

Air transfer
China Eastern sells part of its
freight business to diversity



**Cargo craft
docks with
space lab**

Fired up
Workers by artisans from the 'porcelain
capital' on display in Beijing



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President Xi Jinping meets with foreign ministers from Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa, the other BRICS countries, in Beijing.

Xi encourages BRICS countries

'Let your voices be heard', president tells ministers from emerging nations

By WU YANLIANG
and LI YUENAN in Beijing

The BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) met in an international order to develop more global cooperation, President Xi Jinping said in a speech at the BRICS summit in Beijing on Monday. Xi also said he will continue to work with the BRICS countries to promote global development and cooperation.

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“The BRICS cooperation mechanism has existed 10 years, and I don't think the color of the BRICS has faded.”

President Xi Jinping, meeting with the foreign ministers of the BRICS countries...

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China markets its FC-31 fighter jet at Paris air show

By JAMES O'NEILL
and JAMES O'NEILL in Paris

China's military aviation industry showcased its latest development, the FC-31 fighter jet, at the Paris Air Show on Monday. The jet is a stealth fighter aircraft designed by the Chengdu Aircraft Design and Research Institute (CARDC) in Chengdu, China. It is a single-engine, multirole fighter aircraft with a delta-wing configuration and canards. The FC-31 is designed to be a cost-effective, multirole fighter aircraft that can be produced in large numbers. It is expected to be in production by 2020.

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A model of the FC-31 stealth fighter jet.

Alibaba woos US small businesses

By JAMES O'NEILL
in New York

Alibaba Group, the Chinese e-commerce giant, is looking to expand its presence in the United States. The company is targeting small businesses and entrepreneurs. Alibaba is offering various services and solutions to help small businesses grow and succeed. The company is also offering financial services and insurance products to small businesses. Alibaba is committed to supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs in the United States.

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DPRK key in China-US dialogue

By JAMES O'NEILL
in Beijing

The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will be the top issue in the next round of talks between the United States and China, according to a senior US diplomat. The diplomat said that the United States and China are committed to achieving a peaceful resolution of the Korean Peninsula issue. The United States and China are working closely to address the Korean Peninsula issue and to achieve a peaceful resolution.

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ZONE GIVES RISE TO SCIENCE, GROWTH

A small county in East China shows that size has no bearing on economic growth, as Allyn Chew and Shi Xiaofeng report from Zhejiang province.

Five years on, scientific growth in a small county in East China shows that size has no bearing on economic growth. The county has achieved significant economic growth and development in a short period of time. The county is a model for other small counties in China.

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Dutch Delights

By Lin Qi | 2017-06-20



The ongoing exhibition, Rembrandt and His Time, at the National Museum of China in Beijing features 74 paintings, including 11 by Rembrandt and one by Johannes Vermeer. Photos By Jiang Dong / China Daily And Provided To China Daily.

Works from the Leiden Collection made their China debut on Friday. The 74 old master paintings are on show at the National Museum of China in Beijing through September. Lin Qi reports.

Thomas Kaplan says he has never "lived" with any of the 250 paintings from his collection. The 54-year-old entrepreneur and investor from the United States, along with his wife, Daphne, have since 2003 put together one of the largest collections of 17th-century Dutch paintings in private hands.

They call it the Leiden Collection, after the city where many featured master painters were based, including Rembrandt van Rijn. Kaplan says he has never seen his entire collection together. So, when he viewed an exhibition showcasing 30 of his paintings at the Louvre in February, he was "shocked".

"People said you must be very proud (of the collection). I said pride has nothing to do with it. I didn't paint them."

Also shocked were visitors, although they had seen many of the paintings at museums before. The Kaplans have "enjoyed" anonymity for the past 13 years while lending their paintings to 40 museums.

"In addition to being one of the most aggressive buyers of old masters, we've also been a lending library in Dutch art," says Kaplan.

"The concept of sharing the collection has been part of our philosophy from the first day."

The collection made its China debut on Friday. It features 74 paintings at the National Museum of China in Beijing through September, celebrating the most acclaimed period of the Dutch Golden Age. It will later move to the Long Museum in Shanghai.

The exhibition titled Rembrandt and His Time includes 11 works by Rembrandt and one by Johannes Vermeer.

"Vermeer and Rembrandt are considered to be the two greatest geniuses of this period (the Dutch Golden Age)," says John Stainton, deputy chairman of Christie's old master paintings department, who was at the Beijing opening.

Kaplan purchased works largely through dealers and also at auctions by Christie's and Sotheby's. Between 2003 and 2008, he bought on average one painting every week.

"Our desire is to build a collection of the best of its kind."

Speaking about the Kaplans' quest, Stainton says: "There are a good number of Dutch 17th-century paintings in private hands. The very best of them are relatively few. But there are still very fine works that come to the market."

He says the exhibition is important to helping people understand what was going on at the time in the Dutch Republic (1581-1795), which is now the Netherlands.



From left: Self Portrait with Shaded Eyes, by Rembrandt van Rijn; Card Players, by Jan Lievens; Young Woman Seated at a Virginal, by Johannes Vermeer.

"It was a new republic, so the people felt very free for the first time. Commercially, there was a burgeoning wealthy middle class. And artistically, one saw an explosion of creative talent, with this middle class commissioning and buying artists' works," Stainton says.

"It fostered an environment in which artists could really flourish. That is why it was a high point of European old master painting when there was so much creative talent in a relatively short period."

The exhibition also features Jan Lievens' *Boy in a Cape and Turban*, the collection's first loan. It was displayed at Los Angeles' J. Paul Getty Museum in 2004 and '05.

Kaplan says he saw in the audience a young girl visiting with her class.

"She was so mesmerized by the painting that she was standing there (in front of the painting) alone while the rest of her class walked on. From that moment on, I realized that it's all about sharing our paintings," he says.

"People ask me, 'How could you not live with the paintings?' The short answer is, 'How could we live with them?' They are meant to be seen."

Kaplan says loaning his collection helps to bridge cultures just like Rembrandt did. He says that for many people, art is a pass to different kinds of social acceptance and power, but that is not important to them.

"We believe Rembrandt, almost uniquely, lends himself to being able to build bridges between cultures. We don't view him as being an instrument of cultural imperialism," he says.

"And one being able to see Rembrandt is a means of showing what unites us, much more than what divides us."

The collection launched an online catalog in January for people who are interested in information on the 175 works and articles written by museum curators.

"People tell me what a useful tool it is, and it is the reason why very early on we decided we didn't want to do a book. We wanted to be democratically available for students, curators, collectors, auction houses, dealers and historians," says Kaplan.

"With the privilege of being able to own it comes the responsibility of magnifying it for the benefit of the public."

He says he believes that China will become a major factor in the enduring appreciation of Europe's old masters (painters before about 1800).

"In so many areas of today's world, I see China as being the future. I'm not alone in saying that. It's a cliché," he says.

"But some of the areas in which I predict China is the future are not necessarily unanimously viewed to be the case. One of them, as I believe, is that China is clearly making a huge impact on the art world."

Stainton from Christie's says that they've seen an enormous growth in buying interest in old masters from Asia, especially China, in the last five years.

He says half of the six bidders were Asian when it auctioned in London a painting by Peter Rubens that had been previously exhibited in Hong Kong last summer.

"That would not have happened 10 years earlier and maybe even five years ago."