



### ANDREW SCOTT: 'MARKETING AND COMPETITION IS HEATING UP'

With the gaming downturn and more supply, marketing and competition is heating up, which might benefit the media industry

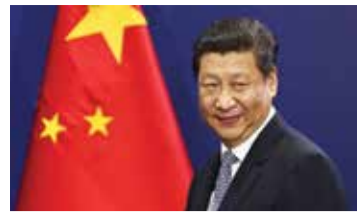
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### ONLINE GAMING HACKING THREATS GROWING

As online gaming attracts countless gamblers worldwide, businesses operating these services have also been subject to further hacking threats

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** A Beijing court yesterday sentenced two young men to up to five months in jail for dangerous driving after they crashed a Lamborghini and a Ferrari in a late-night race through Beijing. The Chaoyang District Court found Tang Wentian, 21, and Yu Muchun, 20, guilty of dangerously operating motor vehicles, a court statement said. Neither would appeal the verdicts, which sentenced Tang to five months in jail and Yu to four, the court said.

**CHINA** At least 15 people have been killed and thousands more forced from their homes by flooding in southern and central China and more rain has been forecast for coming days, officials said yesterday. Authorities said that Jiangxi province has been hardest hit, with eight people killed and 65,000 displaced. Just to the south, the Guangxi region suffered five deaths with six other people listed as missing.

**INDONESIAN** authorities blew up and sank 41 foreign fishing vessels Wednesday as a warning against poaching in the country's waters. The boats, seized from Chinese, Malaysian, Philippine, Thai and Vietnamese fishermen, were blown up on National Awakening Day, which commemorates the first political movement toward Indonesia's independence.

**JAPAN** Vying to keep pace with China's rising influence and economic clout, Japan plans to provide USD110 billion to help develop roads, ports and other infrastructure in Asia in the next five years, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday. Abe announced the commitment, which is on a par with the \$100 billion China has set for its newly created Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, at a conference in Tokyo.

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WIKIPEDIA

## FORUM MACAU

# Equatorial Guinea wants to join, China blesses

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## CRIME

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weekend Guide  
INSIDE

Catarina Pinto

**T**HE World Gaming Group, which publishes World Gaming Magazine (WGM), has recently acquired Must Read Publications, the publisher of Inside Asian Gaming magazine. In an interview with The Times, Andrew Scott, CEO of World Gaming Group, shared his insights on Macau's gaming industry and made assurances that IAG will remain as it is.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – World Gaming Group has acquired Inside Asian Gaming. What does this mean for the group and IAG?**

**Andrew Scott (AS)** – The publication will absolutely remain as it is. It's a very successful publication. Kareem Jalal, who will remain as IAG's editor, has done an excellent job. He founded it in 2005 and over the last ten years it has grown to be the must-read industry, B2B publication. Everybody has heard of Inside Asian Gaming, and he's done a great job with it. So we will leave it essentially as it is. What we might do is add to it, using the wider resources of our merged company to allow Inside Asian Gaming to do things that they otherwise wouldn't have been able to do.

**MDT – There's a growing number of publications in Macau, but these are usually small operations. What are the main challenges they're facing?**

**AS** – Well, making a profit from advertising is very difficult in Macau, because up until now the major customers, the integrated resorts and their associated businesses, haven't had any problem getting business. So sure they would advertise here but they didn't feel that there was a pressing need for them to do so.

Now with the downturn in the market and the issues of more supply coming on board, marketing and competition is heating up in Macau. We at the WGM, we've always liked to be the ones that commented on the different gaming offerings. Our role has now been firmly established and I think it will



Q&A WITH ANDREW SCOTT, CEO OF WORLD GAMING GROUP

## 'Marketing and competition is heating up'

**■ ■**  
**We have some challenging times ahead in terms of infrastructure and labor**

become easier for us. And I think IAG is a must-advertise magazine if you're a serious supplier to the gaming industry.

**MDT – Macau's gaming industry is facing new challenges with gaming revenue declining. What's your perspective on the industry's future?**

**AS** – Well, short-term is very difficult to say, nobody really knows. In the longer-term I think Macau is still safe and Macau will still be the predominant gaming industry in Asia. People are very quick to predict wonderful times when things are going well, but they're also very quick to panic when times are a little harder. People tend to overreact.

**MDT – Are we overreacting?**

**AS** – Yes, I would say we are. I think in the long term things will be fine. But in the short and medium term, there will be some really challenging times ahead of us. We've got a lot of supply coming on the market – there are currently about eight new properties about to open – and that supply

was planned when times were booming.

We have some challenging times ahead in terms of infrastructure and labor; we don't have enough skilled labor. Macau is a difficult place to come to. You can come from Hong Kong – you've got the ferry ride – but that's not simple. Or you can come through the Gongbei Border Gate, but that border can be a pretty hellish place sometimes.

**MDT – What are your thoughts on the proposed visitor cap?**

**AS** – I think it's a great idea, because it will allow people to get through the Gongbei border gate much quicker. Anything that brings customers to Macau quicker, easier and more conveniently is a good thing.

**MDT – Some have suggested that it might not be such a great idea when gaming revenue is down.**

**AS** – Well, they've talked about the limit being 21 million mainland Chinese visitors. I actually think that we're not going to hit the limit that they propose. They've also said that the limit is just until the infrastructure can handle more. And that's probably not a bad thing. We don't want 25 or 30 million Chinese visitors coming here and having a horrible experience. We need to provide them with an excellent tourism experience. We need easier border crossing; good taxi services; and good flights. If we want to diversify our economy we need to make it an easy experience for people to visit Macau.

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general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

G2E ASIA

# Online gaming hacking threats growing

Catarina Pinto

As online gaming attracts countless gamblers across the world, businesses operating these services have also been subject to further hacking threats, namely distributed denial-of-service attacks (DDoS), said Tony Teo, Regional SE director for the Asia Pacific at Arbor Networks, a U.S. based software company that sells security systems.

Giving a presentation with the central theme of "Mitigating network security threats for superior online availability in the iGaming industry," at the Global Gaming Expo (G2E Asia), running from Tuesday until yesterday at the Venetian Macao, Mr Teo recalled that denial-of-service attacks have had a negative impact on the revenue and reputation of numerous online businesses.

DDoS attacks knock sites offline by bombarding them with data. According to Mr Teo, DDoS directly threatens one of the most crucial features of online gaming businesses: its availability.

"DDoS attacks are very simple: the hacker knows that when you



Tony Teo

offer online services the most crucial thing is availability (...) You need to make sure that your online offer is available 24/7, to ensure that your customers can access it at any time. So the hacker understands that this is the most crucial part of your business and they try to disrupt it. And the simplest way to do it is by carrying out the DDoS," he told The Times yesterday on the sidelines of his presentation.

He added that, "gamblers are

particularly impatient, as they want to access the site faster, and when the service is disrupted they will move on to the next company or game."

Mr Teo recalled that DDoS attacks not only interfere with businesses revenue but have also had an impact on companies' reputations. "Of course there are other repercussions, but I think the biggest one is loss of revenue, the loss of customer base and loss of reputation," he reiterated.

Arbor Networks carries out an annual report looking at the development of distributed denial-of-service attacks. According to Darren Anstee, a senior analyst at Arbor, as quoted by BBC News, the early days of DDoS saw cybercrime gangs extorting cash from websites that are run by betting gambling companies, which could not afford to be knocked offline. But now, he recalled, attacks are carried out by different groups and have grown substantially in size.

A report released earlier this year by Arbor Networks showed that about 40 percent of surveyed organizations said they

were being hit by more than 21 attacks per month.

"In 2014 we saw more volumetric attacks, with attackers trying to knock people offline by saturating their access to the internet," Mr Anstee told the BBC last January.

According to Mr Teo, DDoS attacks are targetting multiple businesses in different regions across the globe, not only in Asia: "It's a global problem, it's not really happening in a distant part of the world; it's happening everywhere. I stressed during my presentation that the Philippines, for instance, have to deal with a fair share of this problem."

Figures compiled by Arbor Networks suggest that although DDoS attacks are growing in size, businesses are also improving in their ability to spot and block potential threats.

Gathering about 9,000 attendees and accommodating a total of 180 exhibitors, the Global Gaming Expo (G2E Asia), organized by Reed Exhibitions and presented by the American Gaming Association, came to an end yesterday at the Venetian.

**DDOS ATTACKS  
PROMINENT DURING  
POLITICAL TURMOIL**

**DISTRIBUTED DENIAL-OF-SERVICE (DDoS)** attacks are not only carried out against online gaming businesses but are also used to disrupt online services during particular politically-sensitive events, such as the Hong Kong protests, said Tony Teo, Regional SE director for the Asia Pacific at Arbor Networks, a U.S. based software company that sells security systems. Mr Teo shared his insights on denial-of-service attacks yesterday, focusing on online gaming, at the Global Gaming Expo (G2E Asia). "DDoS does not affect only gaming. It can also affect politically [sensitive] regions. For example, when Hong Kong has a protest there's a DDoS going on. When Thailand sees a protest, there are also attacks being carried out," he recalled. Forbes reported last year that DDoS attacks had been carried out against independent news websites during Hong Kong's Occupy Central movement, affecting Apple Daily and PopVote, which set up mock chief executive elections for Hong Kong.

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# Gov't invites parental involvement for teenage anti-drug efforts

**P**ARENTAL involvement plays a crucial role in the government's anti-drug campaign directed at local youth, who nowadays have moved away from using outdoor venues to their own private homes when consuming drugs, said Hon Wai, the head of Department of Prevention and Treatment for Drug Dependence, at the launch ceremony of an event yesterday that sought to invite parental intervention in combating juvenile drug abuse citywide.

The results from research previously conducted, as Wai noted, suggested a tendency for drug abuse to occur in private venues such as homes. While drug education during early childhood is influential and significant, it is still overlooked by many people. "The most effective prevention is parents' concern and involvement, which are important," said the department head. "In the past when we conducted workshops for parents, many parents didn't



think that they were responsible. They didn't know what to do or when to start talking about [it to their kids]. Some parents only brought up the topic of drug abuse to their kids when they reached adolescence."

The authority advised local parents to start educating their children about drugs as early as during childhood, as it could avoid conflicts during

the usually rebellious stage of adolescence. Currently, around 90 percent of local elementary schools have begun to participate in a program launched by the department in 2000 that instills positive life messages to schoolchildren. Together with the education of parents on the matter, Hon believes the anti-drug efforts could be more productive and effective.

Furthermore, the mobile application, referred to as the "Anti-Drug Information Station" created by the Macau Welfare Bureau last year is now undergoing interface updates. The updated version will feature some accounts of real-life experiences from parents whose children had previously used drugs to excess. Hon believed that this could encourage pa-

rents experiencing the same issues to come forward to ask for help from the government. "Many parents feel helpless upon discovering some of the clues. They also don't know what to do. They could feel more reassured when they see these parents' stories and solutions," said Hon adding that a majority of them might also opt to shy away from the issue as it would be a family disgrace if it came to light.

The department bureau also revealed its intention to compile teaching materials for local parents, such as adapted bedtime stories and picture books based on well-known fairytales, to guide their children.

Regarding the program, starting either on May 22 or June 8, participants only need to register on the website ([healthylife.ias.gov.mo](http://healthylife.ias.gov.mo)) in order to claim a figurine of the organization's mascot, Harold. Last year, the first edition of the event saw its maximum number of 5000 participants met within two days. **Staff reporter**

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**CTM**

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# Extradition treaty between SARs to be signed this year

**T**HE upcoming extradition treaty between Macau and Hong Kong along with a mutual legal assistance agreement will be signed this year, the director of the Law Reform and International Law Bureau, Chu Lam Lam, declared in a written reply to lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang.

Once the treaty comes into effect, fugitives who take refuge in one of the SARs to avoid punishment in the other city will be returned. The mutual legal assistance scheme will allow for the collection and exchange of information on criminal matters.

Chu said that Hong Kong and Macau have reached a consensus and will complete negotiations this year with the signing of both agreements.

Meanwhile, the first round of negotiations on the mutual legal assistance and extradition agreements between Macau and main-



Hong Kong tycoon Joseph Lau Luen-hung was convicted in Macau

land China was conducted in Beijing in February. It is expected that a second round of negotiations will be launched in the first half of this year, with the aim of implementing the relevant works at this point.

In a written enquiry issued last

February, lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang requested from the government an update on negotiations between Macau and Hong Kong on the topic of the surrender of fugitives, as well as for the signing of a mutual legal assistance scheme with the mainland. **CP**

# Inflation in April declines year-on-year

**D**ATA from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed that the composite consumer price index (CPI) for the previous month has climbed 4.51 percent compared to the same period last year. Growth in rentals and in rising costs for eating out remained the major drivers of the increased CPI index.



Compared to the same month in 2014, a notable increase was observed mainly in terms of housing, fuels, health and food and non-alcoholic beverages; these were explained in a manner similar to the above reasons. However, consumption in recreation and culture, alcoholic beverages and tobacco was recorded as having fallen.

Yet in comparison to last month, the CPI index has dropped by 0.31 percent. The price index of clothing, footwear and transport, caused by the new arrival of summer clothing and footwear, higher rentals for parking spaces and dearer charges for maintenance and vehicle repair, have increased by 2.81 percent and 0.67 percent respectively.

The average composite CPI for the first quarter of the year has risen by 4.91 percent year-on-year, with the index for housing and fuels, health as well as food and non-alcoholic drinks rising by 10.68 percent, 5.44 percent and 5.11 percent respectively. **Staff reporter**

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3,588 CRIMES IN Q1

# Unlawful detention cases nearly double

Brook Yang

**C**RIMINAL cases of unlawful detention and loansharking surged significantly year-on-year in the first quarter of this year, as well as cases of arson, document forgery, and "crimes jeopardizing the territory."

The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, revealed the police's latest crime statistics yesterday, indicating that the number of criminal cases recorded in the first quarter rose by 2.4 percent compared with the same period last year to stand at to 3,588.

Amongst these, the number of unlawful detention cases nearly doubled from 34 to 67, whilst loansharking increased by 25.9 percent to 68. In addition, the case numbers of arson (10) and grievous bodily harm (4) were respectively 1.5 and one point higher than the numbers recorded a year earlier.

Meanwhile, "crimes against the territory" - including offenses to the authorities and obstructions to justice - surged by 37.9 percent to 280 cases. Of these 190 were of disobedience with 72 for false declaration, respectively denoting a 38.7% and 63.6% increase.

The first quarter also saw a significant year-on-year rise in ille-



Secretary Wong Sio Chak

gal entry, as the number of illegal migrants from the mainland rose by 47.8 percent to 427. On the other hand, since the Macau authorities tightened the amount of time in which visitors entering with Chinese passports can stay in Macau, the number of overstaying mainlanders plunged by nearly 35 percent from 11,575 to 7,565.

Regarding the growth in overall crime cases, the Secretary stated that Macau's public security remained in a stable situation, as the serious violent crimes of murder and kidnapping remained at zero occurrences. Furthermore, he believed the growing numbers of illegal detention and usury cases are "still not enough evidence to say the current adjustment in

the gaming industry has affected Macau's social public security."

According to the Judiciary Police that oversees and investigates into illegal activities in casinos, cases of gaming-related crimes rose by 22.45 percent in the first quarter to 310 cases year-on-year. The annual sums have grown from 667 in 2012 to 1,054 in 2013; however, the annual growth in 2013 was as high as 28.9 percent.

"That means the cases of gaming-related crimes increased at a lower rate during the gaming revenue decline in 2014 than in 2012 and 2013 when the revenue was continuously growing," argued Wong.

The Secretary added that the number of loansharking cases was on a downward trend during the first three months of this year, while cases of unlawful detention rose slightly. Additionally, the police haven't received any abnormal signal on triads brought by the industry downturn.

"Respectively 37 and 54 percent of both types of criminal cases were opened as the police proactively launched enforcement actions; and most of those cases occurred inside casinos, which means the crimes haven't affected the public security outside

## LAW AMENDMENT NEEDED TO TACKLE TAXI IRREGULARITIES

**DURING THE** first quarter of this year, the authorities prosecuted a total of 1,724 cases of taxi irregularities, which has exceeded the number recorded for the entirety 2014. Cases of overcharging and refusing to take passengers accounted for 29.7 and 22.1 percent respectively. Wong Sio Chak acknowledged that the police's law enforcement is "only alleviating the problem without solving the underlying cause," whereas the penalty procedure is inefficient and the fine amount fails to deter, thereby an amendment is needed to the law.

casinos," he said.

The police also recorded declines in the incidences of extortion, intimidation, drug-trafficking and drug abuse. The number of extortion cases dropped by 46.4 percent to 15, whereas those of intimidation fell by 13.2 percent to 46. Cases of drug-trafficking and selling were halved, whilst drug abuse reduced by 58.1 percent.

# Casino worker unions jointly urge for trade union law legislation

**A** number of gaming industry trade unions held their first joint meeting yesterday, organized by the Power of the Macao Gaming Association. Together they demanded that the government legislate a trade union law and ensure the casino workers' right to collective bargaining.

The Power of the Macao Gaming Association's honorary president, lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho, stressed in the meeting that a trade union law is still absent in Macau, and also that workers currently do not possess the reasonable right to negotiate.

The lawmaker has repeatedly submitted a draft bill to the Legislative Assembly which has been vetoed five times. Some lawmakers questioned the necessity and motive of such an enactment on previous occa-



sions, while some were in favor of the legislation but eventually decided against it because of the lack of consultation.

Representatives from six different groups including the Forefront of Macao Gaming, the New Gaming Employees Advance Association, and the staff union of Galaxy Entertainment Group joined the roundtable meeting held at Fisherman's Wharf.

The organizer stated that "Macau's gaming industry is now in an adjustment period; when a problem appears, many casino workers will turn to the gaming industry's trade unions to seek help, besides complaining to the gaming corporates. We hope to facilitate more communication and solidarity among the gaming industry associations through organizing this meeting." **BY**

## IMMIGRATION POLICY

# IPIM promises 'a more transparent system'

**T**HE head of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Cheong Chou Weng, responded to lawmaker Lei Cheng I's written inquiry by stating that the institute was willing to receive feedback from the public in order to optimize the related system for immigration through investment. However he failed to mention if the authority would conduct an overall review over the existing policies, which the lawmaker accused of being "outdated."

Implemented in 1995, requirements for applicants stipulated in the policy have not been subjected to any revision. Following the neighboring SAR government's decision to scrap its immigration scheme, Lei questioned in her inquiry if the government would modify its current examination mechanism to make it more open and standardized. This was in contrast to the current mode where approvals could only be made by authorized officials.

However, the department head stressed that the authorities have been making their way to a more transparent system in conformity with the law.

Previously, numerous other government authorities have revealed in response to other inquiries that IPIM has been taking references from other countries concerning reform. However, aside from immigration via purchasing properties that was repealed in 2007 under public pressure, no changes have been made so far. **Staff reporter**

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## The most important questions to ask when you sell: part 2

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JULIET RISDON

In the last three parts of this series we look at the final stage of home ownership or property investment. The part where you sell! All property transactions are sizeable when compared with most other decisions. It follows then that we should give these transactions the extra time and attention that they warrant, but this does not always happen.

In many instances it isn't so much an issue of motivation, but rather not knowing the right questions to ask. This series deals with key questions that we CAN, and sometimes SHOULD, ask.

Knowing the answers to these questions can help to avoid misunderstandings and, in many cases, will save time, money or both.

**The 15 questions you MUST ask when you are selling a property**

If you decide to sell for whatever reason, it is natural to be concerned that you are making a good decision and getting the maximum value at the time for your property. The trouble is you may sell and find yourself without property.

Of course it is important to do your homework about any potential property you are considering to sell, and with so many things going on you may forget to ask your agent the most important questions about selling.

The list below is in no particular order and this week we look at five more questions that may help you as a seller;

**What am I going to do with the money after it's sold?**

If you don't already have a purpose for any excess funds, it is a very good idea to come up with a plan.

In the absence of anything else, putting the money in a high interest investment account may keep it safe in the short term. There is always a temptation to spend funds if they are sitting around doing nothing, and it nearly always seems like a good idea at the time.

Re-investing in property or funds is a good idea in the long term, even if it is not the most exciting.

**What costs are involved for the seller**

Selling costs vary according to which law office is used, but in general you will find that fees for selling are relatively low.

There is an agency fee of course. In other parts of the world agency fees for selling property reach 5% - 6%, whereas in Macau the standard amount is 1% - 2%.

There will be a 'mortgage cancellation fee' charged by the bank for finishing the mortgage loan. This fee depends on how long the loan still has to run and the amount outstanding.

Lawyers fees include a translation fee should the contents need to be translated into English, and a general legal administration fee. You can ask your agent to list and clarify all of these fees prior to the day of the sale, and they should be able to provide the information for you and avoid any nasty surprises.

**What's your experience?**

You might take it for granted that the agent looking after you knows what they are

doing. But do they have a track record?

If you are going to sell your property, you are looking for the highest price in the shortest time, and sometimes this can be grossly misunderstood.

The agent normally wants to lower the price and get the deal done, whilst the seller generally wants to wait to see if they can get a better price.

Somewhere in between lies a point that all parties can accept, but sometimes it takes an experienced agent to find that point.

**How will you market my property?**

You will want to know how, where and when your property is being promoted.

Is it going to be sent to a database, promoted in the media, floated around the internet? There should be a clear marketing plan that is pointed towards the target market.

Clearly a hip studio apartment is going to have a different audience than a large, sprawling family penthouse.

**How long should it take to sell my property?**

If you can ask this question in more detail, the answer may give you a more complete picture.

For example, if you want to sell for top price, it may take 6 months. But if you want to sell just below market price it may take 7 days.

Once you have a handle on the information you are better situated to make a decision, and at the same time you will have a verbal commitment from the agent of what is to be expected.

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## PROJECT POKER

BY CELESTE 'LADYMACE86' ORONA

## Pura Vida

One of my favourite aspects of playing poker for a living is freedom. I can manage my own schedule, set my own goals, and go on vacation whenever I want. Since I became a professional poker player less than two years ago I have traveled more than in my whole life, and 2015 has been no exception so far. My year started in the Bahamas, and as soon as I came back I was already booking a flight for another wonderful trip: a whole month in Costa Rica.

I spent March in Tamarindo, a picturesque town near the Pacific Ocean. What a wonderful place! The sun shines every day, the ocean is warm, and the relaxed atmosphere makes it an amazing town to rest and spend some time away from everything. But it was the lifestyle the best part by far: I would go to the beach in the morning, play online poker in the afternoon, and relax during the evening, my only concern being where to go out for dinner.

Believe it or not, even though there was so much to do and see, I was able to focus on poker and had a very good month at the tables. I played around 71,000 hands; maybe less than my usual volume but decent for someone who is on vacation.

However my trip wasn't just surfing and sunbathing. PokerStars has offices in several locations around the globe, and one of them is in San José, the capital of Costa Rica. I had always wanted to see how PokerStars works behind scenes, so I was

thrilled when I was invited to visit the installations.

Around 300 people work in the Costa Rica offices. I was given a tour where I was able to learn about the responsibilities of each department and talk to the employees, and honestly I was impressed by the high level of professionalism and the strong customer orientation. But what surprised me the most is that the commitment PokerStars shows to players is the same toward their employees. PokerStars is among the top companies to work for in Costa Rica, something you can feel as soon as you enter the building.

After the tour I was able to play a poker tournament with the employees, and it was a blast. I was a little worried that everyone would hate me because I was running like never in my life (sorry about the bad beats, guys!). But I had a lot of fun, and I am very thankful to everyone for having me in their workplace and being so kind and warm.

My trip is sadly over, but living for a month in Costa Rica was an experience I will never forget. There are two words that summarize the Costa Rican way of life: "Pura Vida." A literal translation would be "pure life," but its meaning is much deeper than that: it refers to being thankful for what you have, having a positive attitude, and enjoying life. I will certainly miss the sun, the waves, and having a tan, but it is the "Pura Vida" philosophy what makes me want to go back.

AD

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## Hewlett-Packard sells stake in mainland unit for USD2.3B



**HEWLETT-PACKARD** Co. sold a majority stake in its Chinese server, storage and technology assets for USD2.3 billion to Tsinghua University.

A group owned by the Chinese university, Tsinghua Holdings, will purchase the 51 percent stake in a new business called H3C. The deal values the businesses at \$4.5 billion net of cash and debt, the companies said yesterday in a statement.

HP will maintain ownership of its other businesses in China, including business services, software, HP Helion Cloud and other operations.

H3C will have about 8,000 staffers and \$3.1 billion in annual revenue.

The U.S. company is the first major foreign firm to pass control of Chinese operations to local owners since the government stepped up restrictions on overseas hardware companies.

China has been encouraging the use of local suppliers and aims to purge most foreign technology from the country's banks, military and government enterprises by 2020, people with knowledge of the matter said in December.

Hewlett-Packard's networking units had "a rougher than anticipated" quarter, Chief Executive Officer Meg Whitman told analysts in late February, noting that they struggled in China especially. Networking sales in the three months ended January 31 fell 11 percent from a year earlier.

Hewlett Packard Co. is undergoing a broader restructuring as it prepares to split into two companies by Oct. 31.

# Survey shows China manufacturing down for 3rd month in a row

**MANUFACTURING** in China shrank for the third straight month in May as demand remained soft, raising the chances of more stimulus to prop up growth in the world's No. 2 economy.

HSBC's preliminary manufacturing index, based on a monthly survey of factory purchasing managers, came in at 49.1 for May. That's slightly better than 48.9 in April but still in contractionary territory on the 100-point index. Numbers above 50 indicate expansion.

The report released yesterday said that factory production fell to its lowest level in 13 months, after holding steady last month.

New export orders also declined, swinging from an increase in April, although overall new orders contracted at a slower rate.

Softer domestic and overseas demand and factory job cuts indicate that China's outside manufacturing industry, which employs many millions of people, "may find it difficult to expand at least in the near term," said Annabel Fiddes, an economist at Markit, which conducted the survey.

Companies are tempering production plans in line with weaker demand, she said.

The latest numbers raise expectations that policymakers in Beijing will roll out further measures to shore up growth in China's economy, which expanded at its slowest quarterly pace in six years in the first quarter.

China has already cut interest rates three times in six months and slashed the bank reserve requirement ratio in April as the government tries to meet its 7 percent



Vendors browse their smartphones as they wait for customers at their store selling Chinese made souvenirs at the Wangfujing shopping district in Beijing

growth target for the year.

Strong deflationary pressures, as seen in falling prices for both raw materials and finished goods, "leave plenty of scope" for further stimulus, Fiddes said.

Policy makers are considering relaxing rules for bond sales in a bid to boost growth, while banks have been instructed to keep funding projects that were approved before year-end 2014, even if borrowers can't make repayments.

"Overall growth remains weak, but we do see some tentative signs of improvement," Zhao Yang, chief China economist at Nomura Holdings Inc. in Hong Kong, said in an e-mail. "The loosening fiscal policy will lead to rapid growth of infrastructure building and thus partially offset the slowdown in property

investment and other investment, improving short-term growth momentum."

Premier Li Keqiang's government is balancing structural reforms including new fiscal arrangements and moves to open the nation's capital account with the need to keep economic growth ticking along rapidly enough to sustain employment.

"Despite the strong desire from policy makers to accelerate China's structural reforms, stimulus to reverse the economic downturn is the priority for now," Shen Jianguang, chief Asia economist at Mizuho Securities Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong, wrote in a note Wednesday. "Taking more concrete steps will be difficult until the economy stabilizes." **AP/Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### MACAO WATER LAUNCHES VARIOUS E-SERVICES



Macao Water's 8th Customer Liaison Group (CLG) held its first meeting in 2015 on Wednesday at Sands Hotel Macao. Participants included Wong Soi Man, Director of the Marine & Water Bureau and Leader of the Working Group for the Promotion of a Water-saving Society, Wong Man Tou, Government Representative at Macao Water, Fan Xiaojun,

Macao Water's Executive Director, Chu Wai Man, Chairman of Macao Water's Customer Liaison Group, Chum Pak Tak, Vice Chairman of Macao Water's Customer Liaison Group and other group members. The topics of the meeting included: Introduction to the Macao Water Mobile App, SEPBox Electronic Water Bill Delivery Service Promotional

Activities and a Retrospect & Outlook of Water Conservation Measures.

The Company's first Mobile App will be available in June 2015. Through the app, customers can manage their water usage on a smartphone, including balance check or bill payment, electronic water bill and SMS reminder service.

In 2014, Macao Water launched the Electronic Water Bill Delivery Service, replacing traditional paper bills with electronic ones and delivering to a monthly mailbox - via SEPBox for ensuring online privacy and security.

Moreover, this year, over 32,000 commercial and domestic customers have achieved their water-saving target, saving more than 1.2 million cubic meters of water in total.

Sands China Ltd. has appointed Winnie Wong as its vice president of corporate communications and community affairs.

Wong has more than 14 years of diverse commercial knowledge and experience working in Macau and Hong Kong. Her experience includes the areas of gaming, information systems, sales and marketing, and international business. She has experience in various fields of business gained from her previous roles. With her strong operations background and local knowledge, Wong will work to further enhance the company's community efforts under her leadership.

"Winnie's experience and leadership skills make her well suited to her new role. We are delighted that someone of Winnie's caliber will be heading

#### SANDS CHINA: WINNIE WONG NAMED VP FOR CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS



ding our corporate communications and community affairs team," said Grant Chum, chief of staff for Sands China Ltd. "As the company continues to grow and develop succes-

fully, we are pleased to see the corresponding growth and development opportunities for our team members, especially from among our talented pool of Macao locals."

# Xi targets tech elites for Communist Party outreach push

Ting Shi

**I**F Chinese technology tycoons such as Jack Ma and Lei Jun didn't already realize their special significance to the Communist Party, Xi Jinping has made it official.

The Chinese president for the first time Wednesday designated "representatives of new media" as a key focus for the ruling party's outreach, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. The move elevates elites in China's booming Internet sector to a level of strategic importance on par with ethnic minority leaders or Taiwan's political parties.

Technology leaders should "demonstrate positive energy in purifying cyberspace," Xi said at the end of the party's first national United Front conference in almost a decade, Xinhua reported. He called for regular contact with new media representatives to build support for the party's agenda.

"The addition shows the party is treating the Internet and new media as strategically important," said Qiao Mu, a media studies professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University. "It also indicates a change of tactics. The so-called united front work



Chinese President Xi Jinping

takes a different, softer approach from the usual crackdowns."

United front efforts date back to the early days of the Communist Party and aim to spread influence and build support outside its ranks. The agency came under new leadership in December, after its previous mi-

nister, Ling Jihua - a former top aide to ex-President Hu Jintao - was removed and detained on corruption allegations.

Technology has received increasing Communist Party attention as China's Internet ballooned to almost 650 million users and Ma's Alibaba Group

Holding Ltd., the e-commerce giant, and Lei's Xiaomi Corp., China's biggest mobile phone maker, grew to industry leaders. Xi has created the Cyberspace Administration of China to strengthen censorship of the country's Internet, as Premier Li Keqiang pushes policies to

encourage more young Chinese to found startups.

Chen Tong, a vice president for Xiaomi; Zhu Guang, a vice president for search engine Baidu Inc.; and Chen Danqing, a vice president for video site Youku Tudou Inc., were among the technology executives who attended a seminar on "new social classes" this week that was also organized by the United Front Work Department. It was the first time technology leaders, who made up one-third of attendees, were invited to such an event, the department said on its official WeChat account.

Qian Gang, director of the China Media Project at the University of Hong Kong, said expanding the united front to include technology elites formalizes an existing outreach campaign by leaders in Beijing. "The party has already been 'uniting' big bosses anyway," he said.

The conference came against the backdrop of mounting challenges to the party's agenda, including pro-democracy protests last year in Hong Kong, ethnic unrest in the far western region of Xinjiang and pushback against closer ties in Taiwan.

In addition to new media representatives, Xi also selected Chinese graduates returning from overseas universities and non-party intellectuals as "new areas of effort" for the party, according to Xinhua.

In his speech, Xi vowed to "develop the widest patriotic united front" to support "the great Chinese renaissance."

Bloomberg

## US group: Foreign authors censored without knowing

pervasive Chinese censorship could affect writers outside the country as China takes an increasingly prominent place in the global publishing industry. China will be the regional focus of this year's BookExpo America in New York next week, with a delegation of hundreds of state writers and publishers.

China is one of the largest book publishing markets in the world, with total revenue projected to exceed USD16 billion in 2015 and a growth rate of roughly 10 percent per year, according to the report. Chinese publishers acquired 16,115 foreign titles in 2012, up 60 percent from 2004. American and British books are the most popular.

The report says that in many instances, foreign authors and their agen-

ts and publishers do not have sufficient knowledge of the workings of Chinese censorship to ensure books aren't censored. Many have signed contracts that promise the preservation of the author's original content but leave the translation to the Chinese publisher and fail to vet the resulting copy. Other authors consent to some censorship, reasoning that even in diluted form, getting new ideas into China will help the cause of free expression.

American novelist Paul Auster told PEN he did not discover the changes made to the translated version of his book "Sunset Park" until after publication in China last November. He said he felt his book was "mutilated." The plight of dissident and Nobel peace laureate Liu Xiaobo is a minor

plot in the book. The publisher cut several pages, and in other places replaced the dissident's name with "L."

The New York-based agent of author Barbara De Angelis consented to the removal in Chinese translation of about 30 percent of the text of her "Secrets About Men Every Woman Should Know," without the author's knowledge, according to the report. The Chinese publisher found the sections dealing with bedroom secrets and advice too sexually explicit, it said.

PEN said it interviewed dozens of authors, publishers and literary agents in the United States, China, Taiwan, Australia, and Europe for the report. It says that as book advances and royalties payments rise in China, there are serious concerns about

the kinds of compromises foreign authors and publishers may make and the impact this can have on free expression.

"If we don't act, how long will it take before a wide swath of writers begin to simply avoid taking up topics that could complicate access to readers in China or elsewhere once their books are translated?" said Suzanne Nossel, PEN Executive Director.

In response to a request for comment, Chinese Embassy spokesman Zhu Haiquan said the Chinese government protects its citizens' right of freedom to publish, but those exercising that freedom must abide by Chinese law. He said a growing number of foreign publications have been translated into Chinese and they are welcomed and well received in China. **AP**



Readers select books during a book exchange event

Matthew Pennington, Washington

**A** U.S.-based advocacy group is warning Western authors to be vigilant of censorship of their work in China's fast-growing book publishing industry, which is sometimes done without their knowledge.

A report Wednesday from the PEN American

Center says translated versions of foreign books may be excised because of political sensitivities, like Taiwan, Tibet and the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown on democracy protesters. But references to sexually explicit material and gay and lesbian issues are also frowned upon.

The report intends to draw attention to how

## Censors suspend TV drama over plot of crotch grenade

A Chinese television drama got pulled off the air following a public outcry over a plot in which a hidden grenade is pulled from a woman's crotch during an amorous scene.

The country's regulating agency — the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television — also began to review the TV drama "Let's Beat the Devils," which tells about Chinese people's resistance to Japanese invaders, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The World War II fight against the Japanese is a popular genre of programs, which are considered patriotic and a safe bet to clear China's strict censors and get decent ratings among the Chinese television viewers. However, the shows' producers have been criticized for taking liberties under the cloak of patriotism. Audiences, and even state media outlets, have complained of plots that are absurd or lewd.

In "Let's Beat the Devils," a Chinese woman is visiting her lover locked up by the Japanese. He fondles her and finds a grenade hidden in her crotch. It is meant for a suicidal act of resistance against his Japanese captors.

But before he pulls out the grenade, the lovers exchange several lines of ambiguous sexual innuendo that might also refer to the later suicidal act. For example, the man says he would erupt one more time with ecstasy.

"They are using sex and violence to entice the audience under the cover of national sentiments," read a Xinhua editorial that lashed out at ludicrous plots in such dramas. "They are reveling on the scars of the history."

Quoting an unnamed playwright, Xinhua said the patriotic genre has become a cover for sex and violence on the television screen.

Heroic acts by Chinese are a staple of other such dramas, including plots where the Chinese are able to kill Japanese soldiers with their bare hands. AP



AP PHOTO



Former police officer and mayor Abner Afuang, sets fire to a Chinese flag in protest against the recent reclamation activities by China in the contested Spratly islands in the S China Sea Thursday, April 23 in Manila, Philippines

# Beijing warns US plane away from disputed islands, CNN reports

David Tweed

CHINA ordered a U.S. military plane away from islands it's building in the South China Sea, CNN reported, in the latest example of the country's efforts to assert sovereignty over the area.

The Chinese navy issued eight warnings Wednesday to a P8-A Poseidon conducting surveillance flights over the islands, according to the network, which was aboard the plane. A radio message received by the U.S. plane said: "This is Chinese navy. You are approaching our military alert zone. Leave immediately." The P8 crew responded that the aircraft was flying through international airspace, the report said.

The incident illustrates growing tensions between the U.S. and China, which asserts the authority to buy-

id on what it claims is its sovereign territory and has reserved the right to establish an air defense identification zone over the area. The U.S. contends that ships and aircraft should have freedom of navigation in the region.

The USS Fort Worth met a Chinese vessel earlier this month while patrolling in waters around the Spratly Islands, Admiral Michelle Howard told reporters on Tuesday in Singapore. Stars and Stripes reported on May 13 the Chinese frigate Yan-cheng trailed the Fort Worth while it was in the area.

Since December, China has quadrupled to 2,000 acres its land reclamation in the Spratlys, an operation described by a U.S. admiral as a "great wall of sand." The reclamation work has set off alarms that China seeks control of the surrounding South China Sea, which car-

ries some of the world's busiest shipping lanes and is subject to competing claims by six governments.

The Pentagon allowed a TV crew on the flight to "raise awareness about the challenge posed by the islands and the growing U.S. response," the report said. The aircraft flew at 15,000 feet at its lowest point. The U.S. is considering flying even closer surveillance missions, the report said.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter has asked the Pentagon to consider options for using extra land- and sea-based surveillance aircraft and naval vessels to underscore the freedom of navigation in the waters. Those may include expanding U.S. patrols in the sea, including into a 22 kilometer radius of reefs where China is building.

The CNN report identified

the "former" Fiery Cross Reef, and described it as having an early warning radar, an airport tower and a runway long enough to handle any plane in the Chinese military.

"We were just challenged 30 minutes ago and the challenge came from the Chinese navy, and I'm highly confident it came from ashore, this facility here," Capt. Mike Parker, commander of P8 and P3 surveillance aircraft fleet in Asia, told the network.

China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said May 13 that while China supports the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, that "freedom definitely does not mean that foreign military vessels and aircraft can enter one country's territorial waters and airspace at will."

Bloomberg

Eileen Ng and Jocelyn Gecker,  
Kuala Lumpur

## ROHINGYA TRAFFICKING

# Malaysia finally orders sea search-and-rescue for migrants

**M**ALAYSIA'S prime minister said yesterday he has ordered the navy and the coast guard to comb the sea to look for stranded migrants, the first country to announce it will search for the refugees in desperate need of help instead of waiting for them to wash up on Southeast Asia's shores.

In a positive sign, Myanmar — the country which many of the refugees, ethnic Rohingya, are fleeing — said it will attend a regional meeting in Bangkok next Friday, creating a chance for the nations most affected by the crisis to discuss long-term solutions. Earlier, it hinted it would skip the meeting, which will bring together more than a dozen governments from the region and beyond.

The decision came as Malaysia's foreign minister was scheduled to visit Myanmar. The ministry issued a delicately worded statement saying the two would "exchange views on irregular movements of people ... in Southeast Asia," using politically correct language so as not to offend Myanmar — which refuses to shoulder any blame for the crisis or discuss the matter if the word "Rohingya" is mentioned.

In the past three weeks, more than 3,000 people — Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar and Bangladeshis trying to escape poverty — have landed in overcrowded boats on the shores of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. After initially pushing many boats back, Malaysia and Indonesia announced on Wednesday that they will offer temporary shelter to all incoming migrants.

Although the announcement was seen as a major breakthrough, rights groups said the proposal addressed only part of the problem, and urged countries to start actively searching for those stranded at sea. The



Migrants sit on their boat as they wait to be rescued by Acehese fishermen on the sea off East Aceh, Indonesia

U.N. refugee agency believes there are 4,000 still at sea, although some activists put the number at 6,000.

Prime Minister Najib Razak addressed the concern via Twitter, saying that he had ordered the navy and coast guard "to conduct search and rescue efforts (for) Rohingya boats. We have to prevent loss of life."

Aid groups estimate that thousands are adrift on vessels without food and water, following a crackdown on human traffickers that prompted captains and smugglers to abandon their boats.

The U.N. says the Rohingya are one of the most persecuted groups in the world. Neither Myanmar nor Bangladesh recognizes them as citizens. In Buddhist-majority Myanmar,

even the name Rohingya is taboo. Myanmar officials refer to the group as "Bengalis" and insist they are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, even though most have lived in the country for generations.

Over the past few years, Myanmar's Rohingya have faced increasing state-sanctioned discrimination. They have been targeted by violent mobs of Buddhist extremists and confined to camps. At least 120,000 have fled to sea, and an unknown number have died along the way.

While Indonesia and Malaysia said Wednesday they would temporarily take in some refugees, they also appealed for international help, saying the crisis is a global, not a regional, problem.

"This is not an ASEAN problem," Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said Wednesday, referring to the 10-nation grouping of Southeast Asian countries. "This is a problem for the international community."

Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said his government was ready to shelter Rohingya for one year, while the Bangladeshis would be sent back home. "A year is (the) maximum," he said. "But there should be international cooperation." Malaysia has also set a one-year time limit.

So far there have been two offers from the international community.

In Washington, the State Department said Wednesday the United States was also willing

to take in Rohingya refugees as part of international efforts to cope with the crisis. Spokeswoman Marie Harf said that the U.S. is prepared to take a leading role in any multi-country effort, organized by the United Nations refugee agency, to resettle the most vulnerable refugees.

**In Washington, the State Department said the US was also willing to take in Rohingya refugees**

The tiny African country of Gambia has also said it was willing to take in Rohingya refugees. "As human beings, more so fellow Muslims, it is (our) sacred duty to help," the presidency said in a statement.

The No. 2 U.S. diplomat, currently visiting Southeast Asia, said he will raise the humanitarian crisis of the Rohingya when he meets with senior Myanmar government leaders on Thursday.

"The only sustainable solution to the problem is changing the conditions that let them put their lives at risk at the first place," Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken told reporters in Jakarta. **AP**

## SOUTH KOREA

# Gov't confirms 3 cases of Mideast respiratory virus



A thermal camera monitor shows the body temperature of passengers arriving from overseas against possible MERS virus at the Incheon International Airport in Incheon

**S**OUTH Korea said yesterday it has confirmed three cases of a respiratory virus that has killed hundreds of people in the Middle East.

A 76-year-old man was diagnosed yesterday with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, according to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The patient shared a hospital room with a man who was South Korea's first confirmed case of

MERS, agency chief Yang Byung-Guk told reporters.

The first patient was not isolated initially because it wasn't known why he was ill.

Yang said the first patient had visited Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. His wife also contracted the disease.

All three are being treated in hospitals and they are not in critical condition, according to Yang's

agency.

Additionally, 64 hospital workers and family members of the confirmed MERS patients have been quarantined, Yang said.

MERS was discovered in 2012 and has mostly been centered in Saudi Arabia. It belongs to the family of coronaviruses that includes the common cold and SARS, and can cause fever, breathing problems, pneumonia and kidney failure. The virus

is thought to be primarily acquired through contact with camels, but it can also spread from human fluids and droplets. A number of cases in Saudi Arabia have involved health workers caring for MERS patients.

There have been a total of 1,142 cases of the virus worldwide and 465 have died, according to the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control. Of the fatalities, 428 have been in Saudi Arabia. **AP**

# 現場秀 愛犬訓練 巡演2015

## Cesar Millan LIVE

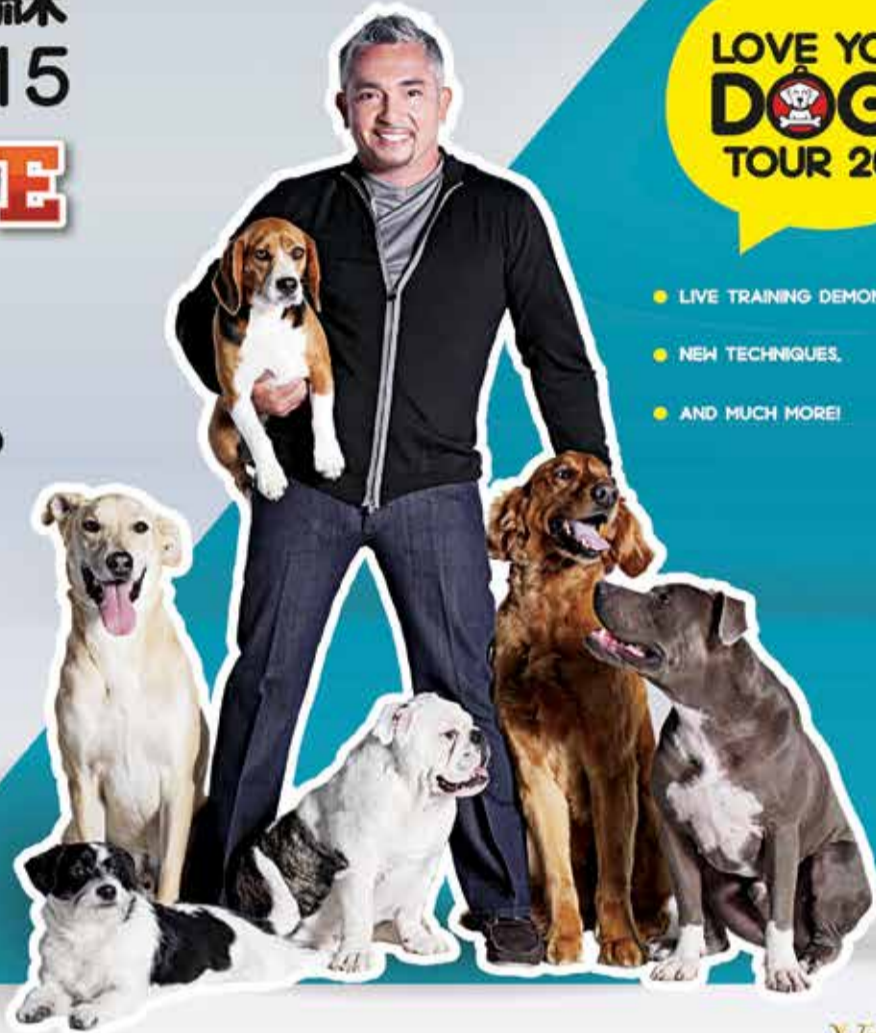
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Bassem Mroue, Beirut

**I**SLAMIC State militants overran the famed archaeological site at Palmyra early yesterday, just hours after seizing the central Syrian town, activists and officials said, raising concerns the extremists might destroy some of the priceless ruins as they have done in neighboring Iraq.

The Islamic State's capture of the town of Palmyra late Wednesday was a stunning triumph for the militant group, only days after it captured the strategic city of Ramadi in Iraq's largest Sunni province.

As IS took Palmyra, government forces collapsed in the face of the attacks and Syrian soldiers were seen fleeing the area, activists said. In Damascus, state TV acknowledged that pro-government forces had withdrawn from the town.

Rami Abdurrahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the extremists overran the archaeological site, just to the southwest of the town itself, shortly after midnight Wednesday.

An activist in Homs who goes by the name of Bebars al-Talawy also said that IS now controls the ruins at Palmyra. Both activists said that the militants had not damaged the site so far.

The ruins at Palmyra are one of the world's most renowned historic sites and there were fears the extremists would des-

AP PHOTO



This file photo released on Sunday, May 17, by the Syrian official news agency SANA, shows the ancient Roman city of Palmyra, northeast of Damascus

SYRIA

## Islamic State in control of Palmyra ruins

stroy them as they did major archaeological sites in Iraq. The UNESCO world heritage site is famous for its 2,000-year-old towering Roman-era colonnades and other ruins and price-

less artifacts. Before the war, thousands of tourists a year visited the remote desert outpost, a cherished landmark referred to by Syrians as the "Bride of the Desert."

Many Palmyra residents were fleeing the town toward the city of Homs and the capital, Damascus, according to Talal Barazi,

Barzai, the governor of the central province of Homs,

which includes Palmyra, told The Associated Press that the Syrian army is now outside the town, from where it is targeting Islamic State reinforcements.

"We have not received any news about (the archaeological site's) destruction," Barazi said. "We hope that there will be no massacres in the city or damage to the ruins."

Palmyra has a population of some 65,000 people, according to Barazi. He added that 1,300 residents fled over the past days and more were trying to leave yesterday. **AP**

QATAR

## Amnesty: Little progress made on labor reforms

Adam Schreck, Dubai

**Q**ATAR is failing to deliver on reforms for its migrant workers a year after the wealthy Gulf nation announced plans to improve conditions for low-paid laborers building its highways, hotels, stadiums and skyscrapers, Amnesty International said yesterday.

In a new briefing paper, the London-based rights group criticized the 2022 World Cup host for making no substantive changes on some labor issues, including the controversial "kafala" employee sponsorship system, and delivering only partial progress in other areas.

The report was released a day after three major World Cup sponsors — Adidas, Coca-Cola and Visa — publicly pressured soccer's world governing body FIFA to push Qatar to do more to improve labor conditions.

Qatar is being transfor-

med by a building boom fueled by its vast oil and natural gas wealth. Like other energy-rich Gulf nations with relatively small local populations, it relies on well over a million guest workers, many of them drawn from South Asian nations including India and Nepal.

Qatar responded to Amnesty's latest report by saying it disagrees with some of the claims and asserting it has made "significant changes" to improve working conditions.

The government believes that promoting human rights for guest workers and others is a "strategic choice and the backbone of the comprehensive constitutional, economic, social and cultural reform policy" of the country, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs said.

It cited a number of changes made over the past year, including efforts to boost the

number of labor inspectors, provide better housing for workers and crack down on employers and labor recruiters who break Qatari law.

In May 2014, officials outlined plans for legislation that could end in its current form the kafala system that ties expatriate workers to a single employer.

The draft law also would allow workers to obtain exit visas without having to secure their employers' consent. Rights groups say the existing policies leave workers open to exploitation and abuse.

Amnesty says the reforms aren't coming fast enough.

"We've had a year, and not much has changed. For us that's a really important thing," Amnesty's Gulf migrant rights researcher Mustafa Qadri said in an interview. "The situation has probably gotten worse because you have more workers now. ... There's a matter of urgency." **AP**

USA

## California oil sop-up starts, thousands of gallons gathered

Christopher Weber and Brian Melley, Goleta

**M**ORE than 22,700 liters of oil had been raked, skimmed and vacuumed from a spill that stretched across 15 kilometers of California coast in a cleanup effort that is now going 24 hours a day, officials said, but that's just a fraction of the sticky, stinking goo that escaped from a broken pipeline.

Investigators took stock of the scope of the spill on Wednesday (yesterday, Macau time) a day after the pipeline break, finding that up to 400,000 liters may have leaked out, and up to a fifth of that amount — 80,000 liters — reached the sea, according to estimates.

Federal regulators were investigating the leak as workers in protective suits raked and shoveled the black sludge off the beaches, and boats towed booms into place to corral the two slicks off the Santa Barbara coast.

The chief executive of the company that runs the pipeline, Plains All American Pipeline LP,

was at the site of the spill Wednesday and apologized for it.

"We deeply, deeply regret that this incident has occurred at all," Chairman and CEO Greg L. Armstrong said at a news conference. "We apologize for the damage that it's done to the wildlife and to the environment."

Armstrong said the company had received permission to continue cleanup operations around the clock and vowed that they "will remain here until everything has been restored to normal."

Crude was flowing through the pipe at 206,700 liters an hour at the time of the leak Tuesday, the company said. Company officials didn't say how long it leaked before it was discovered and shut down.

There was no estimate on the cost of the cleanup or how long it might take.

Gov. Jerry Brown on Wednesday night declared a state of emergency because of the spill, a move that frees up additional state funding and resources to help in the cleanup. **AP**

## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talkshow (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:30	Revenge S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Film
01:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## SATURDAY

10:15	Boonie Bears
11:10	Documentary Serie
11:45	Documentary Serie
12:00	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
19:00	Contest
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Drama
22:10	Comedy
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## SUNDAY

11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
16:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Miscellaneous
17:45	Documentary Series
18:45	Miscellaneous
19:30	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	To Walk Again - A Medical Miracle
23:00	TDM News
23:30	News
23:45	Documentary Series
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## offbeat

## BONE THUGS-N-HARMONY RAPPER HELPS DRIVER IN DIABETIC SHOCK



Rapper Layzie Bone of the Grammy Award-winning group Bone Thugs-n-Harmony helped a driver who went into diabetic shock and nearly ran

into the performer's vehicle in Wyoming.

Casper news station KCWY-TV reports (bit.ly/1R28xfi) that Steven "Layzie Bone" Howse was heading to a concert in Riverton last week to promote his new album "Perfect Timing" when he saw a car swerving across the roadway. It spun to a stop in front of the rapper's vehicle.

Layzie Bone told the station that he rushed to the man and offered him apples and oranges to help his blood sugar while they waited for paramedics. The rapper says he was scared for the man and glad he could help.

Wyoming Highway Patrol Lt. Chris Schell says a medical emergency causing erratic driving is rare.

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

21 MAY - 27 MAY



## TOMORROWLAND

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, John Walker, Britt Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 130min



## MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

ROOM 2

(3D) 7.15 pm

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: George Miller

Starring: Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 120min

## DRAGON BALL Z: RESURRECTION "F"

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Tadayoshi Yamamuro

Starring: Ji-tae Yu, Yūsuke Iseya, Ye-ryeon Cha

Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 93min

## PITCH PERFECT 2

ROOM 3

(23-25 MAY) 7.30 pm

Director: Elizabeth Banks

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

## MACAU TOWER

21 MAY - 10 JUN

## TOMORROWLAND

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, John Walker, Britt Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 130min



## this day in history



## 1972 PRESIDENT NIXON ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

America's President Richard Nixon has arrived in Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders.

He was given a modest welcome as he stepped off the plane at Vnukovo airport with his wife earlier today.

The welcome party consisted of Soviet president Nikolai Podgorny, Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

A twenty-minute ceremony, during which the president briefly inspected a guard of honour, was held and broadcast live by Moscow television.

The national anthems of both countries were played and a carefully selected group of Soviet citizens dutifully, but silently, waved American and Soviet flags.

President Nixon, the first US president to visit Moscow, was said to be surprised that Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the Communist Party, was not at the airport.

But Soviet officials said Mr Brezhnev's absence was according to protocol, as he does not hold a government position.

However, following a high-speed motorcade through Moscow, President Nixon was invited to unscheduled talks with Mr Brezhnev at the Kremlin.

The meeting lasted 105 minutes and, although US officials would not give details, Ronald Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said the two men discussed "international issues".

Many observers were hoping the war in Vietnam and the nuclear arms race would be high on the agenda.

For the first time in history the stars and stripes flag of America flew over the Grand Palace of the Kremlin to mark the visit.

This evening President Nixon and his wife attended a banquet at the Kremlin. The couple walked along a red carpet and up a 60-step staircase into the Granovit banquet hall, where the two presidents drank toasts to peace.

There are known differences between the two men on such issues as the war in Vietnam and the Middle East.

President Nixon spoke about the need for co-operation and reciprocation between the two countries in their efforts to conquer disease, improve the environment, and to expand bilateral trade and economic links.

He said he was eager to make the summit a memorable one for its substance.

During his speech he alluded to Vietnam: "We should recognise that it is the responsibility of great powers to influence other nations in conflict or crisis to moderate their behaviour."

He also spoke of a possible arms agreement which, he said "could begin to turn our countries away from a wasteful and dangerous arms race and towards more production for peace".

President Podgorny said the Soviet Union wanted not just good but friendly relations with the US.

The US president is due to remain in the Soviet Union until 29 May.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

During the week-long summit several agreements between the two countries were reached.

On 26 May a treaty to halt the nuclear arms race, known as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (Salt), was signed in the Kremlin by President Nixon and Mr Brezhnev.

The agreement, which was the culmination of nearly three years of talks between the two superpowers limited each superpower to 200 defensive nuclear missiles and froze the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles for the next five years.

An agreement designed to establish more favourable conditions for developing commercial and other economic ties between the USA and the USSR was also reached.

The two countries also agreed to make their first joint manned venture into space in June 1975.

Other agreements relating to incidents at sea, science and technology, health and the environment were also made.

Little progress was made on the Middle East or Vietnam although the two sides did agree to further negotiations on both subjects.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Get in line — or, better still, jump to the head of the line!

Taurus April 20-May 20 This is a good time to take in more information — you don't know enough to make a good decision yet.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your friends have friends, and one of those connections plays an important role in today's big drama.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You are not so sure about your position — but that doesn't keep you from speaking up when the time is right.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your opinions are generally pretty solid — but every now and then someone comes along to shake things up.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You feel liberated and energized — you may find that you've got a new sense of right and wrong.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If things seem to be going your way today, just roll along and enjoy the ride.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 It's one of those days when you need to make sure that you're doing what you do for the right reasons — though it shouldn't be hard to judge.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're playing games today — but not the kind that get you in trouble!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 People count on you — that's one small part of your charm!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You long for new worlds — and you make a big discovery today that should get you where you need to go!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You can't quite figure out what's real today — it's like reality is wearing a veil.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

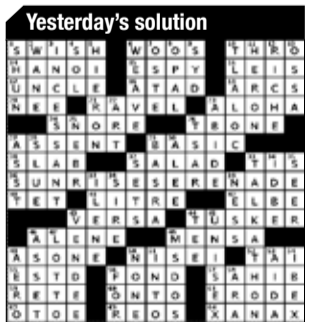
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Nothing-but-net sound; 6- Courts; 10- Comin' \_\_\_ the Rye; 14- Capital of Vietnam; 15- Spot; 16- Hula hoops?; 17- Word of surrender; 18- Slightly; 19- Circle segments; 20- Born; 21- "Bolero" composer; 23- Island greeting; 24- Saw wood; 26- Steak order; 27- Acquiescence; 29- Fundamental; 31- Chunk; 32- Cobb, e.g.; 33- \_\_\_ the season...; 36- Frankie Carle's theme song; 40- Asian holiday; 41- Brit's bottle measure; 42- Hamburg's river; 43- Vice follower; 44- Elephant or warthog, e.g.; 46- Coeur d'\_\_\_, ID; 48- Brainy bunch; 49- United; 50- Japanese-American; 52- Clavell's "\_\_\_Pan"; 55- Cornerstone abbr.; 56- Adoring; 57- Indian term of respect; 59- Network of nerves; 60- Savvy about; 61- Chip away at; 62- Nebraska City's county; 63- Classic cars; 64- Antianxiety drug;

DOWN: 1- Keep away from; 2- Decline; 3- Unending; 4- Impresario Hurok; 5- Sacred place; 6- Interlace; 7- Bone: Prefix; 8- Milky gem; 9- Pink Floyd's Barrett; 10- Aztec god of rain; 11- Wading bird; 12- Nouveau \_\_\_; 13- Greek peak; 22- \_\_\_ nouveau; 23- Bear; 25- Wyo. neighbor; 26- Old despot; 27- No. 2; 28- Turn on an axis; 29- Iraqi port; 30- "Hard \_\_\_" (sailor's yell); 32- Tennis matches are divided into these; 33- Extended discussion; 34- \_\_\_ delighted!; 35- Fortuneteller; 37- Actress Graff; 38- Regal address; 39- Promontory; 43- Buyer; 44- Type of shirt; 45- Like some salons; 46- Personal quality of material belonging; 47- Numbers game; 48- Windows predecessor; 49- Houston hockey player; 50- Not one; 51- A fan of; 53- Verdi opera; 54- Mountain goat; 56- Not against; 58- Altar constellation;



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# Hull and Newcastle fighting for survival on final day



AP PHOTO

Newcastle United's Ayoze Perez

**Steve Douglas, Manchester**

THE Premier League is set for an afternoon of goodbyes on Sunday — to either Hull or Newcastle as the relegation places are decided and to two of English soccer's top midfielders.

Most of the focus in the final round of games will be on which team joins Burnley and Queens Park Rangers in losing its status in the world's most lucrative league.

Hull is in most danger. Occupying the final relegation spot, the northern club needs a win to stand a chance of staying up — and the schedule hasn't been kind to its manager, Steve Bruce.

Manchester United is the visitor to the KC Stadium and Bruce has never beaten England's most successful club in his 17 years as a manager. Bruce spent nine years as a player at United, appearing in more than 300 games, and said his old team owes him after "wrecking his knee, hip and ankle."

"Is there one final twist? Can we upset the

apple cart? Let's hope we can do it," Bruce said. "We have to believe we can beat Manchester United."

Even that might not be enough for Hull, which is also relying on a result at St. James' Park going its way.

Newcastle is two points clear of Hull heading into a home match against West Ham, whose manager won't be short of motivation even if his mid-table team is. Sam Allardyce was fired by Newcastle in 2008, just months into his job.

Hull will finish above Newcastle should they end the season on the same points because of a superior goal difference.

There are two other loose ends to tie up before the season is over.

Third place — and automatic qualification for the Champions League — is still up for grabs for either Arsenal or United. Arsenal is three points ahead and has a superior goal difference of seven, so United is likely to finish fourth and need to win a playoff in August to reach the group stage of Europe's top

competition.

Arsenal hosts West Bromwich Albion and could rest some key players ahead of the FA Cup final on May 30.

The two Europa League spots for fifth and sixth place will go either Liverpool, Tottenham or Southampton. Currently, fifth-place Liverpool has 62 points, Tottenham has 61 and Southampton has 60. The team that places seventh will also be in the Europa League if Arsenal wins the FA Cup.

It will be an emotional day for two Premier League stalwarts, Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard, who will play in Major League Soccer next season for the Los Angeles Galaxy and expansion team New York City FC, respectively. They have made a combined 1,317 Premier League appearances.

Gerrard will play his 710th and final game for Liverpool at Stoke, while Lampard — the former West Ham and Chelsea midfielder — ends his one-year loan spell with Manchester City in a match against Southampton. AP



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We wish you every success as you pursue your academic careers.

- |                             |                                   |                       |
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### Knowledge Knows No Bounds

### 學海無涯



opinion

**Bizcuits**

Leanda Lee



**A CAP IN HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH**

The cap on the number of casino tables in Macau - "the Table Cap" - is still a conundrum to many and being raised by more commentators as the seven new casino properties due to come on line by end 2017 start to polish their ribbon-cutting scissors with Galaxy Broadway first to open next week. The Macau Government has now long insisted that the Table Cap will remain in place calculated at 3% compound growth each year. From a theoretical 5,500-table base at the beginning of 2013 (an actual of 5,711 at end 2014 and 5,504 end Q1) we are looking at around 175 new tables available for 2015, 180 for 2016 and 186 tables for 2017.

Galaxy II has space for 500 gaming tables but word has it that they will be allocated 150. Given the Macau government's stand, this number is a proportionately large allocation of the 175 tables potentially available considering Macau Studio City, with investor expectations of 400 tables, is still in the pipeline to open by year end. Apparently, however, there are allocations from 2014 unused suggesting that Studio City will also get 150. Then, in 2016 there are Sands China's Parisian, Wynn Palace, MGM Cotai, followed by SJM's Lisboa Palace in 2017. If the Table Cap proves to be overly restrictive, we are likely to see some lead-time drift on property openings.

On the face of it the situation seems dire but there are more ways to fill a space with gaming infrastructure than new table allocations. Although these are new casinos they are not new concessions: the existing 5,704-odd tables are likely to be reallocated across properties by concessionaires as we saw with the opening of Cotai Central in April 2012 as Sands China shifted tables across the road. The number of tables aside, there are other methods to increase revenue on the floor: increases in productivity through enhanced utilisation can be achieved through more players, less staff, higher limits per table, even continuing the growth in slots play upon which there is no cap (for the moment).

Then there are the tables themselves. As with any imposed restriction or threats upon an industry, it responds up and down the value chain. Between 2010 and 2014, we've seen a growth in revenue on traditional Baccarat of 305%, and 157% for VIP Baccarat which constituted 30% and 60% of revenue in 2014. In comparison, revenue from Live Multi Game terminals has increased by nearly 15 times (1475%). Granted, the base is low but these terminals are now close to Black Jack in terms of proportion of revenue, and double that of either Stud Poker or Roulette, all of which have been growing at rates less than overall gaming revenue. Upstream producers of electronic table games (ETGs) such as Aruze, Bally, and Aristocrat, and Live Multi Game terminals such as LT Games are meeting the need for floor productivity lost to the Table Cap by increasing the number of players per table through technological innovation; up to 10 players with the Live Multi Game Terminals and up to 100 on Stadium-style ETGs as can be seen in the Hard Rock Hotel Gaming Area.

The real problems for the Macau gaming industry at the moment are not Table Cap issues. Indeed, the Table Cap, together with the tight labour market, might be putting appropriate restrictions on the industry, forcing innovations which will increase the size and nature of the supply chain and peripheral businesses, diversify offerings and the customer base away from the traditional high-stakes baccarat-table mainland punter.

With all the doom and gloom, the Macau gaming industry is still profitable. The continued investment is sufficient proof of that. Although we are not seeing straight-line growth, we are still seeing growth in individual segments and the industry is being brought kicking and screaming into a healthier stage of quasi-maturity. We have a table cap, a potential visitor cap, restrictions on labour - all very clear indications that the government is not encouraging over-investment in the sector, forcing structural diversification (whether intentional or not) and thus allaying future allegations of promises unfulfilled.

**THE BUZZ** COURT AWARDS SOME USD1.8 MILLION TO PHONE HACKING VICTIMS

Britain's High Court has awarded actress Sadie Frost, sports star Paul Gascoigne and a group of other claimants some 1.2 million pounds (USD1.8 million) in damages after their phones were hacked by journalists seeking scoops for the Mirror Group Newspapers.

Frost received 260,250 pounds, while former soccer star Gascoigne won 188,250 in the lawsuit filed by eight victims.

Justice George Mann says the victims suffered a "serious infringement of privacy."

Trinity Mirror PLC said yesterday it would consider an appeal. It has apologized.

Britain's phone-hacking scandal erupted in 2011 with the revelation of eavesdropping by the Rupert Murdoch-owned News of the World. The furor led to the closure of that paper and the arrests of dozens of journalists.

**Equatorial Guinea hopes to join Forum Macau**

Paulo Coutinho\*

**E**quatorial Guinea wants to join Forum Macau and "apparently it has China's blessing," a diplomatic source told the Times. The membership of Eq. Guinea, a Franco-Lusophone-Spanish country, "may be formalized by the third quarter this year," during the next Ministers' Conference of the organization to be held in Macau.

About to celebrate its first anniversary as a member of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) in July, the west central African country, with a population of 1.6 million, is becoming a magnet for Chinese investment in Africa.

According to our sources, "other countries in Africa" are willing to join Forum Macau, even though they are not part of the CPLP. "We are talking of countries that claim to have Portuguese influence in the past," the diplomat said, "although they don't have Portuguese as an official language."

The recent five-day visit to Beijing by the president of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang, resulted in a credit line of USD2 billion and the release projects of at least three major Chinese business groups, at a time when the African country is dealing with difficulties due to the oil price breaks, its main export.

The Chinese Prime Minister,



A neighborhood in central Malabo, capital of Equatorial Guinea

Li Keqiang said that Equatorial Guinea has "developed relatively well" with the government "supporting the expansion of investment in infrastructure, of which the country has a great need," Macauhub reported this week.

During the visit, which also marked the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, agreements were signed with Chinese companies for power generation and industrial development projects, which are an essential part of the government's objective to diversify the economy beyond oil.

Central to this objective is the USD2 billion credit line that the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Chi-

na's largest bank by assets, granted to Equatorial Guinea in order to finance work carried out by Chinese companies in the country, as part of a mechanism endorsed by the presidents of both countries.

The Ministry of Mines, Industry and Energy signed three agreements for projects in the country, including with China Dalian International Cooperation Group (CDIG) to start technical studies for the development of the industrial city of Mbini, which the government intends to make an economic benchmark in that African region.

The China State Construction Engineering Corporation will also be involved in the development of oil facilities in the town of Luba, extending the local port to make it a logistics hub for the oil and gas industry and other industrial activities.

Equatorial Guinea's membership of the CPLP was confirmed at the organization's latest summit in July 2014 in Dili, at a time when it had important economic links, especially with Brazil.

The country's membership has added nearly \$20 billion to the combined GDP of Portuguese-speaking countries, which currently represents close to 4 percent of the world total, and is expected to continue growing.

\*With Macauhub

Station	Air quality
Roadside	20-40 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	40-60 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**JAPAN** The fishing town of Taiji will not stop its dolphin hunts, the mayor said yesterday, after Japan's aquariums decided to stop buying captured dolphins under international pressure sparked by cruelty concerns.

**LIBYA** A total of 19 Libyan soldiers were killed over the past 24 hours in the eastern city of Benghazi, during a new Libyan army push to retake the city from Islamic militants, officials said yesterday. Elsewhere in Libya, a local Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility for a pair of suicide bombings.

**LATVIA** European Union leaders yesterday were to seek new ways to bolster ties with six post-communist nations in Eastern Europe, a year and a half after a previous summit of the Eastern Partnership ended with a fateful standoff over Ukraine. Just ahead of the two-day summit, the EU promised grants of 200 million euros (USD223 million) over the next 10 years to promote small and medium-sized businesses in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

**LATVIA** The U.N.'s fund for climate aid to developing countries says it now has enough cash to kick off projects before a key climate summit in Paris. Green Climate Fund officials said a Japanese commitment yesterday of USD1.5 billion pushed the fund's resources beyond the threshold at which they can start financing projects in developing countries.

**ITALY-TUNISIA** The mystery over the migrant-turned-suspect in Tunisia's Bardo Museum massacre intensified yesterday amid questions about his movements after arriving in Italy with a boat full of rescued refugees a month before the attack. As Italian officials defended their handling of Abdelmajid Touil, indications pointed to his presence in Italy in the days before and after the March 18 massacre.

**UK** Scotland Yard has charged eight suspects with conspiracy to burgle in the well-planned Easter weekend break-in at a safe-deposit box facility in London's famed diamond district. Police say a ninth man has been freed on bail but is still facing questions.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Jerome Delay



A masked protester waits for police during clashes in the Nyakabyga neighborhood of Bujumbura, Burundi, yesterday.