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### 'THERE ISN'T JUST ONE MACANESE COMMUNITY'

Interview with Miguel de Senna Fernandes, the new president of the Association for Macanese Education (APIM)

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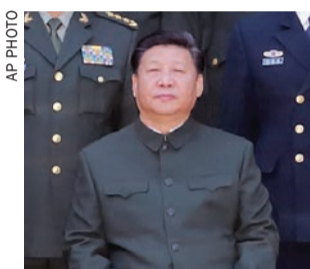
# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

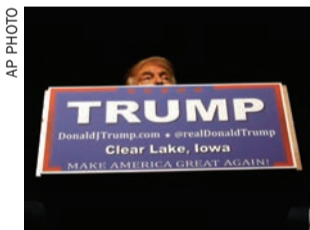
## WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA** President Xi Jinping has reorganized the military headquarters' structure in a sign of his firm control over the 2.3 million-member armed forces. State media reported yesterday that Xi has ordered the elimination of the four headquarters responsible for staff, politics, logistics and armaments and their replacement with 15 new agencies under the direct authority of the ruling Communist Party's Central Military Commission. The move is part of a push to reassert the absolute authority of the commission headed by Xi.

# Gov't presents inconclusive survey on Hotel Estoril

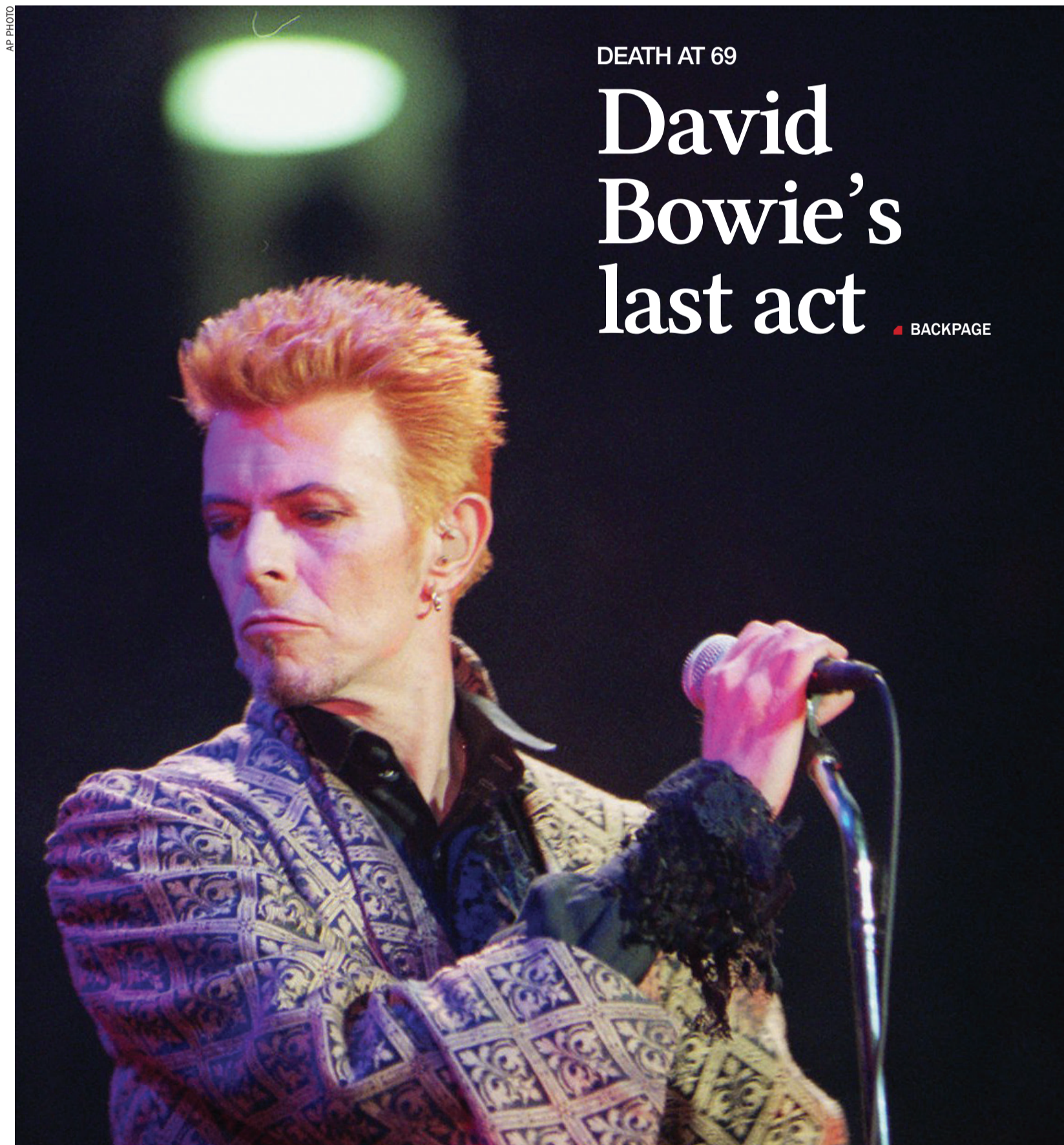
P3



**USA-CHINA** Donald Trump is leaving himself wiggle room on his proposal to impose a massive tax on goods from China if elected president. He says he's confident China would change its behavior to avoid it and start trading more fairly. The presidential contender (R) told The New York Times that he'd "tax China on products coming in" to the U.S. and "the tax should be 45 percent." But on Sunday reports suggested he'd give China a chance to change. Any tariff could be much lower. More on US elections on p15

**THAILAND**'s royal palace has released a vaguely-worded health report on the country's 88-year-old king, the world's longest reigning monarch who has been ailing for years, describing what appears to be a new bout of lung infection and occasional fever with rapid breathing.

More on backpage



DEATH AT 69

# David Bowie's last act

BACKPAGE



# Cinematheque Passion enters new experimental phase



The cinematheque's building is located at Travessa da Paixão



The screening room

**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) advanced to the second phase of experimental operation of the Cinema-

theque Passion. According to a statement issued by the IC, the program was greeted with enthusiasm

and attracted entities to organize reservations for more than thirty film screenings. The three-storey building is

located at Travessa da Paixão. IC will continue to run the "Temporary Venue Booking Program of Cinematheque

Passion", which commenced last September as part of the first phase, to fully utilize the venue's resources. Starting last Friday, members of the film industry, filmmakers and film associations are all welcome to make reservations for ticket lobbies and screening rooms.

The ticket lobby, screening room and control room are located on the ground floor of the Cinematheque, and are primarily used for screening art and indie films.

In September, the Times detailed some services that will be provided during the second stage. IC intends to develop a film information room on the first floor that will feature local film materials, periodicals and magazines. It will also serve other functions, including video storage, film journals, book loans and film appreciation.

Cinematheque aims to cultivate local film appreciation to promote Macau film culture, and will offer a series of activities, such as film-themed seminars and workshops, to local film enthusiasts and audiences.

## TRANSPORT

### No decision on additional HKD5.45b Delta Bridge funding



A transport barge travels past the under construction Delta Bridge as an aircraft takes off from HK airport

**H**ONG Kong lawmakers failed to make a decision on the government's request for extra funding to finish its 42km portion of the bridge that will link Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai (Delta Bridge). A report by the South China Morning Post (SCMP) stated that the government is short HKD5.46 billion to conclude the "necessary but not essential" facili-

ties, including landscape works, toilets, taxi stands and car parks on the island that would serve as the boundary crossing point for the new bridge.

The proposed budget is also required to cover any project contingencies. The undersecretary for transport and housing, Yau Ching-mu stated that they have conducted a feasibility study and their traffic

estimate came to 14,000 vehicles each day upon the bridge opening. However they are expecting an increase of vehicle traffic over subsequent years.

"Governments from three sides are updating traffic estimates. But today, we don't have a conclusion," he said.

The bridge, which has already been delayed to the end of 2017, is said to play a strategic role by linking Hong Kong to the western Pearl River Delta. SCMP reported that the People's Power legislator, Raymond Chan Chiu-chuen, has put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting, despite support from other lawmakers in the pan-democrat camp. The Finance Committee is set to meet again on Friday to further tackle the funding issue.

## MUSIC

### US-based singer-songwriter plays intimate gig in town

**B**ROOKLYN-BASED singer-songwriter Reonda performed an intimate gig at "Pin-To Musica" in Senado Square on Saturday night. The performance, titled "Lightness of Being," featured around a dozen songs best described as alternative folk.

The solo artist was equipped with a guitar, a microphone, a synthesizer and a "loop station," and created rich, harmonic music without the assistance of other performers. She played songs such as "Girl and the Sea" and "It Smells Nice in the Graveyard."

In anticipation of her Saturday show, Reonda wrote on her Facebook page: "I can almost taste the fresh pork jerky and Portuguese egg tarts already. See you soon Macau and Pin-To Musica!"

The singer-songwriter previously toured Guangdong Province back in 2014, when she played gigs in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Macau to coincide with the release of her EP, "Moon."

Bitestone, an independent online music magazine, reviewed the album and



Reonda

concluded: "A few more spins of her new EP "Moon" reveals a familiar lo-fi sensibility. "Moon" is like emotions laid bare and transformed into melodies, chords and lyrics. It's the perfect soundtrack for a rainy day." **Staff reporter**

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Renato Marques

**T**HE results of the public consultation requested by the government regarding public opinion on how the decrepit Hotel Estoril could be reused were announced yesterday in a press conference held by the Office of the Secretary of Social Affairs and Culture at the Macau Cultural Center.

“More than 70 percent agree with the government proposal for the hotel and [adjacent] swimming pool,” said Kenny Ip, the Chief of the Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture. Secretary Alexis Tam did not attend.

The company e-Research & Solutions (ERS) conducted a study that applied two methods: a collection of “society’s opinions” and a “random telephone survey.”

ERS director Angus Cheong explained that a total of 818 opinions were collected. From those, 15 percent are from associations while 85 percent are from individual citizens. The same document shows that, from those opinions, more than 8 percent were issued by members of Macau’s several advisory councils.

The data gathered from this method shows that almost 83 percent of these opinions favor the “rebuild” of the former Estoril Hotel, a word (rebuild) that drew questions from journalists. The term “rebuild” is presented on the survey as synonymous with a “demolition of the actual premises and construction of new ones.” On the other hand, only 9.8 percent of the opinions opposed the “rebuild.” The data also shows that 7.8 percent of opinions were considered “not explicit.”

These “not explicit” opinions were also a target for the press, who questioned the fact that the majority of the answers classified as such had resulted from the groups defined as Commentators/Presenters (82.4 percent), Experts/Academics (66.7 percent), and Architects/Engineers (66.7 percent).

Among those who opposed the demolition of the building and wanted it to be preserved, the most



The ERS director, Angus Cheong



The former hotel's façade

HOTEL ESTORIL DEVELOPMENT

# Survey raises more questions than conclusions

## ■ The survey cost the government MOP600,000

highlighted reason – with 20 opinions collected – was that “the building has a historical and cultural value and should be included on the heritage site listing.”

The results from the telephone survey showed a high percentage of people (75 percent) who claimed to know about the “ideas of the government for the reuse of the former Estoril Hotel and the Estoril municipal swimming pool.”

The results also show that the

surveyed citizens attributed an average of 7.4 points (on a graduation scale between 0 and 10, in which 0 represents total disagreement and 10 total agreement), representing classifications from 6 or more points as a total of 68.6pct.

The phone survey revealed that the citizens agreed on certain things that should be included in the reconstruction. The creation of the public parking facility was the top answer with 8.3 points, followed by sports facilities (7.6 points). The prospect of a heated swimming pool won 7.4 points.

One of the most controversial aspects of the study was related to opinions on the demolition and reconstruction of the former hotel. The results showed that

81.5 percent of the survey participants have “no opinion”, while 12.3 percent say there is “no need to preserve the whole building.” A total of 5.4 percent say exactly the opposite, that “there is a need to preserve the complete building.”

This figure seems to be a contradiction with the data previously released, although that was disregarded by the makers of the study. “This was an ‘open question’ where we tried to get other opinions, but the people had already expressed support to the project before,” said Angus Cheong, backed up by Kenny Ip and the secretariat’s advisor Olivia Lam.

In the conclusions, Ip admitted that there is currently no “plan B” for the hotel’s future, saying

that these are the current ideas from the government for the reuse of the space. However, he stated that “nothing is decided yet, the government will now search for experts’ opinion” before adding that “the government keeps an ‘open’ position regarding the opinions and contributions to this project.”

The government’s ideas for the former Estoril Hotel include the transformation of the space into a cultural, recreational and educational venue that will “tentatively” house new conservatories and schools for music, dance and theatre, as well as a heated swimming pool for public use all year long.

The survey cost the government MOP600,000.

## Another cash smuggler caught trying to leave Taiwan

**T**AOYUAN airport police caught a Hong Kong man attempting to smuggle NTD12.47 million (MOP2.99 million) from Taiwan to Hong Kong on Sunday, making him the second cash smuggler caught at the airport in three days.

AsiaOne reported that the man, surnamed Ning, told airport police on Sunday that he was bringing the cash to Hong Kong in order to profit from the exchange rate difference during the rapid depreciation of the New Taiwan Dollar.



Taiwan dollar notes

Taiwan airport police claimed that Ning, 58, was in Taiwan on an all-expenses paid trip and had expected to earn HKD2,000 if successful.

The suspect had planned to take a flight to Hong Kong at 6:40 p.m. on Sunday, but was intercepted around 4 p.m. when passing through security at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport’s Terminal One.

As the Times reported previously, a Macau-bound Taiwanese man was stopped on Friday at Taoyuan Airport when

airport customs officials confiscated nearly USD28,000.

A similar case took place on December 23, when a woman carrying NTD4.8 million hidden in her luggage and carry-on baggage was stopped by airport police. Taipei Times claimed that the woman, surnamed Lung, was intending to board a flight to Bangkok but was caught with undeclared cash.

In December, authorities also caught a South Korean woman with NTD1.9 million, a Taiwanese woman headed to Jakarta with NTD16.6 million, and two men carrying a combined NTD2.5 million.



### Korean pitchers penalized for illegal gambling

The Korea Baseball Organization (KBO) punished two pitchers on Friday for gambling illegally in Macau. Lim Chang-yong and Oh Seung-hwan were recently ordered to pay a fine of 7 million won (MOP46,404) after prosecutors decided their actions constituted a summary offense. The former Samsung Lions players are currently free agents. They will be banned for half their team's games if they return to the KBO league, according to the governing body of Korea's top baseball league.

### Major gas leak in Taipa supermarket

Three people were hospitalized and 80 evacuated from a supermarket in Taipa after a major gas leak that forced authorities to clear the area near Avenida Olimpica. According to TDM, authorities found that Sunday's evacuation was caused by leaking hydrogen sulfide gas. Four supermarket workers had shown signs of exposure to the hazardous substance when the fire services arrived at the scene around 2 p.m.

# Formula E race in Hong Kong offers 'affordable tickets'

Renato Marques

**T**HE first ever Formula E race in Hong Kong, set for the weekend of October 8-9, will have at least half of its tickets offered at affordable prices, the organizers revealed on Friday (January 8) on the sidelines of the Car of the Year 2015 event, held by the Hong Kong Automobile Association (HKAA) at Cyberport Mall in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong event will kick-off the third season of the all-electric racing car series and will feature a 2.2km street circuit, to be built in Central HK, running between Lung Wo Road and the Star Ferry Pier.

Budgeted at HKD300 million, the organizers expect no profit from the ticket sales as the president of HKAA, Mr Lawrence Yu told the media.

"The price tag for putting up an international event like this is very high, but we don't have to worry too much about going into the red," he said, adding that the purpose of the event



Formula E race cars inside the pit during the FIA Formula E 2014 Beijing ePrix at the Olympic Green Circuit

is to encourage more people to participate in the experience.

"We have yet to decide the ticket prices, but our principle is to ensure that more people can enjoy the motor racing," Mr Yu said.

Mr Yu mentioned that the organizers are keen to make this a memorable event and are

looking for a "name that can give it identity."

"Our circuit will be a street one, similar to the Monte Carlo F1 Circuit. Many motor racing circuits have a name. The one in Macau is called the Guia Circuit, and we want Hong Kong citizens to give it a proper name, so that they can feel like it is their own," Mr Yu concluded.

The HKAA also revealed some of the details of the program that, for the first time in this competition, will also feature two other support races, one being directed to local racers and another a celebrity race in order to "make the Hong Kong leg more interesting and fun-filled."

### GOOD ATTENDANCE AT MACAU GP

**ACCORDING TO** the numbers from the organizing committee, last year's Macau Grand Prix registered around 55,700 spectators during race days, and a total of around 78,200 over the four-day event. The prices of the tickets for the race days in Macau ranged from MOP350 to 900 depending on the location of the stand. At a Formula E race recently held in China tickets ranged between RMB488 and 688.

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Renato Marques

**R**ENOWNED lawyer Miguel de Senna Fernandes is an avid supporter of Macanese culture and identity. He is president of the board of the Macanese Association (ADM) and is one of the faces of the Patuá dialect revival through his membership of the theater group “Dóci Papiaçám di Macau”, which holds annual stage performances for each edition of the Macau Arts Festival (FAM).

On December 18, he was elected President of the Association for Macanese Education (APIM), an association that is almost 150 years old. He discussed his new position in an interview with the Times.

**Macau Daily Times – What do you think will be your biggest challenge in the leadership of APIM?**

**Miguel de Senna Fernandes** – Well, first of all I would say that to assume APIM [presidency] is already a challenge. Regarding the goals of the association for the next year or so, it is not easy since I’m at this moment officially taking office in the presidency, and I need some time to understand how things have been done and what the possibilities are for the coming times.

APIM is involved in several projects and institutions, like the D. José da Costa Nunes Kindergarten and, although indirectly, the management of Macau Portuguese School (EPM). It is necessary to first understand exactly what has been done so we can draft our policy address for the near future, namely this year.

**MDT – But what would you say are the main goals that you intend to achieve?**

**MSF** – Those are simpler to define. The first is to improve the management of the institutions under our responsibility, and more specifically the

**Q&A** MIGUEL DE SENNA FERNANDES  
PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR MACANESE EDUCATION (APIM)

# ‘There isn’t just one Macanese community but several’



kindergarten Costa Nunes. That is the most important thing at this moment, I would say. Secondly, we need to focus on education, as we are an association that has a natural vocation for education. That is our central axis and we need to mark that line well.

The new administration of

APIM wants it to become a truly valued and reputed association in the field of education for the Macanese and Portuguese communities.

What we want is to continue developing this association, and the future will let us know if we need to change anything on our current course to achieve those goals. For

now we will need time and perseverance.

**MDT – Besides the APIM, you were recently involved in the organization of the “III Conference on Macanese Identity”. Can you tell us more about the conference?**

**MSF** – This conference had,

as many times before, the purpose of being a little “call to action” that we truly hope works. We discussed a lot of topics and ideas that now need to be digested. The main point was to focus on the younger generation, to call for their participation and ideas. We cannot limit ourselves to the idea of “Macanese” as being old-fashioned or all traditional stuff.

The presentation of the results of the questionnaire conducted by the ADM was an important point. Although it was originally intended to be answered more at the local level, we had many replies from Macanese overseas, so it gave us different perspectives of different communities – because there isn’t just one Macanese community but several, each with its specificities, depending on the cultures they are involved with.

## ‘A SENSE OF PURPOSE’

**IN A** ceremony on Friday, Miguel de Senna Fernandes officially took over presidency of the APIM, replacing José Manuel Rodrigues, the association’s leader for more than sixteen years. At his inauguration, the newly elected president told Radio Macau: “It’s a challenge that I accept, and the whole team accepts too. APIM is a traditional structure, it has history and it is important to Macau, and in particular to the Portuguese community. It is with a sense of purpose that I assume these functions.”

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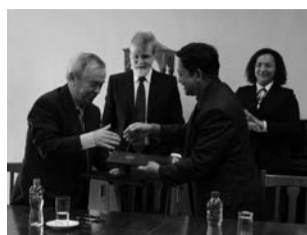
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GAMING

# 'Competitive corporate diplomacy' between Crown and Star Entertainment

## USJ signs theology partnership with UCP

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) has signed an agreement with the University of Portugal (UCP), under which graduates of USJ's Christian Studies program will be awarded canonical degrees in theology, recognized by all Catholic Theological Faculties. The agreement, signed on Thursday at the Saint Joseph Seminary, marks a deepening collaboration between the two higher education institutions, said a representative of USJ. Present at the signing was the Bishop of the Diocese of Macao, Jose Lai; the Dean of UCP's Faculty of Theology, Joao Lourenço; and the Dean of USJ's Faculty of Religious Studies, Arnold Monera.

**RIVALRY** between Australia's two casino giants – James Packer's Crown and Sydney-based Star Entertainment – is seeing new episodes of "competitive corporate diplomacy," according to recent media reports.

Last week, Star confirmed its plans to spend another USD500 million on its flagship integrated resort in Pyrmont, Sydney – a move that was assumed to ignite old tensions between the casino rivals. However, Packer, who is co-chairman of Crown Limited, stated that he would support the plans devised by Star, formally known as Echo.

Daily paper Sydney Morning Herald reported that the Packer camp is arguing that an improved Star Casino facility will entice gamblers and tourists to Sydney, and will attract a bigger share of the international market by having two world-class facilities in one town, creating a win-win situation for the rivals.

"What's good for Sydney is good for Australia, and what's good for Australia is good for Crown," Pa-



BLOOMBERG

cker told media. Following this statement, experts cited by the Australian newspaper questioned whether "Packer could also be hoping his support for The Star's development plans may also result in Star dropping objections it presented to authorities – based on local advice – that suggested Crown's Bangaroo [a six-star casino and hotel resort that is pending approval for construction close to Sydney] planning process was flawed and open to court challenge."

Packer and Matt Bekier, The Star Entertainment Group's chief executive, agree on the im-

portance of increasing the percentage of international patrons, including Chinese gamblers. Mr Bekier says that Australia represents only four percent of the global market, so there is no shortage of headroom. Both operators are also aware of how Chinese VIP players function, using Macau as a template.

The Star Entertainment Group's product, marketing and earnings have vastly improved and in turn boosted its market share. They confirmed plans for a third hotel within its Sydney complex last week – one that will be more than two-thirds the height of its competitor.

"Australia has the highest per capita spending, on gaming of any nation today other than Hong Kong. So opening another casino is unlikely to expand the domestic market when Australians are already spending \$1600 per capita per year. The opportunity for expansion is through Sydney becoming a more attractive destination for the international VIPs and the high end tourist, with greater capacity to accommodate them," Bekier commented.

The Sydney Morning Herald claimed that these two companies will always compete for a slice of the local VIP and premium mass market business, but could put aside their differences for the sake of putting Sydney on the map as a destination for the middle-class Asian market.

The Star has also poached management talent from Crown, including the new head of the Star's international VIP business, John Chong, who was recently lured from Crown's Macau joint venture, Melco Crown.

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## ChemChina buys Germany's KraussMaffei for USD1b

**C**HINA'S biggest chemical company says it has bought a German maker of machinery to process rubber and plastic for USD1 billion (925 million euros) in the biggest Chinese investment to date in Germany.

China National Chemical Corp., also known as ChemChina, said yesterday the acquisition of KraussMaffei would expand its product range.

State-owned ChemChina said it would keep KraussMaffei's headquarters in Munich and its production and research operations in Europe. The company has 4,500 employees, with 2,800 of them in Germany.

ChemChina is one of China's most active investors abroad. It has acquired companies in France, Britain and Israel and agreed last year to pay \$7.7 billion for Italian tire maker Pirelli. **AP**

# Pound rallies from 5 year low as markets shake China turmoil

Anooja Debnath and Manisha Jha

**T**HE pound rebounded from a 5 1/2-year low against the dollar and its weakest level in 11 months versus the euro amid a recovery in European stocks.

A faltering domestic and global economy and concern Britain is headed for the European Union exit door has seen sterling fall against seven of its Group-of-10 counterparts this year. Waning prospects for an interest-rate increase by the Bank of England in 2016 also weighed on the pound, before the relief rally.

"We've had some stabilization early on in the European equity market trading session and that's helping the pound to rebound," said Lee Hardman, a foreign-exchange strategist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd. in London. "The pound is one of those currencies within the majors, which is more vulnerable to the deterioration in global investor risk



sentiment." This is "temporary relief," he said.

The pound rose 0.5 percent to \$1.4583 as of 1:33 p.m. London time, after slumping to USD1.4494, its lowest level since June 2010. Britain's currency strengthened 0.8 percent to 74.67 pence per euro, having earlier touched 75.55 pence, the weakest since February.

Sterling's rally comes at the start of a busy week for U.K.

data, with industrial figures due today forecast by economists to show production stalled and a manufacturing report seen showing an improvement in November. The BOE also has its first meeting since the Federal Reserve raised U.S. interest rates.

The U.K. central bank is forecast to leave its main rate unchanged at 0.5 percent in its Thursday decision. Forward contracts based on the sterling

overnight index average, or Sonia, aren't pricing in a quarter-point increase until after February 2017, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

Traders will scour through the minutes of the meeting to see whether more hawkish policy makers have changed their minds on the potential for higher borrowing costs.

"If Ian McCafferty joins the majority of the people and stops voting for the rate hike, that certainly will be a burden for the pound," said Thu Lan Nguyen, a currency strategist at Commerzbank AG in Frankfurt.

Ten-year U.K. government bond yields rose one basis point, or 0.01 percentage point, to 1.78 percent. The price of the 2 percent security due September 2025 fell 0.13, or 1.30 pounds per 1,000-pound face amount, to 101.905.

Britain's Debt Management Office is scheduled to sell 900 million pounds of inflation-linked bonds maturing in 2046 today. **Bloomberg**

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**Jointly Present a Business Luncheon**  
with  
**Guest Speaker:**  
**Oliver Tong**  
**Associate Director, Jones Lang LaSalle on**  
**Retailing in Macao - Up to the Next Level?**  
Followed by short update on Macao Real Estate Market  
**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Venue: Ocean Room I, 1/F  
Mandarin Oriental, Macau  
12.30: Drinks  
1 pm: Lunch  
1.45 pm: Presentation by Oliver Tong  
2.30 pm: Close

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Ben Bain, Paula Sambo and Filipe Pacheco

# Brazil roiled by China mess shows investors can't catch a break

FOR investors in Brazil battered by a terrible 2015, there was reason to believe January would provide a respite. With summer holidays in full gear and Congress in recess, developments in the political scandals that had roiled markets were put on hold.

And then came China.

The turmoil in Brazil's largest trading partner sent its benchmark stock index down 8.2 percent in dollar terms to begin the year, making for the worst week in almost six months, as shares of commodity producers tumbled with raw materials to the lowest in more than a decade. The currency weakened past 4 per dollar, back to levels seen after Standard & Poor's surprised investors by cutting Brazil to junk in September.

Now stocks from Latin America's largest economy are once again getting punished worse than emerging-market peers, adding to the pain investors have felt over five consecutive years of declines for the Ibovespa. The worsening slowdown in China is only making it more difficult for Brazil to pull itself out of its worst recession in more than a century amid soaring inflation, a widening fiscal deficit and efforts to impeach the president that are making the situation all the more chaotic.

"The scenario is not pretty," said Maarten-Jan Bakkum, a senior emerging-markets strategist at NN Investment Partners in The Hague with about USD206 billion under management. "I'm very worried about the external pressures on Brazil, the poor policy response and the political situation, which makes quick solutions unlikely. China will continue to slow, global liquidity will tighten and Brazil has had bad economic policies for too long."

The 15 percent selloff in Chi-



nese stocks this year amid confusion over circuit-breaker procedures and bets on a weaker currency revived concerns over the Communist Party's ability to manage an economy set to grow at the weakest pace since 1990. Brazil's exports to China totaled \$35.6 billion in 2015, about 19 percent of the total goods sent abroad, according to government data.

The impact of China's slump isn't restricted to Brazil, of course. U.S. equities capped the worst week since September 2011, while just five of 24 emer-

ging market currencies have gained against the dollar.

But for Brazil, the China trouble comes while the country is already beset by its own problems. Inflation accelerated to a 12-year high in December, more than twice policy makers' target. Analysts estimate a 3.73 percent economic contraction in 2015, followed by a 2.99 percent decline in 2016. The recession deepened as some of the country's largest companies get entangled in the largest corruption case in Brazil's history, which has also worsened the

political crisis as top ranked legislators came under investigation.

Meanwhile, President Dilma Rousseff is fighting for her political survival after lawmakers initiated impeachment proceedings in December. The president and her opponents are currently at a standstill with the Supreme Court and Congress on recess until Feb. 2.

"It's a little bit cliched to say at this point, but it really is the perfect storm," said Marianna Waltz, the managing director for the corporate finance group

at Moody's Investors Service in Sao Paulo. "The slowdown in China hits Brazil directly. In Brazil, you have commodity producers and companies with a domestic focus, and now they're all in trouble - and we don't see that getting better."

For every Brazilian corporate rating upgrade in 2015, Moody's cut five others.

Commodities account for about 46 percent of Brazil's exports - prices for two of the largest, soybeans and iron ore, have dropped 16 percent and 41 percent, respectively, in the past 12 months. Data released Thursday showed Brazil's industrial production fell 2.4 percent in November, more than all analyst forecasts. Consumer confidence as measured by the Getulio Vargas Foundation reached a record low in December.

Brazil's real has dropped 1.5 percent this year after losing a third of its value last year, the worst performance among 16 major currencies tracked by Bloomberg. The perception of risk in holding the country's dollar bonds, as measured by credit-default swaps, is more than twice the average of the past five years. While Brazil's sovereign notes outperformed global peers last week, its corporate overseas bonds now have a higher yield than the average for junk-rated notes from developing nations.

The recession is likely to continue to push asset prices lower, according to Simon Nocera, the chief investment officer at Lumen Advisors LLC, who says he's been underweight Brazilian equities since the end of 2009. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### BRUCE LEE MEMORIAL EXHIBITION AT STUDIO CITY

A Bruce Lee memorial exhibition will be held at the Times Squares Macau in Studio City in celebration of the martial arts master's 75th birthday. The exhibition, which has been co-organized by Swiss watchmaker Hublot and the Bruce Lee Foundation, opened to the public yesterday and will run until January 25.

According to event organizers, the exhibition will feature five iconic artifacts from his life, provided by the Bruce Lee Foundation.

Among the exhibits are Lee's "tang-style" Kung Fu jacket and his personal copy of the "Way of the Dragon" film script. Hublot has also created a unique black and gold watch as a tribute to the legend, inspired by



Black and gold watch inspired by lee's famous dragon pattern

the dragon pattern that came to symbolize Lee.

The Kung Fu icon is renowned for having broken the traditional boundaries of different fighting styles, and for imbuing them with his own brand of philosophy.

### ASIA PACIFIC POKER TOUR UNVEILS 2016 DATES

The Asia Pacific Poker Tour (APPT) yesterday unveiled the revised Season 10 schedule dates for the APPT Seoul, which will take place at the Paradise Walkerhill Casino between June 20 and 27.

"The original set date for APPT Seoul in April didn't work due to an unexpected casino renovation that reduced the floor capacity. But the change to June will literally be a 'warm welcome' with beautiful summer

weather," said APPT President Danny McDonagh.

The eight-day schedule includes eight "Official Asia Player of the Year" events and a USD2,500 buy-in for the main event. Last year, American player Jason Mo beat a 241-player field to win the equivalent of around USD135,000.

It is unlikely that South Koreans will be able to participate in the poker tour to be held in their capital city, as Korean nationals are not permitted to gamble.

### AIRPORT CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD



The Macau International Airport Company Ltd (CAM) hosted the annual MIA golf tournament, raising a total of MOP100,000 for the Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society and an additional MOP50,000 to be donated to the Fuhong Society of Macau.

According to CAM, around 70 participants attended the charity day from across the civil aviation industry, as well as local au-

thorities and other institutions.

At an awards dinner after the tournament, Ma lao Hang, chairman of CAM's board of directors, presented cheques to the two charities.

In addition, the tournament's top-scoring participants were rewarded for their performances, and all participants were thanked for their continued support of the aviation industry's development.



## ANALYSIS

# Eight reasons PRC and its president are off to a rocky 2016

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**B**ARELY more than a week into 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping is having a rough time of it, with challenges ranging from a plummeting stock market to new provocations from obstreperous ally North Korea. While none pose an existential threat to his administration, the world will be watching to see whether he has the sophisticated touch needed to find durable solutions and maintain stability.

Below is a look at eight key issues Xi is contending with:

## STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY

China twice deployed its "circuit breaker" mechanism to halt trading as stock markets nosedived by 10 percent in the first week of the year. Beijing finally abandoned the mechanism, and left the perception that regulators don't have a clue as they try to stabilize a market that more than doubled between late 2014 and June, then dived 30 percent, causing deep pain among retail investors.

## CURRENCY QUEASINESS

Meanwhile, China's currency, the yuan, has slid to a five-year low against the dollar, forcing the government to spend tens of millions of dollars from its foreign currency stockpile to defend it. The government last week guided the yuan 1.5 percent lower to assist hard-pressed



China's President Xi Jinping

exporters, but the clumsy move sent shockwaves through world markets, further weighing on Chinese share prices.

## SLOWING ECONOMY

Hiccups in the world's second-largest economy are expected to continue in 2016, with growth falling to a six-year low of 6.9 percent in the July-September quarter and forecast by the International Monetary Fund to decline further to 6.3 percent this year. That bodes ill for the economy's ability to generate enough new jobs for the more than 7.5 million students due to graduate from college this year, while also building momentum

for a transition from an investment-based economy to one focused on services.

## NORTH KOREA

Despite persistent calls for restraint, China's traditional ally North Korea staged what it claims was a hydrogen bomb test blast on Jan. 6 that sent actual tremors across the border into northeastern China and drew condemnation from Beijing. China now finds itself again under pressure to use any possible leverage with the North to tamp down tensions in northeast Asia, while facing the possibility of more robust security cooperation between

South Korea and China's traditional rivals Japan and the United States.

## TAIWAN

Voters on the self-governing island democracy appear set to elect a new president whose party opposes Beijing's goal of unification between the sides. Beijing's economic inducements have failed to persuade the Taiwanese public of the benefits of political union. If opposition Democratic Progressive Party candidate Tsai Ing-wen wins Saturday, as she is widely expected to do, Beijing may feel compelled to embark on economic and diplomatic pressure that could send relations into reverse. It's unlikely that Beijing would go so far as to back up its longstanding threat to use force to bring the island under Chinese control.

## POLITICS

While Xi faces no such electoral challenges under China's one-party system, he does face resistance from political rivals and the vast bureaucracy. Xi shows no sign of abandoning his signature anti-corruption campaign blamed for creating a sense of fear and paralysis among the rank and file. His growing cult of personality exudes an exterior confidence. But with the economy slowing and no sign of political reforms, he may come under pressure from critics and rivals to show results on jobs, growth, good

governance and addressing the yawning income gap.

## SOUTH CHINA SEA

Since the year began, China has landed three aircraft on a new island it built in the South China Sea, drawing protests from Vietnam and the Philippines, which have competing territorial claims in the region.

China's robust assertions of its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea have long drawn complaints and sparked the occasional maritime confrontations in the area through which USD5 trillion in global trade passes each year. The test flights landed on one of seven new islands Beijing has built by piling sand atop reefs and atolls. The U.S. is adamant that the new features don't deserve the legal status of actual islands, and the U.S. Navy has flown and sailed close to them, drawing a furious response from Beijing. Xi now has to defend China's actions while avoiding damage to its foreign relations.

## HONG KONG

China faces continuing opposition from pro-democracy forces in Hong Kong, the former British colony that reverted to Chinese rule in 1997 while retaining its own legal and economic systems. Beijing's hand-picked chief executive, Leung Chun-ying, is deeply unpopular, and planned electoral changes stalled after massive street protests in 2014, leaving deep rifts in hyper-efficient Hong Kong's society and politicizing a generation of students. Now, the recent disappearances of people associated with a publishing company that specializes in titles critical of China's leadership have raised fears that Beijing is tightening its grip on Hong Kong's freedom of the press and other civil liberties. **AP**

**CHINA'S** Cabinet has created a new department to coordinate financial and economic affairs, according to a person familiar with the matter, as the country's leaders seek to restore investor confidence in the government's regulation of markets.

The department under the State Council's general office is tasked with coordinating between China's financial and economic regulators and gathering data from local offices, according to the person, who asked not to be identified because the move hasn't been publicly announced. Agricultural Bank of China Vice President Li Zhenjiang was tapped as deputy director responsible for its daily operations and took the new post last week, the

## Beijing said to create new office coordinating finance and economy

person said.

The move signals a broader recognition among Communist Party leaders that the government's current structure must be revamped to properly manage the gyrations of China's markets and its economic slowdown. Investors have voiced renewed concern about the government's credibility following a series of interventions since this summer to arrest a market slide that led equities to fall globally.

The Shanghai Composite Index has plunged

more than 17 percent since late December, and leaders had to abandon a newly imposed stock circuit-breaker system after stock slides twice halted trading for the day last week.

Previously, State Council oversight of finance and securities fell to a State Council department that handles myriad other issues including land, environmental protection, forestry and tourism. It's unclear how much power the new department will have given that President Xi Jinping manages a se-

parate body that steers financial policy, the Central Leading Group on Financial and Economic Affairs.

In the meantime, leaders are planning a broader streamlining of China's complex regulatory structure. The government is considering a plan to combine the three regulators that oversee securities, insurance and banking, according to other people familiar with the plan. Those discussions gained pace following the market turmoil and the

government's decision to devalue the yuan. The currency has lost nearly 9 percent of its value against the dollar in the last two years.

China's bond market is a typical example of the country's conflicting regulatory scheme. The central bank governs bond sales in the interbank market, the China Securities Regulatory Commission oversees bonds issued by listed companies and the National Development and Reform Commission approves bond issuance

by non-public firms.

The State Council didn't respond to a faxed request for comment, while a press officer at Agricultural Bank of China declined to comment on Li's status. A China Insurance Regulatory Commission spokesman declined to comment, and the securities and banking regulators also didn't respond to faxed requests for comment.

Liu He, an economic policy adviser to President Xi Jinping, wrote a preface of a recently published book saying that China should speed up "the establishment of financial regulation mechanisms that fit the profile of modern finance, to be able to enhance coordination and advance cooperation, and have effective and efficient functions." **AP**



# Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, US seek roadmap to peace

Kathy Gannon, Islamabad

A key gathering opened yesterday in Islamabad in which four countries — Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States — hope to lay the roadmap to peace for the war-shattered Afghan nation.

The meeting comes as Afghanistan's battlefield losses are mounting and entire swaths of the country that cost hundreds of U.S.-led coalition and Afghan military lives to secure slip back into Taliban hands. Taliban representatives have not been invited to the talks, vowing to talk only to the U.S. and not to the government in Kabul.

As the gathering got under way, host Pakistan — seen as key to bringing the warring Taliban factions to the table — cautioned of the difficulties ahead.

Sartaj Aziz, adviser to the Pakistani prime minister on foreign affairs, warned against prematurely deciding which Taliban factions are ready to talk, urging instead "confidence building" measures to get even the recalcitrant Taliban to the negotiating table.

But analysts and participants alike say that while there are four countries talking, much of the hope for progress toward peace rests with Pakistan, which is accused of harboring some of the fiercest factions of the Taliban, including the Haqqani group, a U.S.-declared terrorist organization. Pakistan says its influence over the Taliban is overrated.

"Even at the best of times they (Taliban) didn't listen to us," Aziz told The Associated Press earlier. "Look at Bamiyan," he said, referring to the Taliban's destruction in the summer of 2001 of some of the world's most precious statues of Buddha. The Taliban blew up the statues, ignoring the roars of dissent, including from Pakistan.

Aziz refused to say whether Pakistan has a list of Taliban representatives prepared to enter into peace negotiations. The existence of such a list was announced Sunday by Javid Faisal, deputy spokesman for Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

At the start the conference, Aziz urged that participants avoid the media and work toward finding ways to get all the Taliban to talk peace. He said the Islamabad gathering needs to define the "overall direction of the reconciliation process" and goals that would create a "conducive envi-



Delegates from Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and United States attend a meeting hoping to lay the roadmap for peace talks with the Taliban, at the foreign ministry in Islamabad, Pakistan

ronment for holding direct talks between the Afghan government and Taliban groups."

Meanwhile, a breakaway Taliban group said yesterday it was ready for talks. The faction, which emerged following the revelation last year that the Taliban leader and founder Mullah Mohammed Omar had died two years ago, is believed to be relatively small and its absence from the battlefield is unlikely to be a game changer.

Imtiaz Gul, whose Center for Research and Security Studies has delved deeply into the Afghan conflict and Pakistan's decades-old involvement, says Pakistan has significant leverage with the Taliban, led by Omar's replacement Mullah Akhtar Mansoor.

Militants in both countries are allied, and getting rid of the Haqqanis, for example, could unleash a violent backlash inside Pakistan where the army has been fighting for several years to defeat a coalition of militant groups largely based in its border areas with Afghanistan, Gul said.

That battle has been brutal with thousands of Pakistani soldiers killed and wounded and thousands more Pakistani civilians killed in deadly retaliatory suicide attacks by the militants.

Gul said last month's trip by Pakistan's army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif, who travelled to Afghanistan unaccompanied by the country's powerful ISI intelligence agency, long considered the force behind the Taliban, was a signal the military was ready to move away from past practices and center future policy decisions only at the army headquarters.

Changes won't come quickly, says Gul, "but important for us is to turn the page (from supporting militants) and I think Gen. Raheel Sharif has turned

that page."

Though the Taliban were not invited to yesterday's talks, a senior Taliban official, who spoke on condition of anonymity fearing exposure and capture, told the AP that two Taliban delegates, currently headquartered in Qatar, will meet "soon" with China's representatives. The meeting, which will also include Pakistan, is to be held in Islamabad, said the official.

Still, there seems little to no chance for early peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

The Taliban, struggling to consolidate their leadership council following Omar's death, have drawn their line in the sand: no official talks with Kabul on a peaceful end to their protracted and bloody war until direct talks can be held with the United States.

"We want talks with the Americans first because we consider them a direct party," the Taliban official said in a face-to-face interview with the AP.

The Taliban want recognition of their Qatar office under the banner of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the name they used when they ruled Afghanistan until they were ousted by the U.S.-led coalition in 2001. They also want the United Nations to remove the Taliban from its wanted list and they want their prisoners released from Afghan jails.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani wants no part in giving the Taliban official recognition.

Maulvi Shazada Shaeid, a representative on Afghanistan's High Peace Council, tasked with seeking peace with the Taliban, said the distance between the two sides is vast, holding out little hope for peace.

"In the current situation, it is not possible to bring peace," he said. AP

## Giant golden statue of Mao demolished in Henan province

A village in central China has abruptly demolished a statue of the country's founder, Mao Zedong, after images of the structure covered in gold paint and looming 37 meters high over farmland attracted heated discussion on social media.

Although the official reason for the demolition is unknown, with even a high-level Communist Party newspaper struggling to explain the episode, the rise and fall of the Mao monument in rural Henan province highlights the political sensitivities in China surrounding a historical figure alternatively revered and criticized by both the public and the government.

The project, reportedly financed by entrepreneurs, cost USD460,000 and was near completion last week when it was nixed by local officials after images of the statue elicited mixed reactions on Chinese social media, and the story was picked up by domestic and international media.

The People's Daily, the official Communist Party newspaper, said the statue may have lacked approval from cultural management authorities, though it also cited an official as saying that did not appear to be the reason. Local officials could not be reached for comment yesterday, and some agencies' publicly listed telephone numbers appeared

to be disconnected.

Since his death in 1976, Mao has been both revered as a founding father and blamed for political turmoil and disastrous economic policies that claimed millions of lives. Successors including Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader during the 1980s, openly rebuked the cult of personality that had been built around Mao and warned cadres about the risk of overly concentrated influence.

Even as China's current president, Xi Jinping, consolidates power to a degree that has drawn comparisons to Mao, he warned in a 2013 speech against "worshipping" revolutionary leaders without pointing out their mistakes.

Still, Mao, known as the "Great Helmsman," has kept a firm grip on the imagination for a large swath of the population, particularly the dissatisfied, rural poor, drawing notice of central authorities.

Last month, the Global Times, a Communist Party tabloid, reported on the latest Mao statue to rise in rural northwestern China, where villagers sang revolutionary songs in a quasi-religious ceremony that featured "ecstatic dance" and a shamanistic figure brandishing a sword.

"Building Mao temples is not encouraged by the central government or local authorities," the article noted. AP

### MEDIA

## Gillian Wong named AP's news director for greater China

Gillian Wong, a veteran journalist who has spent more than a decade reporting on China and elsewhere in Asia, is returning to The Associated Press to lead its coverage of the world's most populous nation and second-largest economy.

Wong, who currently covers technology at The Wall Street Journal, will be based in Beijing as the AP's greater China news director. In that role, she will oversee coverage in video, text and photos, across a territory that includes the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Wong's appointment was announced yesterday by Ted Anthony, the cooperative's Bangkok-based director of Asia-Pacific news.

"I know few journalists in Asia or anywhere else who

are as intrepid and creative as Gillian," Anthony said. "Her comprehensive understanding of the China story, after years of covering it inside and outside the country, will help the AP deliver what its customers expect about one of the biggest stories in the world — and more."

Wong, 33, has been reporting from China since 2008, including six years as a correspondent with the AP's Beijing bureau, where she covered a wide range of stories. AP





## KOREAS

# Kim's nuke test proves gift of sorts for president Park

Foster Klug, Seoul

**N**ORTH Korea's nuclear test has provoked global outrage, a push for sanctions, even fear. But Kim Jong Un's decision to conduct it has also handed a gift of sorts to his rival in the South.

In an instant, Wednesday's explosion shifted the focus on the presidency of Park Geun-hye, who has faced several mass protests condemning her leadership in recent weeks.

Park's swift, hard-line response, including a return of cross-border propaganda broadcasts that Pyongyang loathes, has, for the time being, overshadowed criticism over her leadership style, her alleged abuse of workers' rights and her purported submission to Tokyo in a deal meant to end a dispute over Japan's wartime sexual enslavement of Korean women.

Park has temporarily stopped a slide in popularity by doing something she has proven herself adept at: Standing tall in the face of what Seoul sees as a provocation from its northern rival. A survey showed her approval rating rose slightly last week, for the first time in five weeks.

While the boost is likely temporary, the timing of the nuclear test may help Park and her ruling party. Crucial parliamentary elections loom in April.

The test is "immediately quieting down" the most contentious complaints against Park, said Yoon Tae-Ryong, a professor at Seoul's Konkuk University.

"Some members of the ruling party must be grinning inside."

Shortly after the North's test, Park put her front-line troops on their highest alert,



S. Korean President Park Geun-hye presides over the National Security Council at the presidential house in Seoul last week

reportedly moved missiles, artillery and other weapons closer to the border, partially banned South Koreans from a jointly run factory park in the North and allowed huge green speakers along the border to begin cranking out South Korean K-pop songs and criticism of the North's leadership.

She could have done more to punish the North, by slapping them with bilateral punitive measures and ending the South's participation in the factory park, which is a rare cash cow for the impoverished, widely shunned North. The park, however, is also the last major inter-Korean project from an

earlier era of rapprochement.

She's attempting to walk a delicate line: To show South Korea's intense displeasure without killing the possibility of drawing the North into future diplomacy that could settle the neighbors' many differences.

A military clash is also a worry. Pyongyang posts a large part of its 1.2 million military along the Korean border, within easy striking range of the South Korean capital, Seoul, and its 10 million residents.

The North views the restart of the propaganda broadcasts and their criticism of its au-

thoritarian leadership as tantamount to war. Seoul says the broadcasts led the North to fire artillery across the border the last time they happened, in August. British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on Friday publicly urged Seoul to refrain from the broadcasts.

North Korea, however, has done little to respond to the broadcasts this time, perhaps because Pyongyang is too focused on celebrating its nuclear test for internal propaganda purposes. The most tangible effect of the South's retaliation so far is that it has helped Park change the conversation back home.

Though the president has a strong base of conservative supporters, thousands of opponents took to the streets on several occasions before the nuclear test to criticize her policies and what they saw as her attacks on personal and political freedoms.

There's resistance to a new requirement for schools to use only state-issued history textbooks starting in 2017, which critics call an attempt to whitewash past dictatorships — including that of Park's father, Park Chung-hee, who ruled South Korea in the 1960s and 1970s. The country's military dictatorship ended only in the late 1980s and the divide between left and right remains deep.

■ A survey showed Park's approval rating rose slightly last week, for the first time in five weeks

Park has also received massive public criticism for a botched rescue operation during a ferry disaster in 2014 that killed more than 300, mostly schoolchildren, and for the handling of a MERS virus outbreak last year that killed 38.

Most recently, the nuclear test tamped down anger over an "irreversible" settlement last month between Japan and South Korea of a decades-long standoff over Korean women forced into sexual slavery by Japan's World War II military.

All those controversies may have been muted by the nuclear test, but none are going away. "Conservatives have mustered support temporarily because of this external shock," Jang Seung-jin, a professor at Seoul's Kookmin University, said of the nuclear test. "When the nuclear news calms down, I think her approval rating will dip back to where it was." AP

**W**ILDFIRES that killed two men and destroyed more than 140 buildings in southwest Australia were being brought under control, officials said yesterday.

The blazes had scorched more than 71,150 hectares of farms and woodland south of Perth, the Western Australia state capital, since they were sparked by lightning strikes last Wednesday, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services said in a

## AUSTRALIA

## Firefighters controlling blazes that killed 2



statement.

The fires had destroyed 143 buildings, including 128 houses, it said. Most of the property damage occurred in the township of Yarloop, where two men in their 70s died on Thursday, Emergency Services Minister Joe Francis said. Four firefighters sustained minor

injuries.

More than 450 firefighters took advantage of cooler conditions since Sunday to stop the fires from spreading further, Francis said.

"It's not totally under control yet, but we're very optimistic about the next 24 hours," Francis told Australian Broad-

casting Corp. radio early yesterday.

Destructive wildfires are common across much of Australia during the southern hemisphere summer. In 2009, wildfires killed 173 people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes in little more than a day in Victoria state. AP





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Steve Peoples, Des Moines (Iowa)

USA ELECTIONS

# Republicans may face 'devil's bargain' in campaign

**T**HREE weeks before Iowa kicks off the state-by-state presidential nominating contests, businessman Donald Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz are generating overwhelming enthusiasm among Republican voters in the state, along with concern, though not panic, among the party professionals who believe both are unelectable in November against the Democratic nominee.

Despite such fears, talk of a "takedown" effort aimed at either Trump or Cruz appears to have faded as the Feb. 1 caucuses in Iowa near. For now, there is nervous acceptance that two of the Republican Party's most divisive figures may stay at the top of the presidential pack well into the first month of voters' getting their say.

"Cruz would not only cost us the general (election), he would cost the GOP (Republican Party) the future. Trump is not a Republican and he is not a conservative," said Republican strategist Alex Castellanos, who is not affiliated with a 2016 campaign. "The geometry is conflicting: If you limit one, you aid the other.

"At the end," Castellanos said, "Republicans may face the devil's bargain and have to settle for the lesser of two anti-establishment evils."

**Cruz would not only cost us the election, he would cost GOP the future. Trump is not a Republican and he is not a conservative.**

ALEX CASTELLANOS  
REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump



Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz

That feeling is echoed by party officials across the country, who acknowledged they have few tools to stop Cruz or Trump. Instead, there is hope that voters ultimately will settle on what they consider a more viable alternative from a group of candidates that includes Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

"Let's see how the votes go before we panic," said Washington-based Republican operative John Feehery, who has been critical of Cruz and Trump.

There is little evidence of widespread alarm from establishment Republican leaders and their well-funded supporters. Despite their commanding presence in preference polls, Trump and Cruz have almost completely escaped paid attack ads, particularly in Iowa.

Republican National committeeman Ron Kaufman of Massachusetts said the party's "cen-

trist conservatives" will have to be patient until what they see as a more electable alternative to Trump and Cruz emerges.

"This is about who's going to be in the finals," Kaufman said. "Clearly on one side it's going to be Trump and/or Cruz. And for the centrist conservatives, it's going to come down to one of three governors or Rubio."

That may explain why the attacks on Cruz and Trump pale in comparison to the amount spent disparaging other candidates. For example, a Rubio-boosting group recently put more than USD1 million into sharp-elbowed anti-Christie attacks in New Hampshire. Rubio has been the target of close to \$1 million in negative advertising, mostly in Iowa and mostly by Cruz boosters.

There is unquestioned excitement among the Republican electorate in Iowa for the two front-runners.

On Saturday, Cruz concluded a six-day, 28-stop trek across

the state, drawing overflow crowds everywhere — from a pizza restaurant in Pocahontas to a small college in Sioux Center, where hundreds packed the auditorium, spilling into the stairwell and upper level.

"There is no doubt that the Washington cartel is in full panic mode," said an almost giddy Cruz this past week. "They are in full panic mode because they are seeing on the ground conservatives uniting."

At other stops, Cruz supporters stood outside in snow and sub-freezing temperatures, unable to get in for a seat, but still trying to listen through open doors. At a Friday morning event in Mason City, 48-year-old Robert Peterson said he was sold on Cruz, even though he said he had never before voted for a Republican presidential candidate.

"It's time for a change," Peterson said, standing at the back of the room wearing a red "Cruz 2016" button and holding a red,

white and blue Cruz sign. "The status quo has got to go."

It's much the same for Trump, who is showing no signs of slowing down after leading most national preference polls since the summer. The brash real-estate billionaire and former reality television star routinely draws thousands of people to his rallies, packing high school auditoriums, arenas, convention centers — even an airplane hangar — across the country.

Supporters began lining up at dawn for a 7 p.m. rally in Burlington, Vermont, this past week, while in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, hundreds stood outside in the bitter cold for hours waiting to get in.

"Folks, we have a revolution going on," Trump said in Lowell, Massachusetts, marveling at the thousands of people who filled the arena. "People are tired and they're sick of the stupidity that we're seeing coming out of Washington." **AP**

ISRAEL

# Palestinian on hunger strike in critical condition

**T**HE condition of a Palestinian journalist on a 48-day hunger strike in an Israeli jail is deteriorating, the man's wife and a Palestinian official said yesterday.

Mohammed al-Qeq is protesting his six-month sentence without trial or charge, under a measure called administrative detention. Israel's internal security agency Shin

Bet did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"Al-Qeq is in critical condition after 48 days in hunger strike and his life is at risk," said Issa Qaraqa, the Palestinian minister of prisoner affairs.

Al-Qeq is being monitored in an Israeli hospital, according to Israel's prison service, which

would not comment on his condition. His wife, Faihaa al-Qeq, said Israel "accused him of incitement."

Al-Qeq, 33, works as a correspondent for the Saudi channel Al-Majd and also appears as an analyst on channels linked to the Islamic militant group Hamas. Israel has arrested him in the past for his activi-

ties with Hamas' student organization. He was arrested Nov. 21.

Palestinian prisoners have used hunger strikes before to draw attention to their detention without trial or charges. Al-Qeq is the first journalist to do so.

Fearing that a fasting detainee's death could spark violence, Israel has at times acceded to hun-

ger strikers' demands by agreeing to release them at the end of their terms of detention. Israel sometimes extends the administrative detention of suspects.

A contentious law passed last year allows Israel to force-feed a hunger striker if his life is in danger, even if the prisoner refuses. Israel's medical establishment

has protested the law, and there are no known instances of a prisoner being force-fed.

Also yesterday, the Israeli military said forces shot and wounded a knife-wielding Palestinian who the military said attempted to stab a soldier in the West Bank. The Palestinian's condition was not immediately known. **AP**



## what's ON



**THE SKY OF THE INSIDE**  
 – XIAO YAWEN ARTWORK EXHIBITION  
 TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm  
 (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)  
 UNTIL: January 31, 2016  
 VENUE: Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, 10, Macau  
 ADMISSION: free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

**THE MASTERY OF SHIPBUILDING**  
 – FISHING JUNK MODELS BY WAN CHUN  
 TIME: 10am-6pm  
 (Closed on Sundays and public holidays)  
 UNTIL: April 9, 2016  
 VENUE: Gallery of the Historical Archives  
 of Macau, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira  
 de Almeida Nº 91 - 93, Macau  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

**ONE CENTURY OF AUSTRIAN ART 1860-1960**  
 TIME: 10am-7pm  
 (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)  
 UNTIL: April 3, 2016  
 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,  
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
 ADMISSION: MOP5  
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

**EXHIBITION – THE JOURNEY OF A MASTER:**  
**JÚLIO POMAR AND FRIENDS**  
 TIME: 2pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays); 3pm-8pm  
 (Mondays; Open on public holidays)  
 UNTIL: January 15, 2016  
 VENUE: Albergue SCM, Calçada da Igreja  
 de São Lázaro No.8, Macau Gallery A2  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

**INWARD GAZES**  
 – FOUR ARTISTS IN PERFORMANCE  
 TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)  
 UNTIL: February 14, 2016  
 VENUE: Old Court Building, Avenida da Praia  
 Grande, Macau  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

**SHINING CLEAN – EXHIBITION OF YONGLE**  
**PORCELAIN EXCAVATED FROM ZHUSHAN OF THE**  
**JINGDEZHEN OFFICIAL KILN AND MUSEUM**  
 TIME: 9am-9pm  
 UNTIL: March 13, 2016  
 VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic  
 and Municipal Affairs Bureau Organizer: Civic and  
 Municipal Affairs Bureau, Cultural Affairs Bureau  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

## Offbeat

CINCINNATI ZOO NAMES BABY  
PENGUIN 'BOWIE' AFTER SINGER

Having already earned a measure of "Fame" as the Cincinnati Zoo's first animal birth of 2016, a newborn penguin chick has been named "Bowie." The decision was made before the news of David Bowie's death broke out yesterday.

The zoo says the baby known as a blue or fairy penguin hatched at 6 a.m. Friday, weighing less than 56 grams.

Friday was both David Bowie's and Elvis Presley's birthday, and the zoo says there was a lot of support for the Elvis name. But the zoo already has a king penguin named for "the King," so "Bowie" was the choice for the new arrival.

Director Thane Maynard says the year's first baby is fitting since the zoo celebrates "Penguin Days" in January and February.

The singer Bowie had turned 69 on Jan. 8, and released a new album, "Blackstar."

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:10	Criminal Minds S.7
17:40	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Non-Daily Port. News
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live

## 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

COMING SOON 14 JAN - 10 FEB

**THE 5H WAVE**  
 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm  
 Director: J Blakeson  
 Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson,  
 Maika Monroe  
 Language: English (Cantonese)  
 Duration: 112min

## this day in history

1998 100 DIE IN MASSACRE  
IN ALGERIA

The Algerian government has blamed Islamic extremists for the deaths of more than 100 people, who were killed when two villages were attacked.

The latest violence follows a series of massacres in north-west Algeria since the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

It is thought the attacks happened shortly after evening prayers.

Homemade bombs were thrown into a cinema in Sidi Ahmed and a mosque in nearby Haouche Sahraoui, in the so-called "triangle of death", south of the capital Algiers.

Survivors have said that people trying to escape the bombings were shot and attacked with knives, swords and axes.

Since the end of December 1997, more than 800 people have been killed in villages and mountain hamlets.

Last week more than 400 people were reportedly killed in a single attack and thousands of people have been fleeing the area.

Survivors have said that whole families were rounded up and either hacked or burned to death.

There is some speculation that the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which is accused of the massacres, may have shifted its operations outside urban centres as the result of pressure from the security forces.

One of the GIA's chiefs has recently been quoted by the media as saying that isolated villages should arm themselves or take refuge in larger, better protected towns.

Very little is known about the GIA except that it espouses extremist interpretations of Islam which it uses to justify the acts of violence.

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference has condemned the massacres, saying that such acts were categorically forbidden by Islam.

The Algerian government has angrily rejected any suggestions that the security forces have been involved in the massacres.

January marks the sixth anniversary of a military coup, the dissolution of the National People's Assembly and the introduction of a state of emergency.

This led to the cancellation of general elections and the disbanding of the main opposition party, the Islamic Salvation Front, which was certain to win the vote.

A violent insurgency against the coup has claimed the lives of between 60,000 and 80,000 people.

Recent violence has drawn concern from the world community and the US State Department has called for an international inquiry into the massacres.

This has been rejected by the Algerian government who say it would give credence to the idea that Islamist extremists were not the only ones involved.

But a European Union fact-finding mission is expected in Algiers in the next ten days.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The final number of dead was much higher than first reports suggested. Newspaper reports, after gathering statements from survivors, put the figure at 400 - many of them women and children. Villagers also said that around 30 girls had disappeared after the attacks, as had happened in previous massacres.

The struggle between the military and insurgents has claimed the lives of more than 100,000 people.

In 1999 a referendum approved a law on civil concord, and an amnesty led to many insurgents laying down their arms and being pardoned by the government.

Thousands of militants were freed from prison by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who took office in 1999 and was re-elected in a landslide victory in 2004.

A general amnesty is now being considered for Algerians implicated in violence and murder since 1992.

Many Algerians say Mr Bouteflika has brought security to the country, but some human rights campaigners say that abuses and torture by the security forces continue.

Since 1992, 7,000 Islamic prisoners arrested during the violent upheaval are reported to have disappeared.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Thoughts just under the surface are sabotaging your work. Losing money feels like a calamity, but would it really be that bad? Stop worrying about the possibility and start making it an impossibility.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Being passionate has its drawbacks. If you approach everything with intensity, start thinking about a lighter touch. In other words, be gentle, today – not like a bull in a china shop.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
When someone hurts your feelings, your first instinct is to retreat and dig in. But being willful won't help this situation. Putting your emotions aside is better for your mental health and your bottom line.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
"They Who Hesitate Are Lost" isn't always the best motto to go by. Some indecision is good for you, today. You'll discover powerful reasons not to sign once you waver, so indulge your insecurities.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Following your hunches isn't enough. You have to back up your intuition with facts. They're out there, and not buried deeply, either. Look beneath the surface for what you need.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Seeing eye-to-eye may feel like an unrealistic goal. But not only is it obtainable, it's necessary. You may not believe those with differing views but it's your job to at least listen.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
When money changes hands, people start feeling greedy. It's not a free-for-all, though, so don't start grabbing anything in reach. Follow the rules and earn the old fashioned way.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
You are beyond confident. In fact, you're radiating power. Be cautious of those who are drawn to that, though. You shouldn't need a bunch of groupies to feel respected.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Don't waste time on the subconscious. Your active imagination is not providing the most reliable picture. Figure out what's real, today, if you want to understand the big picture and your place in it.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Others are waiting for your next move. Some decisions can't be put off for another day. You've already gathered enough details, so piece them together to organize an answer.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
If you've been moving full speed ahead, it's only natural to start slowing down. Don't burn the candle at both ends. Use this time to rest and prepare for your next surge forward.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
When people get used to treating you like a doormat, they'll be surprised when you object. It doesn't have to be a huge scene, fraught with emotional upheaval. Simply speaking up will do.

**THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-8	0	clear
Harbin	-24	-14	clear
Tianjin	-6	0	clear
Urumqi	-13	-8	foggy
Xi'an	0	2	sleet/overcast
Lhasa	-8	7	clear
Chengdu	5	9	overcast/drizzle
Chongqing	8	10	overcast
Kunming	2	15	clear
Nanjing	0	5	sleet/overcast
Shanghai	3	7	drizzle/overcast
Wuhan	0	5	overcast
Hangzhou	3	6	sleet
Taipei	16	18	drizzle
Guangzhou	11	17	cloudy/overcast
Hong Kong	15	18	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-6	-3	overcast/flurry
Frankfurt	3	6	drizzle
Paris	5	8	drizzle
London	4	7	drizzle
New York	-5	10	clear/cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Truth; 5- Deli offerings; 10- So-so grades; 14- Draft classification; 15- Ready...; 16- Cockney greeting; 17- Hindu queen; 18- Spiritual sustenance; 19- Hurler Hideo; 20- Early hrs.; 21- Submission; 23- Chaucer pilgrim; 25- Zip-...-Doo-Dah; 26- Child's toy; 29- Get there; 33- Iraqi port; 35- Emcee's job; 37- Give... break; 38- 1968 U.S. Open champ; 39- Like old jeans; 40- Auto loan figs.; 41- "Rocky..." (1982); 42- More urgent; 43- German submarine; 44- Passes by degrees; 46- Baby's napkin; 48- Pianist Myra; 50- European-style restaurant; 53- Demolition; 58- DDE opponent; 59- Town near Padua; 60- Mrs. Gorbachev; 61- Med school subj.; 62- Sports figure?; 63- "Enigma Variations" composer; 64- Farm unit; 65- Pastoral poem; 66- Exhaust; 67- San..., Italy;

**DOWN:** 1- Quick raid; 2- Make... for oneself; 3- Practice of censoring; 4- Mai...; 5- Instant; 6- Memorable times; 7- Years in old Rome; 8- Pacific kingdom; 9- Norm; 10- Pivot; 11- "The Time Machine" people; 12- Patron saint of sailors; 13- Before long; 21- Pro follower; 22- Russian airline, ...flot; 24- Female horse; 27- Person who is liable to tell untruths; 28- Broke off; 30- Significance; 31- Aloe...; 32- Bridge position; 33- Remove water from a boat; 34- China's continent; 36- Garr or Hatcher; 39- Cracks; 40- Burrows and Vigoda; 42- Antlered animal; 43-... arms (angry); 45- "Fiddler on the Roof" setting; 47- On the train; 49- Skin of the upper part of the head; 51- Give guns again; 52- Bony prefix; 53- Lucie's dad; 54- Cornerstone abbr.; 55- Stick around; 56- Buster Brown's dog; 57- This... outrage!; 61- Swiss river

**Yesterday's solution**

A	S	S	A	I	A	S	H	E	E	W	O	K
L	E	A	R	N	R	T	E	S	N	O	T	E
E	A	R	T	H	C	O	L	T	T	R	I	P
S	T	A	Y	A	T	H	O	M	E	T	N	S
S	A	I	L	E	U	R						
N	I	G	H	T	I	E	A	M	N	E	S	T
A	N	O	T	E	D	R	E	O				
P	L	U	S	C	A	R	E	D	A	L	A	R
E	E	G		D	A	N	G		A	R	O	N
S	T	E	R	I	L	E		O	V	E	R	S
T	H	E	M		E	S	S	O				
A	T	N	O		N	A	T	I	O	N	W	I
T	R	O	N		E	R	T	E	I	O	N	I
D	E	E	D		S	C	A	R	A	R	E	N
A	Y	L	A		S	S	S		N	E	S	T

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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	
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## TENNIS

## Bouchard wins in Hobart 1st round

**EUGENIE** Bouchard provided relief from a deluge of bad injury news in the women's game ahead of the Australian Open, as the Canadian won 6-2, 6-1 against Bethanie Mattek-Sands at the Hobart International yesterday.

The former No. 5 is on the comeback trail since sustaining a concussion when she fell in the dressing room during last year's U.S. Open, with the Shenzhen Open last week being her first tournament since.

Bouchard said before her first match in Hobart she had "zero expectations" for the tournament as she eases back into competitive tennis after the four-month layoff.

However she was impressive against American veteran Mattek-Sands, just as many leading Australian Open deal with injuries.

Daria Gavrilova, who teamed with Nick Kyrgios to win Australia's first Hopman Cup title in Perth last week, became the latest player to withdraw from the Sydney International yesterday, due to an abdominal injury.

"If I had a bit more time, I would be fine," Gavrilova said. "But it's just a bit sore, so it's a bit of a precaution."

"It's not great timing, but I'm not too worried because it's early days. I should be fine for Australian Open."

Defending champion and world No. 5 Petra Kvitova withdrew from the tournament



Eugenie Bouchard

on Sunday due to a stomach virus and was joined a few hours later by No. 2-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska, who cited a leg injury.

Last week, the world's four top-ranked women retired or withdrew from tournaments due to injuries: No. 1 Serena Williams (Hopman Cup/knee), second-ranked Halep (Brisbane/ankle), No. 3 Garbine Muguruza (Brisbane/foot) and fourth-ranked Maria Sharapova (Brisbane/forearm). The addition of Kvitova and

Radwanska leaves the six top-ranked women all under injury clouds ahead of the Australian Open which starts Jan. 18.

Germany's Angelique Kerber, ranked 10, won her first round match in Sydney, beating Ukraine's Elona Svitolina 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, while former U.S. Open champion and local favorite Sam Stosur beat Roberta Vinci 4-6, 7-5, 7-5.

In the men's draw, fifth-seeded Andreas Seppi beat Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Meanwhile, Britain's Andy Murray is also in Melbourne hoping a long lead-in to the Australian Open will help him in his quest to win the tournament at last, after four appearances in the final.

"I love playing here and I've played some of my best tennis here," Murray said. "If I keep working hard and giving myself opportunities, hopefully I'll be able to win."

At the ASB Classic in Auckland, American Jack Sock took only 43 minutes to beat

Victor Estrella Burgos 6-0, 6-4 to claim his place in the second round. World No. 26 Sock took the first set in only 17 minutes, finishing it with his fifth ace, then won the second set with a single service break and without facing a breakpoint.

"I came out in difficult conditions today for everyone, with the wind swirling a little bit and the court fast, and I'm happy to get through."

Canada's Vasek Pospisil ousted seventh-seed Ivo Karlovic 7-6 (4), 7-5. **AP**

## CRICKET

## Australia names two uncapped fast bowlers for first one-day

CRICKET.COM.AU



Joel Paris

**FAST** bowlers Joel Paris and Scott Boland will make their debuts for Australia in today's opening one-day international against India as the two sides prepare to renew a growing rivalry.

Paris has been chosen to make his first international appearance on his home WACA Ground after being fast-tracked into the Australia squad following the retirement of Mitchell Johnson and injury to

Mitchell Starc.

Boland, from Victoria, has also been handed a debut as Australia replenishes its fast bowling stocks but allrounder Shaun Marsh has been omitted from the Australian lineup for the first match of the five-match series.

Captain Steve Smith said Paris was selected because Australia wants a left-armer in Perth "who can use the breeze and move the ball."

Boland was a member of the Australia test squad during the recent series against the West Indies but didn't get a chance to play. Smith said his form for the Melbourne Stars in the Big Bash League

had been compelling.

"His death bowling has been very impressive," Smith said. "He hits a yorker as well as anyone at the moment. He's got a bit of pace to him so hopefully he can hurry up the Indian batters a bit."

Marsh hasn't been able to clinch his place in the Australia match XI, though his Big Bash form has also been outstanding.

He has scored 218 runs in five matches for the Perth Scorchers at an average of 72.67 and a strike-rate of 128.24.

Australia has opted instead to let veteran George Bailey fill the batting vacancy left by the retirement of Michael Clarke.

"It's very difficult but Shaun's been exceptional," Smith said. "He hasn't whinged once, he's

taken it on the chin and he's been great around the group."

India may also name an uncapped paceman. India's team hasn't yet been announced but Barinder Stan is expected to be replace the injured Mohammed Shami.

Today's match is the first meeting between Australia and India since the World Cup semifinal in Sydney in March.

Recent meetings between the teams have featured verbal exchanges between players but India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni believed the coming series would be played in good spirit.

"When it comes to



Scott Boland

sport and cricket, I don't think revenge and hate are words that should be used," Dhoni said. "Because then on the same line we'll say it's a gentleman's sport, so it becomes quite conflicting."

"You are representing your country and you want to win. But at the same time, you want to follow the guidelines I've been given — the spirit of the game and everything." **AP**

## AUSTRALIA LINEUP

**DAVID WARNER**, Aaron Finch, Steve Smith (captain), George Bailey, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Marsh, Steve Wade, James Faulkner, Joel Paris, Scott Boland, Josh Hazlewood.



PHOTO ARCHIVE



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero

FOOTBALL | EPL PREVIEW

# Aguero back scoring, leading City's Premier League charge

Steve Douglas, Manchester

Thursday, 3:45am  
Man City v Everton  
H 1.53, D 4.85, A 7

**L**OOK out, Premier League: Sergio Aguero is back to fitness, back scoring goals and leading Manchester City's charge to reel in Arsenal in the second half of the season.

After an injury-marred end to 2015, the Argentina striker has been eased back into prime shape in the last few weeks by City manager Manuel Pellegrini, who stepped up Aguero's playing time each game over the festive period.

Aguero, the Premier League's top scorer last season, is starting to deliver once again, either netting or assisting four of City's last five goals. On Saturday, he marked his fourth straight start with a stunning solo goal — a weaving run past three defenders before poking in a finish to set City on its way to a 3-0 win over Norwich in the FA Cup.

Next for the player nicknamed "Kun" is Everton in the Premier League tomorrow (Thursday 3:45am), one of the standout games from a full midweek program in England's top division.

"When Kun continues playing games and playing more minutes, his performance always improves after he comes back from a long injury," Pellegrini said of Aguero, who missed 10 weeks of action from October to December because of two separate injuries and is still on 11 goals for the campaign.

"We know he is a top player and when he continues playing, he will arrive at his normal performance. When you have players as important as Sergio it is very important for their teammates, for the manager, for the fans to see them playing every game because he is a player that makes a difference."

Third-place City heads into the game at Etihad Stadium a point behind Leicester and three behind Arsenal in the league, after 20 of 38 matches. With Arsenal at Liverpool, there is a real possibility the two leading title contenders could be tied for points after tomorrow's games.

City is in the midst of a heavy load of matches: Seven games in 24 days across three competitions. Because City is playing Everton in the two-legged League Cup semifinals this month — Everton won the first leg 2-1 on Wednesday — the teams

are meeting three times in three weeks. The second leg of the semifinals is on Jan. 27.

Manchester United may have won its last two games to end an eight-match winless streak, but it hasn't stopped the criticism from going manager Louis van Gaal's way.

After the tepid 1-0 victory over third-tier club Sheffield United in the FA Cup on Saturday, former United great Paul Scholes said: "Every time I come to Old Trafford, it's negative football. Fans are bored, even the players are bored, everyone's bored. You look at the bench and Van Gaal looks bored as well."

Thousands of fans left Old Trafford before the end of the third-round match, with United won courtesy of an injury-time penalty by Wayne Rooney.

Asked why, Van Gaal said yesterday: "They are not thinking that we would score, I think, and maybe also because of the traffic that they leave the stadium a few minutes early."

United visits Newcastle, which is third from last and has lost its last four games.

Liverpool currently has 12 players out injured, so the last team it would want to play next is the league leaders.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp fielded the kids against fourth-tier club Exeter in the FA Cup on Friday, and escaped with a 2-2 draw. Many first-teamers will return against Arsenal, but Klopp will still be without the likes of Philippe Coutinho, Daniel Sturridge, Jordan Henderson and three first-choice center backs.

Liverpool is in eighth place, 12 points behind Arsenal.

Few can have predicted that a match between Tottenham and Leicester in January would be a meeting of two teams in the top four.

But they are there on merit, summing up the erratic nature of this season's Premier League.

Leicester has failed to win any of its last three league games, suggesting a drop-off in form finally after its surprisingly strong start. Tottenham has lost only twice in the league and looks to be the real deal this season.

Harry Kane came off the bench to earn Spurs a late 2-2 draw from the penalty spot in Sunday's FA Cup match. Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino may not rest him a second time against a disciplined - and dangerous - Leicester side.

AP / Oddschecker.com

SAILING

## WS hires ex British official Andy Hunt as new CEO



Andy Hunt

Sailing's world governing body has hired a new CEO as it wrestles with the problem of staging this year's Olympic competition in sewage-infested waters in Rio de Janeiro. Andy Hunt, a former chief executive of the British Olympic Association, replaces Peter Sowrey at World Sailing. Sowrey resigned in December after just five months in the role. World Sailing President Carlo Croce said yesterday that Hunt combines "exceptional business leadership credentials, with an excellent track record in sports administration." Tests conducted by The Associated Press last year exposed contamination in Rio's waterways that will be used in the Olympics.

RUGBY

## Wycliff Palu returns to NSW Waratahs

Australia backrower Wycliff Palu has rejoined the New South Wales Waratahs for the 2016 Super Rugby season after injury prevented him fulfilling a two-year contract in Japan. The 33-year-old Palu, capped 57 times by Australia and a veteran of 121 matches for the Waratahs, suffered a serious hamstring injury during the Wallabies' pool match against Uruguay at last year's Rugby World Cup. A protracted rehabilitation prevented Palu from fulfilling the first year of his Japanese contract. Palu said he was undergoing rehabilitation at the Waratahs when coach Daryl Gibson asked if he was interested in returning. He said he jumped at the chance because "I'm a big believer that everything happens for a reason. It's not by bad luck or chance that I'm here again."

ATHLETICS

## UK: Reset world records amid doping crisis



Chairman Ed Warner

All world records in track and field should be reset and lifetime bans should be imposed on serious drug cheats to clean up the sport amid its global doping crisis, the governing body of British athletics said. UK Athletics published "A Manifesto for Clean Athletes" containing 14 proposals aimed at restoring credibility to a sport battered by allegations of widespread doping, cover-ups and corruption. "The integrity of athletics was challenged as never before in 2015," UK Athletics chairman Ed Warner said. "Clean athletes and sports fans the world over have been let down. Trust in the sport is at its lowest point for decades." One of the federation's proposals is to "investigate the implications of drawing a line under all pre-existing sport records ... and commencing a new set of records." Triple-jumper Jonathan Edwards and marathon runner Paula Radcliffe are current British world-record holders. UK Athletics also proposed a lifetime ban for British athletes guilty of a serious anti-doping violation.



opinion

**Views on China**

Christopher Balding, Bloomberg

**CHINA ISN'T HEADED FOR A FINANCIAL CRISIS**

Ever since the 2008 global financial crisis, pundits have tried to guess which country could set off the next implosion. Last week, China seemed to put itself forward as a pretty good candidate, as markets around the world panicked over the risks posed by its slowing economy. Those fears, while valid, are overdone.

We know much more now about the factors that contribute to financial crises than we did before. Previous victims have all featured elevated risk factors such as rapid credit growth, poor public finances and asset bubbles. Those risks intensify when they develop in combination with one another.

Today's China certainly suffers from many of them. The Bank for International Settlements has warned that Chinese credit growth since 2008 represents one of the largest expansions in modern financial history. The Chinese credit-to-GDP gap, a widely used leading indicator of banking stress, stands at a global high of 25.4. No other country comes close: Turkey, the next on the list, has a credit-to-GDP gap of 16.6. Between 2007 and the end of 2014, Chinese and Hong Kong debt-to-GDP grew by 82 percent and 103 percent respectively - more than twice as fast as virtually every other emerging market economy.

The International Monetary Fund warns that China's government and contingent deficits total nearly 10 percent of GDP. Chinese economists have found housing price-to-income ratios well in excess of the long-term global average. Bad loans are seriously understated; Charlene Chu of Autonomous Research puts them closer to 20 percent. The world's factory is suffering from severe overcapacity and weak global demand for its manufactured products.

Still, it would be a mistake to look at this cocktail of factors and assume a crisis is inevitable. First, just because a country features elevated risk levels doesn't guarantee disaster.

Second, crises grow out of complicated, non-linear interactions of various factors, rather than a uniform and predictable sequence of events. In his book "Outliers," Malcolm Gladwell describes plane crashes as most "likely to be the result of an accumulation of minor difficulties and seemingly trivial malfunctions."

Chinese leaders are acutely conscious of the "seemingly trivial malfunctions" in the economy that could prompt a crisis and have the tools to address them. Whereas Greece had to haggle desperately with Europe to obtain financing and the U.S. government provoked fierce argument over its corporate bailouts, China has moved swiftly to rescue failing firms to prevent a domino collapse. Authorities will censor market rumors, sell off billions in foreign reserves to prop up the currency, flood the banking system with liquidity - whatever it takes to maintain stability.

Third, as with all things in China, the specter of a financial crisis is an intensely political concern. Even a publicly acknowledged slowdown would pose a threat to Communist rule, which is so dependent on the regime's claims to economic competence. Whereas the U.S. might be able to tolerate the risk or losses associated with a crash and emerge stronger, Chinese leaders - well aware of the fate of the Soviet Union - can't afford to do so.

Should a financial crisis occur in China, it will be because all options to prevent such a profound dislocation have been tried and failed. Before then, no rescue attempt or bailout will be too outlandish to attempt. No policy, however absurd like maintaining credit growth at twice the rate of GDP growth, will be overlooked.

Indeed, the greater problem is that amid these efforts, the serious and painful restructuring China needs will be postponed. Truly slowing credit growth would prompt a wave of corporate bankruptcies and prevent the government from reaching its GDP growth target. Yet the alternative - the continued buildup of debt and spread of loss-making zombie companies across the economy - only deepens the risk of an eventual crash. It's true that a crisis would be the last possible outcome after many, many failures. The question is whether the cure will turn out to be worse than the disease.

**THE 'STAR WARS' EARNS USD56 MILLION IN OPENING WEEKEND IN CHINA**

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" earned USD56 million during its opening weekend in China, a strong start but pulling in much less than "Fast & Furious 7" did on its first weekend in the country.

Leading entertainment consultancy Ent-Group said that yesterday afternoon the movie had earned just under 366 million yuan (\$52m)

in the world's second-largest movie market.

"Fast & Furious 7," China's top-earning foreign movie, earned \$182 million during its opening weekend in May last year. It went on to gross \$390.9 million in China, just over a quarter of its total earnings. The latest "Star Wars" movie was released in China on Saturday.



In this Sept. 14, 1995, file photo, David Bowie performs in Hartford, U.S.

**'THE CHAMELEON' LAST ACT**

**Iconic singer David Bowie dies at 69**

Mesfin Fekadu, New York

**D**AVID Bowie, the innovative and iconic singer whose illustrious career lasted five decades with hits like "Fame," "Heroes" and "Let's Dance," died Sunday after a battle with cancer. He was 69.

Representative Steve Martin said yesterday that Bowie died "peacefully" and was surrounded by family. He had battled cancer for 18 months.

"While many of you will share in this loss, we ask that you respect the family's privacy during their time of grief," the statement read. No more details were provided.

Bowie turned 69 on Friday, the same day he released a new album called "Blackstar."

The singer, who was born David Jones, came of age in the glam rock era of the early 1970s. He had a striking androgynous look in his early days and was known for changing his looks and sounds. The stuttering rock sound of "Changes" gave way to the disco soul of "Young Americans," co-written with John Lennon, to a droning collaboration with Brian Eno in Berlin that

produced "Heroes."

He had some of his biggest successes in the early 1980s with the stylistic "Let's Dance," and a massive American tour.

"My entire career, I've only really worked with the same subject matter," Bowie told The Associated Press in a 2002 interview. "The trousers may change, but the actual words and subjects I've always chosen to write with are things to do with isolation, abandonment, fear and anxiety — all of the high points of one's life."

At a concert for rescue workers after the 2001 World Trade Center attacks, his performance of "Heroes" was a highlight.

"What I'm most proud of is that I can't help but notice that I've affected the vocabulary of pop music. For me, frankly, as an artist, that's the most satisfying thing for the ego."

Bowie kept a low profile in recent years after reportedly suffering a heart attack in the 2000s. He made a moody album three years ago called "The Next Day" — his first recording in a decade which was made in secret in New York City. "Blackstar," which earned posi-

ve reviews from critics, represented yet another stylistic shift, as he gathered jazz players to join him.

He felt uneasy about some of his greatest material, once embarking on a "greatest hits" tour saying it would be the last time performing much of his old material. He later relented, however.

"I'm not a natural performer," he said in the 2002 interview. "I don't enjoy performing terribly much. Never have. I can do it and, if my mind's on the situation, do it quite well. But five or six shows in, I'm dying to get off the road and go back into the studio."

British Prime Minister David Cameron tweeted that Bowie's death is "a huge loss." He wrote he had grown up listening to and watching Bowie and called the singer a "master of reinvention" and a pop genius who kept on getting it right.

Kanye West said on Twitter that Bowie "was one of my most important inspirations, so fearless, so creative, he gave us magic for a lifetime."

Bowie was married to international supermodel Iman since 1992. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Moderate
Ambient	35-55 Moderate

SOURCE: D5MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**RUSSIA** The ruble has tanked on the first day of trading after a ten-day holiday period as the price of oil continues to decline. The Russian currency dropped by nearly 2 percent half an hour into trading to 76.1 rubles yesterday at the Moscow stock exchange's first currency trading session since Dec. 31. Oil prices, the backbone of the Russian economy, have been declining in the past week, pressured by fears about a slowdown in China's economic growth.



**BURUNDI** At least five people were killed over the weekend, as violence spurred by President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term continues to rock the East African nation. Three bodies were found in the Nyakabiga, Jabe and Musaga districts of the capital, Bujumbura, on Sunday, police told reporters late that day. Two members of the ruling party's youth wing were also killed when an armed group attacked a pub in Muyira, about 15 km east of the city.

**ZIMBABWE** A professional hunter in Zimbabwe has canceled a plan to raffle a lion hunt at a hunters' convention in the United States, following protests from activists. Martin Nel said last week that he was scrapping the raffle in which he hoped to sell 100 raffle tickets for USD1,500 each in Las Vegas next month.



**HOLLYWOOD** "The Martian" rocketed to best film comedy at the 73rd annual Golden Globes, where even its director, Ridley Scott, wondered whether his science fiction epic about a stranded astronaut quite belonged in the category. "Comedy?" Scott wondered, taking the podium, answering with a skeptical wave of his hand. Sylvester Stallone scored a knockout 29 years after the first "Rocky," Jennifer Lawrence notched her third Globe and Matt Damon landed both best actor. Leonardo DiCaprio won for best actor in a film drama.