



CNY ENTRIES INCREASE BY 4.7PCT

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JETSTAR SUSPENDS MACAU-DA NANG ROUTE
Jetstar Pacific Airlines is suspending flights between Macau and Da Nang between February 22 and March 26

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TSANG URGES ACTIVISTS TO 'RETREAT FROM CLIFF'
The perpetrators of violent clashes in Hong Kong last week shattered the region's values in one night, its financial secretary said

P11

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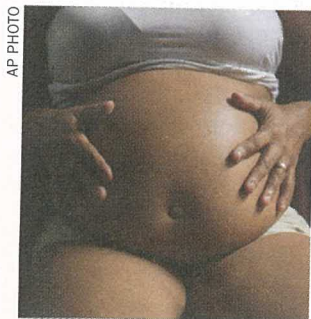
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WORLD BRIEFS

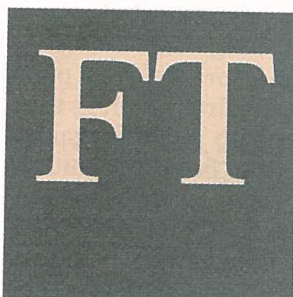
CHINA A nationalist newspaper says American politicians are resorting to petty actions following a unanimous bill approval by the Senate to rename the plaza in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington after an imprisoned Chinese political dissident. *More on p11*



BRAZIL The Zika outbreak and its suspected link to microcephaly set off calls for Brazil to loosen its near-ban on abortion, and that has brought a backlash, particularly among families with disabled children, who are taking to social media to say all babies have a right to be born.

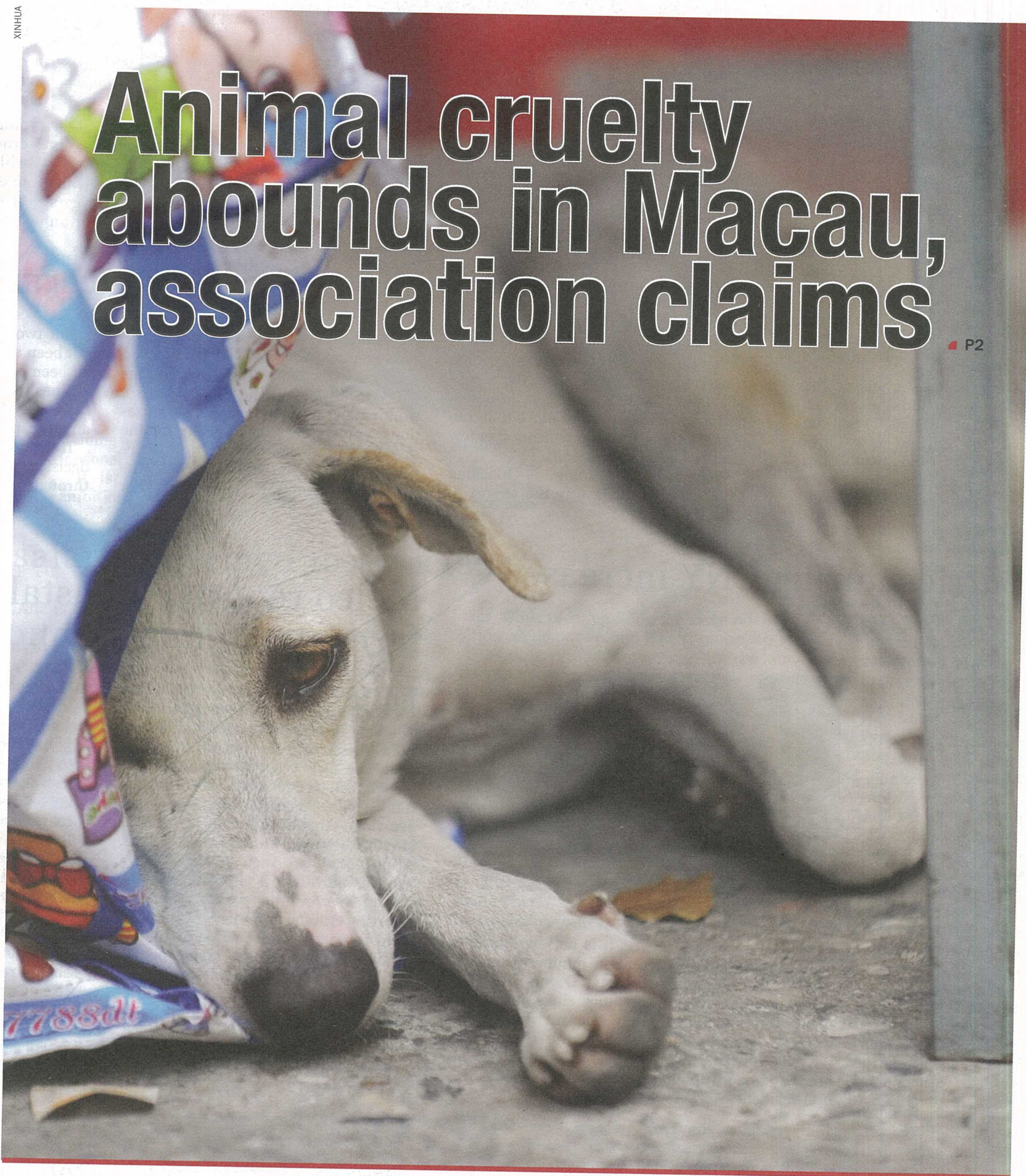
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FINANCIAL TIMES

Banking turmoil: a rout for rationality **F1**



Animal cruelty abounds in Macau, association claims

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'Academy of Medicine' does not gather full consensus

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Cat poisoning cases are frequent, association claims

Renato Marques

A group of cats found dead at the 'Montanha Russa' Garden in Macau stirred up outrage on social media after pictures were published online. The cats were reportedly poisoned: something that, according to the President of the Society for the Protection of Animals, Macau (Anima), Albano Martins, "is quite frequent" in Macau.

"Areas like Flora Garden and Guia Hill are on the top of the list of the locations where this happens frequently," he told the Times.

Martins rejected the idea that the cats might have been poisoned by the rat poison that the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) uses, since that poison is not strong enough to kill a cat. "So, it must be that someone deliberately did it."

Anima's head blames "the lack of a real and updated law to protect animals," recalling that the current law dates from 1975 and establishes only a small fine as penalty for people caught killing ani-

mals, ranging from MOP20 to MOP200.

Martins commented that other cases of animal abuse have arisen recently, including one where "a dog was beaten almost to death and then thrown out of a car."

The organization suspects that "the animal was to be eaten by a group of five men from mainland China who were also responsible for beating it up. They just did not manage to do it because someone saw and alerted us to it."

"It is becoming an increasingly common practice in Macau due to the increase in the number of people who come from China and are used to



these habits, and because there is no law to protect the animals from this," Martins said, recognizing that "it is not easy to create a law in a short pe-

riod of time that really covers all the situations."

Mr Martins recalls that "Anima, more than three years ago, issued a proposal for an

administrative regulation to at least regulate the cases of cruelty while a complete law has not yet been drafted."

In his opinion, "there is no reason to not do this, since it is very simple and needs only the approval of the Chief Executive."

"We drafted that regulation. We categorized all the aspects of cruelty and took into consideration the law from another country, namely Singapore. We did all the work; we even had it done in Chinese, Portuguese and English and delivered all that to the government, but there were no developments [that might lead to the creation of] the law in the short term, which we do not believe will happen, at least not this year for sure," he said.

"But we will not give up and we will strive at least for cruelty to be penalized. We will once more send a newly updated version to the secretary within the coming week," Martins concluded.

Canidrome closure tops Anima's concerns

THE closure of the Canidrome is still on the top of the agenda for Anima, Albano Martins says. To back the proposal, Anima has the support of "an international collaboration of more than ten organizations, together with another few hundred in China," he said.

"What we are doing is blocking from every possible way the export of

greyhounds to Macau from every possible source. We have already blocked Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. Our only concern now is the UK, but we are working on that with the local organizations, namely the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), that will help us in our goal," the Anima president said. He added, "For

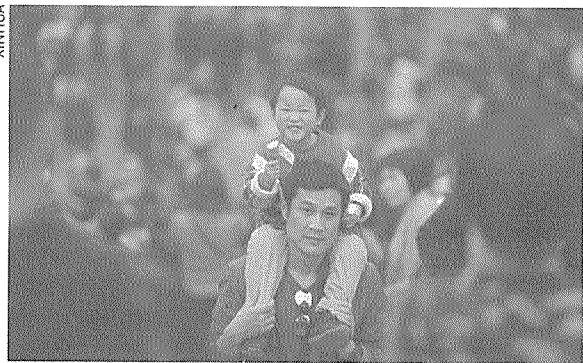
about two months, the Canidrome has not been able to import any dogs! It has all been blocked, including through the airlines like Qantas, Cathay Pacific and Malaysian Airlines, which will not allow any transport of this kind."

"If the government does not make this decision, we make it on our own and through our own means," he concluded.

Entries during CNY increase by 4.7 percent

ACCORDING to the data from the border crossing points made available by the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the number of people entering the territory between February 7 and 12 was not far from reaching the one million mark (908,247).

In comparison to the same period last year, the figures show an increase of 4.7 percent. Wednesday (February 10) and Friday (February 12) registered the largest movements of people across the borders, with a record number of 182,878



entries on Wednesday.

These figures, in contrast to those from the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), do not include only tourists, but are also made up of non-resident workers

and students. However, it is not expected that the numbers from the MGTO will differ by much since during the relevant period many of the region's companies and all schools were on holiday break.

GAMING

Melco reportedly installing face recognition technology

MELCO Crown has reportedly installed special face recognition technology to prevent banned individuals from re-entering its casinos. German biometric firm Cognitec developed the system, calling it FaceVACS-VideoScan. It is capable of detecting people's faces in live video streams and comparing their faces with images stored in a database. Security staff are then alerted when a banned individual is detected, thereby potentially preventing casino losses and deterring criminal activities.

According to a statement on Cognitec's website, Stephen Meltz, Managing Director Asia Pacific, said: "Melco Crown's security team welcomed Cognitec's technical specialists to work determinedly toward the completion of these projects." "We are proud to deliver the first system of its kind in the casino market [in Macau]," he added.

The implementation of the new systems comes at a time when Macau's gaming-related crime is on the rise. A total of 1,553 related crimes were committed in 2015, representing a more than one-third increase over the previous year. According to local police reports, most of these occurred inside casinos.

FaceVACS-VideoScan will be used to prevent the entry of undesirables – such as criminals. Gaming addicts that volunteer their identity for so-called "auto excluded" lists may also be detected and prevented from entering the premises.

The South China Morning Post published a report on Saturday stating that Melco Crown "steps up security against banned customers with facial recognition technology." The Times contacted Melco Crown yesterday, but the report could not be verified by the gaming operator's representatives by press time.

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