



GAMING REVENUE FALLS 39 PCT IN APRIL

Last month was the 11th straight month of decline, according to data released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau

P2,3



ZHONGSHAN BECOMES CLOSER TO MACAU

Zhongshan has become one of the most important industrial cities in China and is enhancing links with Macau

P9 FORUM



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WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN Taliban militants who have been waging war on the Afghan government for more than a decade express a willingness to soften their position on a range of issues, an apparent shift that could eventually lead to peace talks.

N KOREA-RUSSIA North Korea announces that the head of its parliament will attend this month's Victory Day celebration in Moscow, squelching speculation that supreme leader Kim Jong Un would use the event to make his international debut. *More on p12*

PAKISTAN Police say the death toll from an accident in which a minibus struck a power line and burst into flames has climbed to 13 after five people died at hospitals overnight.

AUSTRALIA Europeans grappling with mass migration from Libya are seeking information about Australia's controversial success in stopping asylum seeker boats reaching its shores, the prime minister says. *More on p13*

NEW ZEALAND A magnitude-5.6 earthquake jolts the South Island of New Zealand, but there are no initial reports of major damage or injuries.



BURUNDI At least 35 people have been injured in demonstrations in Burundi's capital yesterday, the Burundi Red Cross said, as thousands continued to protest the president's decision to seek a third term. The protests in the Burundian capital of Bujumbura resumed after a weekend pause following a week of clashes between police and protesters angry over the ruling party's decision to nominate President Pierre Nkurunziza as its candidate in elections scheduled for June 26.

More on backpage



Millions on parade

The latest editions of the annual "Parade Through Macao, Latin City" and the Chinese New Year parade have cost MOP16 million and MOP23 million respectively. For comparative purposes, the Macau Arts Festival that is currently taking place costs MOP29 million. P7

Taiwan party leader affirms eventual reunification in meeting with Xi

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GAMING

Casino shares rise on sign industry approaching bottom

Daryl Loo and Billy Chan

MACAU'S casino shares rose in Hong Kong trading on signs that the industry's slump is approaching a bottom.

Wynn Macau Ltd. rose 4.8 percent to HKD16.54 by the close of trading, the biggest gain since April 9. Sands China Ltd. gained 3.3 percent and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. advanced 3.1 percent, while the Hang Seng Index was little changed.

Gross gaming revenue in the world's largest gambling hub fell 39 percent to MOP19.2 billion (USD2.4 billion) last month, meeting a median estimate of a 39 percent decline from eight analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. The drop has slowed for a second consecutive month.

"Investors are really just focused on trying to find stabilization or a bottoming," said Vitaly Umansky, an analyst at Sanford Bernstein. "As long as things aren't deteriorating, things seemed to be fairly consistent, that's probably a decent sign from an investor's perspective."

Macau's casino industry is being hit by a slump in VIP gaming as President Xi Jinping's campaign on graft snared thousands of officials and is expanding to include executives at state-owned enterprises. Demand is further damped by China's economic slowdown even as operators such as Sands China Ltd. are building diversified resorts and hotels to



April's was the 11th straight month of revenue decline

draw more mass-market clients to Macau.

April's figure, the 11th straight month of decline, followed a 39.4 percent and 48.6 percent drop in March and February, according to data from Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. In the first four months, revenue fell 37 percent to 83.9 billion patacas.

Two new major integrated resorts scheduled to open this year, and Wynn Macau Ltd.'s renovation of its mass-market gaming

floor could revive a "build it and they will come" boom, according to Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Tim Craighead.

Billionaire Steve Wynn last week urged the local government to provide clarity on its plans as Wynn Macau's Las Vegas-based parent cut its dividend, describing uncertainty in the Chinese city as the "plaguing word of the day".

Chinese visitors to Macau fell by 17.6 percent in March, the city's Statistics and Census Service said on its website on April 27.

The visitor slump "may reflect slower economic growth in mainland China, and comes as complaints rise in Macau about Chinese tourists over-running the city," said Craighead. Visits may pick up again with the opening of Galaxy's new projects on May 27, he said.

Casinos are tacking on shops,

restaurants, entertainment shows and other non-gaming attractions to draw more middle-class consumers and tourists. The Galaxy Macau's phase two expansion and Broadway at Galaxy Macau will be the first to open among the city's six major casino operators building new and expanded resorts.

"What investors will be focusing on will be a continuation of stabilization" of Macau's gross gambling revenue, said Umansky of Sanford Bernstein. "With Galaxy's opening, it's not going to be a magic bullet in the first couple of weeks of its opening."

Analysts are watching to see if the government will allocate to operators the number of gambling tables that they have requested for the resorts, even as the city's Chief Executive Chui Sai On pledged a five-year plan to make it less dependent on casinos by diversifying the economy and transform itself into a global tourism center.

Galaxy Entertainment is likely to get approval for about 150 new gambling tables for the phase two expansion, and may open Broadway Macau with between 30 to 40 tables reallocated from an older project, Jamie Soo, an analyst at Daiwa Securities Co. wrote in a note.

SJM Holdings Ltd. and MGM China Holdings Ltd. rose 3.1 percent and 2.7 percent respectively, and Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. gained 1.5 percent. **Bloomberg**

SJM Q1 profit down by 37.3 percent



Casino Grand Lisboa, operated by SJM Holdings Ltd

SJM Holdings Limited yesterday announced its unaudited financial results for the first quarter of 2015. It was announced that the group's gaming revenue had decreased by 37.3 percent year-on-year to HKD14,281 million. The profit attributable to shareholders had decreased by 46.5 percent to HKD1,004 million. In a press release, SJM stressed that the decrease "was mainly caused by the 37.3 percent decrease in gaming revenue, which was in line with the decrease in gaming revenue in the Macau gaming market."

During the first quarter of the year, SJM stressed that the first full year of construction was completed on the Lisboa Palace, the group's integrated resort on Cotai.

"Challenges to the economic environment for Macau gaming persisted in the first quarter of 2015. With an optimistic view of the future of Macau, however, SJM is committed to maintaining our leadership position that we have established on the Macau Peninsula whilst proceeding with the construction of the Lisboa Palace on Cotai for completion in 2017," commented Ambrose So, CEO of SJM Holdings Limited.

MGM China revenue falls 33 pct

THE total revenue of MGM China Holdings for the first quarter fell by 33 percent year-on-year to HKD4.9 billion, the company announced in a press release.

The number of VIP table wins decreased by 45 percent, while slot wins decreased by 33 percent year-on-year. The main floor revenue fell 13 percent year-on-year. Despite the revenue decrease, MGM China Holdings stated that "we grew our market share in the mass market to 7.9 percent from 7.4 percent, with our focus on precision of marketing efforts, high quality offerings and best in class service standards." Furthermore, hotel rooms at MGM Ma-

cau achieved an occupancy rate of 98 percent.

MGM explained that the construction of MGM Cotai is well underway and is scheduled to open during the fourth quarter of 2016.

The CEO and executive director of MGM China, Grant Bowie, said that, "we are thrilled with the development progress of MGM Cotai. With a clear goal of diversification in mind, we have taken numerous steps to complete our designs with a major focus on non-gaming amenities."

Mr Bowie added that, "our objective in bringing diversification to Macau is un-



A lion statue stands outside the MGM Macau casino resort

deniable and it is clear that our high standards carry through in the quality of the non-gaming amenities we will offer at our second resort in Macau."

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MACAU'S casino revenue in April fell 38.8 percent as China's widening efforts to battle against graft deterred high-stake gamblers. A wave of projects being completed amid the downturn also sparked concern.

Gross gaming revenue in the world's largest gambling hub dropped to MOP19.2 billion (USD2.4

Gaming revenue drops 39 pct in April

billion) last month, the 11th straight month of decline, according to data released yesterday by Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. That compares with a median estimate of a 39 percent



decline from eight analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

VIP gaming in Macau has been hit by President Xi Jinping's campaign on graft that snared thousands of officials and is expanding to include executives at state-owned enterprises. Demand is fur-

ther damped by China's economic slowdown even as operators such as Sands China Ltd. are building diversified resorts and hotels to draw more mass-market clients to Macau.

"Recent data on hotel room rates and occupancy drop in Macau is

concerning when we expect to see a 50 percent increase in numbers of rooms over the next 18 months," Praveen K. Choudhary of Morgan Stanley wrote in a report dated April 28. The analyst downgraded his view to "cautious" as the casino industry showed "no signs of bottoming."

Morgan Stanley expects gross gaming revenue in the former Portuguese colony to shrink 24 percent this year, bringing the industry back to near 2011 levels. Macau recorded its biggest monthly gaming revenue decline in February, at 48.6 percent, due to weak demand over the Lunar New Year holiday, traditionally a peak gambling period. **Bloomberg**

SANDS CHINA TOPS MARKET

THE FIGURES released yesterday are in line with the forecasts issued by Lusa. The news agency predicted that takings would be down by at least 30 percent and possibly by as much as 40 percent. Data compiled by Lusa shows that Sands China ended the month at the top of the leaderboard, with just over 24 percent of the market,

followed by Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, which held slightly more than 21.5 pct. Galaxy Macau followed, with 20 percent. The second half of the ranking starts with Melco Crown, which has just over 12.5 percent, followed by Wynn Macau, with nearly 12 percent, and finally MGM China, with almost 9.5 percent.

HEALTH

Old emergency block to be revamped

The former emergency medical building of the Hospital Conde S. Januário will soon undergo renovations to ease the growing strain on the capacity of the public hospital, revealed the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alex-

is Tam, along with Kuok Cheong U, the new director of the hospital who just assumed office yesterday morning.

During a visit to the hospital after Kuok's official appointment, Alexis Tam acknowledged the need

to revamp the interior of the building to meet the surging volume of patients with which the hospital needs to cope every day. The health authorities informed the media a final blueprint would be available "very soon."

"Currently there are a couple of schemes; we are looking into them temporarily," explained the hospital director. "We would [be looking to] execute our works after coming to a consensus in a very short span of time."

According to the two government officials, the project is expected to be completed by the beginning of next year.



Alexis Tam (center), administrates the swearing-in ceremony for the deputy director of the Health Bureau and director of Hospital Conde S. Januário, Kuok Cheong U

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Former HK and Macau Office head Lu Ping dies

The former director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office (HKMAO), Lu Ping, died of cancer on Sunday night in Beijing at the age of 87. Lu was appointed HKMAO director in 1990 and retired in 1997, just days after the handover of Hong Kong. He was mainland's top official who oversaw the handover process. Lu was known for referring to the last British governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, as a "sinner" after he increased public involvement in electing lawmakers by making partial amendments to the electoral system. He continued to comment on Hong Kong's future saying in a 2009 interview that the city should stop relying on favors from Beijing and improve its competitiveness, according to the South China Morning Post. Lu also praised Macau for its successful implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle during a talk on the topic of basic law last December, describing the city as a "good example".

STATISTICS | TRANSPORT

Vehicle ownership on the rise



THE total number of licensed motor vehicles reached 241,955 at the end of March 2015, up by 5.2 percent year-on-year, according to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Motorcycles and light private cars accounted for 51.9 pct and 41.4 pct of

the total respectively. Another relevant indicator concerns the number of traffic accidents, totaling 3,771 cases; this figure has increased by 1 pct year-on-year. In total the accidents recorded have resulted in 1,377 casualties and 5 deaths. In the first quarter of 2015, the

number of new motor vehicle registrations increased by 11.3 pct year-on-year to 5,523. The amount of cross-border vehicle trips reached 1,261,713 in the first quarter of 2015, showing growth of 6 pct year-on-year. Vehicle traffic through the Border Gate (970,632 trips) constituted 76.9 pct of the total number of cross-border vehicle trips.

DSEC also revealed that passenger ferry movements between Macau and Hong Kong and between Macau and main-

land China totaled 35,900, an increase of 2.4 pct year-on-year. The Ferry Terminal at the Outer Harbour shared 66.5% of the total (23,875).

The local airport hosted 12,696 commercial flights in the first quarter of the year, an increase of 9.8 pct year-on-year. Movements to and from Taiwan and mainland China increased by 3.9 and 4 pct respectively, while those to and from Vietnam (806) rose more than threefold.

GREEN LIGHT TO 200 MORE TAXI LICENSES

THE GOVERNMENT has given the green light to the allocation of 200 more taxi licenses, according to yesterday's Official Gazette. From here, the Transport Bureau will be able to launch a public tender. DSAT said in a statement that it will continue to assess public demand for taxi services, and will grant more taxi licenses to meet the needs of residents and tourists in a timely manner.

CRIME

PJ warns of phone banking scam

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has warned citizens of a recent phone banking scam, and is advising Macau residents not to reveal any personal data, as banks do not ask for personal information via telephone.

According to a PJ statement, several clients of different banks have complained of receiving calls allegedly made by an employee of their bank requesting them to provide personal data.

The PJ has urged all citizens not to reveal any personal information. The police added that residents should not believe that the caller ID is indeed from their bank, as conmen have previously made use of techniques that allow them to change the identification number appearing on receivers' phones.

"Banks never ask for clients personal data over the phone," the PJ stressed. In addition, police authorities are urging residents to file complaints in case they receive this type of call or fall victim to any

other form of telephone fraud.

The PJ, the Monetary Authority of Macau, several Macau banks and the Macau Association of Banks (ABM) held a meeting this week to discuss the new phone banking scam and to outline measures aimed at tackling phone fraud in general.

The PJ said that it will reinforce action to fight telephone fraud, and will continue to launch prevention campaigns to raise awareness among citizens, warning them of measures that should be taken in case someone falls victim to a phone scam.

The Macau Association of Banks also pledged to collaborate with police authorities, helping them to investigate phone-banking scams. ABM stressed that it will step up communication efforts, and will exchange information with authorities regarding any relevant economic crimes. Furthermore, ABM said it would be assessing how it could efficiently warn clients of this type of scam. **CP**

ONE SHOT NEWS



More than 1,000 people, including representatives of 43 schools and 19 youth communities and local officials, yesterday took part in the national flag-raising ceremony to celebrate Chinese Youth Day.

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THE annual “Parade Through Macao, Latin City” adds color and excitement to Macau’s streets, as over 2,000 performers parade around the town’s historic city center. On Chinese New Year, yet another procession occupies the streets. The latest versions of these parades have cost MOP16 million and MOP23 million respectively — with budgets close to that of the Macau Arts Festival (MOP29 million) that is currently taking place.

The Times spoke to public departments involved in organizing the two parades as well as various cultural sector personalities in order to understand the importance of these events and whether the budgets are reasonable.

The “Parade Through Macao, Latin City” was created in 2011 and has since grown to welcome about 2,000 participants. Intended to highlight Macau’s unique cultural features, the procession is now regarded as one of the major cultural events marking the city’s handover to China.

Held annually on December 20, last year’s parade entailed a budget of MOP16 million. According to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the event’s budget has been increasing over the past few years, mainly due to a higher number of participating performers.

In a written reply to The Times, the IC said that the budget covers the cost of stage, lighting and sound equipment. It also includes other logistical features: performance fees, transportation to and from Macau, accommodation and food for foreign groups and performers from Latin America, decorative installations, performance allowances, the cost of inviting foreign artists to hold workshops for local groups, and crowd control measures.

According to the IC, the budget has been increased over time “due to the number of performers, the scale of production and inflation.”

IC added that this year’s parade budget will be similar to that of 2014, but a precise figure can only be announced during the second half of this year.

The CNY Parade, organized by the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO), has been held since 2013 with this year’s budget reaching MOP23 million. In a written reply to the Times, MGTO revealed that the budget has increased by 26 percent over the previous year due to the introduction of new elements into the parade, such as celebrities, souvenirs, designated viewing areas, more performance groups, LED screens, shuttle buses, WeChat games, and an overall improvement to the sound and lighting systems.



“Parade Through Macao, Latin City”



CNY parade

PARADE BONANZA

Annual parades entail budget similar to larger cultural events

For comparative purposes, the Macau Arts Festival, which runs until May 31 and features approximately 30 shows, requires a MOP29 million budget for this year. Last year’s Int’l Music Festival required a budget of MOP38 million.

Architect and former president of IC, Carlos Marreiros, believes the budgets for both parades are reasonable as both events are largely funded by public entities. “Private funding for these events is rather scarce. Things are costly and the [Latin City] parade entails one year of work and training for its organizers and performers, culminating in the actual parade on December 20. So in terms of a budget I think it is reasonable,” he explained in a phone interview.

When it comes to the CNY parade, though, Mr Marreiros holds a different opinion and calls for its improvement. “I am not against the parade but I believe that is held quite close [in terms of calendar] to the Latin City Parade. Secondly, it does not have a tradition in Macau and seems a bit artificial. The floats portray stereotypes and their decorations are not very creative and have little to do with Macau,” he stressed.

He added that, “it should be held but should be structured in a different way. It cannot simply be a touristic product (...) it should be a parade for which performers are trained throughout one year. The floats should also be decorated in way that represents Macau.”

Furthermore, Mr Marreiros reiterated that with a small budget “choreographers from China

could be hired to train performers in Macau who would then participate in the parade and other events abroad”. In particular, he suggested that this would be a feasible option for the Lion Dance performances.

Although she regards the Latin Parade an interesting event, local artist Gigi Lee believes that the government should allocate more resources into bringing international art events and exhibitions while also supporting local artists.

The president of the Art For All Society and local artist Alice Kok said: “I don’t know how they spend the budget so I cannot really comment on whether it’s reasonable or not. But the parades are just held for one day, and it’s only one event. Of course if we compare it... the Arts Festival brings a lot of different artists from around the world, and therefore is more diverse.”

The artist recalled that the government should allocate resources to bolster support for Macau art associations, as they must cope with skyrocketing rents and a lack of gallery spaces. She therefore advocated for more long-term measures, rather than investing money into high-profile one-day events.

Lawmakers José Pereira Coutinho and Leong Veng Chai raised questions regarding the importance of the two parades at the Legislative Assembly last month when the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, presented his action plan for 2015.

Responding to lawmakers’ questions, Ung Vai Meng, president of the Cultural Affairs

Bureau (IC), said that the “Parade Through Macao, Latin City” was important as it serves to mark the anniversary of Macau’s handover to China. He added that it also drives SMEs business, like tailor shops that get orders for costumes. Mr Ung recalled that the event’s multicultural features also speak of its importance, since it involves “people of different races.” Previously, he stated that the December parade should be listed along with “the main cultural events held in town,” along with the Arts Festival and the International Music Festival.

The director of MGTO, Helena de Senna Fernandes, told lawmakers that the parade “is a way to attract tourists and to promote Macau.”

In a written reply to the Times, MGTO commented that, “the Chinese New Year is one of the most important festivals in town.” “It is expected to showcase the traditional and cultural aspects of Macau to visitors by inviting famous local organizations and performance groups to participate in the parade, as well to showcase Macau’s diverse offerings,” it added.

The “Parade for the Celebration of the Year of the Ram” was held in February and featured parade floats, performances by over 1,000 artists, fireworks

and performances by Macau and Hong Kong singers.

In addition, the “Parade Through Macao, Latin City” was held on December 20, and comprised of over 1,600 performers who paraded through the city’s historic center to promote a multicultural atmosphere. The event concluded at Tap Seac with a joint performance.

The IC said to the Times that, “the parade helps raise Macau’s reputation internationally through live TV broadcasts and feature programs... It also promotes Macau’s cultural characteristics through the assistance of representatives from different consul-generals in bringing the parade scenes to their countries.”

Furthermore, the IC stressed that the parade capitalizes on the historic city center as well as the on Portuguese and Latin cultural resources to strengthen cultural exchanges, both here and overseas.

It reiterated that resources invested by the government “are to a certain extent directly and indirectly fed back to local associations and the industry.”

Finally, IC recalled that the parade helps promote world heritage sites, building the image of Macau as an international tourism city and a world tourism and leisure center.

BUDGET FOR CULTURAL EVENTS/INFRASTRUCTURES

CNY Parade 2015	MOP23 million
Parade Through Macao, Latin City 2014	MOP16 million
Arts Festival 2015	MOP29 million
International Music Festival 2014	MOP38 million
Macau Museum of Arts 2015 budget	MOP40 million

Leadership reshuffle at China big oil clears path for reform

Aibing Guo

CHINA confirmed the reshuffle of leadership at its biggest oil companies, helping clear a path in a crucial area of the economy for President Xi Jinping as he plans his overhaul of the nation's bloated state sector.

Changes to the top executives at China National Petroleum Corp., Sinopec Group and China National Offshore Oil Corp. could accelerate market-driven reform of the oil and gas industry. The new chairmen will also be challenged to steer the oil giants through Xi's corruption crackdown, which has wracked the industry, and a tumble in global crude prices.

The departure of CNPC Chairman Zhou Jiping after two years in the job has been anticipated as he nears retirement. Most chiefs of state-owned enterprises step down at 63. Yesterday's exit of Sinopec's Fu Chengyu, who has led the company since 2011, may be more of a surprise after he was allowed last year to go beyond the designated age. Wang Yupu, deputy head of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, replaced Fu as chairman, according to Sinopec's official Weibo account.

Wang Yilin, formerly chairman at China National Offshore, took over from Zhou at CNPC, according to company newspaper China Petroleum Daily. Zhou stepped down after reaching the official retirement age, the paper said on its official Weibo account yesterday. Yang Hua, earlier



The China National Petroleum Corp chairman's role will be taken up by Cnooc Chairman and former CNPC executive Wang Yilin

president at China National Offshore, replaces Wang at the company.

"New leaders would have better opportunities and less of a burden to move the reform forward quickly, that is exactly what the leadership change is about," said Gordon Kwan, Hong Kong-based head of regional oil and gas research at Nomura. It comes against a backdrop of "internal reforms, the overwhelming challenge of low crude prices and pres-

ures from the sweeping anti-corruption campaign," he said.

CNPC's listed unit PetroChina Co. yesterday gained 0.8 percent to HK\$10.04, China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., Sinopec Group's listed unit, rose 1.4 percent to HK\$7.36, while China National Offshore's listed arm Cnooc Ltd. gained 0.3 percent. The city's benchmark Hang Seng Index was little changed.

What happens next to China's

energy sector is the subject of much speculation. CNPC and Sinopec Group's listed units spiked on April 27 on rumors they could merge after a newspaper reported that China may cut the number of its state-owned enterprises to 40 from 112. In March, people familiar with the government's plans told Bloomberg that reform could see companies bundled by industry and their control handed to state asset-management firms.

The reforms are part of China's bid to bolster flagging economic growth and Xi's insistence that market forces play a more decisive role. State-owned companies account for roughly a third of the economy and more than a quarter of them are loss-making, Barclays Plc analysts said in August.

Leadership changes in energy "signal that the central government wants to continue to deepen reform of the state-owned sector, and the change starts from the top," said Willy Wo-Lap Lam, an adjunct professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. That could involve scaling back "the oil companies' monopoly in certain areas little by little."

A full-blown merger of CNPC and Sinopec is unlikely, according to some analysts, largely because of their size. CNPC's listed unit PetroChina vies with Exxon Mobil Corp. as the biggest energy company by market value, while Sinopec is Asia's largest refiner.

The two control most of China's crude imports, most of its oil and gas exploration rights and pipelines, and over half of its petrol stations, suggesting a greater risk of inefficiency if combined. Any resulting job losses - PetroChina alone employs more than half a million people - would also be difficult for the government to stomach.

Both PetroChina and Sinopec said last week they hadn't been told of any merger plans.

"Obviously, the new leaders would have passed the central government's corruption screening, and they don't have to face the kind of questions that many of the older generation faced when China's anti-corruption push swept the industry," said Nomura's Kwan. "In that sense, the leadership changes also provide the oil companies with a fresh beginning." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM'S AUX BEAUX ARTS PRESENTS "LE FRENCH GOURMAY" MENU



Aux Beaux Arts is serving a 3-course dinner for the month of May, showcasing the authentic flavors of the Région Midi-Pyrénées.

As part of the Le French GourMAY program, the Festival honors a distinct gastronomic region of France each year. The Région Midi-Pyrénées, located in the southern part of France, is chosen to be the main theme of this year's celebration. Chef Elie Khalife, Chef de Cuisine of Aux Beaux Arts, adopts authentic ingredients to present the 'crème de la crème' of French gastronomy with his own twist.

The 3-course menu begins with appetizer options of Bayonne ham platter with Quercy melon sorbet, or Warm Cabécou d'Autan goat cheese salad with Périgord walnut, red apple and confit tomato. Quercy melon is the signature specialty of the Région Midi-Pyrénées and this dish will

surely spice up the traditional combination of ham and melon.

Aligot de l'Aubrac and grilled beef tenderloin with mixed green salad and truffle sauce is one of the main course items. With melted cheese and butter blending into the mashed potatoes, it is one of the most authentic dishes of the Région Midi-Pyrénées. The beef is enhanced by a sauce made from truffles, foie gras and red wine.

The Chocolate pavet with orange jelly and Quercy saffron ice-cream is the finale of the dinner. The aromatic saffron ice-cream harmonizes with the chocolate mousse while the orange jelly provides a refreshing balance to the pavet.

CITY OF DREAMS SHOWCASES LE FRENCH MAY EVENTS



As the only hotel operator in Macau sponsoring this year's Le French May festival, City of Dreams Macau is offering locals and tourists a taste of French culture and leisure throughout May, including gipsy-jazz, circus and can-can dance street performances, as well as a variety of typical delicacies as part of its "Essentially French" extravaganza.

Dining, entertainment and art district Soho, on Level 2 of City of Dreams, is the attraction of the Le French May happenings. Aside from the French can-can dance and tap dance performances at Soho, City of Dreams will

specially bring in a band of French gipsy-jazz style musicians, Gadjo Station, and also Circa Tsuica from France to showcase their talent in collaboration with Le French May.

French wines and cuisine are also being featured, with a selection of French wines and snacks available at Soho. At Michelin-starred contemporary French restaurant The Tasting Room at City of Dreams Macau's Crown Towers, as part of the Le French GourMAY event, a special wine-pairing menu will be designed by the restaurant's Executive Chef Guillaume Galliot and last until the end of May.

ZHONGSHAN, birthplace of Dr Sun Yat-sen, has become one of the most important industrial cities in China. It is the one of the world's largest producers of electrical appliances and its goods compete with those of advanced countries.

Zhongshan has developed clusters of production in its different townships, similar to those in Italy, leading people to call it the "Third Italy of China."

The city has recorded rapid economic growth for the last three decades, enabling its per capita GDP in 2013 to reach USD13,473, ranking it among the upper middle income cities of the world.

The key to this success has been the development of its own brands and technology; it has not simply become a mass producer of goods for foreign companies, like many cities in China. This has enabled it to weather the storms in the international economy and build up a strong market share at home and abroad.

It has also become popular for second homes or retirement for Hong Kong and Macau people, through preserving its Cantonese character and a good living environment.

Xiangshan (Fragrant Mountain) was the name of Zhongshan until 1925; it was originally a group of islands in the sea at the western part of the Pearl River estuary.

The city had a strategic location guarding the entrance of the waterway to Guangzhou. When the Portuguese came in the Ming Dynasty, they settled in Macau and in Xiangshan. For 400 years until the late 19th century, Macau was placed under the jurisdiction of the Xiangshan county government. Together with Macau, Xiangshan enjoyed the benefits of the trans-continental cargo trade between the Portuguese colony, Nagasaki, Manila and Lisbon.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there were large waves of out-migration from the region, in particular to the new continents of North America and Australia; Hong Kong was the most important transit point for the migration and remittances came back to the native towns and villages.

The whole delta was integrated into one economic system, although Hong Kong and Macau were under foreign rule. Because they were free trade ports, there were no restrictions on cross-boundary flows of goods and passengers. In fact, differences in tax levels in Hong Kong and Macau compared to other parts of the PRD stimulated smuggling from the two. Xiangshan and Macau belonged to the same geographic and economic system. As residents could easily travel across borders, Macau served as the place for work while the towns and villages in Xiangshan remained as the homes for their families.

These close economic and social ties between Xiangshan and other PRD towns and villages with

Zhongshan becomes 'Third Italy' in the Pearl River Delta



Hong Kong and Macau made the delta an outward-looking region before 1949. Xiangshan changed its name to Zhongshan in honor of its most famous son, Sun Zhongshan, after his death in 1925.

The Communist revolution unified China and brought long-term political and social stability. Despite political movements in the cities and collectivization in the countryside, the PRD did not suffer. The stability provided the best environment for the consolidation and further growth of agriculture in the county, with Hong Kong and Macau as lucrative markets.

Because of improved transport links, Zhongshan has become closer to Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau

The open-door policy and economic reform from 1978 revived the economic ties of Zhongshan with Hong Kong, which had marched forward to join the league of top ten industrial exporters in the world, with an intensive industrialization from the 1950s to 1970s. It suffered from cost inflation in the 1970s and tried to diversify its industry and economy. The opening up of the PRD with three special economic zones (SEZ) was the most opportune moment for Hong Kong to relocate its export industries to low-cost production sites in the villages and towns in the delta. The relocation first concentrated in Shenzhen and Dongguan, which were closer to Hong Kong. At that time, the delta had poor transport and telecommunication links, which

Shenzhen was an SEZ next to Hong Kong.

Shenzhen and Dongguan became popular locations for Hong Kong firms to process industrial goods for export. Most of this was export-oriented industrial processing, which was determined by orders of buyers from Hong Kong and overseas. It was standardized mass production using low-cost labor and land and imported equipment. Because of the flexibility of institutions and policy in the areas, production grew at a very rapid pace. But most of the revenue and profits went overseas to buyers and their agents in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Zhongshan and the neighboring cities of Foshan and Jiangmen pursued a different path – import-substitution producing by small and medium-sized firms, most of them for the Chinese market. Foreign investment was limited and what there was also targeted the domestic market. The first wave of investment was in electrical appliances and consumer electronics. In the 1980s and early 1990s, China faced a shortage in the supply of these modern goods from overseas. Demand was enormous; Zhongshan made the best use of its proximity to Hong Kong – convenient for the import of parts and components for assembly as well as production equipment, knowledge, technology and management. It became the largest producer of these new consumer durables in China. Local brands from the area have overtaken many national famous brands because of their timely import of styles, design and technology, especially from Japan and Italy, via Hong Kong. A very profitable synergy took place between Zhongshan and Hong Kong. Due to its early success in consumer electronics and electrical appliances Zhongshan was so prosperous that, with Dongguan, Nanhai and Shunde, it was named one of the 'four little tigers of Guangdong'.

It was as successful in its policy of import substitution as Dongguan was in export processing.

The changes in domestic consumer preferences and global demand led Zhongshan to develop new industries – small household appliances, like electric rice cookers and electric fans, of which Zhongshan soon became the biggest producer in the world. In addition, it made air conditioners with many varieties for industrial, office and home use and developed as an OEM (original equipment manufacturing) base for a comprehensive range of electrical appliances, including updated LCD panel televisions for all important Chinese brands; consumer electronics, especially acoustics; lamps and lighting fixtures; locks and security devices, including those used in cars; stoves and other kitchen and bathroom ware, including heaters; furniture, in particular made of mahogany and in US styles; elevators with German and Japanese technology and investments; garments and clothes, notably casual dresses, jeans and underwear; and paper and food for Guangdong cuisine.

Many local industries have become leaders in the country, like jean production, which constitutes 40 percent of national production, and lighting fixtures 60 percent. With its neighboring cities, Zhongshan has emerged as the largest production base of electrical appliances and small household appliances in the world, with specifications and standards equal to those of advanced countries like Japan and Italy. Compared with the industrial processing of Dongguan and Shenzhen, volume of production is relatively small. But factories in Zhongshan have developed their own R&D and brand names together with national and international distribution networks. Industrial processing firms are just OEMs, vulnerable to market shifts when

buyers take their orders to those who offer lower production costs. Zhongshan's manufacturers are capable of competing in the national and international markets independently and have built up the knowledge for further evolution and upgrading.

Most of the firms in Zhongshan are start-ups; most remain small and medium-sized, with those of the same industry grouped together in the same town to share local knowledge, resources and infrastructure. They are, in many ways, like firms in industrial districts in the so-called Third Italy. The specialties are lighting fixtures in Guzhen, elevators in Southern District, electrical appliances in Nantou and Dongsheng, household appliances in Dongfeng, acoustics equipment and locks in Xialan, mahogany furniture and jeans in Dachong, American-style furniture in Bangfu and processed meat in Huangpu. For each industry in each town, there is a cluster of several hundred up to 1,000 firms taking part in the production chain.

In the 21st century, the real estate and service sectors have become an important driver of the economy.

Because of improved transport links, Zhongshan has become closer to Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau; the three core cities have become one hour away. This has drawn residential and business demand from residents and firms in these cities, making the expansion of the service economy a healthy supplement to slower industrial growth. In particular, real estate development, especially housing for non-local residents, has become a major engine of growth. This is very attractive to residents in Hong Kong, who may or may not have social ties in Zhongshan; but all suffer from spiraling property prices at home.

Since 2000, Zhongshan has become one of the most popular locations for second homes or retirement for Hong Kong residents. This is due in part to the strong social ties between the two cities, including the Cantonese dialect and Guangdong cuisine, which make it different to Putonghua-speaking Shenzhen. It is also due to the fact that the city is more livable because it is less polluted by automobiles, commerce and overcrowding than Shenzhen and Guangzhou. Older Hong Kong and Macau residents can find many traces of their old city and social life of the 1950s and before in Zhongshan and living costs are much lower. It is easy to travel to Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou as local transport has been greatly improved. **MDT/Macauhub**



Factory index shows fastest deterioration in a year

Kelvin Chan
Business Writer, Hong Kong

CHINESE manufacturing suffered its sharpest contraction in a year in April, raising pressure on Beijing to roll out new stimulus to keep growth in the world's No. 2 economy from slipping below the official target, a report said yesterday.

HSBC's manufacturing index based on a survey of factory purchasing managers fell to a 12-month low of 48.9 in April from 49.6 in March. The index is based on a 100-point scale on which numbers below 50 show contraction.

The report said total new orders declined at the fastest rate in a year while production levels stagnated. New export orders, however, improved slightly over the previous month, suggesting that weak domestic demand

Weak domestic demand was the main culprit behind the overall decline

was the main culprit behind the overall decline.

The latest reading, which is worse than a preliminary reading of 49.2 released in late April, highlights growing urgency for policymakers in Beijing to step in with more stimulus measures to prevent a sharper slowdown as economic growth cools. Recent figures showed that the economy expanded at its slowest pace in six years in the first three months of the year.

"The PMI data indicate that more stimulus measures may be required to ensure the economy doesn't slow from the 7 percent annual growth rate seen in the first quarter," said Anabel Fiddes, economist at Markit, which carried out the survey.

Beijing has taken action several times this year to boost the economy even as leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to a "new normal" of slower growth. In the most recent move, the central bank last month slashed the reserve requirement ratio for banks by a full percentage point to make more money available for lending.

HSBC's index comes after an official survey by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing found that manufacturing activity barely eked out growth for a second month in April. AP

Mainland Viagra sales continue rising



CHINESE men have long used traditional medicines such as deer antler, caterpillar fungus, and wolfberry to treat impotence. In recent years, Pfizer, the maker of Viagra, has found success touting a different remedy: better sex via its little blue pill. Men on the mainland are listening, sparking a 47 percent surge in Viagra sales in the country in 2014, says Pfizer citing data from IMS Health. That's helped to offset the 24 percent drop in total international revenue for the drug last year.

Shifting cultural trends brought on by China's decade-long economic boom have fueled demand. As China has loosened restrictions on discussing sexual health, people have paid more attention to that aspect of their lives, says Ma Xiaonian, a clinical sexologist and deputy director of the China Sexology Association. "When one is warm and well fed, one will think about lust," says Ma, quoting an ancient Chinese saying.

Pfizer's revenue from its mature drugs in China rose 18 percent last year, a much-needed boost for the company. Since 2013, it has begun numerous erectile dysfunction education campaigns in China to raise awareness of the need for ED medicines. Last year it sponsored a survey about the sexual health of more than 10,000 Chinese professionals, and the results were distributed in a publication called the China Ideal Sex Bluebook. The report, sprinkled with references and images of Viagra, provided advice and chronicled sexual trends.

Pfizer also sponsored a smartphone application that provides daily factoids and suggestions on male health and performance. On April 1 the entry advised readers to keep cell phones at bay during sex. Pfizer estimates that in 2014 its educational efforts resulted in 9 billion media impressions in China.

Such promotions would have been unthinkable a few decades ago, when discussing sexual matters was rare or even considered "spiritual pollution." But Ma says that economic growth has brought lifestyle changes

among Chinese men that are likely prompting the demand for sex drugs. Those changes and the lack of an exercise culture have led to a spike in the incidence of obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and other diseases that can interfere with sexual performance, he says. Chinese nowadays "sit more, move less, exercise less, and have more bad habits. And all these affect sexual abilities," Ma says.

Pfizer puts the prevalence of erectile dysfunction among Chinese men from 30 to 60 years of age at about 28 percent, citing a large-scale epidemiological survey. That suggests the potential urban patient population for the drug could be about 68 million in China, where Viagra commands more than 60 percent of the ED market, Pfizer says. That's made China a safe haven for Viagra, even though Eli Lilly's Cialis surpassed it in worldwide sales in 2013.

Still, competition is intensifying. A generic erectile dysfunction drug was introduced by Guangzhou Baiyunshan Pharmaceutical Holdings in October. Baiyunshan, whose generic is called Golden Dagger-Ax, priced its product up to 60 percent cheaper than the 130 yuan (USD21) per pill that Viagra goes for at one online pharmacy in China. Baiyunshan is also trying to boost demand by conducting its own education programs for patients and physicians, according to Zhu Shaoxuan, manager at the company's factory in Guangzhou. Analysts say, however, that Viagra has been able to maintain its big lead in China without cutting prices because many consumers have more confidence in foreign drugs. Bloomberg

47%

The surge in Viagra sales in the country in 2014

TAIWAN

Party leader affirms eventual reunification in meeting with Xi

THE head of Taiwan's Nationalists reaffirmed the party's support for eventual unification with the mainland when he met yesterday with Chinese President Xi Jinping as part of continuing rapprochement between the former bitter enemies.

Nationalist Party Chairman Eric Chu, a likely presidential candidate next year, also affirmed Taiwan's desire to join the proposed Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and called for more chances for the island to participate in international organizations during the meeting in Beijing.

The unification issue, a stance China holds sacred but which is increasingly unpopular among young Taiwanese, is expected to feature prominently in next year's Taiwanese presidential elections.

Chu, a former accounting professor and mayor of Taiwan's New Taipei City, spoke at a news conference following his talks with Xi. No Chinese officials attended the event, a reminder of the culture gap between China's authoritarian one-party system and Taiwan's freewheeling democracy.

The Nationalists were driven to Taiwan by Mao Zedong's Communists during the Chinese civil war in 1949, leading to decades of hostility between the sides. Chu, who took over as party leader in January, is the third Nationalist chairman to visit the mainland and the first since 2009.

Relations between the sides began to warm in the 1990s, partly out of their common opposition to Taiwan's formal

AP PHOTO



This combination of file photo shows Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, in Beijing Jan. 6, 2015 and Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party Chairman Eric Chu in Hong Kong March 9, 2015

independence from China, a position advocated by the island's Democratic Progressive Party.

While Beijing prefers to deal with the Nationalists exclusively, it has agreed to some degree of official talks between the two governments.

Relations between the two parties "do not entirely equal cross-strait relations," but are

an important component of relations between the two sides," Chu said.

The two leaders - meeting in their capacity as heads of the KMT and Chinese Communist Party - also reaffirmed their commitment to the "one China" framework that has since 1992 underpinned efforts to strengthen ties across the Taiwan Strait. Under it, the Republic

of China, as Taiwan is officially known, and the People's Republic of China have agreed there's only one China, even if they hold differing views about what that means.

Exchanges between the sides are laden with symbolism and Chu's schedule included a visit to the grave of Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern Chinese democracy who is revered by both

the Communists and the Nationalists.

In important areas regarding regional peace, economics, and environmental protection Taiwan hopes not only to have "space to participate but also to join hand in hand and together create a win-win situation with the other side of the (Taiwan) strait," Chu said.

Chu also affirmed Taiwan's desire to join the proposed Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. China doesn't want the island to join using a name that might imply it is an independent country.

Chu said the island would continue to insist on joining the bank as "Chinese, Taipei," the name under which it participates in the Olympics and other major sporting events.

Chu's comments during his meeting with Xi were carried live on Hong Kong-based Phoenix Television.

Despite increasingly close economic ties, support for political unification on Taiwan has remained low, especially with younger voters. Opposition to the Nationalists' pro-China policies contributed to heavy local electoral defeats for the party last year that led to Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou resigning as party chairman. **AP/Bloomberg**

HONG KONG

Retiring police chief takes pot shot at protesters

HONG Kong's outgoing police chief took a parting shot yesterday at pro-democracy protesters who occupied busy streets in parts of the southern Chinese financial center for nearly three months last year.

Retiring Police Commissioner Tsang Wai-hung did not refer directly to the pro-democracy activists, or to other groups that have led unruly demonstrations since then over grievances such as the growing influx of mainland Chinese shoppers, though there was little doubt whom he was talking about.

"Now, because of increasing radicalization of protests, we have seen an increasing sense of lawlessness with protes-

AP PHOTO



A pro-democracy protester, center, holds a placard reading "overrule" in front of pro-Beijing protesters outside the Legislative Council where election reform proposals were unveiled, in Hong Kong Wednesday, April 22

ters blatantly disregarding the law," Tsang told reporters.

"This is not going to

be good for Hong Kong. This is not going to be good for law and order," he said, urging people to

adhere to the law if they want to "fight for their political beliefs."

Tsang, known for taking

a tough stance, has been criticized over the police force's handling of the "Occupy Central" protests.

The protests spiraled into chaos during the last weekend in September, when officers arrested student leaders and later fired dozens of rounds of tear gas at the demonstrators.

The former British colony's police force was known as one of the best in Asia but its reputation took a battering over heavy-handed tactics.

In one of the darkest moments for the force, seven officers were arrested in November after they were caught on camera beating a handcuffed protester during a nighttime clash the previous month.

Tsang was criticized for being absent from the public eye and from daily media briefings during the protests. Tsang's replacement, Lo Wai-chung, promised to strengthen communication with the public so that people could better understand the force's work.

The protests fizzled as authorities refused to yield to demands that the Hong Kong government drop plans to let Beijing screen all candidates in a planned 2017 election for the territory's top leader. Lo said police are monitoring developments and assessing risks ahead of an expected vote by lawmakers in June on the government's electoral reform package. **AP**

NEPAL

Everest climbing season likely over



Nepalese Buddhists light incense sticks at the Boudhanath Stupa during Buddha Jayanti festival in Kathmandu yesterday. Hundreds of people have visited Buddhist shrines and monasteries in Kathmandu on the birthday of Gautama Buddha to pray for the country

Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

SHERPAS in Nepal have refused to rebuild a climbing route on Mount Everest that was destroyed by an earthquake-triggered avalanche more than one week ago, a decision which will likely end this year's climbing season.

Gyanendra Shrestha, an official at Nepal's Mountaineering Department, said the Sherpas informed the office yesterday that they were not going to rebuild the route.

It would be the second consecutive year that the

climbing season has been called off because of deaths on the world's highest peak. The climbing season was cancelled last year after an avalanche in April that killed 16 Sherpa guides.

Mountaineering teams have until the end of the month to climb the peak, but without the route fixed it is not possible for them to make their climbs. The Sherpas play a crucial role by bringing the ladders, ropes and equipment needed to clear the trail.

Kapindra Rai of the Sargamatha Pollution Control Committee, which controls

the Icefall Doctors as the Sherpas are called, said there was not much time left in the season before it starts to get warmer and melting ice and monsoon rains bring bad weather.

"It is just not possible to rebuild the route in time for climbers to attempt to scale the peak," Rai said, although a formal decision has not been made yet.

The government has not formally cancelled the season and climbing permits are valid until the end of May.

Climbers and Sherpas attempting to reach the summit from the north face of the mountain in Tibet have already packed their gear and left after Chinese authorities closed all climbing for the spring season.

The Sherpas are paid daily wages, but will also lose the big bonuses they generally receive from the teams after successful climbs to the peak.

The April 25 earthquake has already killed more than 7,200 people in Nepal, flattened mountain villages and destroyed buildings and archaeological sites in Kathmandu. **AP**

HUGE FOREIGN SUPPORT NEEDED FOR RECONSTRUCTION

NEPAL'S INFORMATION minister says the country will need immense international support as it begins turning its attention toward post-quake reconstruction in coming weeks. While there are no clear estimates yet of how much it will cost to rebuild, it will certainly be enormously expensive. Information Minister Minendra Rijal said that in two to three weeks a serious reconstruction

package would be needed, and "we'll need enormous help from the international community." He said that there would be a "huge, huge funding gap." He also said foreign rescue workers were welcome in Nepal, saying they could remain as long as they are needed. He had earlier said that the need for their services was diminishing, but later denied that he wanted them to leave the country.

NORTH KOREA

Pyongyang officially squelches speculation of Kim trip

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

NORTH Korea announced yesterday that the head of its parliament will attend this month's Victory Day celebration in Moscow, squelching speculation that supreme leader Kim Jong Un would use the event to make his international debut.

Moscow said in March that Kim was among dozens of world leaders invited to the May 9 celebrations, which mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

North Korea had never confirmed Kim would go. After Moscow announced last week that Kim had declined the invitation, North Korea said through its state-run media yesterday that Kim Yong Nam, the head of the presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, would attend. Kim Yong Nam is a senior statesman who often represents the country at international or diplomatic events.

The brief North Korean announcement made no mention of an invitation to leader Kim. But Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told The Associated Press that "internal matters" were preventing him from leaving North Korea.

The idea that leader Kim, who assumed power after the death of his father in 2011, might choose Moscow for his first trip abroad seemed plausible because North Korea — increasingly wary of China's economic

and political influence — has been actively pursuing better relations with Russia.

The two countries have increased official exchanges and stepped up talks to bolster trade. The Russian president, unhappy with pressure from the West over Ukraine, has also shown more interest in developing ties as part of what some analysts have dubbed "Putin's pivot" to Asia.

But foreign observers have suggested North Korea did not see the Moscow event as right for Kim's debut because he would be sharing the stage with other leaders. Some analysts have also suggested North Korea may believe China remains the most appropriate place for Kim to travel to first.

Had he gone, Kim might have seen some very familiar sights.

The highlight of Victory Day will be a military parade on Red Square overseen by Putin. North Korea also has a penchant for similar shows on Kim Il Sung Square in the center of Pyongyang.

Kim would also not have had to deal with the awkwardness of being on the same stage with President Barack Obama, who is among many Western leaders who have snubbed the invitation because of Russia's role in the Ukraine conflict. Others have decided to visit Moscow to pay their respects to Russia for its role in World War II, but will not attend the military parade.

North Korea is expected to hold its own elaborate anniversary celebrations in October. **AP**



In this Feb. 7, 2014 file photo, Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, shakes hands with president of the Presidium of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly Kim Yong Nam at the Olympic reception hosted by the Russian President in Sochi, Russia

Thanyarat Dokson, Hat Yai

THAI police arrested three local officials and a Myanmar national they alleged yesterday were involved in trafficking and holding Rohingya Muslims for ransom at a jungle camp where 26 bodies were dug up from shallow graves last week in southern Thailand.

National police chief Gen. Somyot Poompanmoung said the suspects — including two deputy village chiefs and a municipal councilor — were believed to be part of a “transnational crime network” that included people from Thailand, Myanmar and Malaysia and had been operating for three or four years.

Friday’s discovery of the clandestine camp in southern Thailand, long considered a trafficking hub for migrants seeking a better life in third countries, was a sharp reminder that little has changed despite repeated assurances by authorities that they are addressing the root causes.

It was also the latest blow to Thailand’s image, following a run of disclosures about human trafficking that rights groups say is fueled by the involvement of corrupt Thai officials.

Last June, the United States put Thailand in its lowest category — Tier 3 — in an annual assessment of how governments around the world have performed in fighting human trafficking.

Thailand has promised action in order to get off the black-



Thai rescuers carry a dead body to a hospital in Songkhla province, southern Thailand

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Thailand arrests 4 following unearthing of mass jungle grave

list, but its reputation suffered following recent revelations by the AP that some Thai fishing vessels kept men from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos on board as forced labor or slaves.

Somyot said police were trying to confirm reports that many more camps run by traffickers could be hidden in the mountainous jungles of southern Thailand. Police were combing Khao

Kaew mountain in Songkla province, where the camp was located close to the border with Malaysia, and planned to expand their search to other areas where dense jungle obscures the land.

“We are not stopping here. We will search in the widest area and do it until we are certain that there are no other camps left,” Somyot told reporters. “We will find out if there are more.”

A lone survivor from the camp, now hospitalized with severe malnutrition, has told authorities that the smugglers had escaped earlier last week with around 100 Rohingya.

Members of the religious minority have for decades suffered from state-sanctioned discrimination in Myanmar, which is predominantly Buddhist. Mob attacks in the last three years have left up to 280 people dead, sparking one of the biggest exoduses since the Vietnam War. **AP**



Migrants reach out for cigarettes after disembarking from the Italian Navy vessel ‘Chimera’ in Salerno, Italy

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

EUROPEANS grappling with mass migration from Libya were seeking information about Australia’s controversial success in stopping asylum seeker boats reaching its shores, the Australian prime minister said yesterday.

Refugee advocates and

human rights groups have criticized Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s conservative government over drastic tactics it has used under its Operation Sovereign Borders policy to stop the flow of people-smuggling boats heading from Indonesian ports with asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

AUSTRALIA

Abbott says EU seeks advice on stopping migrants

Abbott did not identify which European country or countries had sought Australian advice.

“My understanding is that there has been some contact at official level between Australian people and Europeans,” Abbott told reporters.

“Obviously Operation Sovereign Borders is an object lesson in how to do the right thing by everyone. Do the right thing by our people and ultimately do the right thing by poor, misguided people who for all sorts of reasons want a better life but who very often end up dead if they succumb to the lure of the people smugglers,” he said.

Australia deters asylum seekers by refusing to allow those attempting to arrive by boat to ever settle in Australia.

Australia pays poor Pacific nations Nauru and Pa-

pua New Guinea to keep asylum seekers in detention camps. Australia has also agreed to pay Papua New Guinea and Cambodia to resettle genuine refugees under bilateral deals that critics argue are an abrogation of Australia’s responsibilities under the Refugee Convention.

Since Abbott’s coalition was elected in September 2013, Australian Navy and Customs boats have routinely turned asylum seeker boats back to Indonesia.

Indonesia complains that sending foreigners to its shores is disrespectful of Indonesian sovereignty, but few of the boats are now intercepted in the waters north of Australia.

During the previous Labor Party’s six-year reign, about 50,000 asylum seekers headed for Australia in more than 800 boats.

In Italy, the Coast Guard and Navy as well as tugs and other commercial vessels joined forces to rescue migrants in at least 16 boats Sunday, saving hundreds of them and recovering 10 bodies off Libya’s coast, as smugglers took advantage of calm seas to send packed vessels across the Mediterranean.

The Coast Guard said the

bodies were found in three separate rescue operations off Libya’s coast. In one case, a cargo ship found three migrants dead and 105 survivors on a dinghy in the waters north of Tripoli, Libya.

Sunday’s drama came a day after 3,690 migrants were saved from smugglers’ boats. Most of those migrants were still being taken to southern Italian ports even as the fresh rescues were taking place.

The soaring numbers sparked the latest round of calls from far-right politicians in Europe for drastic action to stop migrants from reaching European shores. **AP**

EU REJECTS AUSTRALIAN POLICY

THE EUROPEAN Union will not be adopting Australia’s migration methods despite Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s claim that some Europeans are seeking policy advice. The EU’s executive Commission says Canberra does not respect the international standard on protecting refugees of “non-refoulement,” which is a U.N. principle prohibiting expulsion to a country where they could face violence or prison. Commission migration spokeswoman Natasha Bertaud said yesterday that the EU “applies the principle of non-refoulement — we have no intention of changing this — so of course the Australian model can never be a model for us.”

Nomaan Merchant and
Jamie Stengle, Garland

TWO gunmen were killed after opening fire on a security officer outside a contest for cartoon depictions of Prophet Muhammad and a bomb squad was called in to search their vehicle as a precaution, authorities said.

The men drove up to the Curtis Culwell Center in the Dallas suburb of Garland as the contest was scheduled to end and began shooting at a security officer, the City of Garland said in a statement. Garland police officers returned fire, killing the men.

“Because of the situation of what was going on today and the history of what we’ve been told has happened at other events like this, we are considering their car (is) possibly containing a bomb,” Officer Joe Harn, a spokesman for the Garland Police Department, said at a news conference.

Police aren’t aware of any ongoing threat and had not received any credible threats before the event, Harn said.

Harn said it was not immediately clear whether the shooting was connected to the event inside, a contest hosted by the right wing New York-based American Freedom Defense Initiative that would award USD10,000 for the best cartoon depicting the Prophet Muhammad.

Such drawings are deemed insulting to many followers of Islam and have sparked violence around the world. According to mainstream Islamic tradition, any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad — even a respectful one — is considered blasphemous.

The Curtis Culwell Center, a school district-owned public events space, was evacuated earlier Sunday, as were some surrounding businesses. Police

USA

2 gunmen killed outside Muhammad cartoon contest



A school bus drives past a road block near the Curtis Culwell Center where a provocative contest for cartoon depictions of the Prophet Muhammad was held on Sunday, May 3

blocked off a large area around the center Sunday night (yesterday morning, Macau time). There was a heavy police presence, and police helicopters circled overhead as bomb squads worked on the car.

Authorities haven’t removed the bodies of the gunmen, who have not yet been identified, Harn said. The bodies are too close to the car to be removed, but that will happen once the scene is clear, he said.

The security officer who was shot worked for the Garland Independent School District, Harn said. He was treated at a local

hospital for injuries and had been released Sunday night.

After the shooting, about 75 attendees at the contest were escorted by authorities to another room in the conference center. They were then taken to a separate location, where an Associated Press reporter was told they could not leave until FBI agents arrived to question them.

Neither the FBI office in Washington, D.C., nor the Dallas office had any immediate comment.

Johnny Roby of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was attending

the conference. He told the AP he was outside the building when he heard around about 20 shots that appeared to be coming from the direction of a passing car.

Roby said he then heard two single shots. He said he heard officers yell that they had the car before he was sent inside the building.

Pamela Geller, president of the AFDI, told the AP before Sunday’s event that she planned the contest to make a stand for free speech in response to outcries and violence over drawings of Muhammad.

Though it remained unclear several hours after the shooting whether it was related to event, she said Sunday night that the shooting showed how “needed our event really was.”

The event featured speeches by Geller and Geert Wilders, a Dutch lawmaker known for his outspoken criticism of Islam. Wilders received several standing ovations as he quoted former President Ronald Reagan and Texas founding father Sam Houston.

■ The men drove up as the contest was scheduled to end and began shooting at a security officer

“Muhammad fought and terrorized people with the swords. Today, here in Garland, we fight Muhammad and his followers with the pen. And the pen, the drawings, will prove mightier than the sword,” Wilders said during his speech.

In January, 12 people were killed by gunmen in an attack against the Paris office of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, which had lampooned Islam and other religions and used depictions of Muhammad. Another deadly shooting occurred the following month at a free speech event in Copenhagen featuring an artist who had caricatured the prophet.

Geller’s group is known for mounting a campaign against the building of an Islamic center blocks from the World Trade Center site and for buying advertising space in cities across the U.S. criticizing Islam. **AP**

RACISM

Israeli president says Ethiopian protest exposes ‘wound’

ISRAEL’S ceremonial president said yesterday that an outbreak of violent protests by Ethiopian Jews has “exposed an open, bleeding wound in the heart of Israeli society” and that the country must respond to their grievances.

Reuven Rivlin spoke a day after thousands of people clashed with police in Tel Aviv. The protesters shut down a major highway, hurled stones and bottles at police officers and overturned a squad car. They were ultimate-

ly dispersed with tear gas and water cannons. More than 60 people were wounded and 40 arrested.

Simmering frustrations among Israel’s Ethiopian community boiled over after footage emerged last week of an Ethiopian Israeli in an army uniform being beaten by police.

Ethiopian Jews begin migrating to Israel three decades ago. Many complain of racism, lack of opportunity, endemic poverty and routine police harassment.

Rivlin said Israel was seeing “the pain of a community crying out over a sense of discrimination, racism, and of being unanswered.”

“We must look directly at this open wound. We have erred. We did not look, and we did not listen enough,” he said. “We are not strangers to one another, we are brothers, and we must not deteriorate into a place we will all regret.”

Sunday night’s violence was the second such protest in several days, and

demonstrations are expected to continue. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to meet yesterday with the beaten soldier and community leaders.

About 120,000 Ethiopian Jews live in Israel today, a small minority in a country of 7 million. Their absorption has been problematic, with many arriving without a modern education and then falling into unemployment and poverty as their family structures disintegrate. **AP**



Israel’s mainly Jewish Ethiopians block highway during a protest against racism and police brutality in Tel Aviv

Michelle Faul, Yola

NIGERIA

With rescue near, Boko Haram stoned girls to death

EVEN with the crackle of gunfire signaling rescuers were near, the horrors did not end: Boko Haram fighters stoned captives to death, some girls and women were crushed by an armored car and three died when a land mine exploded as they walked to freedom.

Through tears, smiles and eyes filled with pain, the survivors of months in the hands of the Islamic extremists told their tragic stories to The Associated Press on Sunday, their first day out of the war zone.

"We just have to give praise to God that we are alive, those of us who have survived," said 27-year-old Lami Musa as she cradled her 5-day-old baby girl.

She was among 275 girls, women and their young children, many bewildered and traumatized, who were getting medical care and being registered a day after making it to safety.

Nigeria's military said it has freed nearly 700 Boko Haram captives in the past week. It is still unclear if any of them were among the so-called "Chibok girls," whose mass abduction from their school a year ago sparked outrage worldwide and a campaign for their free-



A child rescued by Nigerian soldiers from Boko Haram extremists at Sambisa Forest cries after arriving with others at a refugee camp in Yola, Nigeria

dom under the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls.

Musa was in the first group of rescued women and girls to be transported by road over three days to the safety of the Malkohi refugee camp, a dust-blown deserted school set among baobab trees opposite a military barracks on the outskirts of Yola, the capital of northeastern Adamawa state.

Last week's rescue saved her from a forced marriage to one of the killers of her husband, she said.

"They took me so I can marry one of their commanders," she said of the militants who carried her away from her village after slaughtering her husband and forcing her to abandon their three young children, whose fates remain unknown. That was five months ago in Lassa village.

"When they realized I was pregnant, they said I was impregnated by an infidel, and

we have killed him. Once you deliver, within a week we will marry you to our commander," she said, tears running down her cheeks as she recalled her husband and lost children.

Musa gave birth to a curly-haired daughter the night before last week's rescue.

As gunshots rang out, "Boko Haram came and told us they were moving out and that we should run away with them. But we said no," she said from a bed in the camp clinic, a blanket wrapped around ankles so swollen that each step had been agony.

"Then they started stoning us. I held my baby to my stomach and doubled over to protect her," she said, bending reflexively at the waist as though she still had to shield her newborn.

She and another survivor of the stoning, 20-year-old Salamatu Bulama, said several girls and women were killed, but they did not know how many. AP

AD



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what's ON


POST POMBALINO IT, DRAWING EXHIBITION BY JOÃO SANTA-RITA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Monday)
12pm-8pm (Tuesday-Sunday)

UNTIL: May 20, 2015

VENUE: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery,
Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

MACAU POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE DESIGN STUDENTS EXHIBITION

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: May 20, 2015

VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

HOMAGE TO MASTERS WHO INSPIRED US – WORKS BY 10 HONG KONG AND MACAU ARTISTS

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: May 10, 2015

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Thursdays)

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

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ADMISSION: Free

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Offbeat

OYEZ! TOWN CRIER AT ROYAL BABY BIRTH CAPTURES ATTENTION


As dozens of journalists trained their lenses on a set of firmly shut double doors, waiting for a glimpse of Britain's new baby princess, a man in an outlandish costume stepped in to capture the world's attention.

And it wasn't for the first time.

Town crier Tony Appleton took to the steps Saturday outside London's St. Mary's Hospital to loudly proclaim the birth of Britain's newest royal member, a baby girl

born to the Duchess of Cambridge.

But contrary to what some may believe, Appleton was no royal messenger. He says he's simply a royalist and president of the Guild of International Millennium Town Criers, which is not affiliated with Britain's royal family.

"Oyez, oyez (Hear ye)!" he yelled before reading a birth announcement from a scroll. His booming voice, ringing bell and colorful costume was watched by TV viewers around the world.

"I feel so proud, because I'm a real top royalist. I love the royal family," he said. "They're the best emissaries for our country. They make us so much money, they do so much for tourism."

Appleton also made the same performance after the birth of the princess's elder brother, Prince George, in 2013. AP

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:35	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sports
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:45	Happy Endings S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	v Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

01 MAY - 06 MAY

THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

ROOM 1

(3D) 2.15, 7.15 pm

(2D) 4.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Joss Whedon

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min


HELIOS

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk

Starring: Jacky Cheung, Nick Cheung, Shawn Yue, Ji Jin-hee

Language: Chinese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 118min


MURMUR OF THE HEARTS

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Sylvia Chang

Starring: Isabella Leong, Joseph Chang, Lawrence Ko, Lee Sinje

Language: Mandarin (Chinese/English)

Duration: 119min

MACAU TOWER

23 APR - 20 MAY

THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Joss Whedon

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

this day in history


1981 BOBBY SANDS DIES IN PRISON

Hunger striker Bobby Sands has died in prison 66 days after first refusing to eat.

The 27-year-old republican spent the last days of his life on a water bed to protect his fragile bones.

He had been in a coma for 48 hours before being pronounced dead by medical staff at the Maze prison in Northern Ireland.

Sands' parents, brother and sister were at his bedside when he died.

This was the second time Sands had been on hunger strike, the first was in 1980 when a number of prisoners in the Maze prison were demanding political status for republican prisoners.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland issued a statement shortly after the death.

He said: "I regret this needless and pointless death. Too many have died by violence in Northern Ireland. In this case it was self-inflicted.

"We should not forget the many others who have died.

"It is my profound hope and prayer that the people of Northern Ireland will recognise the futility of violence and turn their faces away from it."

Three other republican prisoners at the Maze prison remain on hunger strike. There is grave concern for 25-year-old convicted murderer Francis Hughes, who began his strike 15 days after Sands.

Bobby Sands, who had served five years of a 14-year sentence for possessing a gun, began his hunger strike on 1 March.

He had softened his stance since the first strike and this time was making five main demands: that republican prisoners be allowed to wear their own clothes, that they be given free association time, visits and mail, that they should not have to carry out penal work and should be given back lost remission.

The Provisional IRA is now expected to launch a campaign of violence and destruction in response to Sands' death.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Bobby Sands was the first of 10 republican prisoners to die after hunger strikes.

More than 60 civilians, police and soldiers also died in violence directly attributable to the hunger strikes.

Three days after the hunger strikes came to an end on 3 October, the Ulster Secretary James Prior negotiated a package of concessions for the Maze prisoners - much to the fury of the loyalist community.

He met two of the prisoners' demands - the right to wear their own clothes and the restoration of 50% of lost remission for those who obeyed prison rules for three months.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's a good time to initiate a new project, especially if it involves character building.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Going over the bottom line is beginning to be a grind. Instead of figuring out ways to make it less dull and more exciting, it could be a good day to ignore the books altogether.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You don't need a lot of money to feel good, but it certainly doesn't hurt. The right equation for the day is a mix of cash and people.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Things are not going smoothly at home, and it has less to do with money than you think. You and a partner have differing ideas about how to spend it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 When things get a bit stressful, your first impulse is to spend money. You can take action in a more fiscally responsible way.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Don't get stressed out by changing times. All you need to do to make sure setbacks are minor is stick to the rules you already know.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It offers you riches then turns its back. You may think the market is flirting with you, but get serious, Libra.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You have some thinking to do. If you don't have an exit strategy, now is the time to come up with one.

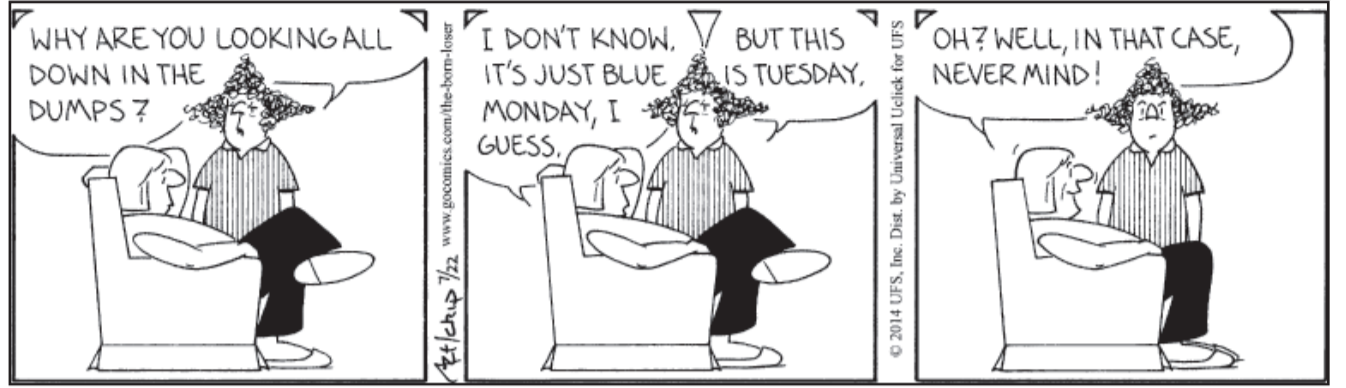
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 All the planning in the world can't prepare you for the ups and downs of your bank account.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Some perspective is more valuable than gold. This is nothing you can't work through with the right attitude.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're tempted to look at your financial situation as a personal issue, but it's much bigger than you are.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Debts are piling up. But instead of thinking about what others owe you, focus on what others need from you instead.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Cracker topper; 5- Grew less; 10- Microscopic arachnid; 14- Give for a while; 15- Gettysburg general; 16- "Typee" sequel; 17- Related; 19- Sign; 20- Some mattresses; 21- Complacency; 23- Walk aimlessly; 25- Caustic; 26- Dizzying designs; 28- Simpler; 31- James of "The Godfather"; 34- Wander; 36- Aspect; 37- Olive ...; 38- Hydrogen compound; 40- Medicinal amt.; 41- Poet Neruda; 43- Sea-going eagle; 44- Charges; 45- Belonging to them; 47- Type of question; 49- Ginger cookies; 51- Where junk may be held; 55- Clasped item; 58- Staggered; 59- Zeno of ...; 60- Having very little kick; 62- Chinese secret society; 63- Saw wood; 64- Kitchen add-on?; 65- Word that can succeed building, web or burial; 66- Certain fisherman; 67- Scottish Celt;

DOWN: 1- Explosion; 2- Advert; 3- Below; prefix; 4- Version; 5- Delegate; 6- Maude portrayer; 7- Loony; 8- Dropsy; 9- Infer; 10- Inconstant; 11- Instant; 12- Some digits; 13- Ages and ages; 18- Scandinavian; 22- Nehi flavor; 24- Eat into; 27- Dawdle; 29- Start of North Carolina's motto; 30- Workout count; 31- Egyptian Christian; 32- Indian nursemaid; 33- Whitish; 35- Floating bombs; 38- Every sixty minutes; 39- War-horse; 42- Connection; 44- Quadraped's front; 46- Few and far between; 48- December air; 50- Part of an act; 52- Prince Valiant's wife; 53- Beau ...; 54- Car bomb?; 55- "You can't catch fish without them!"; 56- "The Time Machine" race; 57- Environmental sci.; 61- Metal container



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- Emergency calls 999
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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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Macau
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HKD 11,800 / 480 sq ft
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Va Nam unit M
Taipa
2 Bedroom Apartment
Near Old Taipa Village
HKD 12,500 / 830 sq ft
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BOXING

Mayweather takes his USD100 million check and runs

Tim Dahlberg
Boxing Writer, Las Vegas

THE check was for USD100 million, a payday so mind boggling that Floyd Mayweather Jr. couldn't help but show it to a few reporters when the night was done.

"No pictures, though," Mayweather said, sliding the check out of an envelope. "Don't want any pictures of it."

The check will soon be cashed, adding to the millions Mayweather already has stashed in his bank accounts. It was actually just a down payment for his night's work, which could total more than \$200 million by the time pay-per-view sales are tallied up.

The richest fight ever wasn't the best fight ever, but that wasn't entirely Mayweather's

fault. He did what he usually does Saturday night against Manny Pacquiao in a win that cemented his legacy as the best of his generation, even if he didn't win any new fans doing it.

Still, the fight will be a tough act to follow if only because of the staggering money it brought in. Hard to imagine Mayweather fighting for a paltry \$30 million or \$40 million after a night he made history with the richest single payday any athlete of any sport has made.

He says he'll fight once more in September, then hang up the gloves. Mayweather says it's time to enjoy the fruits of his labor from a sport that has consumed his life since he was a kid throwing punches in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"I don't really think I'll miss the sport," Mayweather said.

"I don't even watch boxing. At one particular time I loved the sport of boxing. I wanted to go to every fight and wanted to be at every boxing event. But I just lost the love for the sport."

Before a well-heeled crowd of 16,507 that cheered every time Pacquiao threw a punch, Mayweather dominated late once again to pull out a decision win that seemed closer in the ring than it did on the scorecards. Pacquiao even thought he won, though punch stats showed Mayweather landing far more punches and even throwing more than the usually frenetic Filipino.

Pacquiao would blame a shoulder injury suffered in training last month for not being able to throw more right hands. His handlers would blame Nevada boxing officials for not allowing



Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, holds up the title belt next to referee Kenny Bayless after his win against Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, in their welterweight title fight on Saturday, May 2, 2015 in Las Vegas

him a shot to numb the shoulder just before the fight, though the excuse rang hollow.

"I cannot use a lot of my right hand but the fight was still good," Pacquiao said.

Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, said his fighter would like a rematch, but there is little chance of that. Not with Pacquiao's shoulder injury, and certainly not after the perfect financial storm of a fight that cannot be replicated.

Pacquiao likely made \$100 million himself for the fight that packed the MGM Grand arena with celebrities, sports stars

and people paying as much as \$40,000 for ringside seats. The bout was delayed for about a half hour because pay-per-view sales were overwhelming cable and satellite systems, a good omen for the paydays of both fighters.

But while Pacquiao was the crowd favorite, Mayweather was the masterful boxer. He may not have ended the career of the remarkable career of the Filipino who once sold doughnuts on the streets to survive, but it's doubtful Pacquiao can continue as a big pay-per-view much longer. **AP**

AD

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Rory McIlroy, center, of Northern Ireland, follows his shot from the eighth tee of TPC Harding Park his golf match against Hideki Matsuyama, right, of Japan, at the Match Play Championships, in San Francisco

Doug Ferguson
Golf Writer

McIlroy a winner with great play and a little luck

RORY McIlroy won a tournament as the No. 1 player in the world.

Only at the Match Play Championship does this pass as newsworthy.

In the 17-year history of golf's most unpredictable tournament, only one other player has gone undefeated over five days as the No. 1 seed. That was Tiger Woods, who did it three times, the last occasion seven years ago in the Arizona desert.

Woods needed as much good fortune as McIlroy, who somehow outlasted seven opponents — including three in one day — to capture his second World Golf Championship title on Sunday at TPC Harding Park.

"Physically, I feel fine," McIlroy said after his 4-and-2 win over Gary Woodland in the championship match. "But mentally, it was a grind."

He played 121 holes in five days, including 35 holes on Sunday after getting six hours of sleep.

Three times, he was trailing in his match when he stood on the 17th tee.

Four times, he watched his opponent stand over a putt that would have knocked him out.

Asked to name his most significant shot of the week — and there were plenty of good ones — McIlroy didn't hesitate. He went straight to the Friday match with Billy Hors-

chel, who was 2 up with two to play. McIlroy faced a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole that simply had to go in.

"Basically, I don't hole that and I'm going home," he said as he signed tournament flags after his win. "I don't even get through to the (final) 16."

■ McIlroy played 121 holes in five days, including 35 holes on Sunday after getting six hours of sleep

This was a week when just about everything went right for McIlroy, except for his plans to watch the Manny Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather Jr. fight in Las Vegas. He wound up giving his floor seat to a friend who had been in the upper level of the MGM Grand.

McIlroy watched the fight in a corner of the interview

room. There was pizza and beer. The next evening, there was a trophy.

He wound up taking Horschel to overtime and beating on the 20th hole. He was on the verge of another loss in the quarterfinals until Paul Casey hit a bad chip and a bad putt to make bogey and later missed an 18-foot birdie putt on the 20th hole. They had to return Sunday morning to finish the match on the par-5 opening hole.

McIlroy had 60 feet from the fringe, mud on his ball. Making it worse, he had not practiced on the putting green, only on the chipping green, which was not the same speed. He managed to lag it with perfect pace, and the two-putt birdie won the match.

"It was down to preparation," McIlroy said with a grin.

In the semifinal against Jim Furyk, he had to make a 7-foot birdie putt to avoid going 2 down with two to play. Then, he hit 7-iron to 4 feet for birdie, and he finished the match with a 45-foot eagle putt across the green.

The last match lacked energy, and except for a brief moment on the back nine, the outcome was inevitable. McIlroy

won four straight holes when Woodland lost his way off the tee. Woodland rallied behind a few mistakes by McIlroy, and he had a 4-foot par putt on the 13th hole to get the deficit to 1 down.

He missed, and that was that.

"My putt drops on 13 and it's a different ball game," Woodland said. "But I missed that one. And he was like a shark. Smelled blood, and it was gone over quickly."

Woodland lost the next hole with a bogey, and he conceded the match on the 16th hole.

McIlroy has led seven of the last eight rounds in the majors, winning the British Open and the PGA Championship. He already has won twice this year. There's a reason he is No. 1 in the world. And yet it was the format that required so much luck, and so much timing, as is the case just about every year.

Woods won at Dove Mountain as the No. 1 player in 2008. In the opening round, he was 3 down with five holes to play against J.B. Holmes when he made three birdies and a bending 35-foot eagle to rally. In the third round that year, he could only watch as Aaron Baddeley had a 10-foot

putt for the win, and missed.

When he won at La Costa in 2004, Woods again was on the ropes to John Rollins when he won the last two holes for a 1-up victory, helped by Rollins missing the green with a wedge in his hand on the final hole.

It's not easy for any of the 64 players to win this, let alone the best. This was only the sixth time in 17 years that the No. 1 seed even reached the semifinals. Woods lost in the championship match in 2000 at La Costa, and Ernie Els was the No. 1 seed when he lost in the semifinals to Pierre Fulke in Australia a year later.

So as McIlroy headed to Florida to celebrate his 26th birthday, it was hard to measure his form.

He really didn't play much differently than he did at the Masters, when he was fourth without a chance of winning, or at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, where he tied for 11th. Had this been stroke play, there's no telling where he would have finished.

What mattered was winning — his 16th worldwide and 10th on the PGA Tour.

"No matter what format it is," McIlroy said, "it's always nice to get a trophy." AP

opinion

World Views

William Pesek

HSBC SHOULD MOVE TO HONG KONG ASAP

In retrospect, HSBC's decision in 1993 to abandon Hong Kong for London's Canary Wharf was one of modern history's worst business moves. It seemed perfectly wise at the time, just four years ahead of Hong Kong's return to China and amid the early stages of Europe's common currency boom. When the 1997 Asia financial crash arrived, it probably left Chairman William Purves and his colleagues feeling pretty happy about their decision.

Just a dozen years later, being based in Europe seemed much less attractive. First there was Wall Street's subprime debacle. That was followed, in short order, by the euro crisis, the Libor controversy, the chipping away of Swiss banking secrecy and a U.K tax clampdown that cost HSBC USD1.1 billion in 2014. It should be no surprise that current HSBC Chairman Douglas Flint now thinks returning to Hong Kong "would be potentially interesting." Indeed, the only real question is, what is Flint waiting for?

HSBC finds itself in an enviable negotiating position. Hong Kong leader Leung Chun-ying's superiors in Beijing would relish having one of the world's premier financial institutions choose greater China over the West. President Xi Jinping would herald the move as a vote of confidence in China's economic stability and his party's broader legitimacy. It also would send a message to Hong Kong's pro-democracy street protesters that their public agitation can't derail big business.

HSBC would probably be rewarded with as many deals and partnerships in the Chinese market as its bankers can handle. That would cheer the bank's long-suffering shareholders. But there's more at stake in Flint's decision than share prices and balance sheets. A move by HSBC could accelerate the pace of Chinese economic reforms.

The Communist Party has tended to keep a relatively tight grip on the flow of money in China, but an entity HSBC's size would expect to be granted more freedom in its business transactions. The bank's presence in Hong Kong would give Xi strong incentive to loosen capital controls and make the country's banking system more transparent.

That would probably trigger a number of beneficial effects for the Chinese economy. Consider what happened after other Asian governments accelerated the internationalization of their banking and trade systems after the region's financial crisis in the 1990s. Once countries lowered their financial defenses, businesses had no choice but to adopt global practices and stomach greater competition. Similar shifts would likely occur in China after any HSBC move. State-owned banks that hoped to operate in HSBC's orbit, for example, would have to improve their corporate oversight and the quality of their assets.

It wouldn't be a seamless relocation, but the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, created just after HSBC departed for the U.K., is ready to oversee the transition. In just two decades, the HKMA has built a formidable track record. It has protected a dollar peg from numerous speculative assaults and steered the city's economy through myriad financial and health panics. It has also pursued an aggressive loan-to-value policy that's kept default rates low and worked with international institutions in ways that have enhanced Hong Kong's standing as a financial center.

True, the HKMA has never been responsible for a financial institution that's too-big-to-fail. (Make that too big to save: With a balance sheet of \$2.6 trillion, HSBC is nine times the size of Hong Kong's entire economy.) HKMA head Norman Chan will have to expand operations and hire loads of new regulators and analysts. But the HKMA believes it's up to the challenge and says it "takes a positive attitude should HSBC consider relocating."

Reformers in Beijing should, too. HSBC returning to its roots would be a clear win-win, for the short term and long term. The bank may have erred in uprooting itself some 20 years ago, but it's time to let bygones be bygones.

THE UN OFFICIAL PRAISES CHINA'S ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL AFTER QUAKE

The leader of the United Nations Development Program has praised China's relief efforts in Nepal and said the country's importance to global development will only grow.

Helen Clark, the UNDP administrator, met with Premier Li Keqiang and commerce, economic planning and foreign ministry officials in Beijing yesterday.

Clark said China had been "a very good nei-

ghbor" in assisting Nepal after the April 25 earthquake. The defense ministry said last week they had moved 45,000 people to safety and made emergency repairs on more than 53 kilometers of roads damaged by the quake.

Ms Clark said she was mindful that China had experienced serious earthquake disasters in recent years, and that China had learned from them and fine-tuned its response mechanisms.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good	
Ambient	20-40 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

Britain's new princess named Charlotte Elizabeth Diana

Sylvia Hui, London

BRITAIN'S newborn princess has been named Charlotte Elizabeth Diana — seen as a tribute to Prince William's parents and grandmother.

The princess is the second child of Prince William and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. The baby will be known as Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, royal officials said yesterday.

Charlotte, the feminine form of Charles, appears to be a nod to the newborn's grandfather, Prince Charles. The middle names honor Queen Elizabeth II, the infant's 89-year-old great-grandmother, and the late Princess Diana, William's mother.

The princess is fourth in line to the throne after Charles, William and her older brother Prince George.

William and Kate introduced the baby princess to the world Saturday evening, just 12 hours after Kate checked into a London hospital to give birth. The baby weighed in at 3.7 kilograms.

The couple had kept



AP PHOTO

the world guessing about the name until after both sets of grandparents got a chance to visit Kensington Palace on Sunday to meet their granddaughter.

Bookmakers had taken huge amounts of bets on the name, and Charlotte had been a favorite choice, a front-runner alongside other guesses like Alice and Victoria.

Earlier yesterday, Westminster Abbey's bells pealed and gun salutes were fired across London in honor of the newborn princess. In a display of traditional pageantry, dozens of deafening volleys were fired from Hyde Park and the Tower of London to mark the occasion.

Bookmakers had taken huge amounts of bets on the name, and Charlotte had been a favorite choi-

ce, a front-runner alongside other guesses like Alice and Victoria.

"Charlotte was the hot tip over the weekend," Ladbrokes spokeswoman Jessica Bridge said. "We may have lost a fortune, but we're paying out with a smile and wish the duke and duchess all the best."

Another bookmaker, William Hill, said they were relieved because their top bet had been Alice. Spokesman Rupert Adams said 5,096 punters correctly guessed the name, and in total they would pay out just over 100,000 pounds (USD151,100) in the name market.

Royals traditionally look to their family tree for name ideas, and Britain's royal history has seen several Charlottes. Queen Charlotte, the wife of George III, was a keen botanist and founded London's Kew Gardens. Born in 1744, the queen had 15 children.

George IV also named his only child Charlotte in 1796, but she died in childbirth at the age of 21 in 1817, leading to a mass outpouring of grief in Britain. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The Sport Development Board and the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau organized a three-on-three basketball spring tournament over the weekend.

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES The Philippine military chief confirms the death of wanted Filipino bomb-maker Abdul Basit Usman, who has links to the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist network and is a suspect in deadly bomb attacks in the south.

PHILIPPINES Gunmen clad in military uniform abduct two Philippine coast guard personnel and a village chief on a southern island and then sped away in two motorboats, police say.

NIGERIAN troops have killed dozens of civilians and razed scores of homes to avenge the deaths of six soldiers, community leaders and residents of central Plateau state charged on Sunday. A spokesman for the Special Task Force said its troops are involved only in an ongoing battle with a tribal militia that residents said killed six soldiers and mutilated their bodies last week. The soldiers' eyes were gouged out, their tongues slit and they were beheaded.



AP PHOTO

ITALY A baby girl was born aboard a rescue boat in the Mediterranean Sea as Italian Coast Guard and Navy ships bring migrants by the thousands to the country's southern ports. In the three-day period ending Sunday, 6,771 survivors were rescued at sea north of Libya from overcrowded rubber dinghies and unseaworthy fishing boats used by Libya-based smugglers, according to a Coast Guard tally reported yesterday. Ten bodies were found Sunday on boats or in the sea.

FRANCE The man who for nearly four decades built France's far-right National Front into a political force may now be on the fast track to disgrace. The party's executive bureau was to meet yesterday to decide possible sanctions against Jean-Marie Le Pen over his anti-Semitic remarks, amid a high-stakes family feud. His daughter Marine Le Pen — the current party leader — and other rising stars within the party want to shut him up.