



LAW EXPERT: CLEAN AIR IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Ana Sofia Barros says that environmental protection was foreseen by the Basic Law but has not materialized

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BODIES, AIRCRAFT PARTS FOUND IN MYANMAR

Bodies and aircraft parts were found in the sea while searching for a military transport plane carrying 120 people

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BRITONS ELECT NEW PARLIAMENT

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



KOREA The North's latest missile launches were short-range and landed well short of past efforts, but they still served as a defiant message for its enemies that Pyongyang will continue to pursue a weapons program that has rattled its neighbors and Washington. South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who has expressed a desire to reach out to Pyongyang, said he "won't back off even a single step and make any compromise" on the issue of national security. More on p13



CHINA-RUSSIA Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping hailed close ties between the two nations during their meeting yesterday on the sidelines of a two-day summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, an alliance dominated by Moscow and Beijing.

PHILIPPINES-INDONESIA Authorities from the two countries have arrested several people suspected of links to Islamic militants who overran a city in the southern Philippines and two others who allegedly helped inspire a double suicide bombing in Jakarta.

INDIA is now two and a half times more likely to experience a deadly heat wave than a half century ago, and all it took was an increase in the average temperature of just 0.5 degrees Celsius, a new study shows.

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BELT AND ROAD

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HKD135 MILLION

Okada suspended from company board pending fraud probe

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Extra

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INSIDE

Yang Chongwei to lead privacy watchdog

Yang Chongwei, the current deputy head of the Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP), was confirmed yesterday as the next coordinator of the privacy watchdog. The Government Spokesperson Office issued a statement indicating that the Chief Executive has received Vasco Fong's letter of resignation. Vasco Fong is set to return to the Court of Second Instance on July 1. From then on Yang Chongwei will lead the GPDP.

New wholesale market in September

The president of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), José Tavares, announced that the city's new wholesale market is expected to commence operations in September. Currently, 150 applicants are waiting to start running their businesses in the new market, and it is planned that all 150 will eventually enter the market. A few government departments, such as the city's food safety center and IACM's hygiene supervision department, will be stationed in the market to conduct direct hygiene supervisions and quarantines. The new market occupies an area of 40,000 square meters, consisting of a seven-story building with three basement floors, with the whole space doubling that of the current wholesale market.

Woman manipulates grandson to steal

A local woman aged around 50 has been arrested after manipulating her one-year-old grandson to steal items from clothing shops. Last month, the toddler took one necklace and one pair of earrings from a shop located at Mercado de S. Lourenço, having later given the products to his grandmother. Without making any payments, the woman left the shop with her grandson, resulting in the shop losing MOP500 worth of goods. On Wednesday, the Public Security Police Force arrested the woman, who confessed to the crime.

Mandarin teaching triggers controversy

WONG Kin Mou, the director of the Department of Research and Educational Resources of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), said that the DSEJ does not fully endorse the widespread adoption of Mandarin as the medium of instruction for Chinese language courses.

Wong, during a TDM radio show on Wednesday, claimed that DSEJ regards Cantonese and Mandarin as equally important.

Recently, DSEJ Director Leong Lei mentioned that Macau would work to improve the Mandarin skills of lecturers of Chinese subjects. Lei's statement triggered a discussion among Chinese



RENATO MARQUES

parents.

Some parents support the idea of using Mandarin to teach Chinese because they believe that an additional language offers advantages to the future develop-

ment of students.

On the contrary, the president of the Macau Yue Dialects Association, Tong Choi Lan, who also attended the show, indicated that Mandarin does not help in impro-

ving the students' Chinese ability.

Tong emphasized that Cantonese should not be suppressed by Mandarin just because the latter is the national language.

A member of the audience who identified only as Chan, said he "loves the country and loves Macau," but, did not agree with using Mandarin to teach Chinese. "Despite the Chief Executive Chui's Mandarin not being standard, and being mocked by other people, he has still managed to touch state leaders with his sincere oath-taking," said Chan. He went on to note that to make the students speak fluent Mandarin, they might need to speak Mandarin even at home.

"Would it become the society we want to see? Portuguese people did not do it, regardless of how bad they were," said Chan.

Meanwhile, other people are worried about other parties trying to transfer mainland culture to Macau and expedite the SAR's assimilation. **JZ**

US envoy in HK to push for visa-free entry

CONSUL General of the United States to Hong Kong and Macau, Kurt Tong, says he will aggressively push for visa-free entry to the US for Hong Kong and Macau residents, noting that one of his priorities is to encourage more people to travel to the US.

However, it is still up to the United States Congress to pass a bill on the matter. A relevant bill has been languishing in legislative limbo for three years, as cited in a report issued by the South China Morning Post.

Tong told the media outlet that it is simpler to acquire a 10-year visa.

"It's not impossible that Congress would pass legislation that would allow us to not have the visa process for bearers of Hong Kong passports," Tong said. "And if Congress were to pass that rule, then there would be no one more aggressive than myself and the consulate in trying to implement that possibility as quickly as possible."

Macau and Hong Kong are not included among the 38 countries or regions in the waiver program that permits individuals to travel to America for tourism or business for up to 90 days without requiring a visa.



Kurt Tong

Back in 2013, a democrat from Hawaii, Senator Mazie Hirono, made an attempt to include Hong Kong in the program, but the House of Representatives refused to take up the bill, even after it was passed in the Senate.

The democrat introduced the same amendment again in 2014, but received no further response after it was referred to the Senate's judicial committee.

Data showed that refusal rate for business or tourist visa applications for Hong Kong SAR passport holders was 4.61 percent last year.

The number of non-immigrant visas issued to Hong Kong SAR passport holders increased in 2016 with a total of 68,834 visas approved, compared to 61,288 in the previous year.

CRIME

Man behind fake casino chip scam jailed

THE mastermind behind Singapore's counterfeit chip scam was jailed on Wednesday, after being convicted of 13 counts of engaging in a conspiracy to exchange fake chips for cash at the Marina Bay Sands (MBS) casino.

With the assistance of Malaysian police, along with Macau's Judiciary Police, Toh Hock Thiam was arrested in Malaysia on December 31, 2015.

Toh created SGD1,000 worth of fake chips that, according to Singapore's Casino Regulatory Authority, looked authentic, and were the "best quality" that the bureau had examined.

The perpetrator had already exchanged 1,291 counterfeit chips, before a cashier recognized a slight discoloration in one of them,

a week after.

MBS suffered a loss of almost SGD1.3 million.

Toh, 55, underwent a 14-day trial and was convicted of 13 counts of engaging in a plot that is aimed at exchanging fake chips for cash. The court heard 161 similar charges involving the chips and one count of an immigration offence was also taken into consideration during sentencing, the Straits Times reported.

Prosecutor Asoka Markandu said Toh was directly responsible for 420 counterfeit chips, but the court heard he could be indirectly held accountable for the total losses MBS sustained.

"As the counterfeit cash chips were all the same, an inference can be drawn that Toh

was either involved in the manufacture and distribution of all the counterfeit cash chips, or he had liaised with an unknown syndicate member who had manufactured and delivered the counterfeit cash chips to him and others involved in the scam," said the prosecutor.

The MBS casino also confirmed that the chips did not possess all the security features found in a genuine ones. However, the features the fake chips did not replicate are not visible to the naked eye and can only be detected with special equipment at the cashier's cage.

Further, Toh was also responsible for recruiting two accomplices who helped him distribute the chips, collect money and recruit runners.

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BELT AND ROAD

Portas: Macau could be 'dynamic platform' to foster China's interests

Renato Marques

THE former deputy Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Paulo Portas said that Macau "could and should be a dynamic platform in China's internationalization." Portas was one of yesterday's speakers at the opening of the International Conference on Belt and Road and Macau's Development, where he praised China and its achievements, while criticizing the new direction taken by the Trump administration in the US.

Portas accused the US administration of being contrary to the interests of world development and of choosing the path of protectionism. He spoke as one of the first keynote speeches of the conference. Portas, who is currently the chairman of the International Strategic Council of Mota-Engil (Construction) Company for Latin America and Africa stated; "The fall of the Berlin wall was the end of the relations characterized by the ideological blocks."

"We live in a world where interests prevail over dogma and that is why the Chinese president stands for free a market and free trade when at the same time the new American flag seems to be protectionist," he added.

Portas also praised former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who summarized his achievements by deeming Deng "one of the most extraordinary statesmen of modern era that led China through reforms and opened China to the five continents."

“We live in a world where interests prevail over dogma and that is why the Chinese president stands for a free market and free trade.”

PAULO PORTAS

The former Portuguese deputy Prime Minister also noted that economy is based in technology and not just in production, citing the examples of Uber, AirBnb, Skype, Alibaba and WeChat, suggesting that the companies with successful growth are not necessarily the ones that "produce anything tangible."

Remarking on the shift of power from the West to the East, Portas remarked, "Europeans were educated under the idea that the world is a western one and it's largely Eurocentric," adding, "Americans were also educated in another certitude which is – We are the leaders of a polarized world. The stronger superpower when the world had two. The sole superpower that lasts after the fall of the second." According to him, it is not easy for the current generation of Americans to understand that a global world is a multipolar world. He noted also that such a perspective of the world, which is shared by many Europeans, is outdated because "the world we know now is more and more Eastern. China specifically, and Asia generally, served the new world, the globalized world and the e-economic new world better than any other region and country on the planet."

Commenting on the potential of China and Asia, Portas provided some examples: "Seven of the 10 major airports in the world are in Asia. Nine out of the 10 largest ports are also in Asia and in the top 10 tech companies of the world, six are American but four are already Chinese." He noted that Chinese investment in Europe in the last 20 years has grown over twentyfold.



Paulo Portas

Addressing an attentive audience, Portas said that "China has become the first [number 1] world economy if we consider the GDP adjusted by power of purchase being also the world leading economy in the export of goods," highlighting that regarding the construction sector, "China has produced in 10 years more concrete than US did in the past century."

As for challenges, the largest issues mentioned were demographic and ageing problems as well as "environment risks, the transition from rural to urban societies and the transition from state-owned enterprises to private-owned businesses."

The problems that China has been addressing are being solved, "proving that those who thought China was not prepared to invent and innovate were wrong."

In a further criticism of the policy drafted by the American administration, Portas said "and those who don't understand that protectionism is a path to poverty and a setback in human progress are not only wrong but also dangerous."

In Portas' opinion, the golden rule to success is "to be prepared for the unexpected" and the best way to achieve this is by assuming a "flexible attitude." He says a flexible attitude will allow faster adaptation to a rapidly changing global landscape. He continued, remarking that he is certain the world faces "global problems" that need to be addressed by "global-scale governance." To him,

another certainty is that, "the more trade we have the more peaceful a world we are able to guarantee. Trade brings trust, not war!" and further, "Africa and Latin America, namely the [Portuguese-speaking] countries will be decisive in solving questions of the future such as energy supply and food security." He continued his comments by saying that a result of these facts is the need for "Macau in the heart of the new Silk Road. Connecting minds and matching needs," remarking that the region can also be in the "heart [center] for peace and good business."

In another keynote address, by the Chairman of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council, former deputy Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Surakiart Sathirathai highlighted the great importance of Macau as a "historical city that has been one of the maritime hubs for China's economic projection [...] since ancient times." He continued to say that the role adds to Macau's other responsibilities as a maritime hub role, a business and a tourism hub role.

Sathirathai also remarking on the importance of the initiative, noting that "ultimately the 'Belt and Road' initiative will improve trade in countries covering two-thirds of the world's population," serving also as "China's gateway to the rest of the world and, hopefully, it will push the countries of the region to squeeze out enough growth to escape the middle-income trap."

CE expresses hope that conference 'brings solid benefits' to the world



IN his opening speech at the International Conference on the Belt and Road and Macau's Development, Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On expressed his hope that the accomplishment of such a conference can "contribute with opinions and suggestions to the construction of the 'Belt and Road' in a way that this great project can bring solid benefits to the people of the world."

In a speech where the CE frequently paraphrased Chinese leaders Li Keqiang and Xi Jinping, Chui noted the words of Xi when opening the forum, "Belt and Road for International Co-

operation" saying that such words "enriched the content of the 'Belt and Road' initiative."

Chui said: "In theory or in practice [the Conference] has the purpose to think about the path and the strategy for cooperation in the construction of the 'Belt and Road Initiative' giving a new sense to this modern road that aims to explore new international cooperation models, as well as to draft new paths to world peace and to the world's development and prosperity." He also commended that fact that this task had been assumed by the central government, describing it as a sign of China's sense of responsibility.

CTM Wi-Fi Free launched in Taipa Village

CTM Wi-Fi hotspots are now available in the merchants' area located at Rua do Cunha and Rua do Regedor, in Taipa Village. The information was announced yesterday by CTM during a launching ceremony.

The Wi-Fi provision is expected to provide a convenient service to tourists, residents and merchants within this district, aiming to further facilitate the development of e-commerce and boost the image of Digital Macau.

Under the support of the Macau Economic Services and with the collaboration of merchants within Taipa Village, the CTM Wi-Fi service is accessible at approximately 50 businesses in the area, which can accommodate the demand of over 5,000 smart devices simultaneously.

The vice president of CTM's Network Services, Declan Leong, said "since we want to have a wider Wi-Fi coverage across the whole Macau, we are increasing the installation of Wi-Fi hotspots in shops," adding that "we wish [people] to have a smooth and a good customer experience whether they are staying, traveling, or working in Macau."

According to Leong, CTM is "positive about installing additional Wi-Fi hotspots."

At the present time, CTM has around 2,500 Wi-Fi hotspots located in tourist attractions, restaurants, hotels, non-profit welfare associations, among many other places.

The service now covers all public buses and 11 recreational areas in social housing in Macau.

Lau Vai Meng, the director of Macao Post and the Telecommunications Bureau, while attending yesterday's launch ceremony, disclosed that the bureau is considering some changes to the government's free WifiGo service.

Lau revealed that her bureau will redefine an arrangement related to WifiGo, and propose amendments to the city's law for regulating telecommunications, in particular the terms of use of Wi-Fi provided by private telecommunication companies.

"Currently, privately operated Wi-Fi services, in some ways, are allowed to be allocated outdoors [according to the law]," said Lau, adding "but we will review our instruction, and we will work privately with Wi-Fi operators. WifiGo's installation will change gradually.



Declan Leong

As I said previously, we will gradually reduce WifiGo spots."

When asked whether the government is planning to completely remove the WifiGo service in the future, Lau did not give a clear answer. She explained that the bureau will try to diminish the coverage of the governmental WifiGo,

which overlaps with private Wifi coverage.

"Under the principle of saving public money, we will redefine WifiGo," said Lau. The director claimed that the government is not forced to provide a Wi-Fi service when private entities already do. **JZ**

TOURISM

Showcase of Guangxi cultural heritage kicks off

THE cultural show, "Genesis and Spirit: Showcase of Guangxi Intangible Cultural Heritage" is now officially open to the public. A performance of Guangxi Folk Culture took place at Senado Square yesterday.

Today, tomorrow, and on June 11, three cultural shows featuring performances of Guangxi folk culture based on the themes Genesis and Spirit, and Sentiments of the Land of Zhuang, will be showcased at Senado Square, Iao Hon Market Garden and Largo de Camões from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Each show will include



opera dancing, a musical ensemble with Maguhu and Bolie, and singing performances of Zhuang

music, among other acts that will be performed by Guangxi entertainers to the public.

Zhu Chuangwei, deputy director of the Department of Culture of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region remarked that a total of 12 ethnic groups live in Guangxi, including the Zhuang, Dong, Miao, Yao and Han.

He also noted that there are more than 300 festivals in Guangxi.

Zhu invited the Macau public to visit the Guangxi region to experience the Zhuang culture firsthand.

Zhu said that Guangxi has brought the unique Guangxi heritage to Macau for the local public to catch a glimpse of the Chinese province's culture.

Starting from today, the exhibition, Showcase of Guangxi's Intangible Cultural Heritage, themed Genesis and Spirit, and the Splendid Gui Brocade and Embroidery, will be on display in the temporary exhibition gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM).

The exhibition will be open through the months of June and July, until August 13.

Moreover, Zhuang-style craft demonstrations will be available at the Lou Kau Mansion every day until June 25, except on Mondays when it is closed.

In the Mandarin's Hou-

se, workshops featuring the making of tie-dye, Liupao tea, embroidered balls and horsehair embroidery will only be open on June 17, 18, 24, and 25, respectively.

A maximum of 20 spots are available for each of the workshops' sessions.

All interested parties may register through the Cultural Affairs Bureau website.

The event is hosted by the Ministry of Culture of China and the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of Macau, aiming to facilitate the cooperation and interchange between the interior of mainland China and Macau. **JZ**

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Macau can benefit from China's role in the Paris Agreement

Renato Marques

HOLDING a doctorate in Public International Law from the University of Leuven (Belgium), Ana Sofia Barros has returned to Macau, a region where she lived for 12 years during her childhood, to speak about "hazardous industries and the protection of environmental rights."

Her presentation was held this week during an event organized by the European Union Academic Programme in Macau (EUAP-M) at the Rui Cunha Foundation, where the expert said that Macau could benefit from China's role in the recently signed Paris Agreement.

"With the Paris Agreement and with the intervention of China that will reinforce its commitment on the fight against climate change, I think this creates an interesting momentum because it implies a lot of effort [will be undertaken] against the number of vehicles in circulation and in the building of means to recover and store energy."

"There will be a series of measures that from now on will be taken to prevent the goals [esta-



Ana Sofia Barros

blished and agreed] from being overrun by the emissions of greenhouse gases," she added, "and invariably this will interfere with what is happening in Macau."

The academic clarified that she has very positive feelings about recent events.

As Barros explained during the talk, the current trend in Europe and in parts of the American and African continents is that

environmental protection is connected to human rights and to the right of people to demand a "good living environment." This concept involves the interpretation of the Human Rights Declaration and its relation to other human rights documents, she said.

Where the Asian continent is concerned, the expert said that although there some people requesting improved environ-

mental conditions, "there aren't exactly any case logs [in the courts]." She noted that this may be due to the fact that human rights are not yet widely discussed in many Asian countries. However, Barros feels this is a fact that is likely to change soon.

Across Europe and parts of America and Africa, the notion that environmental protection is connected to human rights is gaining traction

Questioned on the sidelines of the event, Barros noted that the main inspiration that can be drawn for Macau and Asian countries from those in Europe is the example of "the recognition that individuals have envi-

ronmental rights and participation rights and that people are fundamental in the decision-making process and that their voices and interests need to be taken into account when [governments or private organizations] take decisions that carry environmental impact."

Regarding specifically the SAR, she mentioned that, although there is not a clear pollutant industry, there is "an overload of vehicles that are pollutant."

"There aren't really electric vehicles [being operated in large numbers] and there is also a problem with waste treatment," she said, adding that "there are quite a few environmental issues to be addressed in Macau."

As for the biggest challenge for the region, Barros believes it is the "lack of operationalization of the existing law," noting that, "although environmental protection is safeguarded by the Basic Law, an operationalization into a real environmental law has never been realized."

Commenting on the decision of the USA to abandon the Paris Agreement, the specialist said: "It is not yet possible to acknowledge the real impact of such a decision."

"Inside the country [the US], there are many mayors and companies that are willing to compromise directly with the United Nations to respect the maximum ceiling that was agreed," concluding that "the power exercised at a local level can be a very important balance to Trump's decision."

AD

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時間 TIME | 10:00 - 16:00

場地 VENUE | 澳門工會聯合總會工人體育館
Macau Federation of Trade Unions Workers Stadium

活動內容 ACTIVITIES | 足球邀請賽 Football Tournament
滾球邀請賽 Bocce Tournament
兒童天地 Kids Corner
慈善義賣 Charity Sale

主辦單位: CESL Asia 世界體育總會

贊助機構: 澳門特別行政區政府

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Chow Tai Fook reports slight revenue increase

Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd posted a 4 percent rise in net profit for the year ending March 2017 as retail spending improved amidst the recovery in tourist arrivals in Hong Kong and Macau. The full-year net profit of the company rose to HKD3.06 billion from HKD2.94 billion in the previous year. The results were slightly lower than the HKD3.11 billion forecast of 14 analysts polled by S&P Global Market Intelligence. Full-year revenue dropped 9.4 percent to HKD51.25 billion from HKD56.59 billion a year ago, the retailer said. Revenue in the second half rose 4.4 percent from the previous year.

UM student receives award for research paper

A masters student from the University of Macau (UM) Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences, Li Pengpeng, was the sole first prize recipient at the First National Academic Forum for Postgraduates of Pharmacy, for her paper titled "Pharmaceutical Co-innovation Network: Global Patterns and the Role of China." The forum received 340 submissions from 61 well-known universities, including China Pharmaceutical University, Shenyang Pharmaceutical University and Peking University. Using a complex system approach to visualize the evolution of the global pharmaceutical co-innovation network, Li's study provides a detailed analysis of the locations of pharmaceutical innovation and cross-regional collaboration, as cited in a statement issued by UM.

MANILA ATTACK

Resort slammed for poor security measures

The operators of Resorts World Manila (RWM) are being accused of failing to employ appropriate security measures at the casino's entrance during a fatal attack on June 2.

Speaking at a House of Representatives inquiry, Chairman and CEO of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp (Pagcor), Andrea Domingo slammed the security system at the gambling resort.

"From our assessment, there was a real lack of security at the entrance and parking lots of Resorts World Manila, because there's hardly any presence in the area of adequate and competent and properly equipped personnel," Domingo said, cited by the Philippines Inquirer. "Even inside the elevator, this person [the attacker] is already putting on his mask, already putting on his bonnet. And they were able to mo-



A gunman walks away after setting fire to a gambling table in the Resorts World Manila entertainment and gambling complex

nitor that. I think there are no ifs and buts about it. The hotel's security is really lacking."

Thirty-seven patrons and employees died during the attack. Most of the casualties were due to smoke inhalation when the victims were hiding in one of the casino's VIP rooms on the second floor. The attacker

was a heavily indebted Filipino gambling addict who set fire to gaming tables in an attempt to steal money from the casino, according to police. His name was Jessie Carlos — a married father of three and former Finance Department employee who owed more than USD80,000 — and he was later found dead on the fifth

floor of a hotel connected to the complex. According to the police, he shot himself after having set fire to the empty room he had burst into.

The RWM management seems to have different views on the attack. The resort's chief operating officer, Stephen Reilly, admitted shortcomings. "I say there's lapses in security. When we played the first videos, I pointed out there should have been security personnel posted at certain points and they were not present," he said.

RWM president Kingson Sian directed focus elsewhere, pointing out that 12,100 guests were evacuated successfully. Sian said that heat and smoke from the burning gaming tables had caused CCTV cameras to fail, making it impossible to locate the victims. Sian said that many of those who passed away "hid in a very small pantry" and died from suffocation and smoke inhalation while hiding from the gunman.

According to the inquiry, Carlos entered the resort after overpowering a lone female security guard, who was working for RWM's security agency, NC Lanting Security Specialist Agency.

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GAMING

Okada suspended from board over alleged HKD135m illegal payment

Daniel Beittler*

IN a note posted yesterday to the JASDAQ Securities Exchange, Tokyo-based Universal Entertainment Corporation revealed their "suspicion" that the company's chairman and director illegally outflowed HKD135 million from a subsidiary of the company to an external third party in March 2015.

The revelation has led to the immediate suspension of all rights and authorities commanded by the company's chairman, Japanese billionaire Kazuo Okada, who is currently locking horns with U.S. casino magnate Steve Wynn over alleged illegal payments made to Asian gaming regulators.

No information released yesterday suggested that the suspected illegal outflow is in any way connected to the court battle between Okada and Wynn. The initial lawsuit in the Wynn-Okada dispute was filed in early 2013.

According to the note, reviewed by MDT, a report surfaced during a May 23 extraordinary board

The report suggested 'the purpose of the loan was to achieve personal benefit' for Okada

meeting of the company, highlighting the "possibility that fraudulent acts were carried out."

It said that a loan, which had circumvented "a proper internal approval process," had been extended from Tiger Resort Asia Ltd., a Hong Kong subsidiary of the company, to a third party and was processed by Okada and the organization's director and general manager of administration, Yoshinao Negishi.

The loan amounted to HKD135 million, according to the company, HKD130 million of which

"was subsequently transferred by a person affiliated with the third party to Okada Holdings Ltd., a company where Chairman Okada held a position of director at that time."

The report suggested that "the purpose of the loan was to achieve personal benefit" for Okada. As a result, both Okada and Negishi have had their rights and authorities suspended.

Universal Entertainment Corporation also announced that it is establishing a special investigation committee to "conduct a thorough investigation from a professional and objective viewpoint [...] and to formulate measures to prevent reoccurrence."

The company clarified that the investigation committee will comprise three investigators, headed by Michio Masaki, a former public prosecutor in the Tokyo district.

As for the HKD135 million that was allegedly outflowed from the subsidiary in violation of established procedures, Universal Entertainment Corporation said that it already has a strategy for recou-



Kazuo Okada

ping the funds. However, should this prove not to be possible, "there will be no impact on the company's business performance," it said.

Okada, who once owned a 20 percent stake in Wynn Resorts, was expelled from the Nevada-based company after he was accused of making improper payments to Asian gaming regulators.

The Japanese billionaire denied that any payments or gifts were illegal, but that did not prevent Wynn from forcibly redeeming

Okada's 20 percent stake for about USD1.9 billion (MOP15.26 billion), considered a 30 percent discount on its actual market value.

A court battle between Wynn and Okada is ongoing over the matter. The former has asked the district court of Clark County, Nevada to validate the sale of Okada's stake at a discount, while the Japanese billionaire is fighting to restore his stake. Okada is also claiming that his ouster from the company was unjustified. *With Paulo Coutinho

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

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JULIET RISDON

We are all subject to the rise in humidity here in Macau, when walls and ceilings are suddenly turned into something resembling a wet market on cleaning day.

As the moisture appears, so does the mould (or 'mold' if you prefer the American spelling).

Mould thrives in moist environments. In Macau, it is most likely to occur in Winter and Spring, and especially during the change from Winter to Spring as the temperature varies.

Symptoms of mould in properties include:

- Dark patches appearing on walls and around window frames
• Damp smell throughout the apartment
• Beds and soft furnishings feeling damp
• Leather goods with moist patches
• Rugs and carpets are particularly vulnerable as they absorb the moisture, and turn into a perfect environment for mould spores to thrive.

Apart from the visual impact, mould can be a health hazard causing allergic and respiratory problems, and can affect people in a multiple of ways.

One very important point to note; These are problems associated with all apartments throughout Macau. No matter how new the apartment is, or how well it is maintained, you will still have to address the problem. The only way to tackle mould per-

manently is to constantly remove the moisture from the air within the whole apartment.

Hence, apartments with permanent centralised air-conditioning running 24/7 are able to minimize the issue. But there are other ways of tackling the problem.

Alternative Solutions:

AIR-CON

Run the air con on the 'de-humidify' setting to remove moisture from the air. Leave on a low setting, and set the timer to come turn on and off at three-hour intervals to help reduce utility costs and the environmental impact.

DEHUMIDIFIER

Free-standing de-humidifiers are more efficient and cost effective at removing moisture in the air, and during the late Winter and Spring months these can be left on 24 hours a day. The typical cost of a de-humidifier is from MOP2,000 to MOP5,000 depending on the quality. A good source of second hand de-humidifiers is of course from those people who are leaving Macau, and perfectly serviceable units can often be purchased for MOP500.

CLEANING

To remove mould from walls, first wipe with a dry cloth to remove as much of the mould as possible, and then apply a mix-

ture of water and everyday white vinegar which should kill any remaining mould spores.

This process must be repeated throughout the Winter and Spring months.

ANTI-MOULD FOR CLOTHES

Small plastic boxes containing granules can be purchased at supermarkets, and should be placed in wardrobes and cupboards to absorb moisture.

WHEN YOU ARE AWAY

It is also important at this time of year when many people leave Macau for holidays to ensure that you have something in place to reduce the humidity in your apartment for example someone visiting the apartment regularly and running the Air Conditioners or Dehumidifiers for a few hours. Alternatively some people run a dehumidifier with an outlet to a drain so it does not need emptying. We suggest it is still a good idea to get a trusted friend or helper to check the property to ensure everything is ok.

No way to avoid the mould I'm afraid, we can only do our best to minimize it.

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PokerStars LIVE Macau advertisement for Saturday SuperStack. Features stacks of chips with a spade symbol and text: 'STILL THE BIGGEST POKER NIGHT OF THE WEEK'. Includes details about the HK\$100,000 prize pool and tournament dates from May 10th to June 17th.

Yahoo, Verizon agreement nears after shareholder approval

Brian Womack

YAHOO! Inc. shareholders approved the USD4.48 billion sale of the company's main web properties to Verizon Communications Inc., clearing the last major hurdle for a deal announced almost a year ago.

The company said it expects to hand over its web assets to the telecommunications giant on June 13, according to a statement yesterday. The transaction had earlier been delayed by revelations of massive privacy breaches and a reduction in the price from \$4.8 billion.

Yahoo Chief Executive Officer Marissa Mayer agreed to the sale last year after a four-year turnaround effort failed to stem a slide in advertising revenue. Verizon will seek to use Yahoo's web audience to push deeper into content and expand beyond its central business of connecting people to the internet, cable channels and their



smartphones. Yahoo will become part of a new Verizon unit called Oath that will include media content and digital services like email. The division will also incorporate businesses Verizon added when it bought AOL, another faded internet pioneer, for \$4.4 billion in 2015.

In addition to the vote on the transaction, shareholders also approved the advisory vote on compensation for top executives in connec-

tion with the Verizon deal. Mayer's golden parachute, worth about \$30 million, includes a \$3.02 million severance and \$25,081 in benefits. The remainder is about 491,000 shares that will pay out ahead of schedule. They were valued at roughly \$26.9 million after Yahoo's shares rose to \$54.76 by 12:11 p.m. in New York.

Late last year, the deal was thrown into question after the Sunnyvale, California-

based web portal revealed widespread cyberattacks during Mayer's tenure that exposed hundreds of millions of users' online information. In September, Yahoo disclosed a 2014 breach that affected at least 500 million customer accounts. Then, the company said in December that hackers in 2013 siphoned information including users' email addresses, scrambled account passwords and dates of birth. In February, Yahoo and New York-based Verizon agreed to drop the purchase price by \$350 million.

What remains of Yahoo after the sale, when the will be renamed Altaba Inc., will be the most valuable parts of the current company: stakes in China's Alibaba Group Holding Inc. and Yahoo Japan that are worth more than \$40 billion. Altaba, which will be led by current Yahoo director Thomas McInerney, will share ongoing legal responsibilities related to the security breaches. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS RESORTS RESTAURANTS LISTED IN CTRIP GOURMET



The Ctrip Gourmet List has this year listed four restaurants at The Venetian Macao, one at Sands Macao, three restaurants at Four Seasons Hotel Macao, and two at Sheraton Grand Macao.

The restaurants include Michelin-starred Indian restaurant Golden Peacock, Portofino (Ctrip Select), Canton (Ctrip Select) and North (Ctrip Local Favorite); and Copa Steakhouse (Ctrip Select), amongst others.

The list also included Zi Yat Heen (Ctrip One Star), Belcação (Ctrip Select) and Windows Restaurant (Ctrip Select); Bene (Ctrip Select) and Xin (Ctrip Select), and the St. Regis bar (Ctrip Select).

The Ctrip Gourmet List evaluates restaurants in three award categories: "Ctrip Star (Three Star, Two Star, One Star) - Top Restaurants Best Reputation Gourmets Preferred," "Ctrip Select - Boutique Restaurants Classy Recommendation" and "Ctrip Local Favorite - Local Specialist Popular Restaurants."

The list was compiled by around 15,000 food critics, 500 professional appraisers and Ctrip's editorial team and most of the contributors are China-based.

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IVANKA SHOES

'You disappeared?' A wife seeks her husband missing in China

Erika Kinetz, Ganzhou

FIRST they took her husband. Then they tried to silence her. But Deng Guilian, wife of one of three China Labor Watch activists arrested while investigating labor conditions in Ivanka Trump's supply chain, has a lot to say about what life is like in China when you disobey the ruling Communist Party.

Deng, 36, has joined the swelling ranks of families on the wrong side of China's economic and political miracle. In recent years, Beijing has detained hundreds of human rights lawyers and labor activists in a sweeping crackdown on perceived threats to the Communist Party. In many cases, families lose their primary — or only — source of income. But their struggles are more than just financial. The Chinese government wields great power over the lives of its citizens, which it can use to make things better, or infinitely worse.

Deng has faced multiple police interrogations, near daily phone calls or visits from local police and party officials, pressure from family members, shame before her neighbors, and repeated admonitions not to speak with the foreign media.

"Do not let your husband's crime turn into something like leaking state secrets," Deng said she was told. "They spoke so seriously. Anyway, I don't understand, but it was just terrifying."

Still, she has kept talking, speaking with The Associated Press for hours about her family's plight. Chinese authorities have alternated between threats and sweet enticements, offering to help her sick mother,



Deng Guilian and her son Bo Bo, aged 3. Den is the wife of an activist arrested while investigating labor conditions in Ivanka Trump's supply chain

connect her house to the municipal water supply, and support her financially, spilling out a vision of how good life could be if she would just stop talking and come back into the fold.

But she won't.

She said she can't understand what is so threatening about her story, or what her husband, who was only trying to make society better for everyone, had done wrong.

"I have an unknown tenacity," she said.

Her husband, Hua Haifeng,

and his colleagues, Li Zhao and Su Heng, worked with a New York nonprofit called China Labor Watch. They are being detained in Ganzhou, a city in southeastern China's Jiangxi province, for allegedly using illegal recording devices and cameras to disrupt operations of the Huajian Group, which has made shoes for Ivanka Trump and other brands. When they were arrested, the men were finishing a report alleging low pay, excessive overtime, crude verbal abuse and possible misuse of stu-

dent labor at Huajian factories.

Huajian denies those allegations. Ivanka Trump's brand says no merchandise has been made there since March and that all suppliers must meet "strict social compliance regulations."

Ivanka Trump herself, who stepped back from day-to-day operations of the brand but still retains ownership, has said nothing.

Deng wishes she would, and believes she could help.

"As a wife and mother of two

children, I ask Ivanka Trump to release my husband," she said.

Deng's life as a wife and mother changed radically after police called her May 30 and said her husband had been arrested. He had disappeared two days earlier.

She was interrogated for more than three hours one night by four men who pulled their chairs in a tight circle around her. "Each one was like a wolf," she said.

A second interrogation left Deng in tears, but also determined to help her husband. She got standing-room-only tickets for herself, her sister-in-law and her son on the next train to Ganzhou, a 12-hour ride from her home in Hubei province.

Huajian is a big commercial player in Ganzhou, a city better known for its oranges than its factories. The shoe factory sits in a complex of Huajian buildings, all painted the same pale blue, including rows of Huajian apartment towers, a Huajian innovation park and a Huajian school.

Deng was not allowed to see her husband but she found him a lawyer and bought meal cards and clothes for all three investigators, burning through half the money in her modest rainy-day fund.

She was living off loans from relatives, which she found humiliating. She wished she had never quit her job to take care of the family.

But she was unafraid as she boarded the train home Wednesday. China is a country of laws, she believed, and as long as she didn't break them, nothing bad would happen.

Then again, there was her husband, who she thought had done nothing wrong and was at that very moment in jail, eating bad food and sleeping by a plastic bucket used as a toilet by 20 men who had been ordered not to speak to him. At least he hadn't been beaten.

At 1:12 p.m., the green train to Xiangyang city eased forward, carrying Deng and her son off to an uncertain future. **AP**

ECONOMY

Trade growth rebounds in May

CHINA'S trade growth rebounded in May in a positive sign for global demand and the cooling Chinese economy.

Exports rose by a better-than-expected 8.7 percent over a year earlier to USD190 billion, up from April's 8 percent growth, customs data showed yesterday. Imports gained 14.8 percent to \$150.2 billion, up from the previous month's 11.9 percent.

Unexpectedly strong exports could lend support to economic growth that is forecast to weaken this year as Beijing tightens credit controls to reduce the risks of rising debt.

The data show "momentum in demand from the U.S. and the EU continues to improve," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics in a report.

Chinese leaders are trying to steer the country

to self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption and reduce reliance on trade and investment but want to avoid politically dangerous job losses in export-dependent industries.

Forecasters warned Chinese import demand is likely to wane as the economy cools. The International Monetary Fund expects this year's economic growth to de-

cline to 6.6 percent from last year's 6.7 percent and to below 6.2 percent in 2018.

"The current strength of imports is unlikely to be sustained if, as we expect, slower credit growth feeds through into weaker economic activity in the coming quarters," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

"Exports growth is also



likely to edge down further ahead but should fare better than imports given the relatively upbeat outlook for China's main trading partners."

The country's global trade surplus shrank by 18.4 percent from a year earlier to \$40.8 billion.

The surplus with the 28-nation European Union, China's biggest trading partner, expanded by 8 percent from a year earlier to \$10.8 billion. That with the United States widened by 4 percent to \$22 billion. **AP**

CLIMATE

Clean energy ambition floats on abandoned coal mine

CHINA'S ambitions to dominate new energy technologies are unfolding at the site of an abandoned coal mine about 483 kilometers northwest of Shanghai.

There, in Anhui province, Sungrow Power Supply Co. has built the world's largest floating solar farm with 166,000 panels on a lake created when a nearby mine collapsed. While not an entirely unique idea - similar facilities are working in Japan, the U.K. and Israel - the project's scale represents a step forward for China in shaping the future of energy.

President Xi Jinping's government this week is drawing attention to those efforts at a meeting of energy ministers from around the world that concludes yesterday in Beijing. With plans to spend USD360 billion on renewable energy by 2020, China is seeking to appear as a global leader on the environment, marking a contrast with U.S. President Donald Trump's rebuke of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

"The Chinese are really investing in the research and development side of innovation," said Helen Clarkson, chief executive officer of The Climate Group, a non-governmental organization that works to promote clean energy technologies and policy.

While Trump has said repeatedly he wants to stimulate fossil fuels and especially coal, China is funding a series of ground-breaking projects that generate power without pollution. Whether with massive floating solar farms like the one in Anhui, sprawling wind farms or ambitious plans to develop geothermal reserves, the world's most-populous nation is asserting itself as a powerhouse of clean-energy technology.

In the northwestern province of Qinghai, Huanghe Hydropower Development Co. is planning a demonstration project to integrate power from hydro-electric dams with wind turbines and solar cells. Similarly, the Guoshen Group, a power plant operator, intends to build a project that will combine wind, solar and thermal power with energy storage in the northern region of Inner Mongolia.

Meanwhile, construction has begun on China's first large-scale effort to trap and store carbon dioxide emissions. The Yanchang Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage Project, Asia's first commercial carbon



The world's largest floating solar plant, with panels set up on a reservoir, in Kasai, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

capture plant, is set to begin operating in 2018.

"Everybody has to become more sophisticated about their investment strategy," said Sophie Lu, head of China research at Bloomberg New Energy Finance. "Now it's all about innovation either in new technology or in a new application or a new business model."

China's efforts pit it against the U.S., which insists it can remain a hotbed of innovation in energy even though the president is slashing funds for startups in the industry and pulling out of the 2015 Paris accord. On his trip to Asia to represent

Trump, U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry spoke forcefully of America's efforts to spur energy technology while also challenging China to take leadership on the issue.

"There is a lot of innovation out there, and it is gonna come, not all of the ways, but a lot of it will come from the United States," Perry told reporters in Tokyo. "Somehow or another, because we don't belong to this little club, you can't be innovative and drive technology and affect the climate. I just don't buy it."

The stakes are high for both nations. The clean-energy busi-

ness employed 9.8 million people last year, up 1.1 percent from 2015, led by an expansion in solar photovoltaics, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency's annual report. Green jobs may reach 24 million worldwide in 2030 as more countries work to combat climate change, Irena said.

Floating solar is spreading and getting bigger, led by projects in Asia and Europe

"China is a real driver in the money they invest in the diligence of their innovation," California Governor Jerry Brown said in a Bloomberg Television interview this week. "I want California to partner with China in that endeavor. Otherwise we won't achieve our climate goals."

In Anhui, Sungrow's 40-megawatt solar farm in a district of Huainan city called Panji features panels fixed to floats on the surface of a lake that formed after the ground surrounding an old coal mine collapsed.

Floating solar is spreading and getting bigger, led by projects in Asia and Europe.

Hong Kong-listed Xinyi Solar Holdings Ltd. completed a 20-megawatt floating solar farm last year in Huainan. On a reservoir outside Tokyo, Kyocera TCL Solar LLC has finished a 13.4-megawatt project, the biggest of its kind in Japan. Thames Water Utilities Ltd., the U.K.'s largest privately owned water supplier, operates Europe's largest floating solar farm on its Queen Elizabeth Reservoir reservoir near Heathrow airport.

By the end of September, Sungrow will complete more than 150 megawatts of new floating capacity in Huainan, said Hu Bing, an executive at Sungrow, the world's second-biggest photovoltaic inverter maker.

The Anhui project could yield 5 percent to 10 percent more power compared with a conventional solar plant because the panels are expected to be cooled as surface water evaporates, said Hu.

To be fair, China's energy innovations still have some way to go to catch up to the country's aspirations.

While China has 37 working nuclear reactors, none have been built without expertise from abroad. The country also hasn't produced an innovator with a profile similar to that of Tesla Inc., General Electric Co. or Vestas Wind Systems A/S.

The U.S. plans to keep its competitive edge "the same way we have historically," Perry said in Tokyo. "It's called innovation and technology." **Bloomberg**

Perry promotes US-China energy cooperation

AMERICA and China have "extraordinary opportunities" to work together on clean energy, U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry said yesterday, amid global criticism of President Donald Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate agreement.

In a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli on the sidelines of a clean energy conference in Beijing, Perry cited liquefied natural gas, nuclear energy and carbon capture as areas where the two countries can cooperate.

"Those are three areas that I think we have extraordinary opportunities to be partners to work on clean energy issues," Perry said.

Trump's decision last week to withdraw from the climate agreement negotiated in 2015 sparked speculation that he is creating a leadership void that could be filled by China, the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.

In Japan earlier this week, Perry said he hoped China will step forward to be a "real leader" on climate issues, while rejecting criticism that the United States is backing down.

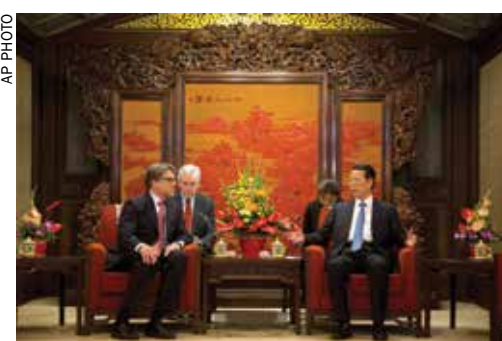
"I hope China will step in and attempt to take the mantle away. It would be a good challenge for them," Perry said.

In their opening remarks before reporters were ushered out of yesterday's meeting, neither Perry nor Zhang mentioned Trump's decision. The 2015 agreement had largely been seen as a triumph of cooperation between the U.S. and China, the world's two biggest economies and energy consumers who are often at odds on issues such as regional security and human rights.

An official readout of the meeting later distributed to journalists cited Perry as also mentioning renewables — essentially wind and solar power — as another area of "mutual interest" to both countries.

China is a global leader in renewables, although its solar panels and wind turbines often sit idle and the energy they could produce goes to waste because of its outdated electrical grid and a preference among some local officials for coal, which still accounted for 62 percent of total energy consumption in 2016.

California Gov. Jerry Brown, who also attended the Beijing conference, told The Associated Press that Trump's move would ultimately prove only a temporary setback because China, European countries and individual U.S. states will fill the gap left by the federal government's move to abdicate



U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry (left) listens to Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli during a meeting at the Zhongnanhai leaders compound in Beijing yesterday

leadership on the issue. China and California signed an agreement Tuesday to work together on reducing emissions.

Brown met with China's president, Xi Jinping, on Wednesday and told reporters later that they discussed ways to expand economic opportunities between China and California with an emphasis on clean energy.

In a notable contrast, Perry's meeting was with a leader of lower standing. Among the seven members of the Communist Party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee, Zhang ranks last. **AP**

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South Korea leader warns North after latest missile launch

Hyung-Jin Kim & Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

NORTH Korea's latest launches of several suspected anti-ship missiles were short-range and landed well short of past efforts, but they still served as a defiant message for its enemies that Pyongyang will continue to pursue a weapons program that has rattled its neighbors and Washington.

The projectiles were fired yesterday from the North Korean eastern coastal town of Wonsan and likely flew about 200 kilometers, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. They landed in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, where U.S. aircraft carriers USS Carl Vinson and USS Ronald Reagan participated in joint exercises with the South Korean navy that ended earlier this week.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who has expressed a desire to reach out to Pyongyang, said during a National Security Council meeting he "won't back off even a single step and make any compromise" on the issue of national security. He warned that North Korea could only face further international isolation and more economic difficulties.

The North's missile tests present a difficult challenge to Moon. North Korea, which could have a working nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile in the next several years,



A screen in Tokyo shows a news program reporting about North Korea's missile firing from Wonsan

may also be the most urgent foreign policy concern for the Trump administration, which has been distracted by domestic political turmoil and has insisted China do more to rein in the North's weapons activities.

South Korean military spokesman Roh Jae-cheon said the launch was intended to show off Pyongyang's widening range of missiles and also its "precision strike capabilities" on ships in response to the joint drills.

North Korea's weapons tests are meant to build a nuclear

and missile program that can stand up to what it sees as U.S. and South Korean hostility, but they are also considered by outside analysts as ways to make its political demands clear to leaders in Washington and Seoul. Analysts say the latest test appeared to be aimed at keeping up pressures on Moon to wrest concessions.

Moon has sought to expand cross-border civilian exchanges as a way to improve ties, but North Korea on Monday rejected a Seoul civic group's offer to

provide anti-malaria supplies to protest South Korea's support of fresh U.N. sanctions adopted last week.

In what will likely become another source of animosities, Moon's government said yesterday that it will let two of the four North Korean fishermen recently rescued at sea resettle in the South in accordance with their wishes. The two other fishermen who want to return home will be repatriated.

Pyongyang is expected to demand the return of all four

fishermen by accusing Seoul of enticing them to defect to the South.

The launches yesterday were North Korea's fourth missile test since Moon's inauguration on May 10.

Analyst Kim Dong-yub at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies said the projectiles, which showed longer range than North Korea's previously known KN-01 anti-ship cruise missiles, were likely from a new cruise missile system the North displayed during a massive April 15 military parade. The improved range indicates North Korea is pursuing weapons capable of reaching U.S. aircraft carriers that operate from deeper positions, he said.

President Moon Jae-in said he 'won't back off even a single step and make any compromise'

Last month, North Korea premiered a powerful new midrange missile that outside experts said flew higher than any other missile previously tested by North Korea.

The North in following weeks launched a solid-fuel midrange missile that can be fired on shorter notice than liquid fuel missiles, and also what it described a new "precision-guided" missile, which experts say is designed with a maneuverable terminal stage meant to frustrate missile defense systems like the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense that is being deployed in South Korea.

MYANMAR

Navy ship, fishermen find bodies in search for plane

Esther Htusan, San Hlan

FISHERMEN joined navy and air force personnel yesterday in recovering bodies and aircraft parts from the sea off Myanmar, where a military plane carrying 122 people including 15 children crashed a day earlier, officials said.

The four-engine Chinese-made Y-8 turboprop aircraft had left Myeik, also known as Mergui, heading for Yangon on a route over the Andaman Sea. It was raining, but not heavily, at the time contact was lost with it at 1:35 p.m. Wednesday, when it was southwest of the city of Dawei, formerly known as Tavoy.

The military announced that the bodies of 29 people had been recovered by late yesterday afternoon — 20 women, eight children and one man. In many cases, the bodies were not recovered whole, said a military officer involved in the recovery operation.

More than 1,000 people, including volunteers from dozens of community mutual aid societies with their vehicles, gathered on the beach at San Hlan village in Laung Lone township, which served as a landing point for recovery operations.

The bodies, fetched from the sea and taken aboard large fishing vessels and navy ships, had been

transferred to smaller boats which hauled them into shallow water at the beach, where soldiers put the body bags on stretchers and carried them to waiting trucks. The process had been delayed for several hours by heavy rain and choppy seas.

Local fishermen joined nine navy ships, five military aircraft and three helicopters in the search, military spokesman Gen. Myat Min Oo said. One of the first finds by the searchers was of two life jackets, bodies and an aircraft wheel in the sea west of Laung Lone, he announced earlier.

The plane carried 108 passengers — mostly mi-

litary personnel and their families — and 14 crew members, according to an announcement on the Facebook page of military Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, which originally gave slightly lower numbers. Fifteen of the passengers were children. It is not unusual for such flights to carry civilians to offset transportation costs for military families stationed in the somewhat remote south.

The Facebook page, the main source of official information about the crash, said the plane, carrying about 2.4 tons of cargo in addition to the 122 people aboard, was received in March last year and since



Rescue personnel carry bodies recovered by fishing vessels in the waters off San Hlan village in southern Myanmar

then had logged 809 flying hours. It said the pilot and co-pilot both had more than 3,100 hours of flying experience.

The area is about 700 kilometers north of the last primary radar contact with Malaysia Airlines Fli-

ght 370, which vanished on a flight from Malaysia to Beijing on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board. That plane is believed to have flown far off course and crashed into a remote area of the southern Indian Ocean. **AP**



Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah (left) holds the hand of Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha, Qatar

GULF CRISIS

Kuwait's emir meets with Qatari leader amid diplomatic rift

Jon Gambrell, Dubai

KUWAIT'S emir traveled to Qatar to help mediate an end to a crisis that's seen Arab nations cut ties to the energy-rich nation home to a major U.S. military base, though Emirati officials warned there was "nothing to negotiate."

Kuwait's Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah was met planeland by Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, when he arrived yesterday [Macau time]. The Qatari Foreign Ministry said in a statement the two held talks on how "restore the normal relations" of the Gulf as the 2022 FIFA World Cup host and international air travel hub now finds itself isolated by land, sea and air.

But the visit came after Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash told The Associated Press that Qatar has "chosen to ride the tiger of extremism and terrorism" and

now needed to pay the price, despite Qatar long denying the allegation.

Gargash said Qatar "definitely" should expel members of Hamas, stop its support of terror groups "with al-Qaida DNA" around the world and rein in the many media outlets it funds, chief among them the Doha-based satellite news network Al-Jazeera.

Their "fingerprints are all over the place" in terror funding, Gargash said. "Enough is enough."

Qatari officials declined to comment on Gargash's comments. Its foreign minister has struck a defiant tone in interviews, even after worried residents emptied grocery stores in its capital of Doha as Saudi Arabia has blocked trucks carrying food from entering the country.

Its flag carrier Qatar Airways now flies increasingly over Iran and Turkey after being blocked elsewhere over the Middle East.

Emirati officials also shut down the airline's offices in the UAE. Al-Jazeera offices also have been shut down by authorities in Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Meanwhile, Turkey's parliament approved sending troops to an existing Turkish base in Qatar as a sign of support.

The international agency Standard and Poors announced this week that it lowered its rating on Qatar's long-term debt to AA-minus because of the country's dispute with its neighbors. S&P said those countries' severing of diplomatic and business links "will exacerbate Qatar's external vulnerabilities and could put pressure on economic growth and fiscal" stability.

Speaking to the AP from a Foreign Ministry office in Dubai, Gargash listed a number of terror groups he alleged Qatar had funded, including al-Qaida's branches in Syria and Somalia, militants in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and other groups with "al-

Qaida-type organizations" in Libya. He offered no documents to support his claim, but Western officials long have accused Qatar's government of allowing or even encouraging funding of some Sunni extremists.

Gargash particularly pointed out the tens of millions of dollars paid to Shiite militias and others to free dozens of Qatari ruling family members and others in Iraq after 16 months in captivity.

Asked for specifics about what Arab nations wanted from Qatar, Gargash said expelling members of Hamas and other groups like the Muslim Brotherhood from Qatar was important.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who tweeted about Qatar funding extremists, called Sheikh Tamim yesterday [Macau time] and offered to host leaders at the White House to resolve the crisis. It's unclear whether the Qatari leader would accept,

especially as one outspoken Emirati ruling family member, the writer and political analyst Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, has raised the prospect of Qatar's leadership changing.

"Qataris are questioning whether this is going to end up in seeing a change in leadership itself in Qatar," Al Qassemi told the AP in his office in Sharjah, near Dubai. "So it is a very serious issue. Again, this is Qataris speaking to international media wondering whether this is possible at all."

The Gulf countries have ordered their citizens out of Qatar and gave Qataris abroad 14 days to return home. The countries also said they would eject Qatar's diplomats.

Trump called Sheikh Tamim yesterday and offered to host [Persian Gulf] leaders at the White House to resolve the crisis

"Doha now is completely isolated," Al Qassemi said. "Doha now needs to take serious steps very rapidly to placate not only their neighbors but also their allies around the world."

The crisis began in part over what the Qataris described as a false news report planted during a hack of its state-run news agency.

An initial report on the hack from Qatar's Interior Ministry yesterday said the website of the Qatar News Agency was initially hacked in April with "high techniques and innovative methods." It said hackers installed a file and then published a fake news item attributed to Sheikh Tamim just after midnight May 24.

The ministry did not say who it suspected carried out the attack, though it thanked the FBI and the British National Commission for Combating Crime for assisting it in its investigation.

Russia denied it hacked the agency after a CNN report quoted anonymous U.S. officials saying they suspected Russian hackers.

The UAE did not hack the Qatari news agency, Gargash said. However, he did acknowledge the authenticity of recently leaked emails from Emirati Ambassador Yousef al-Otaiba in Washington, which several media outlets described as including criticism of Qatar.

"That hack showed the UAE's real concerns and that what we really say in our private emails is what we say publicly," Gargash said. **AP**

UK ELECTION

Who's who, what was at stake in unexpected vote

BRITAIN voted for a new Parliament and government yesterday after a campaign of three phases: the sleepy election, the surprising election and the security election.

At closing time, most analysis predicted a Conservative Party win, but not big enough to guarantee an overall majority at the Westminster parliament – which would represent a major defeat for sitting Prime Minister Theresa May, and a hung parliament.

What initially seemed the duller campaign in memory has been transformed through unexpected missteps, surprise developments – and deadly attacks that have pushed national security to the top of the agenda.

The contenders. In the blue corner – traditional color of the Conservative Party – is May, a 60-year-old lawmaker known in her party as a quietly effective operator. A former advocate

of remaining in the EU, she now promises to press forward with Brexit, taking Britain out of the bloc, reducing immigration and forging a new relationship with the U.K.'s European neighbors.

In the opposition red corner is the Labour Party's Jeremy Corbyn, a 68-year-old socialist who was elected leader by party members two years ago – to the chagrin of many Labour lawmakers, who wanted a more centrist chief.

Critics say Corbyn, an advocate of nationalization and other old-left policies, embodies an outdated vision the party left behind during the "New Labour" years of Prime Minister Tony Blair. Supporters see him as a refreshingly authentic alternative to the pro-business, budget-cutting Conservatives.

Among smaller parties, the pro-independence Scottish National Party is seeking to repeat its 2015 near-sweep of seats in Scotland.

Big issues. Brexit, which had

been expected to dominate the campaign, has played a surprisingly small role. Both Labour and the Conservatives say they will go through with the split, then seek the closest possible relationship with the EU. Neither party has provided many details of how this will be accomplished.

The election's early stages pointed toward the predicted coronation for May and the Conservatives, campaigning under the slogan "strong and stable government."

But it soon became clear that Corbyn's anti-austerity message was resonating with many voters, especially the young. Labour has successfully painted the election as a choice between two visions of society, promising to govern "for the many, not the few."

May's tightly controlled campaign style, which saw her speaking largely to hand-picked groups of supporters, began to grate. And then the party



Conservative PM Theresa May leaves with her husband Philip after voting in the general election at a polling station in Maidenhead

produced an election manifesto that gave ammunition to critics.

Terrorism role. Two deadly attacks transformed the campaign, pushing terrorism and security to the top of the agenda.

The May 22 bombing at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester killed 22 people and halted campaigning for several days. When it resumed, May was facing questions about her record as Britain's interior minister between 2010 and 2016 – years in which police budgets were cut and the number of officers fell by almost 20,000. After three attackers killed eight

people in a vehicle and knife rampage around London Bridge, May said "enough is enough."

When the campaign started, the Conservatives were as much as 20 points ahead in opinion polls. More recent surveys still point to victory for May – but not necessarily the landslide she seeks.

The latest opinion polls vary between a solid Conservative lead and a dead heat, with projected outcomes ranging from a Conservative majority of more than 100 to a "hung Parliament," in which no party has a majority. AP

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:40	Revenge Sr 2
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated) (PT)
19:40	Soap Opera (PT)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:15	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Gunga Din
01:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:00	Miscellaneous
02:40	Champions League Qualifiers
04:50	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:50	Comedy
11:15	Blaze Riders
11:40	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
18:15	Soap Opera
19:20	Miscellaneous
19:50	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
20:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:00	Drama (PT)
22:10	TDM News
22:50	Miscellaneous
23:30	Champions League Qualifiers
00:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:30	Young Adult
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Zig Zag
16:35	Miscellaneous
17:15	Documentary Serie
18:15	Brainstorm
19:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary Serie
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:10	News (repeated)
00:45	RTPi Live

Offbeat

HERE'S AN IDEA: MEDICAL POT DISPENSARY SELLING MARIJUANA PIZZA

A Massachusetts medical marijuana dispensary has created a culinary delight for patients who don't want to smoke their pot or eat it in the form of sweets.

Quincy-based Ermont Inc. has been selling cannabis-infused pizza for about three weeks to rave reviews.

Director of Operations Seth Yaffe says the company has a whole range of marijuana edibles, but he wanted to offer meals that patients could eat without a lot of sugar.

The 6-inch cheese pizzas sell for USD38 apiece. The tomato sauce contains 125 milligrams of THC, the psychoactive compound in marijuana. The company has sold about 200 already. Yaffe says if patients want toppings, they can add their own.

Only people with state-issued medical marijuana ID cards are eligible to buy the pies.

cinema



CINETEATRO

8-14 JUN



THE MUMMY

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Alex Kurtzman

Starring: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Walls

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

WONDER WOMAN

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm

Director: Patty Jenkins

Starring: Chris Pine, Connie Nielsen, Robin Wright

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



BLEED FOR THIS

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Ben Younger

Starring: Miles Teller, Aaron Eckhart, Katey Sagal

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min

THE MUMMY

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Alex Kurtzman

Starring: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Walls

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

MACAU TOWER

30 MAY - 11 JUNE



WONDER WOMAN

(3D) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Patty Jenkins

Starring: Chris Pine, Connie Nielsen, Robin Wright

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

this day in history



1983 THATCHER WINS LANDSLIDE VICTORY

Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party has won a landslide second term election victory, taking 397 seats to Labour's 209.

The SDP Liberal Alliance, fighting its first national contest, won just 23 seats under the "first-past-the-post" electoral system, despite receiving nearly as many votes as Labour.

Mrs Thatcher announced the forthcoming parliament would have a "heavy programme", featuring some of the bills which fell before the election.

She also pledged to re-organise local authorities and to introduce bills on trade unions and rates.

Parliament is to meet for the first time next week, when the speaker of the House will be sworn in.

The prime minister said her first priority for the new term would be to reshuffle her cabinet. She insisted it would reflect a range of political views, saying, "I haven't been extreme for the last four years and I'm not extreme now."

Defeated Labour Party leader Michael Foot described the result as a tragedy for the country.

He said: "I agree with those who said the fight to win the next election starts immediately and of course I accept, to the full, my responsibilities in this election."

Mr Foot strongly attacked the SDP for siphoning support away from Labour - giving more seats to the Conservatives.

The SDP Liberal Alliance blamed Britain's "winner takes all" electoral system on its failure to convert its significant electoral support into seats in parliament.

David Steel said: "I feel a real sense of outrage at the vast number of votes we picked up with so little to show for it in the way of seats."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Among the reasons behind the Conservative Party's success was Mrs Thatcher's popularity after Britain's victory in the Falklands war and the continuing troubles of a divided Labour Party.

Two of original "gang of four" who left Labour to set up the SDP, Shirley Williams and William Rodgers, lost their seats in the 1983 poll.

But the biggest upset was in Bristol East, where former minister Tony Benn was defeated after 33 years in the Commons. Michael Foot resigned as Labour leader later in the year, and was succeeded by Neil Kinnock.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Who's in control here -- you, or someone further up the chain of command? Be honest with yourself and use your wisdom rather than your ego when going about your duties.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Hard work yields pleasing results and proves that momentum is the key to your success. Once you get going, you may find yourself exceeding expectations long before you're ready to quit.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Duty calls repeatedly today, while you just want to answer the siren song of fun and games. Your day improves when you find a playmate who shares your desire to escape.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Be on the lookout for obstacles in business and romantic partnerships. Excess activity on off-traveled ground stirs up many issues. Be cautious about starting something new -- you may want to wait.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It's a great time to meet and impress new people. You radiate confidence, attracting potential partners like flies to honey. In love and art, you are nearly unstoppable. Use your magic touch to bargain for something.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Have you heard the saying, 'To make money, you have to spend money'? If you want to get in the game, you must come up with the admission fee. At least this money will be helping you toward a greater goal.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You begin to live your dreams. What others only imagine, you dare to do. The usual barriers in business and romance open for you like swinging doors. In fact, mixing business with pleasure may be a very real possibility.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your train of smooth and steady progress gets derailed by indecision. It may be difficult to make a choice when you consider how much is at stake. Not to worry: You have time to find the answer.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You will receive a delightful complication via an archer named Cupid. New romances blossom or old ones heat up again -- or maybe both. Someone special finds you irresistible.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 It's in your best interest to finish old business before starting anew. Accept help as it is offered and use it as needed. Sharing the reward is a small price to pay for closure.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Take some time out and get to know a new acquaintance, culture or start a new course. Figuring out what makes other people tick gives you unexpected insight about your own situations.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You understand the nature of secrets, even when they're difficult and inconvenient. If someone shares something with you, don't worry about giving advice -- just listen.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World locations, including columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Actor Beatty and others; 5- Panhandles; 9- Challenge; 13- A Baldwin brother; 14- Eagle's home; 15- Switch ending; 16- Back; 17- Subway turner; 18- Earth's satellite; 19- Strait of Dover port; 21- Dutch carrier; 22- Tolkien tree creatures; 23- Chicago paper, for short; 25- Cong. meeting; 27- Stocky; 31- Pertaining to Denmark; 35- Swear words; 36- Speaker of note; 38- Basil-based sauce; 39- Ox tail?; 40- Spanish Mister; 42- Bro or sis; 43- Yellowish citrus fruit; 46- Shivering fit; 47- Incandescent lamp; 48- Compositions; 50- Fully; 52- Coral formation; 54- Dreadful; 55- Female sheep; 58- KGB counterpart; 60- Approached; 64- Division of a school year; 65- Extreme; 67- Dorothy's dog; 68- "On the Waterfront" director Kazan; 69- Pertaining to the kidneys; 70- Panama and bowler; 71- British gun; 72- School founded in 1440; 73- "___ Tu" ('70s hit);

DOWN: 1- Pusher pursuer; 2- Zeno of ___; 3- Bargain; 4- Deal with poison ivy, in a way; 5- Stake; 6- Actor Estrada; 7- Breathing organs of fish; 8- Appeared; 9- Lord's estate; 10- Elvis's middle name; 11- Dig like a pig; 12- Seemingly forever; 14- Aids; 20- Annoy; 24- Kentucky college; 26- Plant juice; 27- Sheer fabric; 28- Mythical hell; 29- Units; 30- Slight trace; 32- Magazine copy; 33- Motionless; 34- Pastime; 37- Noise; 41- Related to the back of the eye; 44- Person who rows; 45- TV's "Science Guy"; 47- Respire; 49- Safe; 51- Intense anger; 53- ___ mignon; 55- Hot times abroad; 56- Lash mark; 57- Cleveland's lake; 59- ___ time (never); 61- Crowd sound; 62- Suffix with cigar; 63- Crash wherever convenient; 66- Operated



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Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
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Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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BASKETBALL

Warriors set to make their claim as NBA's best ever

Brian Mahoney, Cleveland

Saturday, 9:05 a.m.
Warriors v Cavaliers
H 1.44, A 3.2

ONE victory left for the Golden State Warriors to claim another title.

Not the one as NBA champions. The one as the best team ever.

Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry and the rest of the Warriors will be able to make that boast if they win tomorrow [Saturday, 9:05 a.m.] to complete the most impressive postseason run in major sports history.

They moved to the brink of that with a 118-113 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers yesterday in Game 3 of the NBA Finals. The Warriors are 15-0 and can finish off the NBA's

first perfect postseason with a victory here in Game 4.

Combine that with last year's 73-win season, and a second title in three years — which could have easily been three consecutive championships — and foundation of the case has been made.

The Cavaliers are no match for these Warriors, not even with arguably the best player on the planet in LeBron James.

Golden State's only competition is with Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and the Bulls, and other great teams from the past.

None won as dominantly as this team, which has four versatile All-Stars — including two former league MVPs — in their prime. These aptly named Warriors spent the last two months building big leads, then Wednesday wiped out a late deficit.

Some people may argue their greatness, but James won't.

"It's probably the most, most firepower I've played in my career," James said. "I played against some great teams, but I don't think no team has had this type of firepower. So even when you're playing well, you got to play like A-plus plus, because they're going to make runs and they're going to make shots and they got guys that's going to make plays."

The NBA's best postseason run is the 15-1 mark of the 2001 Lakers, while the 1983 Philadelphia 76ers went 12-1. Jordan's first title team in 1991 is one of three squads that went 15-2.

The Warriors thought they were carving out their place in history when they set a record with 73 wins last season. But history turned to infamy when they blew a 3-1 lead to the Cavaliers, the biggest collapse in NBA Finals history.

They spoke openly of their desire to beat Jordan's 72-win team in 1996, but this time have downplayed the importance of 16-0.

"We obviously know how hard it is to win a championship, what all goes into it and how important each game is. And now that you can look ahead to Friday, all our focus is on that," Curry said. "And just we obviously — we want 16 wins; it doesn't matter how we get there. But now that we're in this situation, why not take care of business and finish the job?"

They were winning by 16.9 points per game through the previous 14, which would easily be another NBA record. And when they finally got a close one, they showed why their roster is the envy of just about every other team, with the long-range shooting of Durant, Curry and Klay Thompson, and the defensive wizardry of Draymond Green and 2015 NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala.

AP / Oddschecker.com

RUGBY

Lions stick to selection plan for tour match vs Crusaders

BRITISH and Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland hasn't allowed selection plans to be derailed by this week loss to the Auckland-based Blues, picking a lineup below test strength for tomorrow's match with the Crusaders at Christchurch.

Gatland said he would give all 41 members of his touring squad a chance to play in the first three matches of the Lions' New Zealand tour and would not reveal his test lineup until the fifth tour match against the New Zealand

Maori, a week before the first test.

He held to that course yesterday in selecting his squad to take on a Crusaders team which is unbeaten in 14 Super Rugby matches this season and will be the toughest opponent the Lions will have faced on the tour to date.

Some commentators have called on Gatland to abandon his rotational plans and to name his test side early, to prevent a loss to the Crusaders which might further undermine confidence of his players

ahead of the three-test series against the world champion All Blacks.

Gatland has picked a strong but still experimental lineup, though, to meet a Crusaders team which contains nine All Blacks.

The four members of the Lions touring squad who did not play against the Blues or the Provincial Barbarians — flanker Sean O'Brien, scrumhalf Conor Murray, center Jonathan Davies and winger George North — will get their first outings.

England flyhalf Owen

Farrell will be in the starting lineup for the first time on tour after coming off the bench to steady the Lions in a 13-7 win over the Barbarians. In that short cameo Farrell appeared to be more polished than Ireland's Jonathan Sexton and Wales' Dan Biggar who have started in the first two games.

His combination with Murray is the one Gatland could choose for the first test and for that reason the pair need to demonstrate an ability to control a game to a much greater degree than the Lions have shown



Canterbury Crusaders and All Black prop forward Joe Moody at a press conference

so far on tour.

Alun Wyn Jones — on his third Lions tour — will lead the Lions from lock while

New Zealand-born center Ben Te'o will get another chance to impress selectors. AP

opinion

Kapok
 Eric Sautédé



THE ART OF EUPHEMISM

Macao has a bit more to offer than an unlucky hand at a Baccarat table on the Cotai Strip. By unlucky, I mean that although about 2/3rds of Macao's GDP is derived from gambling, this constitutes about 4/5ths of the government's revenues thanks to an effective tax rate of 39 percent on gross gaming proceeds: players have to lose if Macao is to win. Thus, by a bit more, I imply something that has little to do with money. First euphemism.

Heritage is what comes to mind, and a simple glance at the UNESCO World Heritage entry for our SAR — listed since July 2005 — reminds us of Macao's unique character: "With its historic street, residential, religious and public Portuguese and Chinese buildings, the historic centre of Macao provides a unique testimony to the meeting of aesthetic, cultural, architectural and technological influences from East and West. [...] It bears witness to one of the earliest and longest-lasting encounters between China and the West, based on the vibrancy of international trade."

Yet, extensive descriptions of these "places of memory" fail to indicate that "vibrancy" comes in many guises: most of the buildings were somehow built thanks to riches derived from opium trafficking and the horrendous coolie trade, and of course from gambling activities. Lou Kau, the nineteenth century merchant whose mansion remains part of the heritage centre, made his fortune selling opium and operating gambling dens. If the traditional Fantan game was the main deal, Lou Kau also operated the vaeseng lottery, largely based on the results of the Qing Imperial Civil Service Examinations. Opium consumption and gambling were seen by Chinese reformers and nationalists as the two vices putting China to its knees, and gambling was ultimately banned in Guangdong, pushing Lou Kau to commit suicide in 1906 because of the debts he had incurred across the border. Second euphemism.

Let's face it, these heritage landmarks, a crucial element in the government's supposed diversification efforts, could be better managed. This is what Sharif Shams Imon, who oversees the Heritage Management Programme at the Institute for Tourism Studies, hints at in the very interesting interview with Business Daily this week. For him, if the government has failed to provide a Protection and Management Plan, despite UNESCO's many requests, it is simply because "the government has to go through certain procedures and it has its own political environment." The UNESCO admonition, ever since the first concerns with the Guia lighthouse just one year after the listing in 2005, is a warning and could ultimately lead to a simple de-listing. So, the government is not doing what it should and certainly not hiring people who could help do what it should — another remark of Prof. Imon. Unfortunate delay? Third euphemism.

And then, Prof. Imon praises the role of civil society: "civic society, and intellectuals and professionals, should act like a check and balance body. So if there is a thing that the government could do in a better way, they raise their voice and talk about it." This is all great, and exactly what the New Macao Association (NMA) — they must feel lonely! Fourth euphemism — did in December 2016 by going to the UNESCO headquarters in Paris to argue that the "visual integrity" of the Guia Hill and Monte Fortress was being threatened by the height of construction projects authorised in Calçada do Gaio, an integral part of the buffer zones defined around the World Heritage sites. This is what ultimately led the Macao government to send in March 2017 "a report on the state of conservation" that had been requested by the UNESCO early in 2015!

Commenting on the report, UNESCO is showing signs of impatience: on top of recommending Heritage Impact Assessments be carried out for all new major construction projects, it is asking for its own pre-emptive review of the Master Plan for New Reclamation currently being drafted.

THE COMPANION ROBOTS FEATURED AT SHANGHAI ELECTRONICS SHOW

More than 50 companies are showcasing a new generation of robots at this week's Shanghai CES electronics show, most of which serve as companions at home, or butlers in shopping malls.

Chinese companies including Shenzhen-based startup Aelos Robotic Inc. are displaying robots with heightened dexterity and the ability to pass through mazes using sensors.

Beijing's Canny Unisrobo Technology Co.

Ltd. is a pioneer in the field, with its Canbot produced in cooperation with Microsoft having entered mass production almost a decade ago.

Sales manager Zhang Jianting said yesterday that annual sales are about 150,000 units, with the home companion robots selling for from USD130 to \$483 depending on size.

Zhang said the market is growing ever more crowded, with many more players entering this year.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	15-35 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAN Five of the men who launched an attack in the heart of Iran's capital previously fought for the Islamic State group, the government said yesterday, acknowledging the first such assault by the extremists in the Shiite powerhouse.



SUDAN says it will not take sides in the diplomatic crisis in the Gulf amid calls from Sudanese lawmakers to back Qatar, its oil-rich ally, against Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. *More on p14*



POLAND The first ever tanker with liquefied natural gas from the United States arrived in Poland yesterday as part of the country's — and the region's — efforts to cut its dependence on Russia.



COLOMBIA FARC rebels in Colombia say that they have surrendered over 30 percent of their weapons to United Nations officials in the country, under the terms of last year's peace agreement.

MEXICO-GUATEMALA The Mexican government has formally requested the extradition of a fugitive governor captured in April in Guatemala. Javier Duarte was arrested in a lakeside tourist town six months after resigning as governor of Veracruz. He faces embezzlement and organized crime charges in Mexico.

Comey: Trump administration spread 'lies, plain and simple'

FORMER FBI Director James Comey accused the Trump administration yesterday of spreading "lies, plain and simple" about him and the FBI in the aftermath of his abrupt firing, in dramatic testimony that threatened to undermine Donald Trump's presidency.

As he opened his much anticipated first public telling of his relationship with Trump, Comey disputed the Trump administration's justification for his firing last month, declaring that the administration "defamed him and more importantly the FBI" by claiming the bureau was in disorder under his leadership. And in testimony that exposed deep distrust between the president and the veteran lawman, Comey described intense discomfort about their one-on-one conversations, saying he decided he immediately needed to document the discussions in memos.

"I was honestly concerned that he might lie about the nature of our meeting, so I thought it really important to document," Comey said. "I knew there might come a day when I might need a record of what happened not only to defend myself but to protect the FBI."

Comey made his comments as the packed hearing got underway, bringing Washington and parts of



Former FBI director James Comey

the country to a halt as all eyes were glued on television showing the hearing. He immediately dove into the heart of the fraught political controversy around his firing and whether Trump interfered in the bureau's Russia investigation, as he elaborated on written testimony delivered Wednesday. In that testimony he had already disclosed that Trump demanded his «loyalty» and directly pushed him to "lift the cloud" of investigation by declaring publicly the president was not the target of the FBI probe into his campaign's Russia ties.

Comey also said in his written testimony that Trump, in a strange private encounter near the grandfather clock in the Oval Office, pushed him to end his investigation into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

The Senate intelligence committee chairman, Richard Burr of North Caro-

lina, asked Comey the key question about that encounter: "Do you sense that the president was trying to obstruct justice, or just seek a way for Mike Flynn to save face, given he had already been fired?"

"I don't think it's for me to say whether the conversation I had with the president was an effort to obstruct," Comey replied. "I took it as a very disturbing thing, very concerning. But that's a conclusion I'm sure the special counsel will work towards to try and understand what the intention was there and whether that's an offense."

Later, in a startling disclosure, Comey revealed that after his firing he had tried to spur the appointment of a special counsel by giving one of his memos about Trump to a friend of his to leak to the press.

"My judgment was I need to get that out into the public square," Comey said. **AP**

times square by rodrigo



Times