Court Coloane and Tou Un, Tower 2 Taipa.

Real estate listings for Nova City TAIPA and Manhattan F Unit, Taipa.

Real estate listings for One Central, Tower 7 Macau and Houston Court, Coloane Village.

Real estate listings for Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau and Lakeview Macau.

JML property logo and contact information.

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Apple iPad

iPad is an immersive Multi-Touch experience. It's a faster, simpler and more engaging way to do the things you love. The gorgeous Retina display offers incredibly vivid, lifelike color. The powerful chip with 64-bit desktop-class architecture can easily run the most graphics-intensive games and apps. Two advanced cameras help you easily capture stunning photos and videos. And with amazing apps in the App Store made just for iPad, you can do the things you love like never before.

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FOOTBALL | LA LIGA PREVIEW

Zidane debuts as Madrid coach against Deportivo

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

Sunday, 3:30am
Real Madrid v Deportivo
H 1.5, D 10.5, A 26

ZINEDINE Zidane will make his coaching debut on Saturday when Real Madrid hosts Deportivo La Coruna in the Spanish league.

The former France great was promoted from managing Madrid's reserve team, which plays in the third division, to taking over for Rafa Benitez after the Spaniard was fired following Madrid's 2-2 draw at Valencia last weekend.

A fan favorite from his five seasons at Madrid, a warm welcome is expected for Zidane by the Santiago Bernabeu crowd. Disgruntled fans had called for Benitez to be fired following the team's inconsistent form that has Madrid in third place, four points off the pace of provisional leader Atletico Madrid.

"The important thing is to keep the players' spirits high, I think they've done a good job," Zidane said at his first news conference on



Tuesday. "We have to think that the work done by Benitez has been good and I want to wish him all the best for the future. My message is work."

Barcelona, in second and two points adrift and with a game in hand, will have played earlier tomorrow at Camp Nou against Granada. Atletico waits until Sunday in a tough visit to fifth-place Celta Vigo.

Zidane etched his place in Madrid's lore with his uni-

que combination of dribbling, passing and scoring skills, which reached their pinnacle when he scored a spectacular volley for the winning goal in the 2002 Champions League final.

He now must quiet those who question president Florentino Perez's decision to turn the star-studded squad over to a coach whose resume is limited to a year-and-a-half in the third division and a stint as a first-team assistant.

Zidane has promised to promote an "attractive, but balanced" style, and said that he will maintain the trio of strikers formed by Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema.

"I want to bring the exciting game that this club has always had," Zidane said. "The important thing is to play football and my job will be based on playing from the back, progressing in to the opposition half quickly and having possession of the ball."

Besides who will start among the glut of midfielders, the question is whether Zidane will keep Bale on the right side of the attack, as opposed to his natural place on the left, after Benitez scrapped his experiment to use him as a central playmaker.

It has been a long time since Deportivo inspired fear in its opponents. But striker Lucas Perez, with 12 goals, and an overachieving bunch coached by Victor Sanchez del Amo has made Deportivo a formidable foe.

Seventh-place Deportivo has as many losses as Madrid does—three—and rallied for a 2-2 draw at Barcelona last month. **AP / Oddschecker.com**

advanced to a quarterfinal against Grigor Dimitrov, who beat Viktor Troicki 5-7, 7-6 (6), 6-2 yesterday.

"It was a big deal for me (the 1,000th win). I didn't expect it to be as big of a deal as it actually ended up being," Federer said. "It was very special because it was a final ... plus, Rod Laver and Roy Emerson were on the court to hand me the trophy and be in the picture with me and the number 1,000. I was happy I didn't mess it up."

The 17-time major winner converted five of his six breakpoint chances and saved the only one he faced against Kamke, finding his touch quickly and dispelling pre-match rumors that he might be carrying an injury.

Raonic, also back in action for the first time this season, defeated Croatia's Ivan Dodig 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-4 and will next meet Lucas Pouille, who upset sixth-seeded David Goffin 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3.

While the top-ranked women have succumbed to injuries or inconsistency in the first week of the season, Victoria Azarenka has maintained her surge in form.

The two-time Australian Open champion reached the Brisbane International semifinals by beating eighth-seeded Roberta Vinci 6-1, 6-2. **AP**

TENNIS

Federer opens his 2016 season with comfy win in Brisbane



ROGER Federer recalled the celebrations and the festive atmosphere of his 1,000th match victory on tour as soon as he returned to the Brisbane International to fine-tune his preparations for the Australian Open.

He achieved the milestone in the final here last year, when he beat Milos Raonic and shared the podium with some of the players he revered from a

previous era. His first practice was positive, he said, then he picked up an illness from one of his four kids — the whole family had it — and his attempt at a title defense was shaky for a while.

On the fifth day of the tournament, Federer finally opened his 2016 season with a commanding 6-2, 6-1 win over German qualifier Tobias Kamke, and

FOOTBALL

Rule-makers discuss approving video replay trials



Martin Glenn

Soccer's rule-makers are discussing whether to approve trials of video replays to assist referees who find it harder to keep up with the faster, modern game. The International Football Association Board was meeting yesterday in London, and in-game tests, which England is keen to host, could be sanctioned. English FA chief executive Martin Glenn told AP "referees have never been fitter but players are getting quicker. So those difficult snap-shot decisions at high speed are ones where certainly the English FA would think technology might help, and we've just got to test that." FIFA controls half of the eight votes on IFAB, which also features four United Kingdom football associations. Six votes get a motion approved. Systems that determine if the ball crossed the line were approved in 2012.

BOXING

Terence Crawford will defend title against Lundy on Feb. 27



Terence "Bud" Crawford

Unbeaten Terence "Bud" Crawford will defend his WBO junior welterweight title against Hank Lundy on Feb. 27 at Madison Square Garden. Crawford, from Omaha, Nebraska, is 27-0 with 19 knockouts. Crawford stopped Dierry Jean in the 10th round in his last fight, in November, and had hoped to get a shot at Manny Pacquiao. Pacquiao, however, chose Timothy Bradley as his final opponent before he retires. Crawford, who also holds the WBO lightweight belt, is 5-0 in title fights. Lundy, from Philadelphia, is 26-5-1 with 13 knockouts. Top Rank also said yesterday that WBO Latino lightweight champ Felix Verdejo of Puerto Rico will fight William Silva of Brazil as part of the card.

ATHLETICS

Diack's son, 2 Russians banned for life in IAAF scandal



Russian Athletics Federation President Valentin Balakhnichev, right, and deputy mayor of Moscow Alexander Gorbakov, left

The son of former IAAF president Lamine Diack and two Russian officials were banned from track and field for life on Thursday after an investigation into blackmail, extortion and doping cover-ups. A fourth official, former IAAF anti-doping director Gabriel Dolle, received a five-year ban from the ethics commission of the International Association of Athletics Federations. Banned for life were Papa Massata Diack, who worked as an IAAF marketing consultant; former Russian athletics federation head Valentin Balakhnichev, who was also honorary treasurer of the IAAF; and Alexei Melnikov, former head coach of Russia's race-walking and long-distance running programs. The sanctions centered on the case of Russian marathoner Liliya Shobukhova, who was allegedly extorted out of hundreds of thousands of dollars to avoid a doping ban before the 2012 London Olympics.

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



EXPATRIATES OVER HEMISPHERES

Father Christmas - as he is known in some older subcultures of my Australian home - took to the waves on a surfboard in 1977. At that time, an awareness of the religious/secular divide, the seriousness of the symbolism on Christmas stamps, and the Australia Post's role as a custodian of our historical cultural record were completely beyond my grasp. Apparently, it was a controversial move and quite alien to the traditional nativity scene customarily depicted. It was also fun and witty, and made me, as an Australian, feel a little special.

We have blistering sun, flies, and sand between our toes to contend with as well as the heat of the kitchen - if the turkey, chicken and ham are to be delivered hot to the table with the roast potatoes and steamed plum pudding served with the mandatory brandy butter. We get to go swimming in our togs/bathers/swimmers/cossies after Christmas dinner just to cool down. Santa riding those waves was as much a statement of a transitioning cultural identity as is cold lobster or blue marron and umpteen salads followed by pavlova for dessert as an acceptable alternative to the more solid northern hemisphere fare.

I've always felt that the pull to return home for Christmas is stronger for Australian and New Zealand expatriates. Granted, from Macau the 'Antipodes' is paradoxically closer than European and the American continent destinations that so many expatriates call home, but it's also a matter of timing. Apart from Christmas, December and January bring the summer holidays, or rather, what's called the Christmas Holidays. It's the space between the end of one academic and calendar year and the next. If companies have mandatory shut down periods, it's now. It delivers a full stop. It's the time to breathe, to relax, sleep, gorge on good food, wine, beer and company. We reconnect with friends and family and move our bodies in surf, sand, parks, rivers and lakes. The feeling is easy: it's Summertime.

Maintaining connection with family at "home" is a very important part of an expatriate family's sense of identity and well-being. Although home-based family members may not completely understand what we go through in our Macau second-home lives, they help to keep us grounded, lend an ear and remind us what is normal elsewhere. Sometimes it's easy to go native - family brings us back to our old value systems. Sometimes we lose sight of who we were - family response is a litmus test of what we stood for. Sometimes we like to tell our foreign Macau stories - family lends an incredulous ear. We need to be given sufficient time to reconnect.

Never have I heard it remarked upon, and I've often wondered if Macau employers realise that Oceanian expatriates get the short straw when it comes to family summer holidays that the northern hemisphere compatriots so typically enjoy. If lucky, we get a week or so to pop back to join holiday-mode families at Christmas: work and school in Macau await our return.

In the northern summer during the mass exodus from Macau when activity slows and banks empty of Euros, for those of us who go south, unless we like a skiing holiday (yes, even in Australia) and have an occasional workday lunch in the city with friends, or offer to run younger family members to and from school, there aren't a lot of kin and kindred available to play with.

If you've ever wondered why your Aussie and Kiwi colleagues can be so accommodating and helpful at work during the Macau summer, it's because it's not ours. Ours likely includes sweaty Santa Claus's who arrive on Country Fire Authority trucks with lollies for the kids and a view of the sea or the smell of the gum trees.

THE UK TREASURY CHIEF WARNS OF GLOBAL THREATS TO ECONOMY

Britain's Treasury chief is set to warn of a dangerous cocktail of new threats to the economy, insisting that the country is not immune to troubles from abroad.

George Osborne will use a speech to underscore his fears about what he described as "creeping complacency" in the debate about the national economy. In remarks released in advance, he cites a drop in global stock markets

and commodity prices, as well as the slowdown in China among the issues buffeting the world economy.

Osborne is due to say that "anyone who thinks it's mission accomplished" is making a mistake and that last year was the worst for global growth since the crash. He says the only antidote is confronting complacency and sticking to the course the government charted.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

Yahoo pulls plug on video hub as CEO refocuses company

AP PHOTO



Yahoo president and CEO Marissa Mayer speaks during the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas

YAHOO pulled the plug on an online video hub that had once been envisioned as the beleaguered company's answer to Netflix and YouTube.

The end of the Yahoo Screen is part of a purge being directed by CEO Marissa Mayer with hopes of generating greater profit elsewhere.

Mayer oversaw an overhaul of Yahoo Screen 16 months ago that came in the form of a new mobile application, thousands of clips from NBC's "Saturday Night Live" and a wide variety of other popular TV shows.

But Yahoo Screen never

attracted the vast audiences that flock to Netflix and YouTube.

Yahoo is now scattering its video across its digital magazines and other services, such as Yahoo Music.

"We're constantly reviewing and iterating on our products as we strive to create the best user experience," Yahoo said in a printed statement.

Mayer has pledged to jettison technology that fails to justify the amount of money that Yahoo has been investing in them.

Yahoo telegraphed that its video expansion was faltering in October when it disclosed a USD42 million

charge to account for original shows, such as "Community," that had flopped.

Mayer is expected to provide more details about her latest plans for reorganization in about three weeks when the Sunnyvale, California, company announces its fourth-quarter results.

Industry analysts are expecting the steepest decline in Yahoo's revenue, after subtracting ad commissions, since the company lured Mayer away from Google to become its CEO three-and-a-half years ago.

Shares of Yahoo have fallen by about 35 percent since the end of 2014 as the difficulty of reviving company revenue growth has become evident, and that has increased the pressure on Mayer to take more drastic measures. There have even been calls for Yahoo to sell all of its online operations, but Mayer and the company's board have rebuffed those demands to far.

By building a compelling video hub, Mayer had hoped to lure advertising away from Google, whose operations include YouTube, and social networking leader Facebook, which also boasts millions of clips shared by its users. AP

WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

EUROPE Unemployment across the 19-country eurozone has fallen to its lowest rate in a little more than four years, official figures showed yesterday in the latest sign that the economic recovery in the region ended 2015 on a relatively chipper note. Following surveys this week that suggested the eurozone economy is poised for solid growth in 2016, statistics agency Eurostat found that the unemployment rate in the region fell to 10.5 percent in November from 10.6 percent the previous month. The number of unemployed fell by 130,000 people during the month.



AP PHOTO

VATICAN The Vatican is loaning a deeply symbolic religious relic to a meeting in Britain discussing the future of the 80 million-strong Anglican Communion that has been badly divided over issues of female bishops and same-sex marriage. The ivory top of the pastoral staff of St. Gregory the Great - the 6th-century pope who dispatched missionaries to England to spread Christianity - will be displayed in the Canterbury Cathedral before and after the Jan. 11-16 meeting of Anglican primates.

JAMAICA Violent rivalries among Jamaica's lottery scam rings have helped drive the Caribbean island's homicide rate to the highest level in five years, according to police.

times square by rodrigo

