



**CANCER 'HITTING HARD' IN CHINA, MACAU**  
 There was an average of over 7,500 cancer-related deaths per day in China. The disease is also growing in Macau

P3 MDT REPORT



**USJ TO HAVE BACHELOR IN FASHION DESIGN**

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**HSBC DECIDES AGAINST MOVE TO HONG KONG**  
 HSBC Holdings plc said it will keep its headquarters in London, after considering moving to HK

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA** Authorities in the Chinese city of Tianjin are moving 10 chemical plants found to be too close to residential areas, six months after a devastating chemical accident killed 173 people. [More on p10](#)

**CHINA** Zimbabwe raised USD1 million from the sale of elephants to China and will continue exporting to the Asian country as part of conservation efforts, wildlife authorities said. "We exported 24 elephants last year to China and we know that only one died," the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Authority stated yesterday.



**NORTH KOREAN** leader Kim Jong Un praises scientists involved in the country's recent rocket launch that he said struck a "telling blow" to enemies. He ordered them to press ahead with more launches, state media reported yesterday. [More on p12](#)

**AUSTRALIA** Law enforcement agencies have seized methylamphetamine worth 1.26 billion Australian dollars (USD900 million) in the country's largest ever haul of the illicit drug in its liquid form. [More on p13](#)

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# Fewer visitors to HK during CNY holiday

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# 'From Vegas to Macau III' rebuffed by critics, wins box office battle

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## CRIME

## Valentine's 'till chips do us part'

Renato Marques

A couple from the mainland had an adventurous Valentine's Day in Macau, according to information released yesterday by the Judiciary Police (PJ).

The eventful journey started on February 9 when a woman from mainland China who had travelled to Macau two days earlier, called her partner at home, saying that she had lost all her money in the casino and needed him to provide her with money in order to return home.

The man decided to head to Macau himself, bringing the money that the woman allegedly needed (HKD50,000). On February 11, he arrived in town. However, his partner soon persuaded him to try "their luck" and recoup her previous losses.

The couple spent the proceeding days gambling in Macau until the early hours of yesterday. Having lost the money he brought, the man took a break in the hotel room where he was



keeping an extra HKD250,000 that he had brought with him on the trip.

Surprisingly, when he woke up, he noted that a good portion of the funds was missing

(HKD200,000). His partner had also vanished.

The man then decided to file a complaint to the PJ, revealing the entire story. After a brief investigation, the woman was found

only a few hours later in a local casino, gambling away what was left of the HKD200,000. She admitted to stealing the money and was taken into custody by the police.

In a separate case reported by the Public Security Police Force (PSP), nurses of the Kiang Wu Hospital alerted an officer on duty to a case related to the consumption of drugs.

A woman had rushed into the emergency room showing signs of a seriously altered mental state. Tests performed at the hospital revealed the presence of cocaine, "ice" and "ecstasy" in her system.

The woman (21), a tourist from mainland China was accompanied by a man (43), also a tourist, from the US. According to her statement, he gave her the drugs.

The man denied the accusation and agreed to take the police to his hotel room so that they could search it.

In the room, the police found one banknote of MOP10 with marks of a white powder suspected to be cocaine, however this has yet to be confirmed.

The man said he met the woman in a local nightclub in Cotai. After meeting they spent time together, with her staying at his hotel room. It was while she was there that she began to feel ill, and he took her to the hospital. He categorically denies being the source of the drugs for which she tested positive. The case continues to be investigated.

## Seven Delta Bridge piles to be replaced



Passengers travel in a ferry as the under construction Delta Bridge stands in the background

SEVEN of the underground piles for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (Delta Bridge) require reconstruction, Hong Kong's Apple Daily reported. This spells further delays to the long-anticipated project.

A Hong Kong contractor, which has manufactured over

1,000 of the bridge piles, will be required to reconstruct seven of them, at HKD2 million apiece, the newspaper added. It is not clear yet why the reconstruction must be undertaken.

The seven piles in question are reportedly located at an artificial island on the Hong

Kong side of the bridge project. They are approximately three meters in diameter and up to 70 meters in length. They were installed by a contractor hired by China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd.

Greg Wong, former chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers, told EJ Insight that the piles are designed to support the weight of the bridge. They have been filled with cement to ensure the strength and stability of the bridge's components, however air pockets can form if they are not completely filled.

However, he noted that having seven faulty piles in a project which has in excess of 1,000 is not a significant problem, given that it is ultimately a replacement ratio of less than 1 percent.

The reconstruction adds to doubts that the project can be completed by its originally slated deadline of 2017. It has already suffered numerous setbacks, most frequently on the Hong Kong side.

## Sexuality still a taboo for locals

SEXUALITY remains a sensitive matter for Macau's local residents, said a branch director of Sheng Kung Hui Social Services, in reference to data collected by the organization over the past two years.

The Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council provides assistance to socially disadvantaged groups. In 2014, it launched a 24-hour counseling hotline for victims of sexual abuse.

Mr Yip, the director of Sheng Kung's family service center, said that the hotline has been seldom used since its establishment.

However, Sheng Kung Hui's family service branches handled at least 10 cases related to sexual abuse. Yip explained that sexuality remains a sensitive topic for many members of the public. As a result, a supportive environment in which

to discuss the issues does not really exist.

"The victims might be very familiar with the abuser, which prompts [them] to feel ashamed of seeking help," he concluded.

An earlier survey reported that only 10 percent of middle school students consider local sex education to be sufficient. Both parents and teachers reportedly avoid the topic.

Mr Chan, director of the Youth Services Organization of the Macau General Union of the Neighborhood Associations (known as "Kai Fong"), has proposed that sex education be present at various levels of formal school curriculums, starting with primary schools. This will provide students with a better understanding of sex, he says, and engender a more open and accepting society. **Staff reporter**

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ENTERTAINMENT

# 'From Vegas to Macau III' rebuffed by critics, wins box office battle

**F**ROM Vegas to Macau III" grossed 85 million yuan in China on Valentine's Day, making it the third top-grossing film in the country.

When taken against estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), the movie ranked fourth (see table).

Compared with Valentine's Day 2015, sales at the box office increased overall by more than 150 percent. Valentine's Day box office sales hit 580 million yuan, a new high in comparison to previous years, Xinhua reported.

The increase in sales at the box



Chow Yun Fat (center) in From Vegas To Macau

Vegas to Macau III, the latest in exploitation master Wong Jing's self-referential (or self-parodying) gambling romp," the review adds.

The movie was not well received in some parts of China. Xinhua reported on Saturday that a local cinema in northwest China's Gansu Province recently broke with traditional partisanship when approaching films, by suggesting its audiences not watch the movie, describing it as a "scam."

"We want to apologize to those who have watched the film... we sincerely suggest everybody [else] not spend money on it," said Pingliang China Film Stellar International Theater in a WeChat feed sent to its subscribers, referring to the movie as

"The Man from Macau III."

"We can not understand how a bunch of previous A-list stars have such a poor taste for screenplay and how Hong Kong movies have been reduced to such a status," continued the post, vowing to arrange only one screening for the movie in the following days.

The post went viral on social media platforms, with many internet users praising the theater manager as conscientious in his actions.

However, the theater later deleted the post, saying that it was only the personal thoughts of its investor rather than being representative of the position of China Film Stellar International Theater Chain, of which it is a franchisee. **MDT/Agencies**

**CHINA IS ON TRACK TO REPLACE U.S.**

**THE RESULTS** show China is on track to replace the U.S. as the largest movie market in the world by 2017. The market in Asia's biggest economy grew about 48 percent last year to USD6.8 billion, with locally-made films accounting for more than 61 percent. U.S.-made films generated about \$11 billion in revenue in 2015, according to data from boxoffice.com and SNL Kagan.

office on this day has been attributed to the fact that the date so closely follows the Spring Festival holiday.

While "From Vegas to Macau III" is finding commercial success across China and other parts of the world, critics are rebuffing it. A Hollywood Reporter review criticized the movie starring Chow Yun Fat, Andy Lau and Jacky Cheung.

"The level of inanity and utter lack of narrative glue in FVT-MIII is astounding, and wri-

ter-director Wong has stooped to new levels of desperation in building a coherent story (he fails)," reads the review.

"Combine a Godfather-style opening wedding, a baffling robot romance, bomb threats, Michael Bay-levels of product placement, fat jokes, storm-troopers (maybe?) and cheap stunt casting ("Gangnam Style" singer and worldwide fad Psy) — as a start — and the result is the overstuffed, nonsensical and long-dead horse From

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through to Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada):

1. "Deadpool," \$125 million.
2. "Mei Ren Yu (The Mermaid)," \$109 million.
3. "The Monkey King 2," \$38 million.
4. "From Vegas to Macau III," \$36 million.
5. "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip," \$15.3 million.
6. "Kung Fu Panda 3," \$14.6 million.
7. "The Revenant," \$14 million.
8. "A Violent Prosecutor," \$11 million.
9. "Zoolander 2," \$8.5 million.
10. "How to Be Single," \$8.1 million.

Source: comScore

Renato Marques

A new report cited by the American Cancer Society estimates that there were 4.3 million new cancer cases in China and more than 2.8 million cancer-related deaths in 2015 alone.

The same report indicates that lung cancer is the most common cancer and the leading cause of cancer deaths in all of China.

The data, made available by the National Central Cancer Registry of China, was published in CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians after a long investigation led by Wanqing Chen, PhD, MD, of the National Cancer Center in Beijing. For the study, Chen analyzed data from 72 local, population-based cancer registries between 2009 and 2011, representing 6.5 percent of the total population.

Among the most highlighted report findings are

HEALTH

## Cancer 'hitting hard' in Macau, China

facts such as the prediction of almost 12,000 new cancer diagnoses each day in 2015, as well as the assessment that about 2,814,000 Chinese died from cancer in 2015 — a figure that corresponds to an average of over 7500 cancer-related deaths per day.

The research results also show that, among men, the five most common cancers are of the lung, stomach, esophagus, liver and colorectal, which together account for about two-thirds of all cancer cases.

Among women, the most common cancers are breast, lung and bronchus, stomach, colorectal and esophagus, accounting for nearly 60 percent of all cases.

Breast cancer alone is expected to account for 15

percent of all new cancers among the country's female population.

Two other relevant facts are that both the incidence and mortality rates for all cancers in men (165.9 per 100,000) are double those in women (88.8 per 100,000). There is also a higher incidence rate for cancers in rural areas when compared to urban areas. This fact exposes the disadvantages of those living in rural areas, namely in the effectiveness in delivery of clinical care.

Tobacco smoking appears in the report as accountable for about 25 percent of all cancer deaths in China. An added concern lies in the fact that, in 2010, over 50 percent of adult Chinese men were current smokers, and



Medical staff gathers to write cancer-related messages on one or both of their hands and then take individual or group photos and post them to social media as part of the World Cancer Day Talking Hands social media campaign

smoking rates in adolescents and young adults are still rising.

Air pollution is another critical factor in these results, and China's air pollution is considered to be among the worst in the world. The low quality

of the air in indoor areas also, due to using coal and other biomass fuels for heating and cooking, and the contamination of soil and drinking water contribute to the Chinese population's increasing exposure to environmen-

tal carcinogens.

According to the most up-to-date data from the Health Bureau (SSM), treated in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification classification system (ICD-10-CM), malignant tumors (which represent the majority of all cancers) have been the main cause of death in Macau for several years.

According to the data reports from the same government department, cancer rose from being responsible for 30.9 percent of all deaths in 2012 to 36.6 percent in 2014, while circulatory and respiratory diseases ranked second and third (in 2014) respectively, accounting for 23.8 percent and 16.6 percent.

'Letters from War' Asian premiere in Macau



From left, Ricardo Pereira, Miguel Nunes, Margarida Vilanova, Ivo Ferreira and producer Luis Urbano pose for the photographers at the Berlinale

The Macau Literary Festival announced that the film "Letters from War," which premiered at the 66th Berlin Film Festival on Sunday, will be screened on the opening day of the Macau Literary Festival (March 5, 7.30 p.m., UA Galaxy Cinemas). Directed by Ivo Ferreira, a Macau resident, "Letters from War" is based on a book published in 2005 by the renowned Portuguese author António Lobo Antunes. The epistolary book brings together letters the young doctor and aspiring author wrote to his wife in 1971 upon being drafted into the Portuguese Army and subsequently posted to Angola during the colonial war. The film is presently in competition for the Golden Bear at the Berlinale.

EDUCATION

USJ signs agreement for establishment of bachelor degree in Fashion Design

Renato Marques

THE University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) signed an agreement yesterday morning that seeks to deepen the cooperation between the two institutions that was initially established in 2003.

This time, the university aims to engender cooperation and support among the CPTTM House of Apparel Technology for its new Bachelor in Fashion Design program, to start in the 2016-2017 academic year under USJ's Faculty of Creative Industries.

According to Álvaro Barbosa, Dean of Faculty of Creative Industries of USJ, the new bachelor program expects to see interest from 20 to 40 students upon its inauguration. This will be the first university level degree of this kind in Macau.

USJ also announced that the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) has already approved its proposal to establish a Master's program in Communication and Media. This development is expected to commence in the next academic year.

This new program aims to provide opportunities for people working within the media and communications field who wish to further develop their skills. According to



Peter Stilwell (2nd from right) and the CPTTM head, Shuen Ka Hung, shake hands

the Communication and Media Program Coordinator, José Manuel Simões, this new Master's program will offer the tools to understand and evaluate the ongoing transformation of media culture and its impact on culture, politics and everyday life. It will take television as a starting point to map the conceptual, social and cultural challenges that come with digital, mobile and social media.

Both the new programs are expected to start at the new USJ Campus at Ilha Verde. The rector of the University, Peter Stilwell, said that he still expects the construction of the Campus to be concluded in May of this year.

"There were some delays, which were in fact, justified. But this is to be discussed further between the construction company and the owner, which is the Catholic Fou-

ndation [for Higher of Education]. For the time being, we are working on plan A, which includes the delivery of the building to us by the end of May," said Peter Stilwell to TDM. He noted that "this plan means that we will start the next academic year with at least some of our programs already operating on the new campus."

In case that does not happen, there is also a plan B prepared" the rector told TDM. In that case "we will receive [the new campus] whenever it is ready and we will transfer the courses across campuses with the minimum amount of disruption to students over the next academic year."

NEW MANDATE OF USJ RECTOR AWAITS CONFIRMATION

PETER STILWELL told TDM that the renewal of his mandate "is a process similar to the one used in the Catholic University [of Portugal], when it comes to choosing the new rector or rector's office. It involves a range of people being consulted," he said. "Then the decision rests with the chancellor," added the rector, whose mandate ends in May.

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People watch a CNY parade in Hong Kong

# HK tourist numbers drop during CNY holiday

**PASSENGER** traffic through Hong Kong reached 3.9 million during the period between of February 5 and 14. Of this figure, mainland tourists accounted for 1.2 million.

The Hong Kong Immigration Department reported that during the first 6 days of the holidays, the number of visitors to Hong Kong reached 2.3 million, down 6.2 percent year-on-year, of which mainland visitors accounted for 744,000. This re-

presents a decrease of 11.6 percent year-on-year.

In Macau, the number of visitors during the Lunar New Year week between the February 7 and Sunday was up by 4 percent year-on-year. There were 1.22 million visitor arrivals, the Public Security Police announced.

Wednesday (February 10) and Friday (February 12) registered the largest movements of people across the borders.

# Union Gaming 'cautiously optimistic'

Macau's gaming stocks rallied over the weekend, led by the recently published figures showing that visitor arrivals in Macau grew by 4.7 percent year-on-year for the period February 8 - 10. In Barron's Asia, Union Gaming analyst Christopher Jones wrote, "On the [Macau] Peninsula, we are hearing that mass, premium mass and VIP are all trending at least in line with management's plan, with larger crowds and minimum bets than in recent months." "Over on Cotai, we heard roughly the same thing from management who were generally pleased," Jones continued. "Overall, it seems that things are moving in the right direction and we remain cautiously optimistic for a strong CNY [Chinese New Year period]." However, Wells Fargo & Co. said, citing industry people, that many Chinese middle-class families that visited Macau during the CNY were more inclined to enjoy non-gaming amenities and less to gamble. "Mass tables remained quiet and casino revenues probably fell," according to Wells Fargo.

# Women's associations hold CNY event at Science Center

**T**o usher in the Year of the Monkey, the Macau Professional and Executive Women Association, and the Zonta Club of Macau held a Chinese New Year celebration last week at the Macau Science Center.

More than 160 children and adults enjoyed festive celebrations at the center from morning until late afternoon. They included children from the Cradle of Hope Association, Macau Down Syndrome Association and Caritas School of Macau.

Participants were offered some

light refreshments before proceeding to the Planetarium to watch the award-winning 3D film, "The Life of Trees."

Afterward, the group was seated at the Central Station for the "Science Express" and entertained by a Science Drama, entitled "The Dinosaur Island." Accompanied by staff of the Macau Science Center, the children were then shown various galleries and exhibitions such as the state-of-the-art robot demonstration, and interactive science exhibits.

The event was supported by



various social welfare groups and associations in Macau, and attended by Celeste Wong, the president of the Social Welfare Bureau.

Christiana Ieong, the charter president of the Zonta Club of Macau, thanked all the guests and supporting groups for their

collaboration and contribution, as well as the Macau Science Center and its volunteers.

The Zonta Club of Macau is part of Zonta International; a global non-profit organization of professional women who aim to advance the status of women around the world.

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## AVIATION

# Malaysia Airlines on track with profit, mulls fleet expansion

**M**ALAYSIA Airlines Bhd. is on track to return to profitability by 2018, helped by job cuts and route changes undertaken as the company reeled from two high-profile plane crashes in 2014, Chief Executive Officer Christoph Mueller said.

The airline's restructuring effort is proceeding as planned and the company is finished laying off employees, Mueller said in an interview yesterday with Bloomberg Television in Singapore. The carrier wants to buy and own some aircraft once its targets are met, as its existing fleet structure is skewed toward leased planes, he said.

"The biggest challenge is really to go back to the good old times when we won the best customer quality awards," Mueller said. "Our product is a little bit tired. We will do a lot of work on our product this year."

A veteran of turnaround efforts for Aer Lingus Group Plc in Ireland, Mueller took over Malaysia Airlines last March, charged with reviving a carrier that was racking up losses even before hundreds of people died in two 2014 crashes. Malaysia's government bought out small shareholders to delist the airline. After cutting 6,000 jobs, slashing pay and trimming capacity by 30 percent, Mueller said the major changes are done.

Airlines globally have benefited as oil prices have tumbled this year, but the advantage of cheaper oil has been mostly offset by the depreciation of the Malaysian ringgit against the dollar. That has a slightly larger impact on the company's earnings, Mueller said.

A network restructuring aimed at establishing Malaysia Airlines' Kuala Lumpur base

FILE PHOTO



Students from the Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino High School walk on a mural depicting the missing Malaysia Airlines plane

as a hub for regional travel is 90 percent complete, Mueller said in November. Malaysia Airlines has scrapped some European routes, relying instead on a code-share deal it signed with Dubai-based Emirates for longer-haul destinations and eschewing its traditional model of linking Europe and Australia via Southeast Asia.

The partnership with Emirates was complementary and gives Malaysia Airlines access to new destinations in Africa and Latin America, Mueller said. The company is keeping all its Airbus Group SE A380s for its London routes, while grounding its Boeing Co. 777-200s, Mueller said. The carrier said last month it plans to retire and sell the 777-200s.

Malaysia Airlines is shifting to smaller jets as part of the revamp, seeking a buyer for two of its six A380s. Five superjumbos are deployed on the London route, with the other used for charter trips such as flying the Real Madrid soccer team on an Asian tour and taking Muslim pilgrims to Mecca.

Mueller said it would be

■ The carrier has become 'overcautious' about safety since the [MH370] accident

"very important for the whole industry" that investigators eventually find the remains of Flight 370, which disappeared en route to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur in March 2014 with 239 people on board. A multinational team has scoured more than 80,000 square kilometers of seabed in the southern Indian Ocean over the past two years without turning up a trace of the plane, and won't expand the search zone without new clues, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau said last month.

Malaysia Air is assisting the investigators in all ways, Mueller said yesterday, dismissing claims that the carrier has been insufficiently transparent about what happened to the plane. The carrier has become "overcautious" about safety since the accident, he said, but conceded that winning back consumer confidence remains its primary challenge.

"It would leave a bad impression of the industry as a whole, but particularly Malaysia Airlines," if MH370 is never found, Mueller said. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### 12-DAY SPRING SALE AT SANDS RESORTS COTAI

BLOOMBERG



Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao launched its new Spring Sale across its seven hotels yesterday. The special 12-day spring sale offers rates starting from

HKD/MOP688. This represents a saving of up to 45 percent when booking rooms up until February 26 for accommodation between today and July 15.

According to a press release, the deals are available at The Venetian Macao, Four Seasons Hotel Macao, The St. Regis Macao, Conrad Macao, Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Holiday Inn Macao and Sands Macao.

Sands Resorts offers award-winning restaurants, high-end duty free shopping, accommodation and world-class entertainment. WeChat users can also play the Sands Lucky Red Packet game this CNY by following SandsResortMacao on WeChat. Followers have the opportunity to win up to MOP1,000 until February 26. This may be used in conjunction with the spring sale offers.

### GRAND HYATT ROLLS OUT PROMOTIONAL PACKAGE



Grand Hyatt Macau launched its Grand Offer package yesterday. The package will be available until June 30.

The package includes one night's accommodation in a

Grand Deluxe Room, daily breakfast for two, complimentary regular laundry and pressing services and MOP800 dining credit at mezza9 Macao or Lobby Lounge, the Grand Hyatt

press release reads.

The package starts at HKD1,999 and in addition, customers will be able to enjoy complimentary non-alcoholic refreshments from the minibar.

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MOZAMBIQUE

# Rail capacity to increase by 31.5 million tons



**T**HE capacity of the railways in Mozambique will increase significantly once the line between Moatize and Nacala, known as the Nacala Corridor, with the strengthening of the Sena line, to be completed in the coming months.

The Nacala Logistics Corridor has the capacity to transport 18 million tons of cargo per year and will serve mainly the coal industry at a time when some exporters are facing logistical problems that make it even more difficult to continue operating at a profit, given the low prices of the commodity.

The opening of the line led the Economist Intelligence Unit to revise coal production forecasts upwards in the short term, allowing for a faster increase in exports in 2016 and 2017 and, consequently, a smaller current account deficit for Mozambique.

“Nacala will finally ease transport bottlenecks in the Mozambique coal industry,” the EIU said in its latest report on the country.

About 18 months behind schedule and costing more than the initial budget, the 902-kilometre line and associated deep water port were developed by Brazilian group Vale, which has a concession on Mozambique’s

largest coal mine in Moatize, which can now increase production and reduce costs.

Construction of the proposed USD3.5 billion dollar project started in 2012 when the price of coal was over \$100 per ton, double the amount recorded at the end of 2015, leading the major producers such as Vale, Jindal Power, International Coal Ventures Limited (ICVL) and Beacon Hills Resources to delay expansion plans.

“For the rest of the industry, Nacala will free up space on the Sena line, the only one available,” but the Mozambican coal industry will remain below its potential, said the EIU.

The new railway is also used by other mining companies to transport their production, and state port and rail company CFM will transport of passengers and cargo.

The provincial governor of Nampula, Victor Borges, recently said that the second phase of the works to modernise and expand the port of Nacala, a \$270 million investment, could begin this year and tenders are currently being prepared.

In the first half of this year work to increase the capacity of the Sena line is due to be completed, increasing from 6.5 million to 20 million tons per year, said the provincial director for Transport and Communications of Sofala, Hécio Canda.

The Sena line links the port of Beira to Moatize, between the provinces of Sofala and Tete, over a total length of 575 kilometres, including the Inhামিতাঙ্গা/Marromeu branchline.

MDT/Macauhub

# Hainan Airlines is a shareholder of TAP – Air Portugal



**T**HE Portuguese Government has authorized Chinese airline Hainan Airlines (HNA) become a shareholder of TAP – Air Portugal through private consortium Atlantic Gateway, Portuguese weekly newspaper Expresso reported.

The government’s commitment is expressed in a memorandum recently signed with the consortium formed by U.S. entrepreneurs David Neeleman and Portugal’s Humberto Pedrosa, under which the Portuguese state holds a 50 percent stake in the TAP Group and the consortium 45 percent and its

respective management.

“The Portuguese State authorizes as of now a stake to be taken in Atlantic Gateway by HNA, at a percentage to be agreed between the shareholders of the Atlantic Gateway and HNA,” the memo said.

The document adds, “financing of 120 million euros to the company is expected, of which 30 million by the state and 90 million by the private consortium, the Portuguese State may also authorize HNA to subscribe directly part of the bonds, as the rights that in this MoU that refer to Azul will

[also] refer to HNA.”

Expresso said that the HNA may take a stake of 10 percent to 13 percent of TAP and added that the agreement with the Chinese “was made after Neeleman formalised in November a strategic partnership in Brazil and after the Portuguese government had sent a team to Beijing at the end of January.”

In November 2015 HNA applied 1.7 billion reais (about USD424 million) in Azul. This investment was described by financial news agency Bloomberg as “a lifeline for the Brazilian airline.” MDT/Macauhub

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AP PHOTO



Raf Casert, Brussels

**S**TEEL company managers joined thousands of their employees from across the European Union to protest yesterday against the import of cheap Chinese products and to warn the 28-nation bloc not to open the doors further to Beijing.

The European steel industry is accusing China of illegal export subsidies and selling products below production cost, all of which contributes to the crisis in the European steel sector.

With whistles and firecrackers, the workers ringed some of the EU institutions to push their demands to keep Chinese

## EU steel workers protest against cheap Chinese imports

steel at bay. The industry argued that if the EU recognizes China as a market economy, a status that would allow for even more imports, it would cost tens of thousands of jobs.

"Everybody understands that there is a high need to act," said Geert Van Poelvoorde, president of the Eurofer industry group, which was behind the march.

The EU currently has 37 trade and legal actions going to make sure that steel imports are fair and provide for a level playing field, something which is especially critical in an age of overproduction and dumping into the European markets. If China is given the recognition of a market economy it would become even more difficult to take action against trade which

is deemed unfair.

The European steel sector employs some 330,000 people but the industry official say hundreds of thousands of jobs are also at risk in the ceramics, glass, solar panels and other sectors.

The Aegis alliance of major European industries says that three quarters of all EU anti-dumping measures involve

China and that the complaints about Beijing are only increasing. A country might sell below production costs to gain market share or to clear out stock.

"Market economy status to China would be a full license to dump whenever and in every sector China wants to do it," said Aegis spokesman Milan Nitzschke said. **AP**

## Tianjin moves 10 chemical plants after explosion review

**A**UTHORITIES in the Chinese city of Tianjin are moving 10 chemical plants found to be too close to residential areas, six months after a devastating chemical accident killed 173 people.

The Tianjin Binhai New Area suffered one of China's worst industrial accidents in August when a warehouse storing combustible chemicals exploded less than one kilometer away from apartments — the legally required

distance.

The head of the Binhai Work Safety Bureau's news office, who gave his name as Shi, told The Associated Press yesterday that the 10 plants were close to residential areas, though he didn't specify whether they were within one kilometer.

A recent audit of 583 chemical companies in the area found problems at 85, two of which were being moved beginning last month at a cost of

more than USD4 billion, according to Chinese media reports.

Aside from the 10 plants being moved, Shi said the other 75 with problems were not near residential areas but will also be eventually moved 30 kilometers south under a new plan to isolate chemical-related firms at the Nangang industrial zone. That zone is about 10 kilometers away from any residential developments.

Boasting a rich history

and one of the world's busiest ports, Tianjin was earmarked by government leaders in Beijing to develop into the new financial nexus of northern China.

But the city's image was deeply scarred by the August blast, which damaged more than 17,000 homes, scorched entire tracts of parked cars and left a crater six meters deep, raising concerns about the downside of breakneck development.

FILE PHOTO



A furious central government has pledged to shore up industrial regulations countrywide and a Cabinet panel earlier this month recommen-

ded punishing 120 people, including high-level Communist Party officials in Tianjin and company executives, for violating or failing to enforce laws. **AP**

# HSBC to keep HQ in London, decides against move to Hong Kong

Danica Kirka, London

**B**RITAIN'S biggest bank is staying put. HSBC Holdings plc said it will keep its headquarters in London, ending a 10-month process in which one of the world's largest financial companies considered moving to Hong Kong to get closer to its center of gravity in fast-growing Asian economies.

"I think we've ended up with the best of both worlds," HSBC chairman Douglas Flint told the BBC yesterday. "A pivot to Asia, led from London."

Flint said that HSBC was, at its heart, a bank focused on trade and investment flows. Sidestepping concerns about the recent volatility in Asian markets, Flint said it had been a privilege to choose between two of the world's great financial centers and that the decision was not based on short-term market dynamics.

"The U.K. is one of the most globally connected economies

**We've ended up with the best of both worlds... a pivot to Asia, led from London.**

DOUGLAS FLINT  
HSBC CHAIRMAN



A tourist takes a picture backdropped by the HSBC headquarters building standing amongst other skyscrapers in the Canary Wharf business district of London

in the world with a fantastic regulatory system and legal system and immense experience in dealing with international affairs," he said.

The bank launched the review last April in light of regulatory and tax changes implemented by the U.K. after the 2008 financial crisis. Particularly problematic was a 2010 tax on a bank's global balance sheet, which penalized those with global operations such as HSBC and Standard Chartered. Fears that Britain would vote to leave the European Union also heightened concerns.

HSBC's decision was a relief to the government, which feared losing a pillar of Britain's financial world — and the signal it would send more broadly for the economy at a time of heated debate about whether or not to leave the EU. The thought of losing one of London's financial icons had sent the government into panic.

"It's a vote of confidence in the government's economic plan, and a boost to our goal of making the U.K. a great place to do more business with China and the rest of Asia," the Treasury said in a statement after

HSBC's decision.

Campaigners who want the country to leave the EU argued the decision proved that big financial institutions would not be frightened off by a leave vote. But Flint told the BBC that the bank has the ability to move people from London to Paris if necessary for the bank's wholesale operations.

Investec banking expert Ian Gordon, who thought a move was in the bank's interest, suggested it was dangerous to trust political promises that won't be enacted until after the next election. Concerns

about slowing economic growth in China and market volatility around the world may have persuaded HSBC to stay with the status quo, Gordon said.

"I'm sure that a perception of market and political volatility would have been a consideration against moving," he said.

The bank's decision came after a complicated process that took longer than expected, but speculation increased in the days before the company was set to report its earnings Feb. 22.

HSBC still believes its commercial future lies in the growing wealth of Asia. Almost two-thirds of the bank's pre-tax profit came from Asia in the first nine months of 2015, compared with 19 percent from Europe.

It has offices in 72 countries and territories in Asia, Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and North Africa. It claimed assets of USD2.5 trillion as of September.

Many Western banks are interested in expanding operations in Asia, but HSBC has the advantage of already having a major presence there. Founded in Hong Kong in 1865, when the city was a British colony, the bank financed growing trade between China and Europe and was originally known as the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp.

The company moved its headquarters to London in 1992 to meet the regulatory requirements for its acquisition of Midland Bank. **AP**

## ECONOMY

# China's trade tumbles in January

**C**HINA'S trade tumbled in January, in a possible fresh sign of the weakness confronting the world's No. 2 economy.

Exports fell 11.2 percent to USD177.5 billion, a sharp deterioration from the 1.4 percent decline reported for December, according to customs data released yesterday.

Imports shrank by 18.8 percent to \$114.2 billion, a faster fall than the previous month's 7.6 percent contraction, leaving a trade surplus of \$63.3 billion.

The export figure reflected weaker demand for shipments of manufactured goods as the global recovery continues to stumble.

Economists, however, were reserving final analysis until figures for February are out because the timing

of the Lunar New Year holiday distorts China's economic data at the beginning of the year.

Companies in China shut down for the weeklong holiday, which falls at different times in January or February. In the run-up to the holiday, which this year occurred last week, factories stock up on raw materials and rush to fill orders.

"The lower-than-expected exports in January was likely caused by some frontloading of shipments into December," ANZ Bank economists Liu Li-gang and Louis Lam wrote in a report. They said that December's export figures were probably better than expected for the same reason.

China's economy posted its slowest growth in a quarter century



A man plays with balls as a salesperson looks out from the booth selling children's clothing at the Wangfujing shopping district in Beijing

last year, expanding 6.9 percent. Officials expect growth this year of between 6.5 and 7 percent.

Growth is slowing as the country's communist leaders try to wean the economy off export-led manufacturing and instead focus on more self-sustaining domestic consumption and services. **AP**

# First Chinese train arrives in Tehran to revive Silk Road

**I**RAN'S state TV says the first Chinese commercial train has arrived in Tehran to revive the Silk Road — an ancient network of trade routes running through Asia.

Yesterday's report quotes Mohsen Pourseyed Aghaie, Iran's deputy transport minister, as saying a 12-container train arrived in Tehran after a 14-day journey from eastern China.

Aghaie says the railway saves transit time comparing to the sea route from Shanghai to Iranian ports. He says Iran plans to extend the route to Europe.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has said his country will continue its close ties with the East despite deals his country has with western nations like France and Italy.

China is Iran's biggest trade partner and continued purchasing oil from Iran after nuclear-related sanctions were tightened in 2012, despite U.S. pressure. **AP**

AP PHOTO



North Korean men put up a propaganda poster urging its citizens to carry out their country's ruling party's goals for North Korea with an unwavering spirit in Pyongyang

## Facing new sanction threats, North Koreans defiant as ever

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

**T**HE United States and Japan have already announced plans for new sanctions over North Korea's recent nuclear test and rocket launch, and the U.N. Security Council is likely to deliver more soon. Cross-border tensions with Seoul are escalating quickly and even China is starting to sound more like an angry neighbor than a comrade-in-arms.

But with a storm brewing all around them, North Koreans have their own take on things — and it's decidedly unapologetic.

Pyongyang started off the new year with what it claims was its first hydrogen bomb test and followed that up with the launch of a satellite on a rocket condemned by much of the world as a test of banned missile technology. When Seoul responded by closing down an industrial park that is the last symbol of cooperation between the two rivals, Pyongyang lashed back, expelling all South Koreans from the site just north of the Demilitarized Zone and putting it under military control.

Each move brought a new

round of international outrage. But while the motives of Kim Jong Un's regime are — as usual — a matter of speculation, ask a North Korean what's going on and the reply is swift, indignant and well-practiced.

It's America's fault.

"It's not right for the U.S. to tell our country not to have nuclear bombs," Pak Mi Hyang, a 22-year-old children's camp worker, told The Associated Press as she walked with a friend near Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang over the weekend. "The U.S. has a lot of them and tells us not to have any. It's not fair. We've been living with sanctions for a long time and we are not afraid."

Candor in street interviews is rare in North Korea. Pak and others who agreed to be interviewed by the AP were mindful of the fact that speaking out of turn can have severe repercussions, especially when talking to an American journalist with his North Korean escort.

"We have a lot of hatred toward Americans," Pak said, politely, before walking on.

It hard to discern exactly how much of that is political

correctness, North Korean style.

But anti-U.S. sentiment in this country does run deep, for good reason.

That is partly because the relentless propaganda that depicts Washington — which has made no secret of its desire for regime change — as its biggest existential threat. But it also reflects the brutality of the Korean War, which left millions of Koreans dead and most of North Korea's cities and industrial base in ruins.

Though called the "Forgotten War" in America, it is anything but forgotten in North Korea. It is used by authorities to rally the nation around anti-U.S. feeling and a common outside enemy, and it also resonates with many North Koreans who remember wartime suffering or have family or friends who died in the fighting, which the North says was started by the United States and South Korea.

And since the 1950-53 war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty, the U.S. is still technically and literally "the enemy."

Reflecting that sentiment, Kim Cho Yong, a 49-year-old

**■ Candor in street interviews is rare in North Korea. [Those] who agreed to be interviewed by the AP were mindful of the fact that speaking out of turn can have severe repercussions**

who works at the ministry of coal mining industry, said he feels "proud of the H-bomb."

"We made a big step in making bombs so we are not afraid of any attacks from the enemies," he said. "No enemy can attack us because we have an H-bomb."

North Korea's media has also tried mightily to show the public that nuclear tes-

ts, rocket launches and other acts condemned by the U.S. and its close allies are seen by countries outside Washington's sphere of influence as symbols of national pride, socialist progress and strength. Every day brings new praise from places like Guinea and Bangladesh or political organizations such as the Workers' Party of Hungary and the Group of Youth for the Study of Kim Jong Il Juche Idea in Vienna.

Even so, Pyongyang's message has always been two-fold: North Korea has every right to defend itself against a U.S. government bent on bringing it down, but if Washington would give up its hostile policies, it would be willing to seek peace, too.

The only realistic way to turn the situation around on the Korean Peninsula, Pyongyang has long said, is for Washington to remove its troops from the South — or at least stop its huge annual war games there — and start talks toward normalizing relations and negotiating a peace treaty.

"The U.S.'s ceaseless military threat and nuclear blackmail against the DPRK are precisely the reason why the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula was spawned and still remains unsettled," the official Minju Joson newspaper said in an editorial Sunday using the acronym for the country's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "The only solution to it is to put an end to the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK."

In Washington, of course, that position is seen as a non-starter. North Korea must, it claims, make the first move and dismantle its nuclear program.

Taking a deep dive into the U.S. media to suggest that even many Americans question that logic, the North's official news agency, KCNA, on Sunday cited articles on the popular website Reddit and a recent issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists that hit two of Pyongyang's favored themes — failed U.S. policy toward the North and the need to engage, not isolate.

"Our country wants peace, and if the U.S. wants peace too then there will be peace," said Pak, the children's camp worker.

But she added that right now, as her country is once again coming under the threat of sanctions that will probably have a negative impact on her daily life, North Korea in her eyes is only growing stronger.

"I feel proud to be a member of the Korean nation," she said. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

# Police seize USD900 million in methylamphetamine

AUSTRALIAN law enforcement agencies have seized methylamphetamine worth 1.26 billion Australian dollars (USD900 million) in the country's largest-ever haul of the illicit drug in its liquid form, officials said yesterday.

Four Hong Kong passport holders were arrested in Sydney last month over the import from China of 720 liters (190 gallons) of the drug hidden in boxes of silicon bra inserts and art supplies, police said in a statement.

The liquid could have made about 500 kilograms of high-grade crystal meth, commonly known in Australia as ice, Australian Federal Police Commander Chris Sheehan said.

Officials also seized two kilograms of the crystalized form of the drug.

Justice Minister Michael Keenan said the operation used information gathered through new cooperation between Australian Federal Police and China's National Narcotics Control Commission.



Officers stand by a display of confiscated drugs in Sydney

The Australian and Chinese agencies established a joint task force in November to investigate criminal syndicates trafficking methamphetamine.

"This largest seizure of liquid methylamphetamine to date is the result of organized criminals targeting the lucrative Australian ice market from offshore," Keenan told reporters.

The four will appear in a Sydney court next month charged with importing and manufacturing commercial quantities of illegal drugs. Each suspect faces a potential life sentence if convicted.

Keenan said the seizure was one the largest hauls of illicit drugs in Australian history. AP

PHILIPPINES

# Gov't to sell Marcos jewelry valued at USD21 million

THE Philippine government has approved the public exhibit and auction of the jewelry collection of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' widow Imelda which international experts have appraised to be now worth at least one billion pesos (USD21 million), officials said yesterday.

The hoard was seized when Marcos and his family fled to Hawaii in 1986 following a popular revolt that ended his two decades in power. They include a 25-carat, barrel-shaped diamond worth at least \$5 million and a Cartier diamond tiara that is now many times more valuable than the previous estimate of \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Andrew de Castro of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, an agency tasked to recover the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth, said they hope to hold the exhibit and auction before the end of President Benigno Aquino III's term in June, when the terms for the current members of the commission also end.



The government's Privatization Council headed by the Department of Finance last week approved the sale of the jewelry. A portion of the collection seized at the presidential palace when the Marcoses fled, however, is still being contested in court. Other pieces of jewelry were sei-

zed in Hawaii and at Manila's airport.

"The jewelry confiscated from the Marcoses remain a singular manifestation of the misguided priorities of the Marcos presidency during his reign," commission Chairman Richard Amurao said last week. AP

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Julie Pace & Will Weissert, Greenville (SC)

USA ELECTIONS

# Republican candidates joust over foreign policy, immigration

**R**EPUBLICAN presidential candidates jostled over immigration and foreign policy in a raucous debate that was shaken by the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia hours before they took the stage.

Scalia's death thrust the future of the high court into the center of a heated presidential campaign. In their debate Saturday night [Sunday, Macau time], the Republican candidates insisted that President Barack Obama step aside and let his successor nominate Scalia's replacement instead, a position the White House vigorously opposed.

Among the contenders, only Jeb Bush said Obama had "every right" to nominate a justice during his final year in office. The former Florida governor said the presidency must be a strong office — though he added that he didn't expect Obama to pick a candidate who could win consensus support.

The five other candidates on the stage urged the Republican-led Senate to block any attempts by the president to get his third nominee on the court.

"It's up to Mitch McConnell and everybody else to stop it," Donald Trump said. "It's called delay, delay, delay."

Just six contenders took the debate stage in South Carolina, far from the long line of candidates who participated in earlier Republican events. Yet the Republican race remains deeply uncertain, with party elites still hoping that one of the more mainstream candidates will rise up to challenge Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. Many Republican leaders believe both



Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla. (right) hands a mint to Republican presidential candidate, businessman Donald Trump

would be unelectable in November.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton said at a dinner in Denver that Obama has the right to nominate another justice. He "is president of the United States until Jan 20, 2017. That is a fact my friends, whether the Republicans like it or not."

"Let's get on with it," said her challenger, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, arguing that the Senate should vote on whoever Obama nominates.

The Republican debate that began with a moment of silence for Scalia devolved quickly into

fighting between Trump and Bush, then between Trump and Cruz. The exchanges highlighted the bad blood between the billionaire businessman and his rivals just a week before the pivotal primary in South Carolina, a state known for rough-and-tumble politics.

Cruz and Trump emerged from the first two voting contests in Iowa and New Hampshire with a victory apiece and appear positioned to compete for a win in the first Southern primary. The winner in South Carolina has gone on to win the Republican presidential nomination in five

of the last six elections.

Trump, repeatedly interrupting his rivals, lashed out at Cruz after the Texas senator challenged his conservative credentials, calling him the "single-biggest liar" and a "nasty guy." The real estate mogul also accused Bush of lying about Trump's business record and said Bush's brother — former President George W. Bush — lied to the public about the Iraq war.

"Obviously the war in Iraq was a big fat mistake," Trump said.

Bush, who has been among the most aggressive Republican candidates in taking on Trump, said

that while he didn't mind the businessman criticizing him — "It's blood sport for him" — he was "sick and tired of him going after my family."

Trump was jeered lustily by the audience in Greenville, South Carolina, a state where the Bush family is popular with Republicans. George W. Bush plans to campaign with his brother in Charleston Monday, making his first public foray into the 2016 race.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich sought to inject the election's high stakes into the discussion in the midst of the fiery exchanges between his competitors.

"I think we're fixing to lose the election to Hillary Clinton if we don't stop this," Kasich said.

The governor's warnings did little to deter his feisty colleagues.

Cruz and Sen. Marco Rubio also revived their fight over immigration, with the Texas senator haranguing his Florida counterpart for sponsoring failed legislation that would have created a pathway to citizenship for many of those in the United States illegally. Cruz also accused Rubio of taking a more moderate approach when speaking to Spanish-language media in an attempt to appeal to Hispanics.

"I don't know how he knows what I said on Univision — he doesn't speak Spanish," Rubio shot back.

Rubio entered the debate under immense pressure following his disappointing fifth-place finish in the New Hampshire primary. He stumbled badly in a debate days before that vote, but appeared more fluid in Saturday's contest.

Scalia's sudden death — and the chance to replace him — could serve as a reminder for voters of the consequences of elections.

Cruz cast the moment in stark terms, saying allowing another Obama nominee to be approved would amount to Republicans giving up control of the Supreme Court for a generation.

"One of the most important judgments for the men and women of South Carolina to make is who on this stage has the background, the principle, the character, the judgment and the strength of resolve to nominate and confirm principled constitutionalists to the court," Cruz said.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson is fighting to stay in the mix in South Carolina, but was overshadowed in the debate by his more aggressive rivals. **AP**

## Scalia's body being flown back; died of natural causes

**T**HE body of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was taken to an El Paso airport and was being flown to Virginia after it was determined he died of "natural causes" and an autopsy was not necessary.

Chris Lujan, a manager for Sunset Funeral Homes, said that Scalia's body was taken from the facility yesterday [Macau time]. Scalia's family didn't think a private autopsy was necessary and requested his remains be flown home as soon as possible, he said.

Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara told The Associated Press she consulted with Scalia's personal physician and sheriff's investigators, who said there were no signs of foul play, before concluding the 79-year-old had died of natural causes. He was found dead in his room at a West Texas resort ranch Saturday morning. Guevara says the declaration was made around 1:52 p.m. Saturday [Texas time].

Terry Sharpe, assistant director for operations at El Paso International Airport, said a private plane carrying Scalia's body departed around 8 p.m. EST (0200 GMT). Scalia's body was accompanied to the airport by U.S. marshals, he said. He said he



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

didn't know details about where the plane was headed.

The U.S. Marshals Service referred questions about the flight to Supreme Court officials, who did not immediately respond to inquiries.

Scalia's weekend death was as much of a shock to those at the ranch, as it was to the rest of the nation

The owner of the West Texas ranch where Scalia died says the justice seemed his usual self at dinner the night before he was found "in complete repose" in his room.

John Poindexter, the owner of Cibolo Creek Ranch near Marfa, told reporters Scalia was part of a group of about

35 weekend guests. He arrived Friday around noon. Poindexter says the group had dinner Friday night and Scalia was his "usual, personable self." Poindexter says Scalia retired around 9 p.m., saying he wanted a long night's sleep.

A procession of about 20 law enforcement officers arrived in the early hours Sunday at an El Paso, Texas, funeral home, according to Lujan. He said they had traveled more than three hours from the West Texas resort ranch where the 79-year-old Scalia was found dead in his room Saturday morning.

Kristina Mills, a history teacher at nearby Chapin High School, came to pay her respects and brought flowers.

"Recognizing his contribution to serving our country just compelled me to come," she said. "I wanted to do yellow roses because for him dying in Texas. I didn't want his family to have bad memories of Texas."

The Senate's Republican leader, backed largely by his party's White House candidates, essentially told a Democratic president in his final year in office not to bother asking lawmakers to confirm a nominee for the lifetime seat. **AP**

## what's ON



BEYOND 9AM TO 6PM FERNANDO WONG  
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION  
TIME: 12pm -8pm (closed on public holidays)  
UNTIL: March 30, 2016  
VENUE: Rua de Abreu Nunes 14B  
Edf. San Pou R/C - A  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 6307 3797

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

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

"PRINT" - ART PROJECT  
TIME: 12pm-7pm  
(Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)  
UNTIL: February 21, 2016  
VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel  
Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau  
Admission: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

## Offbeat

## DUTCH TOURIST SAYS HE'S LUCKY TO SURVIVE NEPAL TIGER ATTACK

A Dutch tourist who survived a tiger attack in the jungles of southwestern Nepal over the weekend by climbing a tree said yesterday that he's lucky to be alive and will now have a story to tell when he returns home.

Gerard Van Laar said he was attacked by the tiger when he and his Nepalese guide were hiking in Bardia National Park on Saturday.

"I was super lucky to be alive. I would have been dead if it had not been for Krishna (the guide)," Laar said by phone from Bardia, about 400 kilometers southwest of Nepal's capital, Kathmandu.

"All of a sudden, I heard a roar and a growl, and the tiger was heading toward us at full speed," said Laar, who has been travelling in Nepal since last month.

He was able to escape by climbing a tree, but his guide was attacked and slightly injured as he ran away to draw the attention of the tiger.

The tiger returned and circled the tree while Laar tried to stay as quiet as possible about six meters above the ground. About two hours later, the guide arrived back with help and they shouted and used sticks to drive away the tiger.

The guide was hospitalized for a day, but Laar was not hurt.

The 33-year-old freelance engineer from Dedemsvaart, Netherlands, said he thought he would be killed until he was able to climb the tree.

Bardia, a protected national forest, is home to about 70 tigers. It is popular and receives thousands of visitors a year, but tiger attacks are rare.

## TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:50	Castle S.5
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	Happy Endings S3
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live
03:40	UEFA Champions League 2015/2016: Benfica - Zenit St. Peters-

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

12 FEB - 18 FEB

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: ROAD CHIP\_  
ROOM 1  
2.00, 5.30, 7.30 pm  
Director: Walt Becker  
Starring: Jason Lee, Jesica Ahlberg, Josh Green  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)  
Duration: 92min



MERMAID\_  
ROOM 1  
2.00, 5.30, 7.30 pm  
Director: Stephen Chau  
Starring: Deng Chao, Show Lo, Zhang Yu Qi  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)  
Duration: 92min

FROM VEGAS TO MACAU III\_  
ROOM 2  
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm  
Director: Andrew Lau, Wong Jing  
Starring: Chow Yun-fat, Andy Lau, Nick Cheung, Jacky Cheung  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)  
Duration: 112min

THE GOOD DINOSAUR\_  
ROOM 3  
2.30, 4.30, 7.15 pm  
Director: Peter Sohn  
Language: English (Cantonese)  
Duration: 93min

THE MONKEY KING 2\_  
ROOM 3  
9.15, 11.30 pm  
Director: Pou-Soi Cheang  
Starring: Aaron Kwok, Gong Li, Feng Shaofeng  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)  
Duration: 120min

## MACAU TOWER

04 FEB - 02 MAR

THE GOOD DINOSAUR\_  
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm  
Director: Peter Sohn  
Language: English (Cantonese)  
Duration: 93min

## this day in history



## 1959 CASTRO SWORN IN AS CUBAN PM

Cuba's revolutionary leader Fidel Castro has become the country's youngest ever premier.

At the age of 32, he has been sworn in as Prime Minister in the Cabinet Room of the Presidential Palace in Havana.

Dr Castro led the resistance against the seven-year military rule of President Fulgencio Batista and commanded the 26 July Army, a guerrilla force that drove the old regime into exile on New Year's Day.

But this is the first time he has assumed administrative responsibilities within the new, provisional government.

Cuban newspaper 'Revolution' - regarded as the voice-piece of the 26 July Army - explained his appointment is to solve the problem of "a dispersal of power", as many workers and industries have observed Castro's pronouncements and not the government's since the revolution.

According to the newspaper, "now the government, the revolution and the people will take the same path."

Dr Castro was on leave from his previous post as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces when Dr Jose Miro Cordoba - prime minister since 5 January - and his cabinet resigned, without explanation, two days ago.

As well as his supporters, a hoard of Cuban and foreign media witnessed Fidel Castro being sworn into office wearing his olive-green rebel army fatigues and sporting his trademark square cap and beard.

He told them: "We have great plans and we suffer when we cannot put these into effect rapidly, but technical preparations take time."

He also denied he had any interest in taking over as president, saying legal moves to lower the age of eligibility for the post last week were the initiative of the incumbent president Manuel Urrutia Lleo.

President Urrutia and Prime Minister Castro are old allies and are expected to work together to achieve revolutionary aims of economic reform and improved living standards for all Cubans.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Fidel Castro became patron of the Whiskers Club in Derbyshire, UK, on 23 February after promising not to shave his two-year-old beard until his country had a "good government".

The Cuban Cabinet refused to accept Dr Castro's resignation on 18 July 1959, claiming President Urrutia was obstructing reforms, and the President was prompted to step down instead.

Antagonism with the US grew and the Americans imposed economic sanctions on Cuba from 1960.

Cuban alliance with the USSR led to the nuclear missile crisis in 1962.

Dr Castro passed a new constitution and became president, secretary general of the Communist Party and commander-in-chief of the army in 1976.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your ability to get stuff done is propelling you forward today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You are cluing in to something that has been eluding you for a long time — years, maybe.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your thinking is a bit muddled today — but maybe you can work that to your advantage!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Don't worry about getting tired — you should be able to plow through all your work without breaking a sweat.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You feel a bit more low-key and relaxed than usual, and that might not fit with the high-stress people who surround you.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Organization is your middle name, and you should be able to whip your people into shape without any trouble at all.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Even if the big picture seems to be too optimistic, you can still enjoy the small successes that come your way today.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you're a parent, you need to heed today's lesson carefully: There are limits to control.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're not always the most flexible person in the world, but today you need to extend yourself a bit.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You feel incredible — which could be good or bad. If you're in the dumps, take heart in the knowledge that the feeling can't last long.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Animals have more appeal today — their way of living in the moment is a great lesson for you now.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Try not to hold back with your feelings — though that may be impossible anyway!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Paris subway; 6- Obstructs; 10- Peek-\_\_\_; 14- Like some furniture; 15- Varieties; 16- Goad; 17- Make a trade?; 20- Addams Family cousin; 21- Private Pyle; 22- Disrespectful back talk; 26- Mystery; 30- Unreachable; 34- Lure; 35- Dogpatch adjective; 36- Toronto's prov.; 38- Pub pastime; 39- Lay down the lawn; 40- Extent; 42- Guido's high note; 43- Pro; 44- Submit; 45- Itemized requirements; 49- Method of raising money; 50- Dagger; 51- Lathers; 54- Biblical beast; 56- Direct; 64- Very, in Vichy; 65- Cafe au \_\_\_; 66- One tenth, usually; 67- Nothing special; 68- Anthem starter; 69- Beaming;

DOWN: 1- Cleaning implement; 2- Musical gift; 3- Ring decision; 4- TKO caller; 5- Dedicated to the \_\_\_ Love; 6- European-style restaurant; 7- Clay today; 8- "Citizen Kane" studio; 9- Common ID; 10- Self-confident assurance; 11- Fedora feature; 12- Seep; 13- Baltic Sea feeder; 18- Gaze fixedly; 19- Juan's water; 22- Kid leather; 23- Historical records; 24- Subordinate ruler; 25- Roasting rod; 27- An amount of heat; 28- Not base; 29- Maple Leafs' org.; 31- IBM products; 32- Capital of United Kingdom; 33- Car heart; 37- Uptight; 39- Like a pillow; 40- No longer working (abbr.); 41- Black cuckoos; 43- In shape; 44- Authority; 46- Sun Bowl site; 47- Mozart's "\_\_\_ fan tutte"; 48- Cunning; 51- Concordes, e.g.; 52- Other, in Oaxaca; 53- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 55- Mex. miss; 57- Day-\_\_\_; 58- Owns; 59- Acapulco aunt; 60- Hairpiece; 61- City in GA; 62- Letter after pi; 63- Drops on the grass;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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JML property logo and text: 卓雅物業 since 1994

AP PHOTO



Western Conference's Kobe Bryant

## BASKETBALL

# A private dinner among Kobe's All-Star highlights

Tim Reynolds, Toronto

**T**HE moment Kobe Bryant will savor most from his final All-Star weekend was one the world never saw.

There were plenty of highlights to cherish, actually. The way his daughters beamed when they got to meet and take a picture with Stephen Curry after the game. A conversation with Michael Jordan. Getting sought out by Magic Johnson for a talk about legacy. Private chats with teammates in the locker room, which he enjoyed tremendously.

But the quintessential one to Bryant came in the wee hours of Sunday morning inside a rented-out restaurant, where he was the guest of honor at a celebration arranged by Chris Paul, Carmelo Anthony and Dwyane Wade.

Bryant was publicly serenaded all weekend, and having 20,000 fans chant his name left him beaming. Having three longtime rivals quietly pay tribute meant even more.

"It was really special," Bryant told The Associated Press yesterday [Macau time] after scoring 10 points in his last All-Star appearance, a 196-173 win for the West over the East. "Those are the things you don't get a chance to hear when

you're competing against each other. To hear those stories now, you have such a deep sense of appreciation and such a brotherhood from all the years of competing against each other. It just felt good."

They gave him some silly gifts. They presented him with a giant bottle of wine, a 1996 vintage in a nod to his rookie season. And they told Bryant what he meant to their lives.

The dinner was secret, super-exclusive, invitation-only. It's something the trio started doing last season at All-Star weekend, calling the gathering the Gentleman's Supper Club. This year, the group wanted Bryant to be tied into it somehow.

So after All-Star Saturday festivities ended, the group headed out to the party that mattered most to them. Dinner was a fish dish, and it wasn't served until after 2 a.m. The wine and spirits were flowing long before that, and for a little while afterward as well. By the time everything had wound down, sunrise wasn't far away.

But to those who were there, it was most memorable.

"Respect," Wade said. "That's what it was. It was about respect, ours for him and the respect he's given us. I just wanted to tell him that his respect meant a lot,

means a lot, to my career. I went down a list of moments, gave people insight on Kobe and the way he thinks. It was just appreciation, man. His drive, his competitiveness, it helped me early in my career because I wanted to be on his level."

Bryant hasn't always had the tightest relationships with NBA peers. He's never been the sort that needs tons of friends, and his competitive juices sometimes kept him from allowing himself to get close with too many people. But now that his career is winding down, many close to Bryant are seeing some changes.

He has thoroughly enjoyed the tributes he's received in every city the Lakers have visited since his retirement announcement. He made his peace long ago with Los Angeles not being in position right now to compete for the postseason.

"This is amazing," Bryant said at the restaurant, glass in hand. "I'm not the most social person, so to get this from you guys means absolutely everything to me."

Wade gave him a customized robe and some other clothes bearing his logo — along with a one-year subscription to Netflix, because Bryant is about to have a lot of time on his hands. Paul gave him a bunch of presents that he said would

properly prepare Bryant for retirement, such as dental adhesive, reading glasses, compression socks and a cane. Anthony offered a magnum of Gaja Barbaresco, Italian wine for the player who grew up in Italy and says much like vino itself he got better with age.

But there was also a serious tone, as Bryant nodded during his speech toward his wife, Vanessa.

"The thing that I'll miss is matching up with you guys," Bryant told Wade, Anthony and Paul. "Vanessa will tell you: I'll be in the bed for hours — hours, man — not sleeping, watching film on you guys because you are driving me [expletive] crazy."

He can start sleeping soon, if he isn't already.

The last All-Star Game is in the books. The NBA journey is almost over. He may have participated in his last practice on Saturday. The legendary ride has 27 games left, at the most. And before he left Toronto for a quick family vacation before the season resumes later this week, Bryant took one final moment to reflect.

"It has hit me," Bryant said. "I feel very thankful. I feel very thankful. It's not an exciting thing. It's not a sad thing. It's just, I feel very thankful to be able to have had the career I've had." AP

## OLYMPICS

## Leading Russian anti-doping official dies suddenly

**T**HE former executive director of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency has died, two months after leaving his post amid Russia's doping scandal.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press yesterday, RUSADA spokeswoman Nataliya Koshel confirmed Nikita Kamaev died on Sunday. He was 52.

Former RUSADA general director Ramil Khabriev told the Tass news agency he believed Kamaev had a "massive heart attack" at home after feeling pain in his chest.

"I've been told that he was out cross-country skiing, came home, and felt pain in the area of the heart," Khabriev said. "I'd never heard him complain of anything to do with his heart. Perhaps his wife knew about some sort of problem."

Kamaev and Khabriev quit in December as the Russian Sports Ministry pushed for the agency to carry out reforms under new leadership. That was a month after RUSADA was stopped from conducting drug tests when the World Anti-Doping Agency declared it non-compliant with anti-doping rules.

A WADA commission accused RUSADA of covering up cases of doping by leading Russian athletes, giving them advance knowledge of supposedly surprise tests and allowing banned athletes to continue competing.

Kamaev was the day-to-day head of RUSADA operations from 2011 until his resignation in December. The day after the WADA commission's report emerged accusing RUSADA of covering up doping, he made a vehement defense of the organization, saying it had been fighting drug use effectively, and claiming that the commission produced a biased report based on unreliable testimony from athletes who had been caught doping.

"Some of the issues have a particular acuteness and are, if you like, politicized," he said at the time. Accusations that agents from Russia's FSB security service infiltrated the doping lab for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi were the product of an "inflamed imagination," he added.

Kamaev's death came less than two weeks after another former RUSADA figure, founding chairman Vyacheslav Sinev, who left the agency in 2010, died on Feb. 3, according to RUSADA, which didn't elaborate. AP

AP PHOTO



Nikita Kamaev

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

Wednesday, 3:45am  
PSG v Chelsea  
H 1.73, D 3.92, A 6.25

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# Chelsea in fine form ahead of match at PSG

**A**FTER months of poor results that prompted Chelsea to sack Jose Mourinho, the crisis seems to be over at Stamford Bridge. It's ended at the right time as the Champions League restarts this week, with the Blues traveling to face Paris Saint-Germain after their biggest league win this season, a 5-1 drubbing of Newcastle.

PSG and Chelsea, who meet today [Wednesday, 3:45am] as the first-leg matches of the Round of 16 get underway, have been drawn together in the knockout rounds for the third successive year. Their recent matches have been tense and close, with Chelsea prevailing in 2014, but losing last year on away goals.

PSG is in great form, although the three-time defending French champion's run of 16 consecutive wins in all competitions was halted by Lille over the weekend in a goalless draw.

Despite the state of emergency in France following the November attacks that left 130 people dead in the capital, about 1,400 Chelsea fans are expected at the Parc des Princes. Their arrival will be one year after a commuter was racially abused and blocked by a group of supporters from the London club from boarding a metro train.

Benfica hosts Zenit Saint Petersburg in today's other match. Real Madrid travels to Roma tomorrow for Zinedine Zidane's first Champions League match as a coach and Gent hosts Wolfsburg.

## DZEKO'S DROUGHT ENDS

Roma forward Edin Dzeko ended an 81-day scoring drought with a goal in a 3-1 win at Carpi in Serie A on Friday.

Roma appeared to be heading for a draw before Dzeko slotted in Mohamed Salah's cross six minutes from time for his first goal since November.

It's been an emotional few days for Dzeko, who recently celebrated the birth of his daughter, Una.

"It's important to always believe," Dzeko wrote in Italian on Instagram.

Dzeko joined Roma in August on loan from Manchester City and has scored six goals in 26 appearances in all competitions.

Roma has won four straight under new coach Luciano Spalletti, who replaced the fired Rudi Garcia last month.

Against Madrid, the Giallorossi will be hoping to avoid another European embarrassment after getting routed 6-1 by Barcelona in November and falling 7-1 to Bayern Munich last season.

## CHELSEA GETS CONFIDENCE BACK

Winning the Champions League appears to be the only way Chelsea can return to Europe's elite competition next season, with the team in the bottom half of the Premier League in a dismal defense of its title.



Chelsea's Diego Costa (right) tries to score an overhead kick past Newcastle United's Steven Taylor

Chelsea's form has improved, though, since the firing of Jose Mourinho, and the team is unbeaten in all competitions under interim coach Guus Hiddink.

"We mustn't get too carried away, it is one result. But at the same time, we have been waiting for this," England defender Gary Cahill said after the 5-1 win over Newcastle.

Cahill made his first league start this year as a replacement for center-back Kurt Zouma, the main injury absentee for the 2012 Champions League

winners. Skipper John Terry is also unlikely to play after suffering a hamstring injury against Newcastle.

Despite Terry's setback, the mood at the Premier League club is buoyant.

"Now we have more confidence to go there and to play. Paris have a great team, great players, but we go there to try to win the game," Brazilian winger Willian said.

## BRINGING BACK MEMORIES

Zinedine Zidane will be

making his Champions League debut as head coach when Real Madrid plays at Roma.

"It brings back a lot of memories," Zidane said after Athletic Bilbao at the Santiago Bernabeu in the Spanish league on Saturday. "I won it with this club as a player and as the assistant manager. It has something special. When you are a footballer, you dream of winning the World Cup every four years, and of winning the Champions League every year. We are going to fight to do it."

Real Madrid starts the round of 16 unbeaten and with one of the Champions League's best attacks — along with Bayern Munich — with 19 goals scored. The team's only setback in the group stage was a 0-0 draw at Paris Saint-Germain.

It is yet to lose a game under coach Zidane, who replaced Rafa Benitez last month.

## REBOUNDED BENFICA

Benfica will be looking to rebound from a disappointing home loss in a high-profile game against rival FC Porto, a result that cost the team the lead in the Portuguese league.

"Nobody likes to lose, it's normal to have a letdown," Benfica coach Rui Vitoria said. "But we have an important game right away [today] and it should be enough to get us motivated again."

Benfica had won eight consecutive games before facing Porto on Friday. It hadn't lost since December.

The club is used to facing Zenit's Portuguese manager Andres Villas-Boas, who previously coached Porto and Academica de Coimbra. Villas-Boas faced Benfica seven times in his career, winning four games and losing three. **AP / Oddschecker.com**

# Displaced by IS, Iraqi soccer star now off to the Olympics

**I**SLAMIC State militants drove Ayman Hussein from his home. Eighteen months later, he sent Iraq's soccer team to the Olympics.

Hussein scored the game-winning goal against Qatar last month in a qualifying match, uniting Iraqis in a rare moment of triumph and becoming a national celebrity. But his journey to Brazil has been marked by the same violence and displacement that have shattered the lives of so many of his fans.

Hussein and his family fled their home in a village outside the northern city of Kirkuk as IS swept across northern and western Iraq in the summer of 2014. His brother, who was



Soccer player Ayman Hussein, left, trains with his team in Baghdad

working for the local police, was abducted by the extremists and has not been heard from since.

"No one really knows the story of exactly what happened to him," Hussein said, adding that he still holds out hope that his brother is alive. He's told that his family's home was demolished, and his mother and siblings have

found refuge with extended family in Kirkuk while Hussein lives with his team in Baghdad. His father was killed in a 2008 attack in Baghdad claimed by al-Qaida in Iraq, a predecessor of IS.

"This is not my family's first story of terrorism," he said. "It probably won't be our last."

The shy 23-year-old

is still coming to terms with his newfound fame. During a recent practice with his local club on a patch of yellowing grass at a Baghdad sporting complex, he paused to let a fan take a selfie with him as his teammates gently teased him.

"I never thought that one goal would cause this much happiness," Hussein said.

Like most Iraqis, Hussein grew up playing soccer but never thought he would make a career out of it. That changed when the coach of his local team saw him playing in a park, and later asked him to sub for an injured player. Eager to help support his family after his father's death, he jumped

at the opportunity.

Hussein continued to play during his family's most recent upheaval. "If I leave football, nothing would change. I wouldn't get any of those things back," he said. "I still thank God for my situation. I have walls around me... Many of the displaced Iraqis are living in tents."

The soccer team's victory over better-funded Qatar has become a rare point of pride across the country. Team jerseys are among the hottest-selling items in Baghdad's main sportswear market, and the players returned to a hero's welcome last month, when they were received by the prime minister, Haider al-Abadi.

They were also received by Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, head of the Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella group of mostly Shiite militias fighting IS alongside Iraq's regular security forces.

Hussein, a Sunni Muslim, said al-Muhandis compared the players to his fighters. "He said that we don't give blood, but we give inspiration."

Hussein shrugs when he recounts the story. "I guess it's unique to meet these people, that it's a nice feeling," he said.

He's more excited about this summer's trip to Brazil.

"I've never even left Iraq except for trips with the football team," he said. "I only know about Brazil from YouTube and TV. They say that it's famous for beaches and women," he added with a shy laugh. **AP**

opinion

**Our Desk**  
 Renato Marques



**AN IMAGE (SHOULD BE) WORTH MORE THAN 1,000 WORDS**

The expression is not new; in fact, you probably don't have a clear idea about how old it is. According to some sources the idea expressed by the phrase "Use a picture. It is worth a thousand words" appeared in the early 20th Century in a newspaper article from the editor Tess Flanders.

Flanders' purpose was apparently to discuss matters of interest to journalism and publicity, and even without any "social networks" as we see them today (of the internet kind) the expression went "viral" suffering a number of transformations according to its new "editor" but without losing its character; its essence.

And why is that? Why is an expression over 100 years old still so incredibly "up-to-date"? Apparently we could not yet find a more effective way to deliver a message than by using an image.

In fact, the "image" itself (the word) is so important that we gave it a wide range of meanings, including being a representation of ourselves, our character or our reputation – our own image.

But an "image" is far more than a representation of the external form of a person. In fact, it does not need to be a person; it can be a group, a company, a country, a society, or even a stone or any other object.

Can you conceive society without images? It is difficult, I guess...

Have you ever tried to use the Internet-based social networks without images? What was the result?

In a fast pace society, like the ones we all have, people hardly read more than a warning sign. On social media we are taught our paragraphs should be short and present only one idea so people that read it do not get lost, confused or distracted.

In Macau, most information is written in Chinese that I (most of the time) cannot decode. Sometimes we find information written in English and Portuguese, still an official language. And some other times we even find information, signs, leaflets and other material written in other languages.

For some, a society is considered more global as more languages can be found being spoken, written and read. For me, the most global of all societies is the one that exempts translations. Images can replace the written word in this society – not because they are more expressive, but because the latter is no longer necessary.

Several sources point-out that the term "visual literacy" appeared in the early 21st century.

Apparently we took about 100 years to give a name to that idea of Tess Flanders, how many years more will we need to really understand it?

What I do know is that "image" is important and maybe, if we are required to "read" those, maybe, just maybe, we do not need to write another 1,000 words to explain what is already "written" there.

Saying this, I assume that we all know that we should care about our "image" and images, and by care I mean to protect, to expose, to nurture, to cultivate and even to flaunt them.

In the information age, some people have already learned this lesson. Contrarily a few others have chosen not to follow the advice and are apparently trying to "swim against the tide." But what impresses me the most is the attitude of the majority that are still drifting; waiting for the "latest trend" to come.

Today I wrote about "image" but I guess the same applies to many other things in our society.

**THE DOLLAR BOUNCES BACK AGAINST EURO, AS CHINA QUIETS TURMOIL**

The dollar rose against the euro and yen after China boosted the yuan following a week-long holiday, helping ease global financial turmoil that had spurred investors to bet the Federal Reserve will delay raising U.S. interest rates.

The greenback advanced for a second day versus the currencies often perceived as haven assets after a report Friday showed U.S. retail sales increased more in January than forecasts. Large hedge funds and speculators cut their bets on the dollar's gains last week by the most

since June. The Australian and New Zealand dollars surged as stock gains boosted risk sentiment, even after figures showed a slump in exports and imports for China.

"For the short term, I wouldn't fight this trend," said Adam Cole, head of global foreign-exchange strategy at Royal Bank of Canada in London. "Longer term we still have major concerns over China but for the moment it backstops risk sentiment and that's negative for the yen and euro."



AP PHOTO



PRELUDE TO THE OSCARS

**'The Revenant' and DiCaprio are winners at BAFTA film awards**

Jill Lawless, London

**T**HE U.K. film industry showered Valentine's Day love on "The Revenant" on the weekend, awarding the endurance epic five prizes, including best picture and best actor, at the British Academy Film Awards.

Leonardo DiCaprio cemented his Oscar-favorite status by taking the best-actor trophy for playing a bear-battling fur trapper in a brutally wild American West. Alejandro G. Inarritu was named best director for what he called a "human and tender story," and "The Revenant" also won prizes for cinematography and sound.

DiCaprio, who has been nominated three times before at the British awards without winning, said in his acceptance speech that he was "absolutely humbled" to beat "The Martian" star Matt Damon, "Trumbo's" Bryan Cranston, Michael Fassbender for "Steve Jobs," and Eddie Redmayne for "The Danish Girl."

He cited the influence on his work of British actors including Tom Courtney, Peter O'Toole, Daniel Day Lewis and his "Revenant" co-star Tom Hardy, and sent thanks and greetings to his mother, whose birthday fell on Sunday.

The British awards, known as BAFTAs, are considered a portent of success at Hollywood's Feb. 28 Aca-

demy Awards. "The Revenant" has earned DiCaprio his sixth Oscar nomination – and, many believe, his best shot at finally winning.

DiCaprio said it was out of his hands, but expressed pride in what he called "not just a film, but an epic journey we all went on."

"We put our heart and soul into this movie ... It's up to the world now and voters to decide," he said at a post-ceremony news conference.

The best-actress trophy went to Brie Larson as a mother trying to shield her son from a terrible reality in "Room." She won out over Alicia Vikander for "The Danish Girl," Cate Blanchett for "Carol," Maggie Smith for "The Lady in the Van" and Saoirse Ronan for "Brooklyn."

Supporting performer prizes went to Mark Rylance, a soft-spoken Soviet agent in "Bridge of Spies," and Kate Winslet, an Apple executive in "Steve Jobs."

Winslet dedicated the prize to "all those young women who doubt themselves," recalling that she once had been told to go for "the fat-girl parts."

"Look at me now!" Winslet said.

"The Revenant" beat several hotly tipped awards contenders, including Steven Spielberg's Cold War thriller "Bridge of Spies" and Todd Haynes' lesbian romance "Carol." Each had nine BA-

FTA nominations, but "Bridge of Spies" won only for Rylance's performance, while "Carol" was shut out.

Irish emigrant saga "Brooklyn" was named best British film, a distinct category, while the documentary prize went to "Amy," a powerful portrait of the rise and fall of singer Amy Winehouse.

George Miller's dystopian thrill ride "Mad Max: Fury Road" took four prizes: editing, production design, costume design, and hair and makeup.

The movie awards season has been dominated by debate about why the film industry remains dominated by white men. All the acting nominees for the Oscars both this year and last have been white.

The BAFTAs are slightly more diverse, with two black actors nominated – Boyega and Idris Elba, a supporting-actor contender for "Beasts of No Nation." Pioneering black American actor Sidney Poitier – the first black best-actor Oscar winner, in 1963 – received a lifetime achievement award, the BAFTA fellowship.

A group called Creatives of Colour Network organized a protest beside the red carpet against a lack of racial diversity in show business. Demonstrators rallied under the hashtag #baftablackout, and distributed leaflets declaring the awards "male, pale and stale." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



AP PHOTO

**JAPAN** Economy contracted at a worse than expected 1.4 percent annual pace last quarter as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's lavish stimulus policies failed to counter anemic consumer demand and sluggish exports.

**USA** Justice Antonin Scalia's death deprives conservatives of a key vote that could change the outcome in some key Supreme Court cases, including one in which labor unions appeared headed for a big defeat. The 2016 presidential campaign just got real. More on p15



AP PHOTO

**MEXICO** Pope Francis condemns the drug trade's "dealers of death" and urges Mexicans to shun the devil's lust for money as he leads a huge open-air Mass for more than 300,000 people in Ecatepec, a violence-riddled city. Today Francis is celebrating Mexican Indians with a visit to heavily indigenous Chiapas state.

**UK-EU** British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond says there will be "very big issues" still on the table at a European Union summit this week as leaders try to thrash out a deal to keep Britain in the 28-nation bloc. Hammond said that "there are lots of things still being discussed" about reforms the EU might undertake to satisfy the government in London.

**SYRIA** Turkey shells positions held by a U.S.-backed Kurdish militia in northern Syria for a second day, drawing condemnation from the Syrian government, whose forces are advancing against insurgents in the same area under the cover of Russian airstrikes.



AP PHOTO

**AFGHANISTAN** Young Afghans are increasingly finding love on social media, which allows them to circumvent the strict segregation of the sexes in their deeply conservative society.